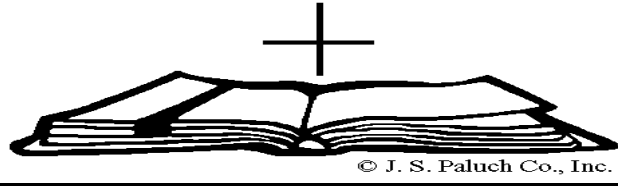


**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017**

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.
—Luke 1:35



Mass Intentions



Sat., Dec 23, 5:30 p.m. Lullabelle Doucet, Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Corey Rainey, Amy Goff, Sick Parishioners (L), John Gereighty, Nick Sita, Marie Adele (L), The Karge Family (L), Louis Perschall Sr., Eliska Marie Plunkett (L), Frank Boroughs, Bell Valley-Hocking Tomsic Families (L), Lester Shackford, Dick and Ruthie Olson (L)

Sun., Dec. 24, 7:30 a.m. Carol Pieri, Luigia and Ugo Pieri, Nora Hauptmann, Fannie Tucker, Elvia Johnson, Clarence Innis (L), Gloria Fabre, Frank Boroughs, Tony Ferran (L), Salvador Cardinale, Tommy Riggio, Jerry Hornosky, Simon Kiefer, Joan and Richie Blackman (L)

Sun., Dec. 24, 9:15 a.m. Joyce LeBlanc

Sun., Dec. 24, 11:00 a.m. Parishioners

Sun., Dec. 24, 5:00 p.m. Carol Pieri, Simon Kiefer, Loretta Stansbury, Charlie Gagliano, Amy Goff, Elaine Murhammer, Fannie Tucker, Elvia Johnson, Nick Sita, Nora Hauptmann, John Gereighty

Sun., Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m. Parishioners

Sun., Dec. 24, 9:00 p.m. Corey Rainey and Baham Family

Mon., Dec. 25, 9:15 a.m. Joyce LeBlanc, Marshall Rodriguez, Richard Young, Kenny Young, Rosita Rodriguez, Gloria Fabre

Tues., Dec. 26, 7:00 p.m. Peace in America

Wed., Dec. 27, 8:00 a.m. Ann Lavedan

Thurs., Dec. 28, 8:00 a.m. Isabella Marqavio

Fri., Dec. 29, 8:00 a.m. Sick Parishioners (L)

Sat., Dec 30, 5:30 p.m. Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Sidney Huval and Family, Corey Rainey, Amy Goff, Sick Parishioners (L), Nick Sita, The Karge Family (L), Louis Perschall Sr., Bell Valley-Hocking Tomsic Families (L), Lester Shackford, Tony Ferran (L), Dick and Ruthie Olson (L)

Sun., Dec. 31, 7:30 a.m. Frederick Addotto Sr.

Sun., Dec. 31, 9:15 a.m. John Gereighty, Jerry Hornosky, Lance Babst (L), Lester Watson, Rosemary Odinet (L), Diane Gowland (L), Barbara Flug (L), Tommy Riggio

Sun., Dec. 31, 11:00 a.m. Parishioners

PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Helen Lafleur | Louise Cashmere |
| Margaret Mary Mule' | Tom Kelley |
| Judge Salvadore Mule' | Martha Huval |
| Emmitt Guderian | Max Jones |
| Joann Austin | Ethel Istre |
| Chip Guillory | Kevin Delaune |
| Lance Babst | Margaret Jones |
| Tony Ferran | Wilma Ferran |

Weekly Collections

Regular Collection	\$ 4,779.56
2 nd Coll. Building and Pres. Fund	\$ 170.00

The candles burn in honor of:

<i>Sanctuary:</i>	Shawn Bertrand
<i>Blessed Mother</i>	Dennis McCloskey
<i>St. Joseph</i>	Loretta Stansbury
<i>St. Ann</i>	Pelloat and Turcich Family

If you would like to honor your intention by burning a 7 day candle please call 796-3806.

The office will close at noon on Fri., Dec. 29th through Mon., Jan. 1st. We will reopen on Tues., Jan. 2nd

The Altar Society would like to thank everyone who donated towards the Christmas flowers. Because of your support, we are able to enhance the celebrations of the Holidays.

