



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

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Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CMF, Associate Pastor

Deacon Roland Jeanlouis, Pastoral Associate

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.; Sunday — 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Monday and Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday and Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Wednesday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If possible please conduct parish business by phone or email.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel is open. The Main Church is also accessible from this entrance for your convenience.

FUNERALS

Please contact the Church Office to make Funeral Service arrangements prior to your appointment with the Funeral Home.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please contact the Church Office to make arrangements for your child's Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Church Office six months prior to the desired date of marriage. No dates for marriage are reserved until after the first marriage interview with clergy.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Church Office to set up an appointment.



O God, Who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate Them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of Your House, delight one day in eternal rewards.

Please pray for our Priests, Seminarians and Deacons

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special men. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Date	Name
December 29	Rev. Michael Moody, SVD/Matthew Authement Dcn. Joseph Ulysse Joubert
December 30	Rev. Randall Moreau/Roy Bertrand IV Dcn. George Jourdan
December 31	Rev. Joseph Nasser, SJ/Bennett Bodin Dcn. Jim Kinsel
January 1	Pope Francis/Rev. Blake Dubroc, Dir. Of Vocations and Seminarians Dcn. Brian Kirk
January 2	Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel/Seminary Faculty, Parents and Benefactors Dcn. Robert C. Klingman, Jr.
January 3	Bishop Eminentus Michael Jarrell/Reid Bourgeois Dcn. Denis Lacroix
January 4	Rev. James Bam Nguyen/Nicholas Broussard Dcn. Dennis Landry

MINISTERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
December 31 4:00 p.m.	Claudette Thibodeaux	Maxine Latolais	Volunteers
January 1 9:00 a.m.	Fran Dugas	Joel Dugas	Volunteers
January 4 4:00 p.m.	Jana Angelle	Sandra Boudreaux	Volunteers
January 5 7:00 a.m.	Lori Barras	Steve Barras	Volunteers
10:30 a.m.	Betty Guidry	Debbie Oubre	Volunteers

Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

Stuart Sandoz, Brett Hebert, Eric Clements, Trevor Louviere, Austin Willett, Willey Poirrier, Butch White, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Ashley Hebert, Stephen Dugas, Jade Delcambre, Pat Villermin, Brennan Wingfield, Betty Suire, Joe Judice, Mike Habetz, Nona Bourque, Leroy Begnaud, Betty Champagne, Leroy and Gloria Courville, Wayne LeBlanc, Melvin Broussard, June

Granger, Max Borres, Vivian LeBlanc, Beckie LeBaron, Patricia Sorrell, David Dupuy, Ava Rose and Olivia James Dworaczyk, Ray Broussard, Shyla Romero, Bart Doucet, Ellenor Hebert, Jory L. Bernard, Annette Dugas, Kayla Barras Veronie, Jamie Ransonet, Randy Dugas, Rudy Delcambre, Ted Habetz, Clarence Theriot, Junelle Jefferies, Fred Thibodeaux, Lucy Bernard, Leif Melancon,

Charlie Berard, Brad and James Clifton, Holly LeBlanc, Judy Theriot, Carl LeBlanc, Sophie Bonin Reese, Nelda Breaux, Bernard Hebert, Jillian Faye Boudreaux, Marty LeBlanc, Bill Gonsoulin, Mark Ruly, Robert, Sr. and Julie LeBlanc, John Delcambre, Michael Theriot, Hayes Enlund, Steve Thibeaux, Davi Clifton, Jimmy Wilson, Bobbie Boutte, Genie and Karen Dugas.

December 22, 2024

Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 4,585.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 2,938.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 7,523.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Difference	+\$ 138.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 86,045.61
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$ 373.00
Insurance Balance 2024-2025	\$ 47,906.83
Insurance Collection	\$ 105.00
Christmas Day	Next Week

Flowers of the Altar are in loving memory of:

Paul and Audrey Crochet, Jordan Prince

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for

For the Community

Blessed Virgin Mary Altar Candle is burning for

For the Community

Saint Joseph Altar Candle is burning for

Paul and Audrey Crochet, Jordan Prince

Other Candles are burning for: Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Vance Breaux, Sr., Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Domingue Family, Steve and Donna Berard Special Intention, Mr. and Mrs. Collins Louviere, Kerney Louviere, Brook Burch, Will and Lily Roberts, Gene Louviere, Ralph Klyela, C. L. Romero, Louto and Anite Gondron Family.

The Vocation Chalice is in the Adoration Chapel

Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254

Mass Intentions

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. StJo — Robin Neuville, Walter and Doris M. Judice, Sidney Breaux Family, Pauline and Craig, Adam “Coo” and Jeanette Crochet, Joseph Donald “Don” Crochet, Earline Crochet, Robert Judice, Sr., Judice and Lavolette Families, Dr. James Russell Romero, Elton “Red” Boutte, Brandon Boutte, Dr. John Rellus Hebert, Perry J. Judice, Loraine Breaux Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Johnny and Rose Albert, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Ronald Albert, Ossie Romero, Jr., Daisy and Perfice Armentor, Billy Degeyter, Chester “Butch” Gonsoulin and Parents, Mutchie Ransonet, Sady and Daisy Ransonet, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Nola Champagne, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Landry and Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Audrey Crochet, Paul Crochet Family, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Vance Breaux Sr., Duffy Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Family, Sam and Glo Delcambre, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Melvin Dugas, Roy Sr. and Gladys Berard, Lloyd and Anne Broussard, Simon and Felicie Granger, Forbus and Myrtle Mestayer, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Kim Decuir, Carl Wayne Judice, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Pliny and Carolyn Walet, J.O. Neuville, Sr. Family, John Michael Steiner, Sandi and Glenn Angelle, Betty Romero, Romero and Babin Families, Lynn and Theresa Delcambre, Ancestors and Descendants, Carroll Delcambre, Suzette Judice, Jon-Luke Lancon, Shanie Edler Decuir, Tim Edler, Richard Family, Arceneaux and Mestayer Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Kelly Louviere, Abel Louviere Family, Theodore Thibodeaux Family, Lynn Dugas, Sr., Lovell Romero, Henry and Renella and Josh Pelafigue, Clarence and Nola

