

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES
Established April 25, 1980

The Most Rev. Glen John Provost, D.D.
Bishop of Lake Charles

PARISH STAFF

- Rev. Father Rommel P. Tolentino
Pastor
- Rev. Fr. Ruben Buller, In Residence
- Rev. Deacon Christopher Fontenot
Pastoral Assistant
- Mr. Robert Marcantel
Music Director
- Mrs. Marlene Mullenix
Organist
- Ms. Sue Burke
Receptionist
- Mrs. Lavonne "Cookie" Dennison
Secretary
- Mrs. Pam Menou
Bookkeeper
- Mr. Philip Ardoin
Maintenance
- Mrs. Christi Jarreau
Principal ICCS
- Mrs. Monica Broussard
Youth Director

immaculateconceptioncathedral.com
Listen to the 9:30 a.m. Mass on
KLCL AM 1470 or KJEF AM 1290

935 Bilbo Street † P. O. Box 1029 † Lake Charles, LA 70602 † (337) 4367251 † Fax (337) 4367240

MASSES

Saturday Anticipated 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11:15 a.m.
(Extraordinary Form) 5:00 p.m.
Monday Friday 12:05 p.m.

NOVENA

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Before 12:05 Mass on Tuesday

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday 11:00 Noon; Saturday 3:00 pm
30 minutes before all other Masses.
Or call office for appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

A PreBaptism class must be
attended before the celebration of
Baptism. These classes are held the
4th Tuesday of January, March,
May, July, September and
November. Arrangements for
celebration of Baptism may be made
by calling the parish office after

having attended the Baptism Class.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made at
least six (6) months before the
wedding date by calling the parish
office. An appointment must be
made for a premarriage interview.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS.

An ongoing process of formation
and education is provided for

anyone who is interested in
inquiring into the Roman Catholic
faith. The RCIA process is
available throughout the year to
those who are seeking initiation
into the church as well as for those
nonCatholics seeking more
information about the Roman
Catholic church. Information
concerning participation in the
RCIA process may be obtained
through the parish office.

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

**From the
Pastor**© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Dear Parishioners,

My sincerest gratitude to all those who sent me Christmas cards and all kinds of Christmas gifts, including novena Masses and prayer bouquets. I am touched by your thoughtfulness and overwhelmed by the outpouring of your love and support. May God reward your kindness and generosity! I prayed for you this Christmas Season, and I felt the power of your prayers for me as well. A very wise priest once told me that the prayers of the priest for his parishioners are certainly important, but the prayers of the parishioners for their priest are equally important. Let us continue praying for each other.

Before the Christmas Season ends this Sunday with the celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord, I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to our beautiful Christmas liturgies: the Altar Society and Décor Committee for elegantly beautifying our church; the ICCS Children's Choir for pleasantly singing at our Christmas Eve Mass; the Cathedral Chorale for the amazing Christmas concert and for helping lift our hearts and voices to God at our beautiful Midnight Mass; the Traditional Latin Mass Choir for providing exquisite music at our Extraordinary Form Mass on Christmas Day and the Solemn Pontifical Mass; everyone who helped with the reception for the Pontifical Mass; Bishop Provost, Father Buller and the seminarians who assisted at the Midnight Mass; the music directors, cantors, musicians, Altar Servers, Sacristans, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, etc. who served all our Masses. I thank everyone for your hard work and dedication.

In the last couple of weeks, we examined compelling arguments from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition for identifying the birth of Christ on December 25. This week, we'll conclude this topic by presenting Pope Benedict XVI's argument, then a brief note about Epiphany and the theological significance of the Adoration of the Magi (Source: taylormarshall.com).

In 2000, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger wrote in his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy* that a Jewish tradition holds that Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac on Mount Moriah on March 25. Mount Moriah is Jerusalem (see 2 Chron 34:1), and March 25 is the date on which Christ was crucified on the solar calendar (Easter like the Mosaic Passover is calculated by a lunar phenomenon). I think that you can see that there is a geographical and temporal parallel here. We see that the Father willingly offers His only-begotten Son.

