

St. Patrick Catholic Church

December 4, 2011 - Second Sunday of Advent



Office Hours

Monday – Thursday: 8:30 am – 3:00 pm; Friday 8:30 am – 12 noon

Celebration of the Eucharist

Saturday: 4:00 pm – Sunday: 8:30 & 10:00 am

Monday through Friday: 7:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:00 – 3:30 pm and Weekdays: 7:15 am

Baptisms

Parents are encouraged to call the Church during pregnancy to avoid delays of the sacrament

Weddings

Arrangements must be made at least six months in advance to allow time for preparation

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Rev. M. Keith LaBove, Pastor

Welcome to St. Patrick Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2011

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 3 - Vigil of the Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 PM: Edna Parker; August Lanclos; Rachel Benoit (living); In Thanksgiving Smith Fam.

Sunday, December 4-- Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM: Joseph & Eldie Woods; Velma Bernard

10:00 AM: Parishioners of St. Patrick's

Monday, December 5-- Advent Weekday

7:30 AM: Bella Hernandez; Agnes Duplechain; Gussie Hernandez

Tuesday, December 6-- St. Nicholas, bishop

7:30 AM: Eddy Knight

Wednesday, December 7-- St. Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the church (Msgr. Charles Mallet)

7:30 AM: Dr. Tommy Comeaux & Dorinne; Col. Clark Comeaux & Catherine (living); Col. Kimberly Fedele (living)

Thursday, December 8-- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30 AM: Bernice & Mona Broussard; Rachel Wickman (living)

Friday, December 9-- Advent Weekday

7:30 AM: Herbert Fondren; Therese Jeansonne; Sue Langlinais

Non-Liturgical Devotions

Daily Rosary: Monday - Friday 6:55 a.m.

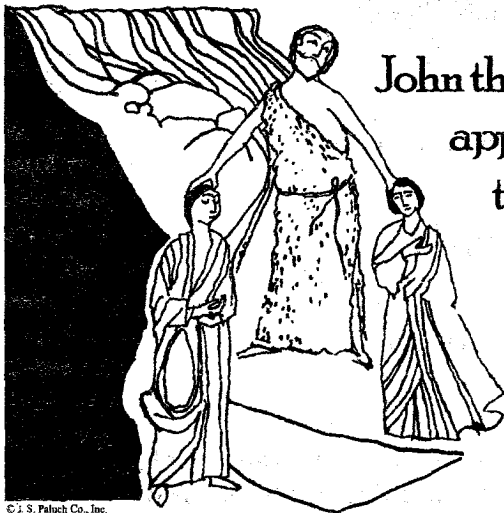
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena: Tuesday 7:15 a.m.

Rosary for Priests: Wednesday 7:00 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy: Thursday 7:15 a.m.

Pro-Life Rosary: First Friday of the month 7:00 a.m.

Shamrocks—Friday, December 9: Dee Boudreaux; Andre Arceneaux; Anne Meleton; Betty Fournet



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Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3

Christmas Project Heifer International Heifer: \$500—Share of a Heifer: \$50

There is perhaps no gift more meaningful than a heifer.

- For a malnourished child, it means there will be milk to drink every morning.
- For a desperate parent, it means there will be up to four gallons of milk a day so they will also be able to sell the extra to pay for food, clothes, school and medicine.
- And in an impoverished village, it means generations of renewed hope as each family fulfills their promise to Pass on the Gift of offspring.

In Slovakia, the Kozina family's struggle took a turn for the better the day they joined a Heifer International project that provided 56 families in Slovakia with livestock and training in their care. They, in turn will Pass on the Gift of offspring to 56 other families. There is now plenty of milk for the Kozina children to drink—with enough left over for the family to sell for income.

Make checks payable to St. Patrick Church. All donations will be sent to Heifer International at the beginning of the year. Heifer International meets the BBB Wise Giving Alliance's Standards for Charity Accountability. For additional information please visit their website: <http://www.heifer.org/>

Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 8th., is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and it is a holyday of obligation. Mass will be at 7:30 a.m. We honor Mary, the Immaculate Conception who is Patroness of the United States. The collection will be for the needy.

Opportunities for Confession

The Central Region of the Diocese of Lafayette will host three regional "Opportunities for Confession" during Advent. Several priests will be available to hear Confessions as follows:

Monday, December 5, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
232 St. De Porres St., Broussard

Wednesday, December 14, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
610 Raintree Trail., Lafayette

Thursday, December 15, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

St. Edmond Catholic Church
4131 West Congress Street, Lafayette

2011 Parish Advent Missions-Central Region

St. Edmond Catholic Church, 4131 West Congress Street, Lafayette. Advent Bible Study on the Sunday Readings followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Four **Tuesdays: November 29, December 6, 13 & 20; 6:00—8:00 p.m.**, in Church. Presenter: Deacon Frank Cormier, Deacon, St. Edmond Catholic Church, Lafayette. For more information, please call the Parish Office 337-981-0874

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 1454 Henderson Highway, Breaux Bridge. "The Church: Splendor of Christ", **December 5, 6, & 7; 7:00 p.m.** in Church. Presenter Deacon Cody Miller, Deacon, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milton. For more information, please call the Church Office 337-228-2352

St. Elizabeth Seaton Catholic Church, 610 Raintree Trail, Lafayette. "Anticipation & Preparation", **December 12 & 13** (Regional Penance Service—December 14), 7:00 p.m. in Church. Presenters: Rev. Hampton Davis, Pastor Our Lady Queen of Peace, Lafayette (Dec.12); Rev. Michael Champagne, Community of Jesus Crucified (Dec.13). For more information call 337-235-1483.

