

Ask Father #6

Can a layperson bless a religious article with holy water or is a deacon or priest required?

The *Book of Blessings* which governs all the blessings dispensed by the Catholic Church, restricts the blessing of religious articles such as rosaries and metals to clergy, deacons, priests, and bishops. This blessing can only be rightly performed by the proper minister. However, not every blessing has such restrictions. For example, the blessing of a Christmas tree or Advent wreath has no restriction. So, any Catholic can lead those formal blessing liturgies. You can find the blessing of an advent wreath on the [website](#) of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

There are several blessings that are intended to be used by lay people and would infrequently be used by clergy. The blessing of children by their parents is a good example. Except for deacons, this prayer would reasonably be prayed by lay parents over their children. Another good example is the Grace prayer. The grace before and after meals prayers are blessings found in the *Book of Blessings*. This blessing is prayed by significantly more lay people than clergy each day.

A blessing is a liturgical act where we ask God's favor on or protection over persons or things for the growing of the faith of the person blessed or the user of the thing blessed. The purpose of a blessing is to increase faith and benefits people, not the thing. Blessed objects do not gain mystic powers or protection. As no sacrament takes place, blessings are often celebrated by all the faithful. As a liturgy, blessings should take place with a group gathered and rarely be celebrate alone. It seems that only those blessing of objects or persons reserved for further liturgical use are reserved to clergy. The most important of these are reserved for the Bishop.

Is it okay to watch adoration or should this be done in person?

There is no disrespect for watching adoration say over the Internet. When we watch the Mass, adoration, or any other liturgy for that matter, we do really participate in the divine life. We are still spending that time in prayer and are in conversation with God. Many make use of this and receive great spiritual benefit from it when they are hindered from leaving their homes because of weakness or illness. Technology becomes their only way to engage the Church. However, something truly is missing when we can only participate through technology. There is an undeniable benefit to being present for these liturgies. Watching a Mass on television neither fulfills our Sunday obligation nor gives us access to the Eucharist. Watching adoration on the Internet lets us focus our prayer, but it does not bring with it the real presence of Jesus as would being in the presence of the Eucharist. So if our desire is these more tangible graces, we need to go to where the liturgies are being celebrated. However, remember that the obligations are to encourage those who could go but do not want to, not to punish those who want to go but cannot. Thanks to all who submitted questions. Submit your questions to askfralex@gmail.com

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Alex Gaudet

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday, December 18 - 7:00 - 8:15P.M. - St. Ann Advent Mission with Fr. Alex Gaudet

Tuesday, December 19 -

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

6:00 - 7:00P.M. - St. Ann Advent Mission with Fr. Alex Gaudet

Wednesday, December 20-

8:00A.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann, Joyce LeBlanc, Penny Dupre (B), Mae Boquet (B).

6:00 - 8:00P.M. - "The Light Is On For You" (Confession at every Church in the Diocese.)

Thursday, December 21-

8:00A.M.- All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann, Leroy Scott Jr.(B), Cynthia Charpentier.

4:00 - 8:00P.M. - Confession at St. Ann with Fr. Alex

Friday, December 22-

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

Saturday, December 23-

4:00P.M. - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann, Horace & Camille Boquet Fly., Wilbert, Elsie & Linda Hebert, Salome & Matthew Matherne, Wilbert Dupre Sr., Albert Pinell Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Louis Boquet & Fly., Mr. & Mrs. Aubin Pinell & Fly., Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Jerry & Mathew Arceneaux, Fr. Guy P. Zeringue (DA), Eugene Theriot Jr., Dennis & Beatrice Eschete, 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, Laurelle Wolf, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Bill Sheffield, Wilma Picou, Mable Falgout, Lois Pierron, William P. Leonard.

Sunday, December 24-

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, Michael Falgout (DA),Eves & Verna Naquin Fly., Ronald Chauvin, Mark Naquin, Sterling Sr., Mary & Sterling Authement Jr., Alton & Boquet Fly., Toby Price, Cindy R. Broussard, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron Fly., Joyce & Vin LeBlanc & Fly.,Lydie & Virgil Falgout, Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr., Veronica Trahan, Ann Hebert, Terry Lirette, Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Herbert Danos, Clinton & Wilma Picou.

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, Mary, Sterling Sr. & Sterling Authement Jr., Geraldine Dupre, Hilda LeBouef, Don Babin, Cynthia Charpentier (B).

