

Ask Father #3

Why did Jesus come to cause division in families? “⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. (Luke 12:51)”

This question has to do with one of the more difficult passages in Sacred Scripture. Jesus says that he has come to divide families. We could reasonably expect the opposite from the promised Prince of Peace. The first thing we should do when approaching a piece of scripture that does not make sense is to look at the verse in the context of its paragraph and chapter. The wider text of the paragraph talks about wanting to set the earth ablaze. While the wider chapter, talks about the difficulties that the apostles will face in the context of their ministry and their lives as his followers. Considering the wider text, we begin to see that Jesus will be a topic of division as much as he chooses to divide. Also, remember that Jesus seems to be juxtaposing the disciples with another group. This group is summed up in two names: The World or the City of Man. The World is what Jesus calls all the forces that lead one away from God. St. Augustine’s innovation in the *City of God* was to say that the City of God exists within and around the City of Man. The division that Jesus comes to cause is between the members of the City of God and the City of Man or between the disciples and the world. The Acts of the Apostles shows clear unity among the Christians. The purpose of this division is to lead to conversion and faith. So that those whose families are divided because of Jesus may come to believe in him or have their faith strengthened.

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead one day. Does that mean we must wait for his return to be judged or does he judge us when we die? Purgatory is the place where we are cleansed, but is that before we are judged or after Jesus' return?

It is not clear from scripture and tradition whether the particular judgment happens when a person dies or at the resurrection of the dead. However, it is clear that those experiencing purgatory are being prepared for heaven; thus, they must already be judged worthy of heaven. Matthew 25 seems to paint a picture of all of humanity being present for the final judgment, so there is good reason to believe that the judgment of each individual is after the second coming and the resurrection. However, this is difficult to reconcile with the Church’s practice of canonizing saints and praying for the souls in purgatory. To declare someone a saint is to declare them among the blessed in heaven. To pray for soul in purgatory is to presume that there are souls in purgatory for whom we can pray. To alleviate some of this strain, remember that God acts in eternity not within time. So, when he acts on our prayers he can act on a prayer displaced from our context in time. Namely, he can accept prayers now for someone not actually in purgatory now. The intersection between time and eternity is difficult but worth meditating on. Suffice to say for now the order of these things in time is not critical for our salvation, and we should continue to act with the mind of the Church in these matters and not lose sleep over them. Whether or not there are people in purgatory, please pray for them because the Church does so.

Thanks to all who submitted questions. Submit your questions to askfralex@gmail.com
Fr. Alex

MASS INTENTIONS

For the Week of September 18, 2017 – September 24, 2017

Tuesday, September 19-

8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:
Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Camille Boquet (B).

Wednesday, September 20 & Thursday, September 21-

No Mass. Fr. Alex will be at the Louisiana Priest Convention. The Mass Intentions have been moved to Monday, September 19th at 8am. There will be Mass at St. Francis de Sales in Houma on these days at 5:30pm.

Friday, September 22-

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

Saturday, September 23-

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, Carl & Beverly, Linda & Parish & Roy Boquet, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Jerry & Mathew Arceneaux, 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, Beatrice & Dennis Eschete, Laurelle Wolf, Clarice Bascle, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Bill Sheffield, Katie Savoie.

Sunday, September 24-

8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:
Parishioners of St. Ann, Clyde, Andrew Sr. & Edna Pitre, David Naquin Sr., Clyde, Elizabeth & Curtis Lirette, Elmer, Earline, Robert & Kevin Lirette, Keith Dupre, 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, Cindy R. Broussard, Eves & Verna Naquin Fly., Ronald Chauvin, Mark Naquin, Sterling Sr. (DA) & Mary Authement, Sterling Authement Jr., Herman Walker Jr., Gilbert & Rita Bergeron Fly., Joyce & Vin LeBlanc & Fly., Marla Mazerac, Brandon Pellegrin, Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Veronica Trahan, Ann Hebert, Terry Lirette, Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Erous & Eric Eschete.

10:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:
Parishioners of St. Ann, Joyce, Deborah, Celina & Herbert Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont, Mary, Sterling Sr. & Sterling Authement Jr., Geraldine Dupre, E.J. Bergeron.

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17th

Sanctuary Light - Horace & Camille (B) Boquet by Ernest & Christine Naquin;
Altar Bread - Mrs. Joyce LeBlanc by Randolph & Kathie Bascle;
Missals - Mrs. Daisy Mae Hebert by Wayne & Judy Duhon;

CLEANING LIST: September 17th - Kathie Bascle, Betty Leonard, Johnnie Occhionero,
Annabelle Trosclair

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

September 9 & 10, 2017 Collection: Envelopes: \$4,959.00 + Loose: \$420.00 = \$5,379.00

Maintenance Collection: \$1,144.00 + \$181.00 (This week) = \$1,325.00

Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund: \$3,885.99

Thank you for your generosity!