Schedule of Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24: 4 & 6 pm
Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25: 8:30 & 10 a.m.
Please note that we will have a 10:00 am. Mass on Christmas Day.

Christmas Social

You are invited to attend our yearly Christmas Social on **Sunday, December 11th., at 11 a.m.** at the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite holiday dish. The parish will provide the meat. This is a great opportunity to fellowship with one another and to meet parishioners who attend mass at another time.

Holy Hour For Vocations

The Serra Club of Lafayette is holding its monthly Holy Hour for Vocations and for the Spiritual Renewal of all priests on **Monday, December 5, from 6:00—7:00 p.m.** at St. Patrick Church. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Food for the Journey

The Central Region of the Diocese of Lafayette presents "Food for the Journey", a monthly lunch-time speaker series designed to help Catholics live out our faith in our daily lives. The speaker will be **Rev. Jerry Mesley**, St. Genevieve Catholic Church, Lafayette. "Food for the Journey" will be held on **Tuesday, December 6**, at Crown Plaza Hotel, 1801 W. Pinhook Rd., beginning just after 12:00 noon. An optional buffet lunch is available at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$12.00 and includes meal, drink and tip. All are welcome—come "eat and be fed". Pre-registration is not required. For more information, please call Mary Bergeron (654-8682)

Angola Trip Scheduled

The Office of Justice and Peace will once again assist individuals to stay in touch with family members in jail. The bus will leave at 7:00 a.m. from St. Paul's Catholic Church (corner of Simcoe and St. John Street, Lafayette), on **Sunday, December 18, 2011** All interested individuals who have a loved one at Angola and want to visit, should contact Edward J. Boustany, Director Office of Justice & Peace at 261-5545 to reserve a seat as space is limited.

STEWARDSHIP OF THE PAST WEEK

Our Response to God's Generosity to Us
Offertory.....\$4,740.05
Thanksgiving Day (U.C.O.) \$ 451.00
Heifer International.....\$ 570.00

Thank You!



Liturgical Roles for December 2011

Date	Saturday, December 10 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, December 11 8:30 a.m.	Sunday, December 11 10:00 a.m.
Lectors	Angie Kovacs	Susan Cain	Linda Garber
Eucharistic Ministers	Lois Delahoussaye George Eaton Joy Borel	Gerrie McGovern Kay Hampton Kathy Kalweit	Kenneth Broussard Madeline Simon Monica Mullins
Server	Janelle Venable	Mary Kramer	Phyllis Roy
Ushers	Joyce Stelly Harold Guilbeau	Linda & Fred Vallot	Lionel Jeanmard Joyce Stelly

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
 Lk 1:16-38
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;
 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



From the Pastor's Desk

For the next two weeks, our Advent Scriptures at Mass feature John the Baptist at the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Perhaps in John's day, as in our own, many had lost the 'sense of sin', becoming blind to the reality of their own wrongdoing. Perhaps they had fallen into a mindset of rationalization ('Everyone else does it'), or of justification ('Well, that's just the way I am!'). Amazingly, crowds flocked to the river to receive this baptism. Somehow they were moved to admit their sinfulness and seek reconciliation with the most high God. (See this week's bulletin for the schedule of Advent confessions, as well as our regular opportunities for reconciliation.)

Yet this powerful ministry of John the Baptist was wrapped in a certain kind of powerlessness. While he could invite, he could not coerce attendance, much like in Jesus' story of the King giving a wedding feast. John could offer the baptism, but the people who heard his call had to say "Yes" to that call themselves, or say "No", each making their own decision. While many flocked to the Jordan to receive his baptism, we can be certain that there were others who remained deaf to his call.

That powerlessness which marked his ministry of invitation (to repentance) was also a characteristic of his ministry of proclamation. In humility, John proclaimed that the Messiah was coming, one whose sandal he himself was not worthy to fasten. And while John certainly had the courage of his convictions, announcing this promise, he remained forever incapable of fulfilling the promise himself. No matter how long or how loud he proclaimed the promise, he could not make the Messiah come. All he could do was strive to level the mountains and raise up the valleys, making a straight road for the coming of our God.

In other words, he had to wait. He could get ready, he could help the people get ready, he could be filled with longing and desire, but still he had to wait. God would come in God's time. In the midst of all the invitation and proclamation, John could just strive to be ready to recognize the Messiah when he came. Until then, he waited.

Advent is about waiting. You and I are incapable of making God enter into our hearts and lives. Fortunately for us, we don't have to make him, or even convince our God, to come and give comfort to his people. Our job is instead to make straight the path, repent of the barriers and roadblocks that is the sin in our lives, and be filled with longing and desire. Come, Lord Jesus!

M. Keith