

Office Hours:

Tuesday
Wednesday,
& Thursday;
9 a.m. - Noon
1 - 3 p.m.



700 South Broadway • Erath, LA 70533

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JANUARY 9, 2022 • THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

Fr. Andre Metrejean Pastor
Rev. Mr. Timothy Marcantel..... Deacon
Mrs. Beth Lemoine..... Office/Cemetery Manager
Mrs. Frances T. Toups..... Catholic Education/Music
Mrs. Connie Hayes..... Receptionist

THE SACRIFICE OF HOLY MASS

Saturday (English)..... 4 pm
Sunday (English) 7:30 am, 11 am
Sunday (Latin)..... 9 am

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Join our **Flocknote Network** to receive updates when necessary!
Monday No Holy Mass
Tuesday 8 am (Latin) and 5:30 pm (English)
Wednesday 7 am (English)
Thursday 5:30 pm (English)
Friday 7 am (English) and 8 am (Latin)
First Saturday Mass of each month 9:30 am (English)

ADORATION (IN CHURCH)

Morning: 9:00 am - Noon every Wednesday & First Friday
Afternoon: 5:00 - 6:00 pm; Wednesday, Friday, & Sunday

HOLY CONFESSION

In the Confessional in church:
30 minutes prior to Mass or by appointment
and 4:30 - 5 pm on Sunday
Drive-Thru Confessions (in semicircle driveway):
6:00 - 7:00 pm on Wednesdays

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Email Fr. Metrejean at andremetrejean@gmail.com.
Our baptismal packet may be downloaded from our church website.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
and

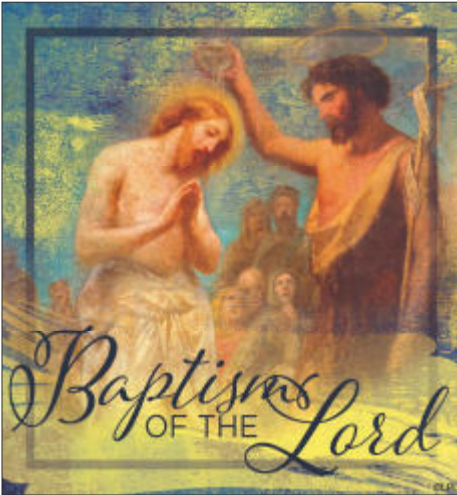
THE RITE OF HOLY CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Please contact our church office.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Arrangements must be made with the Pastor at least six months in advance.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(For the greater glory of God)

GOSPEL REFLECTION



“We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ.”
— Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of

decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.
© LPI

BAPTISM OF THE WORD



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

Reminder:

Second Collection envelopes may be used at any time!

Offering (December 24-26)

Offertory, \$6,385.82 ☩ Debt Reduction, \$1,142.25
Church Insurance, \$60.00

The Second Collection was applied to Debt Reduction.

Last Weekend's Offering (January 1-2)

The Second Collection will be applied to Debt Reduction.

This Weekend's Offering (January 8-9)

The Second Collection will be applied to Debt Reduction.

Next Weekend's Offering (January 15-16)

The Second Collection will be applied to Church Insurance.

“Giving is not really giving until it hurts.”

~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tabernacle Flower Arrangements

The sign-up for flower arrangements near the tabernacle will begin again the weekend of January 8-9 (which is available at this time). Please call our church office (337-937-6888) to sign up for a specific weekend.

Wisdom & Wine
Theology 101 for Adults

Topic for January: Mary & the Bible
Learn how to defend Mary w/ protestant friends & family.

Wed, January 26, 2022
6:30pm- 8 pm
Parish Hall
700 S. Broadway St., Erath

Deacon Adam Conque
Speaker

Free.
No Registration.
Open to All Adults.

✠ **REQUIESCAT IN PACE** ✠

Nina E. Morales, Virginia L. Norman,
Nelice R. Duck, Clayton P. Broussard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

End-of-the-Year Contribution Statements

If you are in need of a financial statement for 2021, please contact Mrs. Connie at the Church Office (337) 937-6888 to **leave your name and current address** (if it has recently changed). Statements will be mailed by Wednesday, January 26, 2022.

Congratulations!

Fr. Metrejean and members of our church parish have selected Miss Sarah Simon to receive this year's Diocesan Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award! The celebration and Mass will be held at St. John Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 14.

Thank You!