CCD NEWS: No CCD Classes are scheduled on Monday & Tuesday, September 18 & 19, 2017.

St. Ann CCD Schedules are online at www.stannbourg.org

****The **8th grade CCD Class** is in charge of the 10am Mass on Sunday, September 17th.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Saturday, September 30, 2017 - 10th Grade Retreat (8am - 8pm) Mass at 4pm;

Friday, January 5, 2018 - Confirmation Practice (6:30pm)

Saturday, January 6, 2018 - Confirmation (11:00am)

YOUTH NEWS:

On Sunday, September 17th, in conjunction with the St. Ann Council Knights of Columbus BBQ Chicken Dinner, the St. Ann Youth Ministry will have "Kid's Activities" for their enjoyment in the St. Ann Parish Center. The activities will begin after the 10:00am Mass. Come and dine in and enjoy the kid's fun with your family! Tickets for the BBQ Dinner are still available this weekend after all the Masses.

ST. ANN COUNCIL #8932 BBQ DINNER

Sunday, September 17, 2017, From 10:30am to 12:30pm

1/2 Chicken, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & Bread

Tickets are \$10.00. Take out or eat in. Also, there will be youth activities during this event!

Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge

Saturday September 23, 2017; Registration begins at 8:00am

Boys and Girls ages 9 to 14 come test you skills kicking penalty kicks. Awards will be awarded for highest score in each age group.

***St. Ann Bourg Knights of Columbus - September Family of the Month
Carol and Monique Bascle***

**St. Ann Bourg Knights of Columbus - September Knight of the Month
Cecile Authement**

St. Ann Bourg Council Monthly Meeting - October 04, 2017

Rosary Begins at 6:15pm followed by a meal, Meeting begins at 7:00pm in the Parish Center

October is Knights of Columbus Membership Drive Month

Please consider joining. See our website at www.bourgkccouncil8932@charter.net

ST. ANN FAMILY DAY

On Sunday October 15, 2017, St. Ann Catholic Church will have a Family Day beginning after the 10:00AM Mass till 4:00PM.

*There will be fun and games for the young and old, good music, and plenty of your favorite foods: Jambalaya, white beans, seafood gumbo, hamburgers & fries, hot dogs and chips, etc...

****If** you would like to donate foods or money for the Family Day, you may do so. We also need desserts!

If you would like to be involved, please call Mr. Donald Naquin, chairperson at (985)872-0847.

Everything is FREE! Please bring your family members and friends! Everyone is welcome!!!

"WHY WE BELIEVE" at St. Ann Parish in Bourg

9:10am on Sunday between 8am & 10am Mass: Sept. 17,24, Oct. 1,8,15,22,29 or

8:45am on Wednesday after 8am Mass: Sept. 13,20,27, Oct. 4,11,18,25, Nov. 1 or

7:00pm on Monday with Confirmation Class: Sept., 25, Oct. 2,16, Nov. 6, 27, Dec. 4, 18 or

6:00pm on Tuesday on Kid's Night: Sept. 19, Oct. 10, 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 16, 30, Feb. 13

Learn more and sign up on our diocesan website at hdiocese.org/WhyWeBelieve.

HOUMA LIFE CHAIN

The annual Houma Life Chain will be held on Respect Life Sunday, October 1, 2017 from 2 - 3pm (rain or shine). Those participating will line up along the median of Tunnel Boulevard in Houma and stand prayerfully, silently holding Life Chain signs.

WE STILL NEED ADULT CHOIR MEMBERS FOR SATURDAY @ 4PM & SUNDAY @ 8AM. Call the Administration Office if you can help. Practice on Wednesdays at 5pm;

The Ministers of the Eucharist, Commentator/Lector, Homebound Ministers & Altar Server Schedules are ready for pick up on the shelves at the entrance of church or online at stannbourg.org

MASSES	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	COMMENTATOR/LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
<u>September 16 & 17</u>				
SATURDAY	Yvonne, June,			
4:00P.M.	Steve, Sue	Connie, Hayes	Tyler, Mason	Steve B, Dave, Ollie
SUNDAY	Carol, Monique			
8:00A.M.	Jesse, Doug	David, Christine	Lee, Trenton	Jesse, Paula, Leward, Peggy
10:00A.M.	Leslie, Debra L, David, Melissa	8th Grade CCD Class	Henry, Luke, David, Grace L	8th Grade CCD Class
<u>September 23 & 24</u>				
SATURDAY	Randolph, Adrian,			
4:00P.M.	Yvonne, Volunteer	Elia, Cheryl	Donte'. Grace A	Steve H, Jan, Lane
SUNDAY	Dana, Bert,			
8:00A.M.	Ken C, Christine	Hayes, Nick	Lucas, Caleb	Doug, Numa, Claude
10:00A.M.	Paula, Gerald, Melody, Mindy	Anna, Lisa	Brianna, Gavin, Cole, Peyton	Kenneth, Joseph

