



## Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

FAX (337) 229-4255

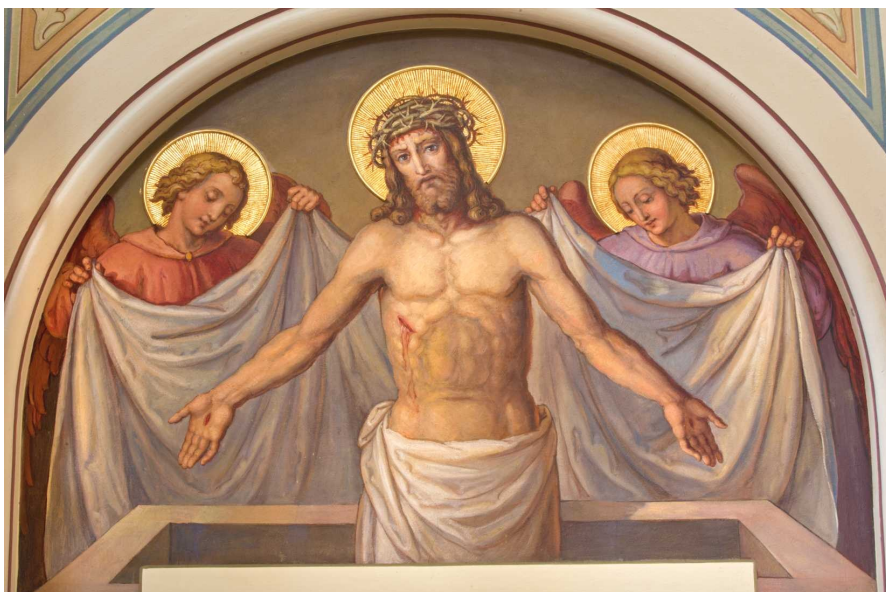
Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CME, Associate Pastor

Deacon Roland Jeanlouis, Pastoral Associate

[pastor@stjosephparishonline.org](mailto:pastor@stjosephparishonline.org)

[stjosephparishonline.org](http://stjosephparishonline.org)



O God, Who on this day, through Your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the Solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by Your Spirit, rise up in the Light of Life.

### MINISTERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
April 26 4:00 p.m.	Brad Clifton	Julie Clifton	Volunteers
April 27 7:00 a.m.	Lori Barras	Steve Barras	Volunteers
10:30 a.m.	Mike Ackal	Raymond Bergeron	Volunteers

### 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.

April 20	Rev. Christopher Cambre/Bennett Bodin Dcn. Denis Lacroix
April 21	Rev. Corey Campeaux/Reid Bourgeois Dcn. Dennis Landry
April 22	Rev. Joseph Campion/Nicholas Broussard Dcn. Barry Leblanc
April 23	Rev. Michael Champagne, CJC, STD/Deacon Ricky Castaneda Dcn. Joshua Leblanc
April 24	Rev. Gregory Chauvin/Haden Coleman Dcn. Robert Louis Leblanc
April 25	Rev. Jose Cherian/Sebastian Cramer Dcn. Eugene Leboeuf
April 26	Rev. Edward Chiffreller, SSJ/Carter Domingue Dcn. Timothy Ledet



### 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, Betty Champagne, Leroy and Gloria Courville, Wayne LeBlanc, Melvin Broussard, 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, Nelda Breaux, Bernard Hebert, Jillian Faye Boudreaux, Marty LeBlanc, Bill Gonsoulin, Mark Ruly, Robert, Sr. and Julie LeBlanc, Michael Theriot, Hayes Enlund, Steve Thibeaux, Davi Clifton, Jimmy Wilson, Bobbie Boutte, Genie and Karen Dugas, Chase Richard.

April 13, 2025

Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 4,576.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 2,678.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 7,254.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Difference	-\$ 131.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 79,429.61
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$ 50.00
Insurance Balance 2024-2025	\$ 45,186.83
Insurance Collection	\$ .00

**The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for**  
Gene Jefferies

**Blessed Virgin Mary Altar Candle is burning for**  
For the Community

**Saint Joseph Altar Candle is burning for**  
Steve J. Miguez Family, J. O. and Marie Neuville

**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, Brett Hebert (Recovery), Claude and Nola Dugas, Earl and Mary Lou Barrs, Albert, Lydia and Bob Thibodeaux, Gregory "King" Lee, Jr, Marcus and Sherry Hebert, Special Intention, Collins and Doris Louviere, Kerney and Gene Louviere, Brooke Burch, Will and Lily Roberts.