Last week, Debra Mayeux contacted advertisers for our weekly church bulletin. We sincerely thank previous advertisers who generously renewed their ads for the upcoming year as well as our new advertisers! If you are interested in sponsoring an ad for your business, a memorial ad, or an advertisement on behalf of your favorite charity or organization, it is not too late! Please contact Debra by phone at 1-800-477-4574, Ext. 6524, or by email at dmayeux@4lpi.com. We also encourage our parishioners to patronize our advertisers as often as possible! We certainly appreciate their loyal support of our church parish.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like Him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: All the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Although we use this prayer most often when we view a televised or online video of a Mass, we may also choose to pray this prayer when we attend Mass, but don't feel worthy of receiving Holy Communion because we haven't been to a recent Confession. Please note, too, that, according to the quotation from St. Leonard (printed below), if we whole-heartedly offer this prayer several times each day, we can expect to be transformed!



My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot, now, receive you sacramentally, come, at least, spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

~ St. Alphonsus Liguori

"If you practice the holy exercise of Spiritual Communion a good many times each day, within a month, you will see yourself completely changed." ~ St. Leonard of Port Maurice

AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

ANIMA CHRISTI

~ St. Ignatius of Loyola

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O Good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds hide me. Permit me not to be separated from you. From the wicked foe, defend me. At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you that with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

VOCATIONS PRAYER

God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life *from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Erath* to courageously follow Your will.

Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the Sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Virtue Highlighted in January: **Reverence for God**

Adapted from

“A Comprehensive Examination Of Conscience Based On Twelve Virtues For The Twelve Months Of The Year - Rev. Donald Miller”

God has made a special commandment out of the natural duty and obligation of respecting His name. That this should be necessary sometimes strikes us as very strange. God is a Father, Provider, Protector, Preserver of us all; He became Man and died for us on the Cross, He resides in the tabernacles of our churches to be near us, and He wants to reward us all with a happiness that will never end. On the basis of these things we are bound to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and will, and love is diametrically opposed to disrespect, irreverence, scorn and contempt in using a lover's name. A good mother does not have to command her children not to abuse her name; a worthy father has never been known to have to implore his sons to speak respectfully of him. Yet such is the perversion of human nature in regard to God that He has to make a special commandment that His creatures may not take His name in vain. The chief forms of irreverence against God are blasphemy, unnecessary swearing, perjury, cursing, and profanity. The questions below deal with all these things according to the guilt they involve.

I. Mortal Sins

- Have I denied any of the attributes of God, e.g., saying that He is not all-powerful, all-merciful, all-just, etc.?
- Have I said that I did not believe in God's providence, either directly by denying that He watches over all who love Him, or indirectly by saying that it is necessary to sin to avoid certain hardships?
- Have I spoken with contempt of God, or of Christ, or of the Holy Eucharist, or of the Passion of Christ?
- Have I deliberately expressed the wish that there were no God, so that I could sin without fear of punishment?
- Have I accused God of cruelty, injustice, discrimination against me, because of some sorrow I had to bear?
- Have I wished evil to God—for example, that He would be forgotten by men and offended more frequently?
- Have I spoken slightingly or contemptuously of the Mother of God, or of the saints, or of monks, nuns, priests as such?
- Have I ridiculed the Sacraments or the Mass or any other holy ceremony?
- Have I said that God did not and could not have inspired the Bible, or that there are things in the Bible that need not be believed?
- Have I said that Christ did not found the Church, or that He has not preserved its dogma from error?
- Have I said that God expects too much of an individual by imposing the Ten Commandments on him?
- Have I stated that any one of the commandments of God or precepts of the Church cannot be observed by ordinary folk?
- Have I said that I owed nothing to God and therefore did not need to go to Church or practice any religion?
- Have I denied the miracles of our Lord in the Bible?
- Have I sworn falsely at a public trial, deliberately telling a falsehood when I had taken an oath to tell the truth?
- Have I lied about important matters to which I had to swear in drawing up a statement or answering a questionnaire, e.g., pertaining to insurance, getting a position, taxes, etc.?
- Have I sworn to God that I would keep a certain promise or perform a certain work when I did not intend to do so at all?
- Have I deliberately called upon God to witness the truth of a lie that I told someone in private life?
- Have I sworn to God that I would do something gravely unjust, like defrauding a neighbor, taking revenge, hurting someone?