Cardinal Ratzinger also noted that March 25 was thought to be the first day of creation. Hence, March 25 has a cosmic significance. His Eminence also describes how the zodiac and Aries relates to this cosmic significance in the Spring, but that is a bit too much for our purposes. The important thing is that March 25 was the traditional date for the creation of the world, for the sacrifice of Abraham, and for the sacrifice of God the Son.

On pages 107-108, Cardinal Ratzinger makes the observation that the day of Christ's death was also reckoned as the day he was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. March 25, then was the annunciation of Gabriel. Add nine months to that and you arrive at December 25 as His birthday.

Ratzinger then dismisses what he calls "these old theories" that teach that December 25 was chosen to cover over pagan holidays. Rather, the Holy Father recognizes December 25 as the true birthday of Christ the Lord. He expands that this alignment of meanings has liturgical significance.

Also, Pope Benedict XIV argued in 1761 that the church fathers would have known the correct date of birth from Roman census records.

Adoration of the Magi Proves Christ's Divinity

Church history is plagued by the recurring heresy which denies that Christ is fully God. The most insidious attempt to push this false theology on the Church occurred in the fourth century. The heresiarch Arius galvanized a majority of influential clergy and laity as the so-called *nouvelle théologie* of budding Christendom. Arius wrongly taught that the Son of God was not eternal with the Father and that the Son of God was therefore created. This entailed that the Son of God does not share the same divine substance as God the Father. As you know, the Catholic Church condemned these errors at the Council of Nicea (325) and the First Council of Constantinople (381).

Contrary to the claims of the heretics, the adoration of the Magi toward the Christ Child proves that this tiny Jewish baby is much more than a created person. Christ had not proved Himself by any external deeds. He did not possess any external wealth or power. This reveals that the Magi perceived the infant to be a Divine Person, God Himself.

In a sermon on the Epiphany of Christ, Saint Augustine explains: "Though many kings of the Jews had been born and died, none of them did the Magi seek to adore. And so they who came from a distant foreign land to a kingdom that was entirely strange to them, had no idea of showing such great homage to such a king as the Jews were wont to have. But they had learnt that such a King was born that by adoring Him they might be sure of obtaining from Him the salvation which is of God."

The Magi were kings, royal men. They were familiar with kings and the Christ Child exhibited none of the earthly traits of a king. Rather, Christ's credentials came from a supernatural star. This proved to the Magi that this Child was the Lord and Creator of the Stars and therefore the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. The Magi were no Arians.

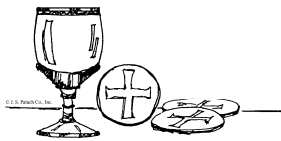
Pope Saint Leo the Great writes "they might seek with more ardent faith Him, whom both the brightness of the star and the authority of prophecy revealed" (Serm. xxxiv). *Cont'd. next page.....*

‡ THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD ‡

How amazing it is that Gentile kings, once idolatrous men, were the first to bend their knees in homage while the rulers and priests of Israel ignored Christ and then sought to kill Him. Herod and the apostate Jews of that time were, then, the first Arian heretics. They were the first to deny the divinity of Christ by their actions. The Magi, on the other hand, were the very first defenders of Catholic Orthodoxy. By their arduous journey and beautiful gestures, they acted out what St Athanasius and the Cappadocian Fathers defended by word and by pen.

I am surprised that no one has ever written an icon like this. Wouldn't it be rather stunning to have an icon in which the Three Magi as "adorers of the divinity" were paralleled with St Athanasius, St Gregory Nazianzus, and St Basil as "defenders of the divinity"? Gifted icon writers of the world...get to work.

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THE SCHEDULE OF 40 HOURS DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE

DIocese OF LAKE CHARLES, will be held in churches of the Central Deanery in January. From January 9th to 12th, adoration will be here in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as follows.