Catholic Daughters Angel Tree

The Catholic Daughters are providing Angel Cards to raise money for our Court. The cards can be dedicated in Memory of a loved one or in honor of someone for whom you want extra prayers. The cards will be hung on a Christmas tree in the church vestibule beginning the First Week of Advent. The cards will be a reminder for everyone to pray for these people.



We are accepting any donations. Contact any CDA member or check with the Parish Office to obtain the cards.

Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Feast of the Holy Family

Wednesday, January 1, 2024

Solemnity of Mary, Mother God

[Holy Day of Obligation]

Mass — 9:00 a.m., Saint Joseph Church

Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Joe and Rita Habetz, Mary Kay Habetz, Tom Voorhies, Tommy Breaux, Jennings Fournet, Maude Granger and John and Doris Prados, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Shelton Joseph Freyou, Ella Desormeaux Freyou, Rickie Oubre, Loto Louviere, Jr., Gam and Velma Gondron Family, Doris Roslie LeJeune Family, John Lacour Family, Special Intention, Larry Crochet, Matthew Thibeaux, Edmond Lancon Family, Louis Thibeaux Family, Keri Bonin Boutte, Bonin and Boutte Family, Clyde Dressel, Judy Judice, Beauregard Judice, Gondron and Deville Family Ancestors and Descendants, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Horace and Sylvia Thibodeaux, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, David Guidry, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. StJo — Pro Populo Saint Joseph & Our Lady of Victory

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, David Guidry, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

**From an address by Pope Paul VI
January 5, 1964**

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's Life was like and even to understand His Gospel. Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate Him.

Here we can learn to realize Who Christ really is. And here we can sense and take account of the conditions and circumstances that surrounded and affected His Life on earth: the places, the tenor of the times, the culture, the language, religious customs, in brief, everything which Jesus used to make Himself known to the world. Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning. Here we can learn the importance of spiritual discipline for all who wish to follow Christ and to live by the Teachings of His Gospel.

How I would like to return to my childhood and attend the simple yet profound school that is

Nazareth! How wonderful to be close to Mary, learning again the lesson of the true meaning of Life, learning again God's Truths. But here we are only on pilgrimage. Time presses and I must set aside my desire to stay and carry on my education in the Gospel, for that education is never finished. But I cannot leave without recalling, briefly and in passing, some thoughts I take with me from Nazareth.

First, we learn from its silence. If only we could once again appreciate its great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God's inner Wisdom and the counsel of his true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

Second, we learn about family life. May

Nazareth serve as a model of what the family should be. May it show us the family's holy and enduring character and exemplify its basic function in society: a community of love and sharing, beautiful for the problems it poses and the rewards it brings, in sum, the perfect setting for rearing children — and for this there is no substitute.

Finally, in Nazareth, the home of a craftsman's son, we learn about work and the discipline it entails. I would especially like to recognize its value — demanding yet redeeming — and to give it proper respect. I would remind everyone that work has its own dignity. On the other hand, it is not an end in itself. Its value and free character, however, derive not only from its place in the economic system, as they say, but rather from the purpose it serves.

In closing, may I express my deep regard for people everywhere who work for a living. To them I would point out their great model, Christ their brother, our Lord and God, Who is their Prophet in every cause that promotes their well being.

**Solemnity of Mary
[New Year's Eve]**

Tuesday 4:00 p.m. StJo — Billy Degeyter, Steve and Donna Berard, Special Intention, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Breaux Family, Breaux and Viator Families, Rowena Borel, Borel and Dugas Families, Lynn and Theresa Delcambre, Ancestors and Descendants, Howard Delcambre, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

[New Year's Day]

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. StJo — Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Pliny "Caro" Walet, Lawrence Walet, Louto and Anite Gondron Family, Doris and Caroll Boutte Family, Living and Deceased, Jordan and Paul and Audrey Crochet, Dupoy, Lasseigne Mullican Family, Ancestors and Descendants, Doris Boutte, C. L. Romero, Matthew Thibeaux, Edmond Lancon Family, Louis Thibeaux Family, Suzette Judice, Roy and Michael Thibodeaux, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne, Families Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family, Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Andrew "Toupee" Bonin, Bonin and Crochet Families, Lindsay Davidson, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, David Guidry, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Suzette Judice, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry

Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants

First Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Judice and Walet Families, Rhule, Mabel and Wayne Gondron, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, David Guidry, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

First Saturday 8:00 a.m. — Steve and Donna Berard, Ancestors and Descendants, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, David Guidry, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

Christmas Flower Memorials



(In Honor) Howard J. Percle, Sr.

