

WE ARE CALLED AT OUR BAPTISM TO BEAR

WITNESS TO THE FAITH.

In every age, Christ and His Church have been persecuted. Despite His message of love and compassion (or perhaps because of it), Jesus was taunted by leaders and ordinary people alike. Even His death on a cross and His victorious Resurrection did not convince every person that he was the Son of God, the promised Messiah. Some of His followers abandoned Him. His Apostles faced ridicule and death. Countless early Christians were martyred for their faith. Religious communities have split apart over doctrine and liturgical practices. Wars have been fought, crusades have been waged and earthly kingdoms have been torn apart – all over differences in religion or political ideologies. Today we encounter the prophet Jeremiah who, in his youth, had been called by the Lord to be a prophet during times of great political upheaval. He says, I have committed my cause to the Lord. Despite imprisonment, scourging, threats from enemies and former friends, and his own interior crises, Jeremiah remained steadfast because he knew the Lord was with him like a mighty warrior. Saint Paul reminds the Romans that Adam brought sin and death into the world and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned. He compares the effect of Adam’s disobedience to God’s will to Christ’s total obedience to the Father’s will – and the effect that each had on the human race. One is the cause of the human condition – the other, the source of our salvation. For the past several Sundays, we have been hearing the Gospel accounts of how Christ called His apostles. He carefully shared the Father’s message of love and mercy with each of them. But at the same time, Jesus acknowledged that they would encounter a world that was hostile to that message. In today’s Gospel, Jesus continues His instruction to them, cautioning them to fear no one...speak in light... proclaim on the housetops. They would be protected by the same Father who cares for sparrows. Most of all, they should never deny Christ before others. Like Jeremiah and the Apostles, Jesus has called us, too. At our baptism, we became His followers, and through the grace of the sacraments and the support of our Christian community, we have been called to share that same message of mercy, love and salvation through Christ. We, too, face a world that can be hostile to Christianity and is indifferent to its message. So, how are we doing? Have we ever been too silent, too weak, too uninformed, too docile? Do we stand up to what the culture is proclaiming or do we capitulate to its temptations? Have we ever gone so far as to deny Christ before others? Let us continue to pray that God’s grace will sustain us, and that we will give better witness to the truth of the Gospel and salvation to a world in need of hearing it.

BISHOP KIHNEMAN’S HOMILIES

Bishop Kihneman's homilies will be available each week in audio form on Nativity BVM Cathedral's website. To access these homilies, visit nativitybvm.podbean.com

FAMILY REUNION

Father Dennis is away from the parish this weekend celebrating the Carver Family Reunion in Bay St. Louis. Thanks are extended to Bishop Morin, Bishop Kihneman and Father Richard-Paul LeCorte for celebrating the Cathedral Masses this weekend.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK FAMILY		
Mon Jun 26	Gn 12:1-9, Mt 7:1-5	
Tues Jun 27	Gn 13:2, 5-18, Mt 7:6, 12-14	
Wed Jun 28	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18, Mt 7:15-20, 2 Tm 2:22b-26, Jn 17:20-26	
Thur Jun 29	Acts 12:1-11, 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18, Mt 16:13-19	
Fri Jun 30	Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22, Mt 8:1-4	
Sat Jul 1	Gn 18:1-15, Lk 1:46-50, 53-55, Mt 8:5-17	
Sun Jul 2	2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a, Rob 6:3-4, 8-11, Mt 10:37-42	



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS		
Regular Collections	\$	9,160.00
Nativity Maintenance	\$	713.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	39.00
Capital Improvement	\$	75.00
Miscellaneous	\$	293.45
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	10,280.45
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

SR. MRAY JO MIKE ON VACATION

Sr. Mary Jo will be away from the school and parish from June 25th until July 5th for a well-deserved vacation. Let us pray for her safe travel and for her refreshment.

THANKS AND GRATITUDE

Thanks and gratitude to Kristi Arguelles, Warren Davis and all of the adult helpers who made Nativity’s annual Vacation Bible School a great success.

RCIA.

The Rite of Christian Initiation is an invitation for adults to explore their interests, or to enhance their knowledge, in the Roman Catholic Church. The R.C.I.A. lays out a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. The Nativity Parish will begin R.C.I.A. classes again in the Fall. Participants will meet weekly for nine months in the Sacred Heart Center. If you are interested, please contact Greg or Penny Payne at 228-365-6348.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

This weekend the Knights of Columbus will be in our Parish with their annual Tootsie Roll drive. The proceeds go to help local group homes for people with disabilities and special needs. Let’s help make this a successful fundraiser for our Knights.

