

**THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD**

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and calls us to respond, to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

**TODAY'S READING**

**First Reading** — All the ends of the earth will behold the salvation of our God (Isaiah 52:7-10).

**Psalms** — All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** — God has spoken to us through the Son, the very imprint of God's being (Hebrews 1:1-6).

**Gospel** — The Word became flesh; from his fullness we have all received grace (John 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14])

**EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 26 OFFICE CLOSED**

8:30AM Mass

**Tuesday, December 27**

8:30AM Novena & Mass

**Wednesday, December 28**

8:30AM Mass

**Thursday, December 29**

8:30AM Novena / Mass

**Friday, December 30**

8:30AM Mass **OFFICE CLOSED**

**Saturday, December 31** / Mary the Holy Mother of God

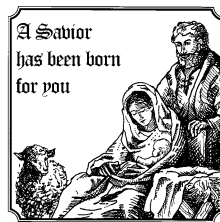
8:30AM Mass

4PM Mass

**Sunday, January 1** / Mary the Holy Mother of God

7AM Mass

10AM Mass

**MAUSOLEUM CRYPTS & NICHES**

Mausoleum crypts and cremation niches are available to purchase. Please call the parish office for more information.

**NEW YEARS EVE & NEWS DAY**

Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - 4PM Vigil

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - 7AM & 10AM



Due to the Holidays the weekly collection will not be printed.

**CHRISTMAS CHARITIES COLLECTION**

As is our custom, our annual Christmas Collection will be dedicated to the charitable works of the diocese, principally through the support of our Diocese Social Services Office and its programs; St. Lucy Day Care Center, Parish Social Ministry, the Assisi Bridge House, the Literacy Program, the Food Banks within our diocese, as well as other related programs. Our Lady of the Rosary parish's quota for 2011 is \$8,000. Please be generous.

**SANCTUARY DONATIONS**

**ALTAR BREAD:** In memory of Timmy & Tommy Theriot by Michael & Parents.

**ALTAR CANDLE:** In memory of Harold Ledet, Jr. by Christine Ledet.

**ALTAR WINE:** In memory of Royal "Roy" Pelegrin (B) by Grace Pellegrin.

**CHURCH SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of John Brady, Jr. & Sr., Ada, Abdon, Harold, Peter & Paul Callais by Clara Brady & Family.

**CHAPEL SANCTUARY CANDLE:** In memory of Angele & Irvin Templet, M/M Ho Von Ngan, M/M Ng Thanh Cong, Rev. Fransisco Phan V. Tham, Vo Thanh Liem, All Deceased Family Members by Lucy, Loris & Thomas.

**PRAYER LIST**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:** The Community of Our Lady of the



Pray for ...

Rosary believes in the power of prayer and would like to share in the prayers for your family members or friend who is sick. If you would like to put someone's name on the prayer list please call the office to give their

name. All we ask is that you know that the person we are praying for wants his or her name in the bulletin. This week we are praying for all the residents of the Broadway Nursing Home, all those in the hospital, all those that are home bound; and Fujie Gautreaux, Patsy McGee, Kernest Pierce, Sr., Earline Matherne, Angele Galjour, Wayne P. Thibodeaux, Rena L. Hebert, Gloria Theriot, Rita Richoux, Hazel Gremillion, Lawless (L.J.) Allemand, Pat Allemand, Jack Spurlock, Lillian Guidry Jarreau, McNair Orgeron, Deanna Faulk, Jory Pitre, Patricia Pitre, Baby Tessa George, Dylan Danos, Dan Walker, Joyce Dantin, Maryann Loupe, Eula Mae Boudreaux, Robert Adams, Freddie Guidry, Harris Theriot, Sr., Anse Guidry, Emily Sanchez, Jerome Shields, Troy Guidry, Dolores Lafont, Pat Marie, Cedic Pierce, Ginger Artigue, Jimmy Estay, CheraKee Trosclair, Leonard "Red" Cheramie, Laura Cheramie, Roy Duet, Carol Jeorg, Jill LeBlanc Hebert, Melvin Brunet, Tommy Olivier, Zeth Adams, Savannah Dufrene, Elena Savoy, Pat & Paul Adams; Ecton Rodrigue, Christy Cheramie, Mary Ann Chiasson, Joel Domangue, Russell Reeves, Junior Reed, Priscilla Reed, Doris Thibodaux; Raymond Punch.