Richard, Judice and Dupont Families
Ancestors and Descendants

Prioux, Trahan, LeBlanc
and Bonin Families

Landry and Champagne Families

Gilman and Velma Gondron Family
Louto and Anite Gondron Family

The Catanzaro Family
The Napoli Family

Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Walet, Rita, Lillian
and Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Spiess,
David, Mary Ann and Allen Rosen,
Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Walet, Butsy,
Dr. Harold and Kathleen Heitkamp

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walet, Herman,
Pliny, "Caro", Carolyn Walet

Herman, Teresa, Rita, Lillian, Pliny, Delia,
Whitney, Goldie and Mollie Viator

Lillian, Tommy, Hillard and Pat Temple

Albert, Lydia and Bob Thibodeaux
Howard, Lawrence and Carolyn Walet

Eric Suire, Charlie Latiolais,
Roland and Pee Wee Broussard

Choo Choo Guidry,
Glen and Sandy Angelle, Aunt Lone

Mr. and Mrs. Orford Breaux
Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Deville
Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Delcambre
Mr. and Mrs. Leander Gondran, Sr.

Evan and Owen Allen
Burt and Stella Amedee
Earl and Mary Lou Barras
Cal and Margie Berard
Willie and Louise Bonin
Chuck Michael Borres
Melvin and Rae Borres
Kelly and Bonnie Boudreaux
Sidney and Margaret Breaux
Clarence and Nola Champagne
Jeanne and Billy Clifton
Ernest Sr. and Ena Cook
Adam and Jeanette Crochet

Paul and Audrey Crochet
Gloria and Sam Delcambre
Sam and Glo Delcambre
Claude and Nola Dugas
Lavinia and Eddie Edler
Alton and Deanna Gondron
Ronald and Mildred Gonsoulin
Wilfred and Betha Hulin
Robert and Edelia Johnson
Been and Mag Judice
Roland and Hilda Judice
Octave "Tot" Judice and Gerdie Judice
Walter and Doris M. Judice

Gert and Sydney Kern
June and O'Neil Landry
Lloyd and Maudrey Landry
Bernard and Valerie Lissard, Sr.
Clark and Mary Ann Provost
Sis and Maurice Provost
Jennie and Julius Ransonet
Hubert and Lily Richard
Chad and Trey Romero
Noelie and Warren Solar
Paul and Buddy Stephens
Bruce and Beverly Temple

Jerry Arceneaux
Kathleen Arceneaux
Nick Bienvenu
Beryl Bonin
Harriet Boudreaux
Allen David Borres
Augusta "Mom" Borres
Brandon Boutte
Elton "Red" Boutte
Craig Breaux
Ed Broussard
John E. Broussard
Violette C. Broussard
Deyna Champagne
Eric Champagne
Harold Champagne
Norma Champeaux
Glenn Clifton

Jimmy Clifton
Audrey Crochet
Paul Crochet
Shanie Edler Decuir
Russel "Heavy" Derise
Delores Dooley
William Dooley
Kamryn Elizabeth Dorsey
Vicki Dugas
Bonnie Edler
Tim Edler
Ozita Egby
Marion Forstall
Virginia Frioux
Patricia Gachassin
Gerald B-Boy Gondron
Leander Gondran, Jr.
Wallace Goudeau

Pauline B. Guidry
Russell Hebert
Patrice Hebert
Lisa Hussey
Carl Wayne Judice
Darrell P. Judice
Perry M. Judice
Wayne "Butch" Judice
Audrey Kern
Jon Luke Lancon
Mae Provost Lassalle
Sidney "Snip" Lassalle, Sr.
Troy LeBlanc
Loto Louviere, Jr.
Mary Ann C. Louviere
Mary Kathryn V. McGee
Allyson Mestayer
Joe Moore

Claire Bonin Myers
Chris Allen Percle
Karen Renee Percle
Nancy Percle
Eddie Pierre
Lucille Pierre
Magnolia Pratt
Jordan Prince
Jordan Prince
Clark Provost
David Provost
C. L. Romero
Hosie Thigpen
Curtis Toffier
David Viator
James Voorhies, Sr.
Herman Walet
Teresa Walet

‘Venite Adoremus’
by Fr. Paul D. Scalia

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another. (II Corinthians 3:18)

Although this verse does not show up in the Christmas liturgy, it’s very much at the heart of the Christmas Mystery. This Feast is one of looking and seeing, of beholding and being changed. The angels bid the shepherds to go and *see* the child lying in a manger. John tells us, *The Word became flesh, and we have seen His Glory. We sing, Come to Bethlehem and see ... Venite adoremus ... Come and behold Him.*

Now, *behold* means more than just to look at or to see. It means to take hold of internally what we see externally, and thus to allow it to change us. To behold Christ means to be held by Him. The act of beholding Christ is meant to transform us into the very One we adore.

Jesus Christ, the Infant lying in the manger, is the invisible God made visible. He comes into the world precisely so that we can look and gaze upon Him. We’ve been praying for this. Repeatedly throughout Advent we pleaded, *Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved!* Now, like Zechariah, we find our prayer answered more than we could ever have imagined. By taking on our human nature He makes Himself visible. *Veiled in flesh the Godhead see ...*

We have a hint of this reality at Mount Sinai. Moses’ face became radiant after his conversations with the Lord. So radiant that he had to veil it, lest its Glory overwhelm the Israelites. A similar thing happened to Bernadette of Lourdes during the Marian apparitions of 1858. When she looked upon our Lady, her face took on a glow of unearthly quality. She became like what she beheld.