4:00P.M. - CHRISTMAS VIGIL - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann, Marie Eschete, George Derrington, Antoine & Manella Verrett, Henry & Hazel Eschete, Mark Triche, Ronnie Ard, Mrs. Rhea P. Voisin & Mr. Eddie Voisin Jr., Waldron Lapeyrouse, Gina B. Pellegrin, Laurelle Wolf, Katie Savoie, Abbie Bascle (B), Bill Sheffield, Wilma

Picou, Mable Falgout, Norris Bourg, Toby Price, Bertha & Hamlett Fournurette, Jerome Theriot, Horace & Camille Fly., Gus & Sis Naquin Fly., Carmen, Ann & Michael Boquet, Harris Ledet, Cindy R. Broussard, Paul & Eula Mae Rodrigue, Macon, Edna & Roland Bascle, Remy & Bessie Reulet, Billy & Mark Pellegrin, Bourg - Rogers Fly., Dennis Charpentier Fly., Claude Rogers Fly., Vickie Steib, Bill Morris, Frank Rogers Fly.

6:00P.M. - CHRISTMAS VIGIL - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann, Eula & Gustave Pellegrin & Fly., Mildred & Clifton Dupre & Fly., Ramos & Coralie Hornsby, Jimmie & Virgie Prosperie, Eldred & Maybelle Ellender, Dylan Rousseau, Rose Authement, Erous, Eric, Omer & Clarise Eschete, Wilson & Julian Sevin, Walter P. Authement.

11:00P.M. - CHRISTMAS MASS AT MIDNIGHT - All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of: Parishioners of St. Ann.

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 17th

Sanctuary Light - Cynthia Charpentier by Her Family;

Altar Bread - Cynthia Charpentier by Her Family;

Alter Wine - Cynthia Charpentier by Her Family;

3 Altar Candles - Cynthia Charpentier by Her Family;

CLEANING LIST: December 17th- Connie Neil, Alton Neil, Ralph Trahan, Darleen Trahan, Connie LeBoeuf, Yvonne Hawthorne

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

December 9 & 10, 2017 Collection: Envelopes: \$4,584.00 + Loose: \$280.25 = \$4,864.25

Maintenance Collection: \$1433.00 + \$165.00 (This Week) = \$1,598.00 December Total

Diocesan Priests Retirement Fund: \$1,313.10

Thank you for your generosity!

CCD NEWS: CCD Classes are as scheduled on Monday & Tuesday, December 18th & 19th.

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 19th, January 9th, and January 23rd from 6-7:15pm. Babysitting will be provided.

*****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**

### **POINSETTIA & CHRISTMAS TREE MEMORIALS**

The St. Ann Ladies Altar Society is accepting Poinsettia and Christmas Tree Memorials after all the Masses this weekend. The suggested donation for the Poinsettia Memorials are \$30.00. The suggested donation for 1 Christmas Tree is \$300.00 (With the possibility of splitting the Memorial for 2 families).

The 4 Light String Memorials' suggested donation is \$100.00. All proceeds go to the Christmas flowers, trees, lights and upkeep of the Church Sanctuary.

**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. Our Speaker will be Fr. Alex Gaudet.

**"THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU"**

*Confessions at every Church throughout the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux*  
*Wednesday, December 20th from 6 - 8pm*

&

**ST. ANN PARISH CONFESSION TIMES FOR ADVENT**

*Thursday, December 7th, 14th & 21st; 4:00pm - 8:00pm With Fr. Alex*

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

6:00pm on Tuesday on Kid's Night: 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.

**"WHY WE CONFESS"**

**Why do we confess to a priest? What is the difference between mortal and venial sin?**

**How can I be certain that God has forgiven me?**

**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)

| MASSES                             | MINISTERS<br>OF THE EUCHARIST   | COMMENTATOR/<br>LECTOR | ALTAR SERVERS                     | USHERS               |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b><u>December 16 &amp; 17</u></b> |                                 |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>                    | Yvonne, Adrian,                 |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>4:00P.M.</b>                    | Steve, Sue                      | Randolph, Cheryl       | Tyler, Grace A                    | Steve H, Jan, Lane   |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>                      | Carol, Monique,                 |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>8:00A.M.</b>                    | Doug, Dana                      | Nick, Ken C            | Lee, Trenton                      | Doug, Numa, Claude   |
| <b>10:00A.M.</b>                   | David, Melissa, Paula, Leslie   | Anna, Lisa             | Henry, Luke, David                | Kenneth, Joseph      |
| <b><u>December 23 &amp; 24</u></b> |                                 |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>                    | Randolph, June,                 |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>4:00P.M.</b>                    | Brian, Marianne                 | Connie, Hayes          | Mason, Trenton                    | Steve B, Dave, Ollie |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>                      | Jesse, Ken C,                   |                        |                                   |                      |
| <b>8:00A.M.</b>                    | Bert, Christine                 | Doug, Christine        | Lucas, Caleb                      | Dickie, Bob          |
| <b>10:00A.M.</b>                   | Gerald, Melody, Mindy, Debra L. | Nathan, Courtney       | Alexander, Brianna, Gavin, Kavlee | Carol, Volunteer     |