**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 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. StJo** — See page 4

**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.

**Tuesday 5:30 p.m. StJo** — Donna and Steve Berard, Ancestors and Descendants, 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.

**Wednesday 6:45 a.m. StJo** — 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.

**Thursday 5:30 p.m. StJo** — 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.

**Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV** — Lynn Delcambre and Family, In Thanksgiving, Judice and Walet Families, 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.



**Our Lady of Victory Fish Fry Dinner**

**Friday, April 25, 2025**

11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Parish Life Center.

**Donation \$15.00**

**You can pick up your tickets in Life Center  
after Mass**

## 2003 Easter Message of Pope Saint John Paul II

1. "The Lord is risen from the tomb; for our sake He hung on the Cross." Alleluia! The Easter proclamation joyfully resounds: Christ is risen! He is truly risen! He Who "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried," Jesus, the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, "rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures" (Creed).

2. This proclamation is the foundation of the hope of all mankind. If Christ did not rise from the dead, not only would our faith be in vain (cf. I Corinthians 15:14), but our hope would also be vain, for we would all still be held hostage by evil and death. "But in fact — today's Liturgy proclaims — Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (I Corinthians 15:20). By His Death Jesus has crushed and triumphed over the iron-clad law of death, eliminating its poisonous root for ever.

3. "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19,20). This is the first greeting of the Risen One to His disciples; a greeting which echoes today throughout the world. O Good News, so long awaited, so greatly desired! O proclamation of consolation for all those oppressed beneath the burden of sin and its many structures! For all, especially for the least and the poor, we proclaim today the hope of peace, of true peace, founded on the solid pillars of love and justice, of truth and freedom.

4. "Peace on earth, the profound aspiration of men and women of all times, can be firmly established and sustained only if the order established by God is firmly respected" (*Pacem in Terris*, Introduction). These are the first words of the historic Encyclical, in which ... Pope Saint John XXIII indicated to the world the way of peace. These words remain as timely as ever at the dawn of the Third Millennium, tragically marred by acts of violence and conflicts.

6. Let there be an end to the chain of hatred and terrorism, which threatens the orderly development of the human family. May God grant that we be free from the peril of a tragic clash between cultures and religions. May faith and love of God make the followers of every religion courageous builders of understanding and forgiveness, patient weavers of a fruitful inter-religious dialogue, capable of inaugurating a new era of justice and peace.

7. As He said to the terrified Apostles on the wind-swept sea, Christ says once more to the men and women of our time: "Take heart, it is I; have no fear!" (Mark 6:50). If He is with us, why should we fear? However dark the horizon of humanity may seem, today we celebrate the radiant Triumph of Easter joy. If a contrary wind slows the march of peoples, if the sea of history is tossed by storms, let no one yield to dismay and lack of trust! Christ is risen; Christ is alive in our midst; truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, He offers Himself as the Bread of salvation, Bread for the poor, the Food of wayfarers.

8. O Divine Presence of Love, O living Memorial of Christ our Pasch, for the suffering and the dying You are Food for their Journey, for everyone you are the sure Pledge of Eternal Life! O Mary, the first Tabernacle of history, silent witness of the wonders of Easter, help us to sing with our lives Your own *Magnificat* of praise and thanksgiving, for today "The Lord is risen from the tomb; for our sake He hung on the Cross."

Christ is risen, our Peace and our Hope. He is risen. Alleluia!

# Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Divine Mercy Sunday  
April 27, 2025  
3:00 p.m.  
Saint Joseph Church



**Knights of Columbus  
Healing Rosary**  
Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.  
Saint Joseph Church  
All are invited.

## National Day of Prayer

Please join us for a brief prayer service at Noon on Thursday, May 1, 2025. We will gather at the Acadian Memorial by the Loreauville Bridge. Please bring your own chair.