¹https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QfHYz4WsmuxM8_nfQec1Aj0Ifw9dJhaHQcOZmgX6sJo/edit#heading=h.s3d1z57g5w2g

MONTHLY EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Have I deliberately cursed a human being, which means seriously wishing or asking that God condemn his soul to hell or visit some other grave misfortune upon him?

Have I twisted the words of Christ or of the Bible into an obscene or evil form?

Have I, as a parent or guardian, blasphemed or cursed or sworn falsely before my children or even to my children?

Have I encouraged others to commit any of the above sins?

II. Venial Sins

Have I used the name of "God" or "Christ" or "Jesus" or "Lord" as a byword, or as an expression of impatience, or in jest?

Have I spoken, not maliciously, but profanely and irreverently, of any holy thing?

Have I sworn, i.e., called upon God to witness the truth of what I was saying, when there was no serious reason for so doing, when the matter was trivial or foolish, even though I told no lie?

Have I used the language of cursing against inanimate things, or against animals, or against human beings even though I did not really wish the damnation of these last?

Have I permitted myself to acquire the habit of using God's name profanely, or of swearing or cursing almost without realization of what I was saying?

Have I laughed at others' profane use of God's name or other irreverent speech, as if I thought it amusing and wanted them to continue?

Have I neglected to correct a child subject to me, when the child used irreverent or profane language?

Have I permitted my children to go about with companions who made frequent use of profanity?

Have I repeated the profanity of others as something amusing and clever?

III. Helps And Counsels

Have I bowed my head when uttering or hearing the name "Jesus"?

Have I said an interior act of adoration, praise, or love, when genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament?

Have I ever offered up an act of reparation to God for the many irreverences in speech committed throughout the world?

When hearing someone abusing God's name, have I tried to atone for it by a short prayer in my heart?

Have I joined in reciting the divine praises at the end of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, to atone for profane speech?

In temptations to anger and impatience, when I am inclined to use bad language, do I try to say an interior prayer for patience?

Have I learned any short prayers, by which I might frequently speak lovingly to God during the day?

Have I ever meditated on the folly of any misuse of God's name, because of His greatness and majesty, and because of His goodness to me?

Have I shown my displeasure to others when they were constantly misusing God's name?

Have I tried to instill in those under my care a deep respect for and love of God, which would prevent them from ever using His name in vain?

Have I, in every morning prayer, renewed my resolution not to misuse God's name?

Have I, when saying my evening prayers, made an act of sorrow for every sin of speech against God?

Prayer Suggestion: *Golden Arrow Prayer*

"May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen."

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

For the week beginning January 9:

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10: 34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 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 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Weekly Events:

- ✦ **Confessions, Mass schedule, and Holy Hours:** refer to the front cover; when necessary, updates are published on pages 2-3; join *Flocknote* for our text/email updates!
- ✦ **Religious Ed. & Sacramental Prep classes:** refer to page 5
- ✦ **Rosary** for the end of the pandemic, all Covid patients and medical personnel, spiritual healing of the U.S.A. and all nations around the globe, and personal petitions: 6:30 p.m. in church every Monday
- ✦ **Chaplet of Our Lady of Sorrows:** 6 p.m. in church every Tuesday
- ✦ **Wednesday Adoration:** 9:00 a.m. - Noon each Wednesday in church
- ✦ **Legion of Mary:** temporarily on hold; the group hopes to begin meeting again soon
- ✦ **RCIA Classes for Non-Catholic and Catholic adults, teens, and "tweens" who desire to receive the Sacraments:** Call our church office to register.

Monthly Events:

- ✦ **Sunday Fun Day:** **January date will be rescheduled ASAP**, typically the Sunday after the First Saturday of the month; free lunch plates and, when feasible, indoor and outdoor games for all ages!
- ✦ **K.C. Meeting:** 6:00 p.m. on February 1 (First Tuesday of each month) in Church Parish Hall
- ✦ **C.D.A. Meeting:** 6:00 p.m.; Thursday, February 3 (First Thursday of the month); Church Parish Hall
- ✦ **First Friday Mass:** 7:00 a.m. (English) and 8:00 a.m. (Latin) on February 4 in church
- ✦ **First Friday Adoration:** 9:00 a.m. - Noon on February 4 in church
- ✦ **First Saturday Rosary & Mass:** February 5; Children of Mary recite a Rosary at 9:00 a.m. while Confessions are heard; Mass begins at 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ **Catholics in Recovery:** February 9 (Second Wednesday of the month); Classroom 10
- ✦ **C.L.O. Meeting:** C.L.O. now meets on the second Sunday of the month (February 13); 8:30 a.m. in church office