Indeed, we always become like what we behold. We are inevitably held by what we behold. This has important implications for our screen-saturated culture. All our devices tug us into looking at what is, at best, superficial and passing. If we become like what we behold, then all our flickering screens and fleeting images are making us superficial — less attentive, less reflective, less inclined to gaze upon one thing ... or one Person. We are being changed into their likeness from one degree of superficiality to another.

Come and behold Him. How do we behold Him? How do we gaze upon Him? We do not yet see Him to face in His sacred humanity as Mary and Joseph did. But we do see Him, first, in our mind’s eye, in our

prayer, in our meditation on scenes from the Gospel. This feast puts the Creche before us, so that we can look upon Him with Mary and Joseph. Visiting the Creche, looking upon the infant in the manger, is a childlike thing and ought to be done by all children of God. So that we can be changed more into the Child we adore.

All the figures in that scene are changed. Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds are all turned toward the Child. The light of the newborn Christ shines upon each face. And each person is changed as she or he beholds the Christ. Mary, like every mother, is changed forever as She gazes upon the Son She bore. Joseph is forever changed as he gazes upon the God Whom he will call “Son” and Who will call him “Abba.”

The shepherds behold the child, sleeping among the sheep. He is both the Lamb of God and the Good Shepherd. He has become like one in their care and one of them. He has dignified them and their flocks. Soon, when the Magi gaze upon Him, they will be changed in the knowledge of true kingship. Their lives will be so changed that they must, as Saint Matthew puts it, return to their country *by another way.*

Time before the Creche should change us. We behold the One Who became little and helpless for our sake. We behold the One Who made Himself dependent on His own creatures and creation. We behold the One Who came not to condemn but to call to conversion. We behold the One Who as an infant begs to enter our lives and to be loved.

What sort of people should we now be? How should we live, since God has so humbled Himself for us? We cannot leave unchanged.

Saint Paul says that we behold the Glory of God *with unveiled face.* Which means that we must remove whatever keeps us from Him. We need to be honest and candid with God. To behold Him with an unveiled face means removing whatever superficiality or pretense we put up to keep Him at arm’s length. It means to allow Him to behold us as we are, in our weakness, without any pretense.

Most of all, we behold Christ in the Eucharist. After the priest pronounces the words of Consecration — *This is My Body* — he lifts the Host for all to see. At that moment, we behold Christ every bit as much as did Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.

Venite adoremus. Behold Him Who was once wrapped in swaddling clothes and is now wrapped in the form of bread. Prior to Communion the priest holds up the Host and proclaims *Behold the Lamb of God.* Raise up your eyes and see the One Who today was born in Bethlehem so that He could also come to dwell within you under the form of bread.

Rev. Paul Scalia is a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, where he serves as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Pastor of Saint James in Falls Church. He is the author of **That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion** and the editor of **Sermons in Times of Crisis: Twelve Homilies to Stir Your Soul.**



January 1
 1876 Cecile Say
 1897 Irma Jones
 1928 Euselieu Landry
 1930 Gladys Ambroise
 1934 Marcelite Latiolais
 1938 Inez Gardner
 1944 Celestine Prados
 1948 Gloria Broussard
 1950 Barbara Bonin
 1958 Alida Barras
 1966 Yola Broussard
 1985 Darin Dressel
 1990 Elise Lecamus
 1992 Marcel Broussard
 2009 Louis Judice
 2010 Goldie Bonin
 2023 Clarence Romero

January 2
 1895 Infant Vital
 1904 Ms. Oscar Prumel
 1905 Melanie Broussard
 1915 Jean Lecamus
 1933 Jerissa Bonhomme
 1935 Victorin Crochet
 1969 Lucie Dugas
 2010 Thomas Eldridge
 2024 Genevieve Broussard

January 3
 1898 Infant Provost
 1904 Friville Doucet
 1917 Ramsey Prosper
 1930 Eugenie Gonsoulin
 1931 Avery Gardener
 1931 Rose Rice Antoinne
 1941 Marie Arnaud
 1941 Carlos Dugas
 1942 Renee Boutte
 1981 Laurence Walet
 2000 Ethel Broussard
 2015 Elizabeth Boutte

January 4
 1877 Marie Decuir
 1884 Josephine Crochet
 1902 Antoine Broussard
 19076 J.B. Chalembert
 1907 Paylonre Louis
 1933 Whitney Bonhomme
 1940 Louis Landry
 1948 Jean-Baptiste Tauzin
 1969 Emile Gondron
 1998 Felix Breaux
 1999 Marie Mouton
 2003 Louclae Fauchaux
 2019 Arthur Joseph, Sr.

