

### Prepping for Advent

The Advent season is fast upon us. If you are reading this on Sunday, it is already here. The holiday season goes by fast. When it does, we feel an emptiness or dryness. However, doing Advent well can alleviate some of this. If you want more out of Christmas this year, these are some ways to do Advent better. Advent is penitential season in which the church suggests that we take up extra prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Prayer:** Take up some act of prayer that is not ordinarily part of your life. Try taking up the Angelus, the Rosary, or the Liturgy of the Hours. Take up family prayer. Between you and your children think of something that you all want to pray for. Gather together at the same time each day and ask for the grace you want to receive. Spend some time with Our Lord in the Eucharist. Attend daily Mass, St. Ann 8AM, St. Francis 5:30PM.

**Fasting:** It is no secret that the holiday season is all about eating. Take a day or two every week during advent to live in solidarity with the hungry. Fasting is the practice of eating one meal a day supported by two snacks to increase our self-mastery. An athlete uses the controlled environment of a gym to develop her ability; likewise, people who want to progress spiritually use the controlled denial of fasting to increase their self-denial in the face of real temptation.

**Almsgiving:** The holiday season is the time of giving. Commercialized as it may be, the generosity associated with this season is still a legitimate spiritual resource. Many churches, schools, and charities are looking to help and for help during this season. Our generosity helps us in that it decreases our attachment to earthly goods and to ourselves and increase our charity. If giving money is not an option, maybe a service is a better option.

**Advent Wreath:** All the American secular expressions of the holiday season are fine, but as Catholics, we should also adopt our own Advent tradition. Purchase or make an Advent Wreath and light its candles during the season. Light the candles when you pray as a family. Light the candles when you eat as a family.

**Setting up the Nativity:** St. Francis of Assisi gave us the tradition of erecting a manger because at the time people doubted the humanity of Jesus. So, he erected the most tactile and humble seen from scripture: the birth of the messiah in a cave. Set up your manger and over time add to it. On Christmas night, add the baby Jesus to the crib.

**Missions:** Many parishes will host Advent Missions. A mission is a multi-night preaching series intending to set us on fire and develop our spiritual lives. St. Ann will host two missions: Sat 12/9 from 9AM-Noon in the family center- Why We Confess and Mon 12/18 from 7-8:30 PM and Tues 12/19 from 6-7 PM Restless. There are more missions going on around the diocese.

**Confession:** On Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup>, Confession will be available at every Church in Houma-Thibodaux from 6-8PM. At St. Ann, I will be available for confession every Thursday from now until Christmas for confession from 4-8PM: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21.

### MASS INTENTIONS

For the Week of December 4, 2017 – December 10, 2017

**Tuesday, December 5 -**

**8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Simon & Lena Brunet.

**Wednesday, December 6-**

**8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann.

**Thursday, December 7 - Adoration follows the 8am Mass until 9:30am.**

**8:00A.M.- All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Joyce LeBlanc.

**6:00P.M.- Vigil of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day) - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann.

**Friday, December 8- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day Obligation)**

**8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Rev. Vincente Dela Cruz (Ord), Anthony A. Breaux (DA), Jules Boquet Family.

**Saturday, December 9-**

**4:00P.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Wilbert, Elsie & Linda Hebert, Salome & Matthew Matherne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Lloyd & Iona Boquet, Albert Pinell Sr., Mildred & Manuel Areas Jr., Chester & Gertrude Guidry, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Aleda Molaison, Nolan LeCompte, Llewellyn Rogers, Charles Champagne, Eric & Nicole Authement (WA), Jerry & Mathew Arceneaux, Mary Ellen Brunet Hebert, Jacob LeCompte Sr., Kenneth, Paul & Josie Domangue, Ramona & Alton Malcom, Larry & Troy Foret, Carla Lyons, Nikie Hebert, Nicole Staffley, Johnny Adam Switch, Celeste, May, Rosevelt LeCompte, Jr. & Sr., Paul Chauvin, Mercedeze & Lloyd Duplantis, Miriam & Lanny Naquin, Russell Portier Sr., Raymond McKee, Holy Souls, Special Intentions, Dennis & Beatrice Eschete, Laurelle Wolf, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Katie Savoie, Matthew Bascle (B), Bill Sheffield, Wilma Picou, Mable Falgout, Lois Pierron.