MONTHLY MASS

The December monthly Mass will be on Tuesday, December 26th at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend Mass.

Please join us in celebrating the Christmas Season with St. John's Parish School of Religion Christmas Program Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 6:30 p.m. Jonathan Hall Refreshments following Family, friends, and parishioners welcome.

The Blessed Sacrament is reserved here in consideration for those in prayer. Please observe silence.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the *Christkind* in Austria and Belgium, *El Niño Jesús* in Columbia, and *Le Petit Jesus* in France, where he shares his duties with *Père Noël*. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but *Ježíšek*, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

NATIVITY CRECHES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Nativity Crèches Exhibit will be on display on Wednesday, January 3rd before and after the Christmas Program in Jonathan Hall. The Exhibit will remain up through the weekend before and after all masses. If you have a Nativity Crèche you would like share with the parish Callie Segura will be here on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd from 10 to 2 p.m. to accept them in Jonathan Hall. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. If you have any questions please call the office.

SHROUD ENCOUNTER

"Shroud Encounter" is a full multi-media exploration into the science, history and mystery of the Shroud of Turin. Its intrigue is comparable to the Pyramids or Stonehenge. It is the most analyzed artifact in the world yet remains the greatest of all unsolved mysteries. Shroud Encounter peels back the layers like a CSI investigation taking the audience on a high-speed journey that leaves no stone unturned. In the end, the audience, like a jury in a trial, must come to their own conclusions. Whether or not the Shroud is authentic is a question science cannot answer. No conclusions are drawn.

Don't miss this exciting event here at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church with two options to attend, on February 17th at 7:00 p.m. or February 18th at 2 p.m. in Jonathan Hall. For more information please visit the website at www.shroudencounter.com

WITNESS TO LOVE MARRIAGE PREP TRAINING

The Office of Marriage and Family Life along with St. Rita Catholic Church in Harahan are excited to offer training for clergy and parish marriage preparation coordinators who are interested in the new Witness to Love Marriage Preparation program now available in the Archdiocese. The training will be held Friday, January 26, 2018, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at St. Rita in Harahan. The cost is \$55 per person or \$65 per couple and includes program materials, online resources, and ongoing support for parishes who take advantage of Witness to Love. Please download the flyer here, and visit witnessstolove.org for more details.

.....
Jesus is really present. Talk to him from your heart.
.....

PRAYER BLANKET REQUEST

The Prayer Blanket Ministry is looking for anyone interested in helping to make prayer blankets. They can be knitted, crocheted, quilted, etc. and can be made at home at your convenience or you can help at the monthly meetings. There is a large demand for the blankets and more volunteers are needed to keep an ample supply.

The Prayer Blanket Ministry has blankets available to parishioners only to bring to loved ones who are ill. Blankets are available in two sizes, babies and adults. Completed blankets are blessed, and packaged with a prayer card, this is usually done at the meetings. Blankets are free, but any donations received will be used to purchase material and supplies.

For more information, call Kathy Mauthe at 985-796-9245.

Annulment Writing Workshop

The Archdiocese of New Orleans will offer a writing workshop for persons seeking an annulment in the Catholic Church or for persons responding to an annulment. The workshop will be held in Providence Hall at Our Lady of Divine Providence in Metairie. The series will be for five (5) sessions on Tuesdays, starting January 16, January 23, January 30, February 6 and February 20, 2018. Hours are 7:30-9:00 PM. The materials for the series cost \$25.00. To register go to our website <https://nolacatholicfla.regfox.com/annulment-writing-workshop>. For more information, please call Cathy, 504-861-6243.

ADORATION IS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 8:30 - 9:30 A.M.

CHOIR PRACTICE, EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:30 P.M.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AT 8:00 A.M. EVERY MONTH

BLANKET MINISTRY MEET LAST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH

CATCH FIRE YOUTH GROUP MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6 - 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL.

NO PSR CLASSES ON DEC. 20 AND 27, RETURN ON JAN. 3RD

MATTHEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY, MONDAY, 7:30 P.M. IN LIBRARY