

**AS CHRIST IS ONE, SO IS HIS BODY, THE CHURCH.**

Isaiah was living in an age of darkness, following a civil war among the sons of Solomon that divided the people of Israel into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. This darkness continued with the conquest and exile of the northern kingdom by the Assyrians. While occupied and in exile, the Israelites of the northern kingdom intermarried with the Gentiles and participated in their customs. This further alienated them from their southern kinspeople, who considered their behavior unholy and in violation of the Mosaic Law.

Isaiah longed for a new king who would bring healing and reunite the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. This would also have the effect of bringing the Twelve Tribes of Israel back together. Taking the longer view, Isaiah is preparing the children of God for the coming of the King of Kings, one who would save both Jew and Gentile. In Christ, *the people who walked in darkness would see a great light.*

Isaiah hoped for an end to division and discord, as did Paul the Apostle in writing to the Corinthians about the deep-seated divisions tearing apart their fragile and newly formed Christian community. Corinth was a Greek port city – people came there from all over the world. It was no small feat for Paul and Barnabas to bring these disparate people from so many varied walks of life together under the umbrella of the Gospel. Now, having been baptized, many were sliding into the superstitions and prejudices of their previous way of life. Paul reminds them that they are all one in Christ Jesus.

In today’s reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus appears to take on the appearance of a man fleeing justice following news of the arrest of his cousin, John the Baptist. But Jesus does not go into the Samaritan towns of the north as a means of hiding out or entering self-imposed exile. Rather, he is doing as he would later instruct his Apostles to do – shaking the dust of Jerusalem from his feet, because the people there were too hostile to the Gospel and to the one sent by God to preach it.

Matthew makes it clear that Jesus has come to fulfill the prophecy announced in the first reading – to bring salvation to the Gentiles. We also hear Jesus speak the essence of his mission and message: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* These are the same words spoken by John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus and the saving mission Jesus was sent to accomplish.

Jesus calls the Apostles by name. How does he know them? He is God. They leave everything and follow him. How can they? Their ancestors had awaited this moment for centuries, and now they see the prophecy fulfilled in the man standing before them by the shores of Galilee.

Through both word and sacrament, Jesus calls us by name; he calls us to follow him. We pray that we might leave our nets and do whatever he tells us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK			
Mon	Jan 23	Heb 9:15, 24-28, Mk 3:22-30	
Tues	Jan 24	Heb 10:1-10, Mk 3:31-35, Eph 3:8-12, Jn 15:9-17	
Wed	Jan 25	Acts 22:3-16, Mk 16:15-18	
Thur	Jan 26	Tim 1:1-8, Mk 4:21-25, Lk 10:1-9	
Fri	Jan 27	Heb 10:32-39, Mk 4:26-34	
Sat	Jan 28	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19, Lk 1:69-75, Mk 4:35-41 Wis. 7:7-10, 15-16, Mt 23:8-12	
Sun	Jan 29	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13, 1 Cor 1:26-31, Mt 5:1-12a	



**YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Regular Collections	\$ 7,035.00
Nativity Elem.	\$ 94.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 291.00
Nativity Maintenance	\$ 546.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,175.69
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$ 9,141.69</b>
<b>CASH NEEDED</b>	<b>\$14,400.00</b>

**SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS**

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until the end of January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Please continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

<b>TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE</b>	<b>\$169,178</b>
<b>PAYMENTS TO DATE</b>	<b>\$161,118</b>
<b>BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES</b>	<b>\$ 8,060</b>

**NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY**

On Sunday, January 22, those interested will attend a March for Life Mass at Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos church at 1:00 p.m. followed by a March to the Biloxi Lighthouse/Visitors Center. That evening, a Youth Mass will be held here at Nativity Cathedral at 5:30 p.m. If any youth in grades 6-12 would like to take part in the Mass, please contact Kristy Arguelles or Kim Audo ([nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com](mailto:nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com)). A Youth Meeting will follow Mass in the Youth Hall from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. in order to plan for our Upcoming Diocesan Youth Celebration, which will be held March 17-19, 2017. We are, again asking for your help in supporting our trip and we are selling Ads for the Convention book. This is a great way to supports our Parish Youth and advertise your business!

## SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</b>	<b>LECTORS</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
<b>Jan 28 4:00 pm</b> <b>1. Deacon Ben</b> 2. Mary Wimberly 3. Gerrie Weldon 4. Gayle Mavar 5. Kalin Lloyd	<b>Jan 28 4:00 pm</b> Julie Capuano	<b>Jan 28 4:00 pm</b> Carlo Ashton Brinden Butterfield
<b>Jan 29 7:00 am</b> <b>1. Marcia Mayfield</b> 2. Danny Kavanagh 3. Colleen Kavanagh	<b>Jan 29 7:00 am</b> Joe Powell	<b>Jan 29 7:00 am</b> Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan
<b>9:00 am</b> <b>1. Jim Compton</b> 2. Belinda Corley 3. Bobby Weaver 4. Judy Trahan 5. Linda Bourgeois	<b>9:00 am</b> Steve Theobald	<b>9:00 am</b> Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge Sofia Carreon McKinzy Mathis
<b>11:00 am</b> <b>1. Johnny Williams</b> 2. Sondra Williams 3. Nanette Burke 4. Susan Toche 5. Rocky Greathouse	<b>11:00 am</b> Don Marie	<b>11:00 am</b> Michael Pfarrer Clayton Stoddard Simon Randall Aidan Tarrant
<b>5:30 pm</b> <b>1. Annette Luther</b> 2. Jim Shugart 3. Teresa Ballinger	<b>5:30 pm</b> Janice Fields	<b>5:30 pm</b> Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Nicholas Arguelles Jacob Arguelles
	<b>CANTORS</b> <b>Jan 28 4:00 p.m.</b> Billy Endicott	
	<b>Jan 29 9:00 a.m.</b> Mary Lancaster	
	<b>CHOIR</b> <b>11:00 am</b>	

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 23 Women of Mary 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan 24 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC  
 - RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC  
 - BINGO Mania, 5:30 p.m. - Bingo Hall  
 Jan 25 - **Cleaning Team “C”**  
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.  
 CCD Classes at 5:30 p.m.  
 Jan 26 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

## BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 24th. Borja (Mary), Bounds (Don & Zina Puzz), Canonici (Jason & Stephanie), Chereskin (Alan Chereskin), Codella (John & Rachel), Gruich (April Croncich) and Koval (Ryan & Hailey). **REMEMBER!** If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

## PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at [www.nativitybvmcathedral.org](http://www.nativitybvmcathedral.org), or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.

## Mass Intentions

		<b>6:30 a.m.</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>
Mon	Jan 23	Mary Collins Wilson	Boise Ray “Skip” Butterfield, Jr.
Tue	Jan 24	Deceased Husband & Son	Dan Williams
Wed	Jan 25	Collins-Sims Fly.	Dr. Jessica Crowder
Thur	Jan 26	Mary Collins Wilson	Jackie Gilich
Fri	Jan 27	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Maria Carmen Toomer
Sat	Jan 28	8 – Chester Balius	4 Jackie Gilich
Sun	Jan 29	7 – Sonny/Helen Ross	9 - For the Parishioners
		11 – Boise Ray “Skip” Butterfield, Jr.	5:30 - Collins-Sims Fly.

## PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Gwen Gollotte and Clair Sekul Hornsby.

## NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

\* The annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week begins on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Nativity School Choir will lead the singing at the 9:00 Mass at the Nativity Cathedral.

\*Please remember that our school collects/saves the following: Box Tops for Education; UPC codes from Community Coffee products, aluminum beverage cans. Thank you!

\*Mark your calendars! The annual Nativity BVM School Open House will be held on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. All former, current and prospective families are welcome to attend!

\*Nativity School will again raffle off a chance to win a \$4,000 Disney Gift Card as well as \$1,000 in spending money. Tickets cost \$75 and only 335 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Proceeds will be used for continued enhancement of the school’s technology and library programs. For more information, please call Nativity School at 432-2269.

## R.C.I.A.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Fifth Commandment with Father Dennis, and Daniel Guy will be leading our Prayer Service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as we approach the Easter Sacraments and as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

## CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

## ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The SVdP Society provides assistance each Tues from 9-11:00 am. Your continued support helps to ensure the SVdP is able to provide support for those in need.