**Sunday, December 10-**

**8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle, Lionel Bascle Fly., Arthe' Breaux Family, Arthur Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Clarice, Allen & John Bascle, Peter & Daisy Babin, Merlin & Gordon Seuzeneau, Herbert & Marian Porche, Steve Porch, Clara & Lawlis Barrios, Lester & Alicia Babin & Fly., Cindy R. Broussard, Herbert Danos, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron Fly., Joyce & Vin LeBlanc & Fly., Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Veronica Trahan, Ann Hebert, Terry Lirette, Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery.

**10:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:** Parishioners of St. Ann, Joyce, Debbie, Celina & Herbert Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Lyle LeCompte & Fly., Deacon Gerald Belanger (Ord), Deacon Steven Brunet (Ord), Mary, Sterling Sr. & Sterling Authement Jr., Geraldine Dupre, Hilda LeBouef, Toby Price.

**Memorials for the Week of December 3rd**

**Sanctuary Light-** Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Ann Catholic Church

**CLEANING LIST:** December 3rd- Regina Olivier, Mary Prosperie, Debbie Trosclair, Doris Arceneaux, Stella Deroche, Peggy Lirette

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

**November 25 & 26, 2017 Collection:** Envelopes: \$3,696.00 + Loose: \$338.00 = \$4,034.00

**Maintenance Collection:** \$1,363.00 (November Total)

The Second Collection on the weekend of December 2nd & 3rd will be for Maintenance.

The Second Collection on the weekend of December 10th is for the Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!

**CCD NEWS:** CCD Classes are as scheduled on Monday & Tuesday, December 4th & 5th.

\*\*\*Saturday, December 2nd @ 9am - First Reconciliation for St. Ann's second graders;

\*\*\*Saturday, December 2nd - The 6th Grade is in charge of the 4pm Mass

**IMPORTANT DATES: Date & Time Change:** Thurs., Jan. 4, 2018 - Confirmation Practice @ 7:00pm

\*\*\* Sat., Jan. 6, 2018 - Confirmation (11:00am) Candidates must be in the Parish Center by 10:15am

### YOUTH NEWS:

\*\*\* **PARENTING CLASSES** offered at St. Ann during Tuesday night CCD Classes December 5th, December 19th, January 9th, and January 23rd from 6-7:15pm. Babysitting will be provided.

\*\*\***GIRLS' NIGHTS RETURN!!!** St. Ann will be hosting High School Girls Nights on all non-CCD Mondays from 7-8:15 in the youth room!! We will be sharing, talking, eating, coloring, and starting our book study on the book "How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul:)) Spread the word!! All high school girls are invited!! Mondays: Dec. 11th

\*\*\***ST. ANN'S KIDS NIGHT EXPANDED!!** 6:00 - 7:15pm; We will have sessions for all kiddos K-5th grade... Also for ALL JR. HIGH kiddos grades 6-8th.... And FOR ALL PARENTS we will watch the "Why We Believe" videos and have discussion time. **BABYSITTING IS PROVIDED:))** Come join us!! Spread the word!!! Tuesday: Dec. 12th

\*\*\***WE NEED BABYSITTERS!!!** Can you help?? We are offering babysitting for many of our youth activities. High school teens and adults are needed. If you can help, call or text Lisa Lapeyrouse at 985-852-2007, and we will put you on a team.

### ~~~ BREAKFAST WITH SANTA ~~~

**Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 7am - 11am**

**by the St. Ann Knights of Columbus & the St. Ann Youth Ministry**

### ~\*~ ST. ANN'S CHRISTMAS SOCIAL ~\*~

**You are invited to the Christmas Gathering at St. Ann Catholic Church** in The St. Ann Parish Center on Saturday, December 2, 2017 after the 4:00pm Vigil Mass. Please bring your friends and family to join in a meal with your parish family. The Social Committee at St. Ann will provide the meat dish for the evening. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with everyone. Call Mrs. Johnnie @ 594-7718. She is coordinating the side dishes and desserts.

The Ladies Altar Society has invited Santa Claus for the evening and he will have gifts for the children.

\*\*\* There will be a box for Christmas gifts (under \$10) the at the entrance of the Church until Wednesday, November 29th to be given to children attending the Christmas Gathering.