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, 10 January 2022

No Mass

Tuesday, 11 January 2022

Elizabeth T. Korf, M/M Eluse Dugas Family, M/M Telesphore Nunez Family

Wednesday, 12 January 2022

Gertie Burns (27th Ann. 1/14), Paul Burns (4th Ann.), Rudy Lange

Thursday, 13 January 2022

Saint Hiliary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Glenn & Charles Moore, M/M Fred Moore

Friday, 14 January 2022

Frank & Laura Mae (Bd.) Romero

Saturday, 15 January 2022

Junior Frederick (Ann. 1/9), M/M Loveless Primeaux

Sunday, 16 January 2022

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m.: M/M Percy P. Thibodeaux, Michael & Steven Thibodeaux

9:00 a.m.: Pro Populo

11:00 a.m.: Parishioners

Nota Bene: If a name is not printed due to human error, be assured that God has accepted the intention in Heaven.



REQUESTS

PRAYER LIST: This list features prayer requests on specific dates (examples: birthdays, wedding and death anniversaries, etc.). (NOTE: Long-term prayer requests are placed on our telephone-tree **Prayer Line**.)

Those suffering in any way at this time

SANCTUARY LAMP: The Sanctuary Lamp can now burn for one day in memory of your loved one. (\$10 donation per day. Half of the proceeds benefit our Love of Neighbor Fund for the poor of our church parish.)



Monday, January 10: Elizabeth T. Korf (Ann.)

Tuesday, January 11: Alvin Desormeaux (35th Ann.)

Friday, January 14: Laura Mae Romero (Bd.)

Saturday, January 15: Bob & Jean Segura

VOCATIONS CROSS

Weekly Vocations Cross Ministry: Please return the kit to our church office on **Tuesday morning** so the next family can pick it up on **Tuesday afternoon**.

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 is available!

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 is available!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & SACRAMENTAL PREP

ATTENTION: Finances should never prevent a child from enrolling in Religious Education or Sacramental Prep classes! Call our office to speak with Mrs. Connie or Mrs. Frances about financial assistance!

SPARK Religious Education for Grades 1-5

Four "Sunday Sessions" (9:15 - 10:45 a.m.) in CCD classrooms and the ten days of the Elementary Summer Religion Program

Grades 1-2: February 6, March 20

Grades 3-5: February 13, March 27

SPARK Summer Religion Program: June 13-24, 2022 (M-F, 8 a.m. - Noon)

EDGE Sessions for Grades 6-7

Monday evening sessions (6:15 - 7:30) in church parish hall

January 10, 24 • February 7, 21

March 7, 21 • April 4, 25 • Retreat TBA

Theology of the Body (ToB) Sessions for Grade 8

Tuesday evening sessions (6:15 - 7:30) begin in the church parish hall.

Boys and girls gather in separate classrooms.

January 11, 25 • February 8, 22

March 8, 22 • April 5, 26 • Retreat TBA

IGNITE! Mentor Program for Grades 9-10

Teens gather for weekly (5:00-7:00 p.m. on Sundays)

small group meetings with core members in their homes.

Teens are expected to **complete assigned homework** on "No Class" days!

Homework assignment details are available on online schedule.

January 16, 23, 30 • February 6, 13, 20, 27 • March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 24 • **Month of May** (refer to revised chart)

Confirmation Program for Grade 11

Sunday evening (6:00 p.m.) sessions with Fr. Metrejean and volunteers and a large-group weekend retreat

Teens are expected to **complete assigned homework** on "No Class" days!

Homework assignment details are available on online schedule.

January 16, 23, 30 • February 6, 13, 20, 27 • March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 24 • **Month of May** (refer to revised chart)

First Communion Sacramental Prep Classes for Candidates in Grades 2-5

Thursday evenings (6-7 p.m. in CCD classrooms unless otherwise noted).

Parent Meeting and class for Candidates:

Thursday, January 13; 6:30pm

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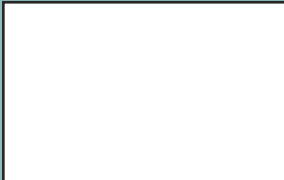
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