THE WORD

First Reading:
Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!
Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.
(Is 60:1)

Psalm:
Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:
It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
(Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:
“Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.”
(Mt 2:2)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

From Fr. Vincent and the Pastoral Staff of the Catholic Church in East St. James Parish!
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Fr. Vincent J. Dufresne

Deacons:
Alfred Adams & Mario (Sam) Sammartino

School Principal:
Mrs. Paula Poche

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Sherry Bourgeois, Tammy Martin & Allison Backaux

Deacon Sam Sammartino
Social Responsibility, Marriage Preparation, Tribunal Advisor

Maintenance Supervisor: Gordon Jenkins

Cemeteries:
Deacon Alfred or Gordon Jenkins

Faith Formation:
Deacon Adams-DRE is High School PSR, Marriage Prep, Lay Ministry Coordinator
Melissa Laurent-DRE is Youth Ministry, H.S. PSR, Lay Ministry Coordinator & Baptism Prep

Harriet Melancon-DRE is SH Elementary PSR & Bulletin Editor

Carol Ann Rome-DRE is SM Elementary

Donna Waggoner-DRE is VF Elementary

St. Michael Pastoral Council:
Molly Areuex, Jon Horan, Rodney Rousset, Spencer Chavan, Jane Poche & Laurie Rousset

St. Joseph Pastoral Council:
John Abreo, Tiana Bourgeois, Tim Dufresne, Garland Poche, David Richard & Enmaney Foushe

Sacred Heart Pastoral Council:
E.J. Demory, Jr., Joellyn Hebert, Jojo Ondieaux, Donna Rochon & Connie Lepre

Mass & Reconciliation Times

Sunday, January 2nd: 8:00 A.M. (C); 10:00 A.M. (P); 5:00 P.M. (G)
Reconciliation 7:00–7:50 A.M. (C) & 4:00–4:50 P.M. (G)

Monday, January 3rd: 7:00 A.M. (L) Reconciliation before 7:00 A.M Mass

Tuesday, January 4th: 7:00 A.M. (L) Reconciliation before 7:00 A.M Mass

Wednesday, January 5th: 5:30 P.M. (L)

Thursday, January 6th: 7:00 A.M. (L) Reconciliation before 7:00 A.M Mass

Friday, January 7th: 7:00 A.M. (L) Reconciliation before 7:00 A.M Mass

Saturday, January 8th: 4:00 P.M. (P); 6:00 P.M. (G)
Reconciliation 3:00–3:50 P.M. (P)

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf.11]/Eph 3:2-3a. 5-6/ Mt 2:11-12

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10:12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/1k 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:21-22b/Ps 148:1-4, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30


OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 2, 2022

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Monday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Tuesday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

Wednesday: St. John Neumann, Bishop

Thursday: St. Andre Bessette, Religious

Friday: St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

LIVE THE LITURGY
Inspirations for the week

Human beings easily get bored. Life’s routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God’s creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 - January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph’s Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter’s Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of “saint.”
Apostleship of Prayer

Intentions of Pope Francis

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention monthly. You are invited to answer the Holy Father’s request and to join with many worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

For True Human Fraternity
We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Sunday: For Francis, our Pope, Michael, our Bishop, Vincent, our Pastor, Alfred & Sam, our deacons, that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Monday: Spirit of meekness and humility.

Tuesday: Spirit of Faith.

Wednesday: Spirit of Charity.


Friday: For peace within our country.

Saturday: Love of chastity & the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sacraments & Services

Baptism:
You must be registered parishioners to request baptism in one of the cluster churches. Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st Sun.-St. Michael, 2nd Sun.-St. Joseph & 3rd Sun.-Sacred Heart. Parents & Godparents are required to attend baptismal prep seminar, or complete on-line course now offered. REGISTER at least two weeks before the seminar by calling Missy Laurent (869-5751).

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children):
If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, contact Ernie or Lisa Sieber @ 266-0569, or Fr. Vincent Dufresne for more information about the RCIA process.

Matrimony:
Couples planning a wedding are asked to contact Deacon Alfred Adams at 266-3255 at least six months prior to their planned wedding date. No tentative wedding date can be confirmed before initial meeting with the priest.

Pastoral Care of the Sick:
For emergency sick calls, please contact the Pastoral Center for a priest. If it is after hours follow the phone prompts to contact a priest.

Reconciliation:
Reconciliation available in churches before 7:00 A.M. daily Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and weekend Masses as scheduled.