January 5
 1893 Infant Bonin
 1900 Infant Borel
 1904 Infant Provost
 1958 Harold Broussard
 1958 Darrel Broussard
 1968 Rhule Broussard
 1980 Alex Seneca
 1982 Elise Judice
 1997 Ozaire Chatagnier
 1999 Wilson Guillot Sr.
 2006 Elvie Segura
 2015 Vickie Prados
 2017 Ury Louviere
 2023 Cloures Dugas

January 6
 1884 Cora Dupuis
 1899 Ms. Louis Simon
 1904 Alexandre Irma
 1926 Olympe Dressel
 1936 Clay Hebert
 1942 Alfred Dugas
 1950 Edward Vital

1999 Aline Guillot
 2000 Louis Theiot Sr.
 2005 Morgan Thomas
 2005 Madison Thomas
 2014 Pliny Walet
 2018 Delores Fontenette
 2021 Laura Belle Bourque
 2021 Janell Potin

January 7
 1900 W. Castilleau
 1911 Eugene Plessela
 1935 Felise Oubre
 1941 Infant Washington
 1942 George Judice
 1954 Jeanne Trappe'
 1981 Suberilte Louviere
 1989 Emerite Peltier
 2003 Bernie Prados
 2017 Theresa Pierre

January 8
 1875 Jean Moulis
 1895 Infant Belloy
 1902 Auguste Vincent
 1934 Arsene Sim
 1935 Marie Celina Vital
 1940 Eva Aristide
 1951 Maria Louis
 1967 Emile Gondron Sr.
 1973 Delia Walet
 1979 Otto Louviere
 1991 Marcelle Judice
 1992 Frances Townley
 2002 William Ryan
 2005 Iris Dugas
 2014 Francis Trahan
 2015 Anthony Broussard

January 9
 1904 Alphonse Meyez
 1906 Daisy Louviere
 1910 Henry LeBlanc
 1918 Revest Dugas
 1918 Philomene Borel
 1919 Ota Dugas
 1920 Norbert Broussard
 1940 Antoine Washington
 1962 Elise Gondron
 1963 O'Neil Dugas
 1987 Vernon Gonsoulin
 1994 Hervey Emonet
 1996 Eddie Edler
 2003 Charles Broussard
 2007 Darnell Warfel
 2011 Emmadell Freyout

January 10
 1901 Ms. Morbert Prince
 1910 Elmire Dugas
 1919 Eugena Broussard
 1944 Bertha Anthony
 1953 Ms. Albert Lissard
 1961 Dozite Broussard
 1990 Viola Broussard
 2013 Kayn Bourque

January 11
 1898 Albert Gonsoulin
 1910 Azel Champeaux
 1911 Ellen Gonsoulin
 1919 Moise Dugas
 1931 Chester Myers
 1933 Doristan Broussard
 1948 Emaelius Lamperez
 1967 Aurelie Lacamus
 1976 Moise Courville
 1983 Arnette Mestayer
 1990 Addie Boudreaux
 1990 Curley Boudreaux
 1998 Marie Dupuis
 2003 Noelon Broussard
 2018 Walter Burke

January 12
 1886 Bantatine Blanchard
 1904 Infant Provost
 1909 Pearl Guidry
 1932 Infant Gonsoulin
 1948 Octave Bonin
 1968 Florence Broussard
 1976 Egbert Domingue
 1979 Clara Ransonet
 1986 Leo Broussard
 1989 Felicie Chastant
 2010 Sybil Mullican
 2024 Lawrence Etie

January 13
 1875 Mathilde Dugas
 1881 Abraham Warrick
 1898 Infant Broussard
 1901 Hipolyte Chatagnier
 1910 Marie Braquet
 1933 Oride Oubre
 1939 Cornelius Pierre
 1987 Mary Moulis
 1990 Dewey Broussard
 2016 Olan Mestayer

January 14
 1910 Carmen Decuir
 1919 Mayo Broussard
 1919 Lucie Girouard
 1919 Marie Prince
 1933 Adonis Latiolais
 1942 Frances Honore
 1943 Louis LeBlanc
 1948 Clovis Gregoire
 1948 Lee Judice
 1961 Annette Latiolais
 1963 Louise Eldridge
 1968 Mathilde Daly
 1976 Breine Broussard
 1976 Percy Chatagnier
 1986 Otto Dressel
 2002 Martha Bastian
 2010 Venus Crochet
 2014 Larry Rochon
 2016 Gale Chastant
 2022 Mary Ann Prioux
 2022 C. L. Viator

January 15
 1887 Dumas Broussard
 1895 Infant Bastien
 1900 Ms. Aristole Ben
 1907 Jeanne Pitre
 1915 Louise Boutte
 1919 Emile Toffier
 1921 Infant Bonin
 1936 Romain Crochet
 1961 Alita Molbert
 1968 Lifford Daigle
 1973 Laurent Gondron
 1978 Mercedes Dugas
 1978 Lillian Walet
 1978 Kenneth Louviere
 2008 Theresa Walet
 2012 Darryl Ransonet
 2015 Annie Degerter

January 16
 1910 Ms. Pierre Villemot
 1921 Ms. J.J. Dauterive
 1928 Cecile Vaughn
 1931 Felia Abraham
 1948 Joseph LeBlanc
 1968 Yola Bonin
 1979 Anatole Bonin
 2016 Agnes Romero
 2019 Woodrow Ruiz

January 17
 1878 Eliza Broussard
 1932 Vernice Alexandre

1958 Cordelia Borrel
 1962 Robert Gondron
 1963 Henry Breaux
 1975 Ms. Robert Vaughn
 1993 Brian Dugas
 2001 Noelle Seneca
 2022 Nola Champagne
 2024 Sylvia Girouard

January 18
 1889 ? Dugas
 1919 Emile Dugas
 1925 Adele Demahi
 1928 Celestin Harrogene
 1938 Rita Landry
 1964 Ella Ste. Marie
 1965 Eli Daly
 1999 Collins Louviere
 2020 Gloria Robichaux

