

BY WITNESSING TO THE GOOD NEWS, WE SHARE

GOD'S LOVE.

The opponents of Jesus just won't give up! Last week, they tried to trip him up on the sticky question of taxes to Caesar. Today is a cunning attempt to lead him into a hair-splitting debate and lose him in the wilderness of the subtleties of the Mosaic Law! It is noteworthy that Matthew uses the same Greek word here – to test – as when describing Jesus' earlier confrontation with Satan in the desert. Clearly, he wants us to understand that those who test Jesus are in league with, or at least unwittingly doing, the work of Satan. Matthew sets the scene well! A Pharisee – a lawyer – asks Jesus which of the commandments is the greatest. His response does not seek to set aside the Law, but instead to interpret it more fully. For Jesus, the greatest commandment is found in Deuteronomy: *You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength.*

Jesus' answer emphasizes the centrality of love – a cord that binds together the human heart and soul and directs us toward God.

While asked for only one commandment, Jesus adds a second, quoting from Leviticus, which he says is equal to and inseparable from the first: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* Everything, he says, hangs on these two interrelated commandments. Like a door on two hinges that will not open or close properly if out of alignment, so, too, our lives if we do not love God and our neighbor. Jesus is not discounting any other commandments, but simply emphasizing that these two are foundational.

So what does this declaration mean for us today? As we struggle to live the Christian life, we can so easily compartmentalize love of God and love of neighbor. Sometimes, it may seem easier to love God than to love our neighbor. But, as Jesus proclaims, these two loves cannot be separated.

By linking this Gospel with a practical reading from Exodus, we are reminded that this love is more than a warm and fuzzy feeling. Out of Israel's experience of slavery in Egypt, there emerged the reality of a God who is compassionate and protective of the weak. No one is to take advantage of them or to imprison them in a relentless cycle of dependence. How challenging these ancient words and this ethical wisdom can sound today.

Paul confirms this teaching by reminding the Thessalonians of their fidelity to Christ. He rejoices with them because they have remained steadfast and active in faith. For them, faith is more than a passing fad. Clearly, they have recognized the word of God in Paul's preaching, and through the lived example of their lives, have now become ministers of the Gospel to others within their community and beyond. Awaiting the return of Christ, they have become people of hope, bringing the combined love of God and neighbor to others. May we, too, be a people of hope – witnessing the Gospel to others and sharing God's love.

LUMEN CHRISTI AWARD

Congratulations to Steve Theobald, this year's recipient of the Lumen Christi award! The Lumen Christi Mass will be held on Saturday, November 4th at 4:00 p.m. with Bishop Kihneman celebrating.

RCIA.

This week the RCIA class will be studying the Church – Reflecting the Light of Christ with Deacon Ed Ramos, and our prayer service will be led by Joe Carmel. Please continue to pray for the Inquirers as they are learning the teachings and traditions of our Catholic faith. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Oct 30	Rom 8:12-17, Lk 13:10-17
Tues Oct 31	Rom 8:18-25, Lk 13:18-21
Wed Nov 01	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn 3:1-3, Mt 5:1-12a
Thur Nov 02	Wis 3:1-9, Rom 5:5-11, Jn 6:37-40
Fri Nov 03	Rom 9:1-5, Lk 14:1-6
Sat Nov 04	Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29, Lk 14:1, 7-11, Rom 12:3-13, Jn 10:11-16
Sun Nov 05	Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10, 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13, Mt 23:1-12



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	7,321.60
<i>Nativity Maintenance</i>	\$	830.00
<i>Nativity Elem.</i>		99.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$	1,399.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	9,649.60

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING

A SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR PUERTO RICO AND THE CARRIBBEAN

A Special Collection will be taken up the weekend of October 28-29 for Puerto Rico and the Church in the Caribbean. The six dioceses of Puerto Rico have experienced significant devastation and funds collected on October 28-29 for Hurricane Maria victims will be used to support the reconstruction and pastoral needs of the Church as well as humanitarian and recovery assistance.

ALL SAINTS MASSES – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Tuesday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m.
November 1st at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., Noon and 6:00 p.m.

OUR ANNUAL ALL SOULS MASS in the Old Biloxi City Cemetery will take place on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the site of the priests' burial plots. This is a time to remember and pray for our faithfully departed family and friends. Mark the time on your calendar for this holy and sacred event.

END OF DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Remember to "fall back" by changing your clocks to one hour earlier. Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:00 a.m.