# St. Rita Annual Church Fair

## APRIL 26-27, 2025

Clayton Boudreaux Memorial Park, Catahoula, LA

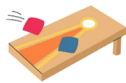
The Church Fair will open with  
**HOLY MASS**  
4:00 P.M.  
Saturday  
Under the Pavilion

**Music**  
*Saturday*

5:00-8:00 p.m.  
**Nik-L-Beer Band**  
8:00-11:00 PM  
**Lloyd Stretch**

Available for Sale:  
Hamburgers  
Soft Drinks  
Beer

## Sunday CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT



REGISTRATION FEE:  
\$20/Team of 2  
Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.  
Or call to pre-register.  
Prize given to the  
winning team.  
For more information and to  
register, call Shannon Barras  
337-277-0980

Raffle (pulled at 2:00 p.m.)  
Silent Auction (10:00 a.m.  
to 2:00 p.m.)  
Live Auction (1:00 p.m.)  
50/50 (pulled at 2:00 p.m.)

**BINGO**

*Sunday*  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*Laissez-nous passer un bon temps!  
(Let us have a good time!)*

## Menu

*Sunday*  
11:00 AM-2:00 PM  
Crawfish Etouffee,  
Rice, & 2 sides  
Or  
Deep Fried Chicken,  
Rice Dressing & 2 sides

Beer, Soft Drinks  
Oreilles de Cochon  
Hamburgers  
Nachos and Fritos  
Sweet Booth



**Volleyball**  
Tournament

Call Mitch Melancon  
337-380-8589

# Lenten Calendar

**Easter Monday — April 21, 2025**

[Parish Offices Are Closed]

6:15 a.m. Confessions — 6:45 a.m. Mass  
Our Lady of Victory Church

**Easter Tuesday — April 22, 2025**

5:00 p.m. Confessions — 5:30 p.m. Mass  
Saint Joseph Church

**Easter Wednesday — April 23, 2025**

6:15 a.m. Confessions — 6:45 a.m. Mass  
Saint Joseph Church

**Easter Thursday — April 24, 2025**

5:00 p.m. Confessions — 5:30 p.m. Mass  
Saint Joseph Church

**Easter Friday — April 25, 2025**

6:15 a.m. Confessions — 6:45 a.m. Mass  
Our Lady of Victory Church

**Easter Saturday — April 26, 2025**

3:00 p.m. Confessions — 4:00 p.m. Mass  
Saint Joseph Church

**Divine Mercy Sunday — April 27, 2025**

7:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. — Mass  
Saint Joseph Church

9:00 a.m. — Mass

Our Lady of Victory Church

3:00 p.m. — Divine Mercy Holy Hour  
Saint Joseph Church



# Women's Day of Discernment

APRIL 26, 2025

IMMACULATA CENTER  
1408 CARMEL DR

Open to women ages 16-40.

Talks, Mass, prayer, and  
opportunities to visit with  
various religious orders from  
Louisiana

REGISTER  
HERE



# Easter Mass Intentions

## Easter Vigil — April 19, 2025 Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

Deacon Kenneth and Emma Waguespack, Judice and Walet Families, Steve and Donna Berard, Ancestors and Descendants, Walter and Doris M. Judice, Louis, Ronald and Mae Mae Broussard, Dupoy, Lasseigne and Mullican Families Ancestors and Descendants, Hardy Theriot, Gene Jefferies, Sophie Bonin Reese, Louis and Marietta Prince, Boo Castille, Debbie Hebert, Steve J. Miguez Family, J. O. and Marie Neuville, Special Intention, Sam and Glo Delcambre, John Delcambre, Sully Berard, Jr., Juliette Berard, Melvin Dugas, Roy, Sr. and Gladys Berard, Donald “Don” Crochet, Earline Crochet, Steven Crochet, John Vedia Perez, Barbara Ann Ozenne Perez Family, Robin Neuville, Sidney Breaux Family, Pauline and Craig, Adam “Coo” and Jeanette Crochet, Robert Judice, Sr., Judice and Laviolette Families, Elton “Red” Boutte, Brandon Boutte, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Johnny and Rose Albert, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Billy Degeyter, Chester “Butch” Gonsoulin, 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 Families, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, 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, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, Patricia Fakier, David Guidry, Warren Sevin, Charles Sevin, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Martha Thibodeaux, 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.