January 19
 1889 Uzine Hays
 1893 Leonide Aucoin
 1919 Laurence Eldridge
 1920 W. Provost
 1924 Arcade Ransonet
 1931 Charley Johnston
 1933 Leonard Anthony
 1941 Jean-Baptiste Gesser
 1942 Hortense Warrick
 1949 Laure Thibodeaux
 1964 Ultima St. Martin
 1971 Olivian Courville
 2007 Kenneth Broussard
 2024 Annie Mestayer

January 20
 1887 Ulga Dominic
 1888 Octave Richard
 1893 Ms. Emile Decuir
 1905 Viola Crochet
 1906 Elina Bonin
 1919 Eve Boutte
 1919 Infant Gregoire
 1929 Alizia LeBlanc
 1929 J.B. Judice
 1937 Elmire Judice
 1948 Regina Hebert
 1952 Ferdinand Ste. Marie
 1953 Rudolph Escagne
 1957 Euclie Broussard
 1967 Rev. James McCarthy
 1971 Bernadette Landry
 1980 Selina Tuten
 1992 Mark Braquet
 2014 Levi Louviere
 2014 William Louviere
 2014 Perry Judice
 2022 John Lagan
 2024 Ricky Decuir

January 21
 1888 Sydney Judice
 1888 Eusie Dugas
 1902 Ms. Roy John
 1908 Aurelea Borel
 1912 Charles Mestayer
 1918 Navy Gonsoulin
 1937 Seymour Crochet
 1938 Gabriel Gonsoulin
 1942 Emma Broussard
 1944 Cinetiere Chatagnier
 1968 Willie Vaughn
 2008 Cheryl Louviere
 2009 Joseph Falgout
 2021 Edia Borel

January 22
 1887 Dumas Broussard
 1905 Lezin Lecamus
 1911 Arthur Broussard
 1913 Mme Breaux
 1927 Lacey Prince

1948 Louise Freyout
 1959 Barbara Bonin
 1963 Bertin Borel
 1973 Anthony Meyers
 1978 Felix Trahan
 1990 Marie Berard
 2001 Tilden Broussard
 2020 Henry Anthony
 2024 Elton "Red" Boutte

January 23
 1906 Virginie Dressel
 1915 Mathilde Broussard
 1919 Rosine Bastien
 1928 Dorsian Bonin
 1930 Hazel Broussard
 1933 Gaston Lafontaine
 1943 Gabriel Dupoy
 1970 Willie Broussard
 1987 Ella Louviere
 2000 Gertrude Ransonet
 2001 Edna Walet

January 24
 1909 Celestine Dugas
 1912 Louis Simon
 1917 Joseph Berard
 1923 Infant Lecamus
 1938 Leona Bastien
 1940 Ulger Vital
 1940 Henri Louis
 1948 Edwin Bonin
 1951 Louis Simon
 1954 Charles Molbert
 1956 Infant Broussard
 1956 Raoul Boutte
 1966 Pierre LaGrange
 1964 Judy Barras
 1981 Anna Gonsoulin
 1994 Linda Derouen
 1996 Howard Bourque
 2004 Lester Migues

January 25
 1894 Infant Magloire
 1907 Dupleomn Savoie
 1916 Paul Bassin
 1920 Ms. Gilbert Vital
 1921 Agnes Daniel
 1924 Infant Anthony
 1940 Mathilde Turner
 1957 Lorrain Breaux
 1957 Armand LeBlanc
 1957 Weston LeBlanc
 1960 Lorraine Tauzin
 1964 Cora Oubre
 1971 Dugare Dugas
 1972 Harry Robin
 1978 Victoria Judice
 1981 Adley Boudreaux
 1982 Anthony Bonin
 1996 Stella Judice
 2002 Cecile Vincent
 2011 Katherine Eldridge
 2014 Debra Louviere
 2016 Florence Mestayer
 2022 Antoine Fontenette Jr.

January 26
 1897 Edna DeBlanc
 1902 Elmire Beaux
 1909 Louisa Egleson
 1931 Frank Parlow
 1936 Alcide Aucoin
 1946 Annette Gonsoulin
 1952 Adrienne Pierre
 1969 Edward Broussard
 1973 Sarah Mestayer
 1993 Constance Segura
 1995 Isaure Amy
 2000 Dennis Crochet
 2007 Rita Emonet
 2009 Roger Vicknair

2013 Duane Ste. Marie

January 27
 1877 Pauline Toffier
 1885 Eusebe Neuville
 1889 Magen Broussard
 1905 Ms. Felephore Broussard
 1906 Lezin Dugas
 1909 Martine Braud
 1933 Adolphe Decoux
 1938 Octave Ransonet
 1939 Celeste Steckler
 1940 Emma Broussard
 1976 Dorothy Borel
 1984 Mattie Broussard
 2016 Gretchen Babin
 2020 Ronald Albert Sr.
 2021 Grant Norris

January 28
 1908 Jeanne Borel
 1928 Florian Toffie'
 1933 Oscar Segura
 1942 Lawrence Rias
 1951 Linda Royes
 1960 Luzie Gonsoulin
 1988 Corinne Decuir
 1993 Orela Rodrigue
 2001 Octave Judice
 2001 Lorena Gonsoulin
 2017 Merlin Rose, Jr.