NEW WINE DEADLINES EXTENDED:

Those interested in being part of our New Wine group that begins in the fall of 2017 have new extended deadlines: Deadline for submitting names and email addresses: Monday, July 17, 2017. Deadline for submitting completed applications: Monday, July 31, 2017. If you have any questions about the program, or if you need an application, please all Leo Trahan at the Office of Religious Education at 228-702-2131.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jul 1 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Kalin Lloyd 4. Helen Languirand 5. Liz Joachim Jul 2 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh 9:00 am 1. Barry Gilmore 2. Linda Bourgeois 3. Judy Trahan 4. Bobby Weaver 5. Barbara Ziz 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Susan Toche 3. Linda Welter 4. Sondra Williams 5. Johnny Williams 5:30 pm 1. Roland Creel 2. Tricia Creel 3. Kristy Arguelles	Jul 1 4:00 pm Julie Capuano Jul 2 7:00 am Marcia Mayfield 9:00 am Terry Simon 11:00 am Peter Abide 5:30 pm Matthew Manint CANTORS Jul 1 4:00 pm William Endicott Jul 2 9:00 am Phil Frisby 11:00 am John Welter	Jul 1 4:00 pm Keegan Cuevas Sabree Sander Jul 2 7:00 am Clayton Stoddard Ave M. Stoddard 9:00 am Trent Fulton McKinzy Mathis Annabelle Tarrant Brennan Tarrant 11:00 am Aidan Tarrant Greysen Ross McRae Ross 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wills

MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jun 26	Clare Sekul Hornsby	Monique Nguyen (S.I.)
Tue	Jun 27	Gary Michiels	Andrew Gilich
Wed	Jun 28	Patsy Smolcich	Collins-Sims Fly.
Thur	Jun 29	Kathleen Hebert	Dan Williams
Fri	Jun 30	Glenn/Jocye Pisarich	Monique Nguyen (S.I.)
Sat	Jul 1	8 Thomas McAuliffee	4 Laura Marie
Sun	Jul 2	7 Gladys Schmidt	9- F. T. P.
		11 - Patsy Smolcich.	5:30 Anthony Walter Davidson, Jr.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Laura Weiher, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Danny Boney, Sr., Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, George Krebs, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in honor of Bobby Weldon on his birthday and wedding anniversary from his wife, Gerrie Weldon.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Nativity Summer Saints program continues to provide fun and exciting opportunities for children in prek through grade 6. Learning more about Biloxi through trips on the tour train, a beach morning with Mr. Barney, pony rides, sign language classes and cooking and craft opportunities have kept the children active and engaged. Wet and wild Fridays and games and outdoor fun have been highlights for all children. For more information, please call the school at 432-2269 or visit the website at www.nativitybvm.org. *Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now underway. Although several classes are filled, openings remain in other classes. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the school at 432-2269 or visit the school's website at www.nativitybvm.org. *Tickets are now on sale for the Nativity School \$3,000 raffle. Each \$100 ticket entitles the purchaser to 10 chances to win \$3,000. The drawings are held on the first Thursday of the month from September through June. Tickets may be purchased from any Nativity School parent or through the school office.

JOB OPENING

Vacancy: Principal of Holy Trinity Catholic Elementary School
 PreK3 – 6th Grade
 Requirements include:
 Being a practicing Catholic and holding a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. Complete application at www.biloxidiocese.org and send with a cover letter and resume to:
 Dr. Rhonda Clark
 Assistant Superintendent of Education
 1790 Popps Ferry Road, Biloxi, MS 39532
 rclark@biloxidiocese.org
 (228)702-2130
 Deadline for application is Friday July 7, 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 27 -Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
 June 28 -**Cleaning Team "A"**
 - Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 Choir Practice, 7:00 p.m.
 June 29 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 June 27th. Kelly (George & Tanya), Landolt (John & Barbara), Lechner (Jeffrey & Lindsay), Leon (Miguel & Amy), McCaleb (Shanel), Mellgren (Scott & Sonia) and Mitchel-Malone (Anjanette). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, "You are the salt of the earth". No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be "salt of the earth". Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM HURRICANES

Father, may all the elements of nature obey Your command. Calm the storms that threaten us and turn our fear of Your power into praise of Your goodness. Grant this, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.