- January 9 (Tuesday)——12:30—9:00 P.M.
- January 10 (Wednesday)——6:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M.
- January 11 (Thursday)——6:00 A.M.-12:00 Midnight

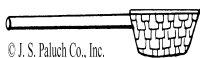


Catholic Mission Trip...The Abrazando Cristo Mission Trip for 2018 will be July 6-15 to Nicaragua. Cost of the trip is \$2,150. and covers air and ground transportation, meals, lodging, tips, taxes, retreat, and mission shirts. For information please contact Felicia Borel at 337-477-1236 or Felicia.borel@lcdiocese.org. Registration fee of \$300 is due by January 16th to secure a seat.



SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND, January 13th & 14th —Bishop's Services Appeal (BSA). We have collected \$33,933 since September, 2017 and still owe \$5,652 toward our quota.

Christian Giving



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Offertory Collection for the weekend of December 30th and 31st..\$13,869.00

Remember: You may also make your contributions online by using a credit/bank card by visiting our website...immaculateconceptioncathedral.com

THIS WEEK

- January 07....Youth Group meets, 5:00-6:30 P.M., Ave Maria Hall, Topic: Long Live the King**
- January 09.... Come Lord Jesus (women)—9:30 A.M., Library**
- January 10.....Cathedral Choir Practice, 6:00 P.M.**
..... RCIA 6:00 P.M., Library
- January 11.....Come Lord Jesus (Men), 6:00 A.M., AMH**
.....Holy Hour of Reparation, 11:00-12:00 P.M.
- January 12..... G.N.A.T.S meets—9:30 A.M.—Library**



Weddings Our Cathedral Faith Community extends its Best Wishes and Congratulations to **Maria Mendez and Jacob Troutman** who were united in Christian Marriage on **Saturday, December 30, 2017**



FULLY ALIVE! Attention all young adults in the Diocese of Lake Charles: FULLY ALIVE! is a Catholic community of non-student young adults, 18-39 years old. Join the Facebook group: "FULLYalive! Lake Charles" www.facebook.com/groups/107344226572108 or email fullyalivelakecharles@gmail.com with name, age, email, phone & contact information.

And...CSU (Catholic Singles United) is a group of single adults, ages 40-65, who meet monthly for spiritual, social and service activities. Come out and enjoy the fellowship, build relationships with people who share a common life experience, and let's share the journey together. Contact Becky at 337-936-3538 or beckysee51@gmail.com for more information. Come join other Catholic singles in the diocese!



St. Louis Catholic High School Great Tuition Giveaway\$

Win tuition for one year at SLCHS! Expires August 1, 2019. Tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased online at slchs.org or at the school office, 1620 Bank Street. Drawing will be held on February 2, 2018...You need not be present to win and the prize is transferrable! This is a wonderful investment in a child's future. Call 436-7275 or email aatkins@slchs.org for more information.

SPECIAL NEEDS MASS

There will be a Mass for those with special needs and their families at **St. Louis Catholic High School on Sunday, January 21, 2018, at 11:00 AM.** Father Brian King will be the celebrant.



A Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion presented by Fr. Nathan Long, Margie Long and the diocesan team will be Friday, February 9th to Sunday, February 11th—discussions, spiritual exercises, Sacrament of Reconciliation, memorial Service and Mass of Entrustment. Cost \$215. Call 337-439-7400 Ext 317 or email rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org.



SATURDAY, January 06... (4:00)—Dorothy “Dot” Gallagher; Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Vincent, Sr.; Floyd Vincent, Jr., Vida Pumpelly and Willadene Rawley; Hidalgo, Fazzio Families (living and deceased).

**SUNDAY, January 7...(7:30) - “Pro Populo” (For the People)
9:30) - Joseph & Anna Rita Scalisi; Daniel Ieyoub; Vivian Langley; Patsy Dupré Miller; Mary Sue Thompson; Paul Stephen Theriot; Ashley Feldes; Concetta & Curtis Caradone, Sr. & Curtis Cardone, Jr.; Jill Claney.
(11:15) - Joy Gaspard and Family
(5:00 PM—Extraordinary Form) - Marjorie Conner**

MONDAY, January 8... (12:05)—Clint Thibodeaux (5:30 P.M., Extraordinary Form)—Tressie Kinney

TUESDAY, January 9...(12:05) - Fred & Lauretta Fluitt

WEDNESDAY, January 10...(12:05) —Everett Wild

THURSDAY, January 11...(12:05) —Theresa (Lou) Castete (living).