January 29
 1875 Eusebe Breaux
 1925 Leon Broussard
 1940 Celine Washington
 1945 Alfred Mestayer
 1946 Infant Dauterive
 1948 Adrienne Escagne
 1963 Corinne Poole
 1964 Joseph Oubre
 1973 Delma Judice
 1973 Jerome Chastant
 1979 Jules Ste. Marie
 1982 Clarence Landry
 1995 Myrna Ryan
 1997 Emmitt Dauterive
 2003 Malcolm Braquet
 2021 Edwin Broussard

January 30
 1882 Dorestan Prince
 1883 Ozer Eomo
 1888 Luc Bonin
 1897 Milton Dugas
 1902 Oscar Neuville
 1913 Victoria Crochet
 1929 Aline Lissard
 1939 Louis Tauzin
 1940 Alice Bonin
 1971 Robert Holtzclav
 1975 Charles Borres
 1998 Ronald Broussard
 2001 Hazel Feitel
 2011 Joseph Pommier
 2022 Hilda Tauzin

January 31
 1907 Manette Davis
 1909 Francois Julien
 1915 Gilma Broussard
 1920 Irma Broussard
 1920 Laurence Dugas
 1922 Ms. Wilfred Breaux
 1942 Ernest Vincent
 1948 Alceus Chataignier
 1998 Marie Lawson
 2004 Candide Breaux
 2022 James Clifton

Necrology

January Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

May God richly bless you on your special day.
It will be our privilege to remember you at the altar during the celebration of Holy Mass as we offer the Victim.

Father Crochet and Father Godwin

January 1

Emily Bird
Kyle Clifton
Christie Durand
Karen LeBlanc

January 2

Breia Dauphine
Aidan Dooley
Victoria Gary
Myles Haik
Kayla Judice
Caroline Pommier
Cody Prejean
Alyssa Romero

January 3

Matthew Belaire
Aimee Buteau
Megan Fouquier
Kimberly Judice
Todd Simon

January 4

Rhealeen Berard
Hux Breaux
Darian Burke
Ray Dees
Emerson DuBose
Austin Dugas
Kathleen Gondron
Jordan Hebert
Ricky LeBlanc
Tate Romero

January 5

Raymond Bergeron
Haiden Gautreaux
Saydi Landry
Karson McGee
Jennifer Neuville
Geneé Romero

January 6

Zachary Armentor
Sadie Boudreaux
Zack Bridges
Brittany Broussard
Nicholas Broussard
Wyatt Hotard
Michael Louviere Jr.

January 7

Tricia Boutte
Jake Foster
Kevin Freeman
Gracie Ransonet
Brittany Robicheaux
Susan Thibodeaux

January 8

Jesse Bergeron
Nathan Bodin
Ashtyn Bonin
Lacie Borne
Brady Gideon
Betty Guidry
Blaise Landry
Piper Provost
Harrison Rauschenbach
Marli Toups

January 9

Jenna Adcock
Christina Breaux
Elaine Chataignier
April Greaux
Jack Landry
Karen Verret
Marti Rae Viator

January 10

Bris Barras
Sydni Duplechain
Adley Hebert
Emma LeBlanc
Julian Stevens

January 11

Caden Bridges
Derrick Doumit
Dan Miller
Magen Tucker
Michael Weber

January 12

Nicolas Daigle
Kacie Delcambre
Mitchell Folse
Cody Frederick
Chad Guillotte
Morgan Habetz
Grason Istre
Maci Landry
Mark Landry
Rene Robichaux
Lexi Theriot

January 13

Cole Badeaux
Kaden Badeaux
Nicole Daniels
Ava Dautreuil
Aleigh Doerle
Cecile Lassalle
Colby Moresi
Ryan Richard

January 14

Brenner Babineaux
Hunter Freyou
Abbie Grivat
Sherry Guillot
Brandi Richard
Avery Snoddy
Adeline Watson
Kinzley Watson

January 15

Skylar Bourque
Jacob Breaux
Ronnie DeRouen
Ashley Duplechain
Coy Evans

Mason Michel
Donna Neuville
Virginia Prados

January 16

Austin Bonin
Elise Daigle
Kevin Douet
Evy Guidry
Amy Judice

January 17

Moxin Charpentier
David Etie

January 18

Francis Bonin
Amelia Chastant
Harper Courville
Jackson Edler
Warren Hulin
Rhett Louviere

January 19

Kailey Boutte
Cassie Latiolais
Sherry Prioux
Connor Walet

January 20

Colin Boudreaux
Elizabeth Gondron
Lilly Hebert
Aubrey Oubre
Blake Robin
Chloe Stelly
Benjamin Tausin

January 21

Audrey Courville
Brennon Dugas
Doris Elliot
Elise Fontenot
Isela Kerne
Meredith Norris

January 22

Emma Ackal
Anna Angelle
Parker Bonin
Kameron Broussard
Tommy Delahoussaye Jr.
Emersyn Dworaczyk
Lane LaBry
Kacie Schaubert

January 23

Ambrie Angelle
Gerald Bonin
Isaac LeJeune
Kylin Norris
Jessica Worsham

January 24

Willa Boudreaux
Kipp Brown
Luke Etie
Taylor Habetz
Max Patout
Robert Prados, Jr.
Blair Segura
Fawn Williams

January 25

Seth Babineaux
John Comeaux
Ashley Girouard
Jake Neuville Jr.