## Easter Sunday — April 20, 2025 7:00 a.m.

Pro Populo

## 10:30 a.m.

Lou Suard, Sr., Marie Lee B. Prioux, Leroy J. Bonin, Goldie T. Bonin, Janell B. Broussard, Earline D. Bonin, Alton Bonin, Dr. J. R. Romero, Albert Rodriguez, Vance Rodriguez, Tommy J. Thibodeaux, Odile V. Thibodeaux, Edwin Thibodeaux, Clemonce Bonin, Anatole Bonin, Jr., Lynn Delcambre Family, Ancestors and Descendants, Orford Breaux Family Ancestors and Descendants, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Breaux and Breaux and Viator Families, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ruiz, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Legnon, Jr., Earline F. Ruiz, Rusty R. Ruiz, Lelia and Joseph Gaudet, Debora Hutchinson, Freddie and Eric Suire, Boo Castille, Debbie Hebert, Stanley and Elsie Crochet, Yvonne LeBlanc, Edgar and Emmerette Peltier, Aimie and Kernis Peltier, Jack Braquet, Francis Crochet, Don Davis, Lane Champagne, Waylon Williams, Larry Crochet, Sandi and Glenn Angelle, Betty Romero, Romero and Babin Families, Shanie Edler Decuir, Tim Edler, Edler Family, Arceneaux and Mestayer Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Lovell Romero, Henry and Renella and Josh Pelafigue, Clarence and Nola 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, Maude Granger and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Granger, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Shelton Joseph Freyou, Ella Desormeau Freyou, Rickie Oubre, Loto Louviere, Jr., Gam and Velma Gondron Family, Matthew Thibeaux, Edmond Lancon Family, Louis Thibeaux Family, Keri Bonin Boutte, Bonin and Boutte Family,

Clyde Dressel, Judy Judice, Beaugard Judice, Gondron and Deville Family Ancestors and Descendants, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Anthony Deville, (Recovery), Mathilde Romero, Our Catholic Priest, Louto and Anite Gondron Family, Horace and Sylvia Thibodeaux, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, Patricia Fakier, David Guidry, Warren Sevin, Charles Sevin, Cherie LeCompte, Barbara Sonnier, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Nellie Hebert Arceneaux, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Martha Thibodeaux, 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.