NATIVITY B.V.M. YOUTH MINISTRY—Youth in grades 6-12 are welcomed and encouraged to join! Upcoming schedule: Sunday, November 5—Youth Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a meeting and dinner in the Youth Hall. November 18 - Lock-in at Altitude Trampoline Park, Hwy 49, Gulfport. 11:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. Cost - \$20 per person. Deadline to register is Friday, November 10. No Youth Mass or Meeting Sunday, November 19. Monday, November 20 - Prepare Thanksgiving Baskets with St. Vincent de Paul, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Youth Hall in the Sacred Heart Center. If you are interested in joining Youth Ministry, attending upcoming events, or have questions, please contact Kristy Arguelles by phone, 324-9934, or email nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Nov 4 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Andrea gilich 3. Dale Dorcik 4. Liz Joachim 5. Sondra Ahern Nov 5 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Marcia Mayfield 3. Linda Stewart 9:00 am 1. Jim Compton 2. Tracy Kessler 3. Michael Kessler 4. Bobby Weaver 5. John Brauchle 11:00 am 1. Johnny Williams 2. Sondra Williams 3. Ben Eastman 4. Robert Moniot 5. Rhonda Clark 5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Angela Cannon 3. Kristy Arguelles	Nov 4 4:00 pm Michael Bruffey Nov 5 7:00 am Jim Shuggart 9:00 am Steve Theobald 11:00 am Johnny Don Marie 5:30 pm Youth Ministry CANTORS Nov 4 4:00 pm William Endicott Nov 5 9:00 am Phil Frisby 11:00 am Rocky Greathouse	Nov 4 4:00 pm Keegan Cuevas Sabree Sander Nov 5 7:00 am McKinzy Mathis Alec Ryan 9:00 am Trent Fulton Annabelle Tarrant Brennan Tarrant Sofia Carreon 11:00 am Aidan Tarrant Terrene McDonnell Cameron McDonnell 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wells

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon Oct 30	Walter Blessey	Collins-Sims Fly.
Tue Oct 31	Deacon Ben Wimberly	Maria Hoang Thi Khoai
Wed Nov 01	William/Evelyn Collins	Claire Hornsby
Thur Nov 02	Pat Smolcich	John Begue
Fri Nov 03	Glenn/Joyce Pesarich	Maria Hoang Thi Khoai
Sat Nov 04	<u>8</u> Pat Smolcich	<u>4</u> Josephine Esposito Allen
Sun Nov 05	<u>7</u> -Tommy Sliman..	<u>9</u> - F. T. P
11	Phyllis McLeod.	5:30 Connell Lori Weiher

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Wimberly, Hugh Kavanagh, Buddy Pullen, Candy Widener, John Pat Skrmetti, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich, and Karen Skremetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*We are pleased to announce that Nativity BVM School has received two grants from the Mississippi Power's Environmental Stewardship Council. A \$500 grant was awarded to Gr. 5 teacher, Nikol Michailos, and a \$1,000 grant was awarded to Gr. 6 teacher, Colleen Kavanagh, for use in support of environmental education activities. We congratulate these teachers on their collaboration to complete these grants and look forward to seeing their activities. *All are invited to pray and celebrate All Saints Day with Nativity School. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. in the school gym. *The third drawing for \$3,000 will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2nd. Congratulations to our October winner, Mrs. Teresa Thompson. It is not too late to purchase a ticket! Drawings continue once each month through June.

NATIVITY CATHEDRALS CONCERT SERIES BEGINS:

On Thursday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. – The Music and Fine Arts Ministry Program will offer the first of a Series of Concert Events for the 2017-18 Season. On this occasion, Dr. Sasha Ferreira – the Gulf Coast Symphony Manager will be joined by three other members of our Symphony to present a concert entitled: "*Baroque Masters*". This slightly longer than an hour program should offer a wonderful variety of string quartet music by some of the great composers of the Baroque Period. The concert is free and open to the public. Mark your calendar and please tell &/or bring a friend to the concert. We are still seeking sponsors for our Concert Series that currently has events scheduled through June - 2018.

Our Sanctuary Choir is still seeking members to join us. We have begun our Christmas Eve preparations that will feature a String Quartet as a part of the programming. Anyone from the ninth grade through retired is cordially invited to attend on Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 p.m.

"Gloria In Excelsis" - our new Choral Society is still seeking members to join us. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7 – 8:30 p.m. This choral ensemble is also open to ninth graders through retired age. TERRY D. MADDUX: Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454.

E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 30 Women of Mary at 5:30 p.m.
Oct 31 -Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
All Saints Mass 6:00 p.m.
RCIA at 6:00 p.m. in the RCIA Room-SHC
Nov 1 - Rectory Closed
Cleaning Team "C"
All Saints Mass at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., Noon and 6:00 p.m.
CCD -5:30 p.m. SHC
Nov 2 Greenbriar Mass, 10:00 a.m.
Nov 3 First Friday Adoration 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Chapel

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This is such a beautiful and holy time to come and spend with Jesus in Adoration. Won't you prayerfully consider giving the gift of your time to our Savior and be pleasantly surprised to receive the gifts He will give you in return. First Friday Adoration is November 3rd, from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., in the Chapel.

CCD

The Nativity Interparish CCD Program is held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Center. If you need to register a student, please come to the Center during class times or call Barbara Ziz at 228-918-9778 to get more information. Our Safe Environment training for all students will take place during class on October 25.

GIRLS' YOUTH RETREAT

For young ladies ages 15-18. November 10th-12th, 2017 at the Dedeaux Cursillo and Retreat Center, 14595 Vidalia Road, Pass Christian. Closing at 3 p.m. For your application please call Candy Dubuisson – 228-547-4158 or Wanda Cole 228-669-5901.