Christian Burial:
Please contact the Pastoral Center as soon as possible prior to making funeral arrangements.
In his Apostolic Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: “Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

**Gospel Meditation**

**Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

**First Reading:**

The prophet Isaiah foresaw a time of great joy for Israel when nations and kings would come to Israel praising the Lord. **How do you show gratitude to the Lord for the great joys of your life?**

**Second Reading:**

It was revealed to Paul that God intended to save all people (Jews and Gentiles) through his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul tried to convey the significance of this revelation to the Ephesians by using the language of “coheirs” and “copartners.” **What does this language signal to you?**

**Gospel:**

The visit of the magi is one of the most well-known stories from the Gospel infancy narratives. It was an event that manifested God’s revelation of His newborn Son to the world. It also foreshadowed the threat that some would experience because of Jesus. **How does Jesus challenge the status quo even today?**
Sunday, January 2, 2022:
8:00 a.m. (C) For the Parishioners of St. Michael Parish
10:00 a.m. (P) For the Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish
5:00 p.m. (G) For the Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish

Monday, January 3, 2022:
7:00 a.m. (L)

Tuesday, January 4, 2022:
7:00 a.m. (L)
Myrrh Poche

Wednesday, January 5, 2022:
5:30 p.m. (L)

Thursday, January 6, 2022:
7:00 a.m. (L)
Donald & Odile Brignac

Friday, January 7, 2022:
7:00 a.m. (L)

Saturday, January 8, 2022:
4:00 p.m. (P)
Verlin Simon, Mary Arceneaux, Grace St. Pierre, Nathan Louque, Geet & Benny Roussel, Randall Bourgeois Jr., Emile Roussel Family, Souls in Purgatory
6:00 p.m. (G)
Rita & Amedee Boe, Yvonne & Scotty Bourgeois, N.J. & Byron Madere, Anna Mae & Joe Bourgeois, Brandi Forsyth, Staci Champagne Lambert, Allie M. Bourgeois, Souls in Purgatory

Called to Love Virtual Retreat
Saturday, January 15, 2022
The Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Diocese of Baton Rouge will offer a Called to Love virtual retreat for engaged couples Saturday, Jan. 15 – Sunday, Jan. 16. The retreat includes a full-day scheduled on Saturday, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and a morning session on Sunday, from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., followed by a pre-recorded Mass. Cost is $100 per couple. For more information, visit diobr.org/programs-for-engaged-couples or call the Office of Marriage and Family Life at 225-387-0561.

March for Life Pilgrimage
Monday, January 17, 2022
On average our Diocese takes nine busses of students from throughout the Diocese on a spiritual journey like no other. These buses are full of students, priests, seminarians and religious Sisters as they journey to spiritual and historical sights during the six-day trip. This pilgrimage allows students to see the beauty of the Catholic faith and the dignity of each and every human life – even their own!
The Light of the Moon

If you own a television that has been turned on at any point in the last month or so, chances are you’ve caught at least a scene or two of the 1946 classic film “It’s a Wonderful Life.”

If you’re not familiar with the movie, it follows the life of George Bailey from childhood through adulthood. A dreamer by nature, George has big plans for himself that involve world exploration and adventure — but family and community obligations keep him tethered to the same spot on the map, leading an altogether ordinary life.

One of the most memorable scenes from that movie is of George dancing with his sweetheart Mary while they sing “Buffalo Gals — Won’t you come out tonight/And dance by the light of the moon?”

That lyric always catches my ear. Of course, the moon doesn’t have any light of its own. All the moon has is the ability to reflect the light that shines upon it.

The same holds for us, doesn’t it? Our stewardship is purely a reflection of the grace granted to us by another. “Upon you the LORD shines,” writes Isaiah, “and over you appears his glory.” Every good action we will ever take begins in the mind of God. The fact that we have the honor of carrying it out on His behalf is a beautiful gift. It is God that makes our ordinary lives extraordinary.

In the end of the movie, George Bailey realizes that he had a far greater life because, instead of being the hero of his own story, he allowed himself to reflect goodness onto others.

The glory of the Lord is revealed to us every day by the ministry of our priests, religious sisters and brothers. Would you consider helping other people to walk in the Light of the Lord? If God is calling you, call or email Father Joshua Johnson at (225) 336-8778, jjohnson@diobr.org, or visit www.diobr.org/vocations.

“...and you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

— Mt 2:6

Donations

Dec. 19, 2021

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The three kings in today’s Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will I go and what will I offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?
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