# Easter Flower Memorials

- In Honor of the Landry and Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants
- In Honor of Howard Joseph Percle, Sr.
- Prioux, Bonin, LeBlanc and Trahan Families
- Iris Dugas, George Dugas Family and Vaughn Family
- Louto and Anite Gondron Family
- Foreman Family  
Gilman Gondron Family  
Menard Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Marvis Barras, Sr. and Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Walet, Butsy
- Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Braquet  
Mr. and Mrs. Oxford Breaux  
Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Delcambre  
Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Deville  
Mr. and Mrs. Melicour Dore  
Mr. and Mrs. Leander Gondran, Sr.  
Dr. Harold and Kathleen Heitkamp  
Mr. and Mrs. Sylvest Thibodeaux  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walet
- David, Mary Ann and Clark Provost
- Herman, Pliny and Caro, Carolyn Walet
- Rita, Teresa and Lillian Walet
- Herman Walet, Teresa, Rita, Lillian, Howard, Laurence, Carolyn, Pliny and Delia Walet
- Jeanne and Billy Clifton and Glenn  
Jeanne and Albert Broussard and Family  
Whitney, Goldie, and Mollie Viator
- Evan and Owen Allen  
Bert and Stella Amedee  
Glen and Sandi Angelle  
Earl and Mary Lou Barras  
Cal and Margie Berard  
Willie and Louise Bonin  
Melvin and Rae Borres  
Kelly and Bonnie Boudreaux  
Sidney and Margaret Breaux  
Roland and Pee Wee Broussard  
Clarence and Nola Champagne  
Eric and Bob Champagne  
Roland and Norma Champeaux  
Ernest, Jr. and Ena Cook
- Sam and Glo Delcambre  
Claude and Nola Dugas  
Lavinia and Eddie Edler  
Alton and Deanna Gondron  
Velma and Gam Gondron  
Wildred and Bertha Hulin  
Been and Mag Judice  
Elie and Lucy Judice  
Louis P. and Elbay Judice  
Walter and Doris M. Judice  
Gertrude and Sydney Kern  
Edmond and Euline Lancon  
Lloyd and Maudry Landry  
Willie and Amy Landry  
Ben, Sr. and Valerie Lissard  
Loto Sr. and Leah Louviere  
William and Lucy Quinlan  
Jennie and Julius Ransonet  
Lily and Hubert Richard  
Trey and Chad Romero  
Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Spiess  
Buddy and Paul Stephens  
Gueydon and Molina Viator
- Aunt Lone  
Nick Bienvenue  
Beryl Kern Bonin  
Allen David Borres  
Augusta Borres  
Chuck Michael Borres  
Harriet Boudreaux  
Cheryl L. Bradshaw  
Craig Breaux  
Ed Broussard  
Edmond Ray Broussard  
Joanne Broussard  
Louis Broussard  
Ronald Broussard  
Wanda D. Broussard  
Wolla Mae G. Broussard  
Connie Chambers  
Deyna Champagne  
Harold Champagne  
Jimmy Clifton  
Jimmy Clifton  
Audrey Crochet  
Marie Crochet  
Paul Crochet  
Russel "Heavy" Derise  
Anthony Deville  
Phil Dore  
Kamryn Elizabeth Dorsey  
Shanie Edler  
Tim Edler  
Ozita P. Egby  
Jesse Forman  
Marion Forstall
- Virginia Frioux  
Patricia Gachassin  
Susan Gallagher  
Gerard B-Boy Gondron  
Leander Gondran, Jr.  
Loto Gondron  
Lillian Granatelli  
Choo Coo Guidry  
Glenda Guidry  
Pauline B. Guidry  
Carol Hansen  
Audrey Kern  
Frankie Landry  
Jamie Landry  
June Landry  
Lisa Landry  
Michael Landry  
O'Neil Landry  
Charlie Latiolais  
Troy LeBlanc  
Loto Louviere, Jr.  
Doris Luke  
Rita Mayon  
Mary Kathryn V. McGee  
Donna Moore  
Claire Bonin Myers  
Bea Napoli  
Sam Napoli  
Sammy Napoli  
Bonnie E. Oubre  
Chris Allen Percle  
Karen Renee Percle  
Nancy Lou Percle  
Lucille Pierre  
Yola Pierre  
Vickie "Poopae" Prados  
Magnolia Pratt  
Jordan Prince  
C. L. Romero  
Allen Rosen  
Eric Suiire  
Mark Tauzin  
Bruce A. Temple  
Matthew Thibeaux  
Michael Thibodeaux  
Roy Thibodeaux  
Curtis Toffier  
David Viator  
James B. Voorhies, Jr.  
James B. Voorhies, Sr.  
Walter Voorhies  
Herman Walet  
Rita Walet  
Theresa Walet  
Myrt Woodruff

**Easter Vigil Homily  
of His Holiness Benedict XVI  
Saint Peter's Basilica  
7 April 2012**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Easter is the feast of the new creation. Jesus is risen and dies no more. He has opened the door to a new life, one that no longer knows illness and death. He has taken mankind up into God Himself. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God", as Saint Paul says in the First Letter to the Corinthians (15:50). On the subject of Christ's Resurrection and our resurrection, the Church writer Tertullian in the Third Century was bold enough to write: "Rest assured, flesh and blood, through Christ you have gained your place in Heaven and in the Kingdom of God" (CCL II, 994). A new dimension has opened up for mankind. Creation has become greater and broader. Easter Day ushers in a new creation, but that is precisely why the Church starts the liturgy on this day with the old creation, so that we can learn to understand the new one aright. At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Word on Easter night, then, comes the account of the Creation of the world. Two things are particularly important here in connection with this liturgy. On the one hand, Creation is presented as a whole that includes the phenomenon of time. The seven days are an image of completeness, unfolding in time. They are ordered towards the seventh day, the day of the freedom of all creatures for God and for one another. Creation is therefore directed towards the coming together of God and His creatures; it exists so as to open up a space for the response to God's great Glory, an encounter between Love and Freedom. On the other hand, what the Church hears on Easter night is above all the first element of the Creation Account: "God said, 'let there be light!'" (Genesis 1:3). The Creation Account begins symbolically with the creation of light. The Sun and the Moon are created only on the fourth day. The creation

account calls them lights, set by God in the firmament of Heaven. In this way He deliberately takes away the divine character that the great religions had assigned to them. No, they are not gods. They are shining bodies created by the one God. But they are preceded by the light through which God's glory is reflected in the essence of the created being.