FRIDAY, January 12...(12:05)—Tony Pecorino

SATURDAY, January 13...(4:00) - Gladys & Delma Devillier; Monsignor Wayne Richard; Joseph A. & Louise Bertrand and Gerald Simmons; Kellie Moss & Family (living)

SUNDAY, January 14...(7:30) - “Pro Populo” (For the People)

**(9:30) —James P. Martin; Albert “Rabbit” Manuel, Edna, Sidney & J.H. Broussard; Angela K. Johnson; Christi Jarreau & Family (living); Coonie Richert; Randall Caraway
(11:15) —E.J. Gaspard & Family
(5:00 PM—Extraordinary Form)---Jesse Robert “Bob” Navarro**




RESPECT LIFE—FUNDRAISER—CLERGY COOKOFF.... is scheduled for Saturday, January 20th, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.—The Arcade Amphitheater. Family Friendly! Silent Auction, Caricature Drawings, Pops and Rocket Ice Cream, Carnival Foods, Face Painting. Music furnished by Fr. Ed Richard and his Bluegrass Band and the St. Louis High School Marching Band. Tickets: \$50.00 (Free admission for children under 12 years). Trinity Package: Donations of \$400 or more receive eight tickets, a beautiful handmade gift basket and a personal thank you card from Bishop Provost. Supported Ministries include: Rachel’s Vineyard; Grief to Grace; and Natural Family Planning.



JANUARY AT THE SAINT CHARLES CENTER

“Profession of Faith” presented by Sr. Diane Depwe on Tuesday, January 16 from 6:00—9:00 PM. This will be the first of several teachings on the *Catholic Catechism*. This evening of reflection is to help us understand what and why we believe the way we do. Please register by Friday, January 12 by calling 855 -1232 or at **stcharlescenter.com**. Suggested donation is \$20. per person.



Please remember to pray for all those in the military who are serving our country as well as those veterans who have served in the past.



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK
January 8—14, 2018**

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Pray for Our Friends Who Are Ill



Rosa Adams; Sam Ange, Jr.; Steven Scott Ardoin; Gloria Bennett; Dean Broussard; Stephen Broussard; Jerry Cain; Jim Cain; Emily Carleton; Poddy Champeaux; Denise Collette; Wade Davis; Claudia Dyle; Dee Elter; Patrick Gallagher; Ty Griffen; Diane Hagerty; Michelle Hart; Brenda Hoback; Jessica Hulin; Mary Jeffers; Gary Johnson; Darrel Jones; Janet LaBiche; Cheryl Lecompte; Helen Lecompte; James Leger; John Lavern; Della Lemaire; Marie Lupo; Melanie Lupo; Elizabeth Louviere; Amanda Martin; Barbara McCombs; Ronnie Mesh; Julie Moon; Betty Mueller; Ola May Natali; Larry Parker; Sue Parker; Rory Partin; Ben Perry; William P. Richard; Mari Rieth; Bevo Rome; Marian Rome; Cammie Shaddock; Chris Stemann; Lucas Terracina; Warren Thomas; Monica Thomason; Gay Young; Martha Young

If you would like to add or remove a name, please call the church office at 4367251. Please let us know if a person has recovered or is deceased.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR DIOCESE

St. Louis Catholic High School Principal—Visit slhs.org and click on "Principal Search."

Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School Principal—Visit lodiocese.org for an application and information.

St. Martin dePorres Religious Education Department full time secretary—contact ddonahoe@smdpcatholic.com.



You are invited to join the Southwest Louisiana Substance Abuse Ministry (SWLA SAM) at St. Theodore Catholic Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. It is a safe, confidential place for those who are afflicted with an addiction or affected by the addiction of a loved one. You are not alone!