January 26

Lon Angelle
Ron Angelle
Zachary David
Jacques DeCourt
Maria Duhan
Richard Phillips
Nicholas Rowan
Jefferson Shackelford

January 27

Jennifer Berard
Garett Blanchard
Bayson Carline
John Catanzaro
Archie Hulin

Britney Lasseigne
Brielle LeBlanc
Brock Romero
Ty Segura

January 28

Robert Arceneaux
Erin Castillo
Carson Gondron
Harrison Hymel
Hubert Landry
Taylor Suire

January 29

Thomas Broussard
Beau Dees
Dakota Derouen
Mindy Douet
Bralyn Eldridge
Alyse Etie
Woodrow Gondron III
Ainsley Kaiser
Maddox Nacol
Lyndsie Ronsonet
Nathan Varker

January 30

Brad Bonin
Dalaina Gerace
Madeline Goudeau
Seth Leleux
Ian Neuville

January 31

Dutton Babineaux
David Barras
Camille Bonin
Damien Hebert
Eli Lancon
Travis Louviere
Madeline Weber
Landon Westcott



If your name does not occur in our birthday list, please call the parish office so that we can update our census information.

**Martyrdom and celebration:
The beautiful tension
of the Christmas Octave
by R. Jared Staudt**

We keep things in discreet categories in our culture. Religion too often remains within the church's walls, kept apart from the forces that drive society. That's a large reason why we have secularized the festivity of Christmas. We view faith as private and even divisive, so we gather at the end of December for a winter celebration defined by Santa, snowmen, and the new year. The quaint manger scene can remain because it's harmless, largely drowned out by bright lights, reindeer, and pop music.

The Christmas Octave, part of the twelve days leading up to the Epiphany, has largely disappeared, with trees already taken down and the music that had taken over during Advent off the air. For those still attuned to the liturgy, we find a much more sobering reality, which continues to challenge our discreet categories: martyrdom. Maybe the nativity scene isn't so harmless after all!

As we take the entire week to celebrate Christmas, we also reflect on the witness of numerous martyrs: Saint Stephen on 26 December, the Holy Innocents on the 28 December, and Saint Thomas Becket on the 29 December.

Furthermore, we commemorate an attempt on Saint John the Evangelist's life on the 27 December . . .

Christ came to die for us, born to take up the Cross one day. The Church's first martyr, the deacon Saint Stephen, comes immediately after Christmas Day as an important sign of the Victory over death brought by the newborn Christ. The word "martyr" means witness, and nothing witnesses to God's presence in the world more than the willingness to give all to testify to this saving Truth. The death of the Holy Innocents points even more to the connection between the New Life Christ brought for us and the Death that opens up our share in His final Victory. When we celebrate the Octave to the full, we must confront the reality of death

placed centrally within our festivity.

Another martyr, Saint Wenceslaus (907-935), makes an appearance on Saint Stephen's Day through a 19th Century carol with roots in medieval Bohemia.

According to legend, the duke, posthumously given the title King, sitting by his warm fire, spotted a poor peasant making his way through a snowstorm. Moved with compassion, Wenceslaus has his page follow him with meat, wine and logs for a fire so that the man and his family may celebrate the great feast. But, the page, struggling through the storm, cries out to the king for help. You may not have ever stayed with the carol until the fourth and fifth verses, but they describe how the page followed along behind "Good King Wenceslaus" one step at a time:

*Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.*

*Mark my footsteps, good my page;
Tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly.*

*In his master's steps be trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.*

*Therefore, Christian men, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.*

The carol resolves the tension between celebration and martyrdom, showing how even our feasting should witness to the newborn King. It will give testimony when it points to the Presence of Christ and reaches out to others in charity by following in the footsteps of the King of Kings, the one Wenceslaus imitated.

The Octave contains another feast just before its climax: Pope Saint Sylvester I (285-

335) on New Year's Eve.

During his papacy, the Church triumphed over Roman persecution through the reign of Constantine. With the Emperor, Saint Sylvester oversaw the founding of the first great churches of Rome, such as the Lateran, Saint Peter's and Santa Croce, and approved the Creed and canons of the Council of Nicaea (1,700 years ago this coming year). After the celebration of martyrs earlier in the week, we also see the Power of Christ's Birth to bring Peace and transform the world through grace.

Martyrdom did not become obsolete after the Peace of Constantine, as Saint Wenceslaus himself testifies, succumbing as he did to his pagan brother. In fact, the 20th Century saw more martyrs than all other centuries combined under the persecutions of Communist and totalitarian regimes. Like the Holy Innocents, those witnesses have entered into the Life brought to us by the true Prince of Peace.

The celebration of Christmas calls us to become martyrs, witnesses to Christ, even by our celebration. The feasts of this Octave are not an excuse for worldliness but a means of proclaiming the Good News to a world that has forgotten it!

This week, continue to invite family and friends to celebrate [the] New Year, to use the good things of this world for their intended purpose: to glorify God and witness to His Presence within it.

R. Jared Staudt PhD, serves as Director of Content for Exodus 90 and as an instructor for the lay division of Saint John Vianney Seminary. He is author of **Words Made Flesh: The Sacramental Mission of Catholic Education** (CUA Press, 2024), **How the Eucharist Can Save Civilization** (IAN), **Restoring Humanity: Essays on the Evangelization of Culture** (Divine Providence Press) and **The Beer Option** (Angelico Press), as well as editor of **Renewing Catholic Schools: How to Regain a Catholic Vision in a Secular Age** (Catholic Education Press). He and his wife Anne have six children and he is a Benedictine oblate.



**You are invited to make an
Appointment for your
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at 229-4254**