What is the creation account saying here? Light makes life possible. It makes encounter possible. It makes communication possible. It makes knowledge, access to reality and to Truth, possible. And insofar as it makes knowledge possible, it makes Freedom and Progress possible. Evil hides. Light, then, is also an expression of the good that both is and creates brightness. It is daylight, which makes it possible for us to act. To say that God created light means that God created the world as a space for Knowledge and Truth, as a space for Encounter and Freedom, as a space for good and for Love. Matter is fundamentally good, being itself is good. And evil does not come from God-made being, rather, it comes into existence only through denial. It is a "no".

At Easter, on the morning of the first day of the week, God said once again: "Let there be light". The night on the Mount of Olives, the solar eclipse of Jesus' Passion and Death, the night of the grave had all passed. Now it is the first day once again – creation is beginning anew. "Let there be light", says God, "and there was light": Jesus rises from the grave. Life is stronger than death. Good is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate. Truth is stronger than lies. The darkness of the previous days is driven away the moment Jesus rises from the grave and Himself becomes God's pure light. But this applies not only to Him, not only to the darkness of those days. With the Resurrection of Jesus, light itself is created anew. He draws all of us after Him into the new Light of the Resurrection and He conquers all darkness. He is God's new day, new for all of us.

But how is this to come about? How does all

this affect us so that instead of remaining word it becomes a reality that draws us in? Through the Sacrament of Baptism and the Profession of Faith, the Lord has built a bridge across to us, through which the new day reaches us. The Lord says to the newly-baptized: let there be light. God's new day – the day of indestructible Life, comes also to us. Christ takes you by the hand. From now on you are held by Him and walk with Him into the Light, into real Life. For this reason the early Church called baptism – illumination.

Why was this? The darkness that poses a real threat to mankind, after all, is the fact that he can see and investigate tangible material things, but cannot see where the world is going or whence it comes, where our own life is going, what is good and what is evil. The darkness enshrouding God and obscuring values is the real threat to our existence and to the world in general. If God and moral values, the difference between good and evil, remain in darkness, then all other “lights”, that put such incredible technical feats within our reach, are not only progress but also dangers that put us and the world at risk. Today we can illuminate our cities so brightly that the stars of the sky are no longer visible. Is this not an image of the problems caused by our version of enlightenment? With regard to material things, our knowledge and our technical accomplishments are legion, but what reaches beyond, the things of God and the question of good, we can no longer identify. Faith, then, which reveals God's Light to us, is the true enlightenment, enabling God's Light to break into our world, opening our eyes to the true Light.

Dear friends, as I conclude, I would like to add one more thought about light and illumination. On Easter night, the night of the new creation, the Church presents the Mystery of Light using a unique and very humble symbol: the Paschal Candle. This is a light that lives from sacrifice. The Candle shines inasmuch as it is burnt up. It gives light, inasmuch as it gives itself. Thus the Church presents most beautifully the Paschal Mystery of

Christ, Who gives Himself and so bestows the great Light. Secondly, we should remember that the light of the Candle is a fire. Fire is the power that shapes the world, the force of transformation. And fire gives warmth. Here too the Mystery of Christ is made newly visible. Christ, the Light, is fire, flame, burning up evil and so reshaping both the world and ourselves. “Whoever is close to Me is close to the fire,” as Jesus is reported by Origen to have said. And this fire is both heat and light: not a cold light, but one through which God's warmth and goodness reach down to us.

The great hymn of the *Exsultet*, which the deacon sings at the beginning of the Easter liturgy, points us quite gently towards a further aspect. It reminds us that this object, the Candle, has its origin in the work of bees. So the whole of creation plays its part. In the Candle, Creation becomes a bearer of Light. But in the mind of the Fathers, the Candle also in some sense contains a silent reference to the Church. The cooperation of the living community of believers in the Church in some way resembles the activity of bees. It builds up the community of Light. So the Candle serves as a summons to us to become involved in the community of the Church, whose reason to be is to let the Light of Christ shine upon the world.

Let us pray to the Lord at this time that He may grant us to experience the joy of His Light; let us pray that we ourselves may become bearers of His Light, and that through the Church, Christ's radiant face may enter our world (cf. *Lumen Gentium* 1). Amen.



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