### EXODUS BIBLE STUDY MAKE-UP DAY

**The last Exodus Bible Study will be repeated on Sunday, December 3rd from 6:30 - 8:00PM in the St. Ann Parish Center because so many of our study partners were out of town that weekend.**

**WHY WE CONFESS** is a three-part video series on the sacrament of reconciliation. It includes a explanation of the sacrament and ways to better prepare for it. We have four ways to participate in this

series: an advent day of prayer on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 AM in the parish center, in between the 8 AM and 10 AM masses on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, after the 8am mass on Wednesday, December 6th, 13th & 20th, or [www.htdiocese.org/WhyWeConfess](http://www.htdiocese.org/WhyWeConfess)

~\*~ **THIS CHRISTMAS IN ST. ANN PARISH** ~\*~

We are organizing an "ST. ANN CHRISTMAS ADOPT A FAMILY" program instead of the "Jesse Tree". If you know a family who lives in St. Ann Parish and they have needs this Christmas Season, contact the Administration Office at 594-3548. If your family or group would like to participate in helping a family during this Christmas Season, contact the Office to let us know you would like to help.

**THE HOMEBOUND MEAL HAS BEEN CHANGED TO SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH.**

~\*~ **ST. ANN LADIES' ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** ~\*~  
*Saturday, December 16th after the 4pm Mass*

**ST. ANN PARISH'S ADVENT MISSION**

Do you ever feel aimless? *Restless* is an Advent Mission where we will explore the search for meaning with the help of God. If you are looking for a way to get more this Christmas come spend December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> with us. The mission talks will be held in St. Ann Church during CCD. Monday will be from 7-8:30 PM, and Tuesday will be from 6-7 PM. Fr. Alex will be our speaker.

**"THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU"**  
*Confessions at every Church throughout the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux*  
*Wednesday, December 20th from 6 - 8pm*

**"WHY WE BELIEVE" at St. Ann Parish in Bourg**  
 6:00pm on Tuesday on Kid's Night: Dec. 12, Jan. 16, 30, Feb. 13 or [www.htdiocese.org/WhyWeBelieve](http://www.htdiocese.org/WhyWeBelieve).

~~~ **MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS** ~~~  
**December 24th at 4:00pm, 6:00pm & 11:00pm & December 25th at 9:00am**

Because Christmas falls on Monday this year, our Mass schedule for the Forth Sunday of Advent and Christmas will be a little strange. On December 23<sup>rd</sup> and on the morning of December 24<sup>th</sup> will be for the Forth Sunday of Advent. That evening the celebration of the Solemnity of Christmas begins with 4 PM and 6 PM Mass for Christmas. These Masses count for your obligation for Christmas but not for the Forth Sunday of Advent. We will celebrate the Midnight Mass starting at 11 PM. The Mass during the Night is the highest Mass of the Christmas season. We will also have Christmas Day Mass at 9 AM.

\*~\*~\*~ **BAPTISMS** ~\*~\*~\*

**Hannah Marie Guidry, child of Walter Guidry & Jessica Dominigue;**  
**Liam Matthew Dominigue, child of Brenner Callais & Brooke Dominigue;**

| MASSES                     | MINISTERS<br>OF THE EUCHARIST | COMMENTATOR/<br>LECTOR | ALTAR SERVERS                 | USHERS                      |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>December 2 &amp; 3</b>  |                               |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>            | Steve, Sue,                   |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>4:00P.M.</b>            | Adrian, Yvonne                | 6th Grade CCD          | Grace A, Trenton              | Steve H, Jan, Lane          |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>              | Ken C, Doug,                  |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>8:00A.M.</b>            | Dana, Bert                    | Christine, Claude      | Lee, Volunteer                | Dickie, Bob                 |
| <b>10:00A.M.</b>           | Gerald, Melody, Lisa, Leroy   | Courtney, Alaina       | Donte', Anna, Hailey, Kailey  | 6th Grade CCD               |
| <b>December 9 &amp; 10</b> |                               |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>            | Brian, Marianne,              |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>4:00P.M.</b>            | June, Randolph                | Elia, Connie           | Rebecca, Hunter               | Steve B, Dave, Ollie        |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>              | Jesse, Christine,             |                        |                               |                             |
| <b>8:00A.M.</b>            | Cecil, Irma                   | Doug, David            | Lucas, Caleb                  | Jesse, Paula, Leward, Peggy |
| <b>10:00A.M.</b>           | Connie, Ivy, Debra L, Mindy   | Maddie, Alyse          | Zack, Bailey, Mason, Kirkland | Carol, Volunteer            |