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

**FLOWERS:** John Brady, Sr. & Jr., Irene Brady, Beverly Eymard by Clara Brady & Family (Blessed Sacrament Altar), Allen Lee by Wife & Children (Altar of Sacrifice), Tiges Martin, M/M Fortune Ledet & Warren, M/M Arthur Martin & Family (Sacred Heart Altar), Scotty Duet, Deceased Barrilleaux Family by Helen Dardar (Blessed Mother Altar).

**POINSETTIAS:** IN MEMORY OF: Shirley Ledet by Husband & Children; M/M Dumas Adams by Irvin & Rosemary Adams, Alex Triche by Sidney & Annette Triche; Harold Ledet, Jr. by Christine & Children; Tommy Theriot by Mike Theriot, Mom & Dad, Timmy Theriot by Mike Theriot, Mom & Dad; Louis "Loy" Guidry, M/M Jules Fanguy, Donald & Bessie by Hilda & Family; Roy LeBlanc, Deceased Trosclair Family by Mabel LeBlanc; T. A. "Babe" Lafont by Wife & Children; M/M Ernest Bouvier, Sr., Lodriguess Kiffe, Sr., & Victoria Touns Kiffe by Steven & Roberta Kiffe; Henry & Vinnie LaGrone, Paurice & Frances Collins by Philip & Bennie Collins; Deceased Members of Falgout & Angelette Families, Joseph A. Angelette by Wife & Children; Danny Eschete & Jr., Eschete by Daniel & Linda Eschete, Nickles, Rita, Verline & Audrey Naquin, Clyde Caillouet, Alex, Bertha, Lou Allen, Carol & Leroy Gros, Tommie, Aaron & Nicholas Vizier, Charles Reed, Bobby Pitre, Bob Day, Corey Gautreaux, Lee Anna Guidry, Ray Picou, Uyles Ougel, Hand Wiley, Donald Wiley, Ethel Gautreaux, Cloe Cherie, Albert, Louisiana, Walter Gros, Christine Gros, Robin Williams by Ronald & Beverly Gros; M/M Louis Sandras, Chet & Drew Pellegrin, Connie Guidry, Nedra Whitney, John & Kelly Rabb, Dan & Peggy Danos, Alcide Walker, Jr., Dusty Richardelle & Charlie Bernard by Shaeffer & Marilyn Curole & Family; Herbert "Bit" Richoux by Rowena & Children; On behalf of Liam Lasseigne; Ed & Mark Fremin by Audrey Fremin & Family; Frances, Monica & Rodney Callais, Luis, Frances Garcia & Virginia De Luna, John Estay by Olivia Callais; M/M Howard Naquin, M/M Camille Billiot by Jimmy & Caroline Billiot; In Thanksgiving; Marie Allemand by Nancy & Emile Hebert, Jr.; Leroy & Noella Kiffe, Norma Istre by Janet & Timmy Istre; Irvin "Crip" Trosclair, Bert, Flossie, Camile & Lester & Tony Plaisance by Bea Trosclair & Family; Elvire & Walter Rodrigue by Doris Guidry; Willie St. Pierre, Ledet & St. Pierre Families by Emelda St. Pierre.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late!

## PARISHIONERS OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This letter is from Bishop Sam Jacobs,

Dear Parishioners:

As you are aware of Fr. Albert's three year visa will expire at the end of this month. As a result, he will be returning to his native country to continue his pastoral ministry. I am grateful for his time with us and all that he has been able to accomplish in your parish.

Since I am not able to make a pastoral assignment at this point, I have asked Fr. Robert Rogers, Pastor of Holy Savior, Lockport to serve as administrator of your parish effective December 27<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup>. At that time I will appoint a pastor for your parish when I make all the yearly pastoral assignments.

Fr. Rholando will remain as your Associate Pastor, taking care of the sacramental life of the parish.

I ask you to work with Fr. Robert so that the life of the parish may continue to grow. Pray for vocations. We are stretched. I am grateful that we have fourteen men in priestly formation and that we will ordain three to the priesthood and one to the diaconate in May and June. We are hoping that two men will begin their formation in January and maybe one or two in the fall.

If it wasn't for the international priests we would be in a difficult position to provide priests for all our parishes. We need more native vocations so that we will not be so dependent on others to provide for our needs. These native vocations need to come from your families, if you wish to ensure the future of our diocese.

With personal good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Sam G. Jacobs

## HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HRCS recently participated in the **St Jude Math A Thon** to support families in need of financial assistance for medical treatment of their critically ill children at St. Jude's Children's Hospital. HRCS students raised over \$7,000 in just a couple of weeks for this cause.

HRCS Beta Club & HRCS students recently supported the **Make A Wish Foundation "Believe" Program**. The program grants wishes that average \$4,000 to \$6,000 per wish to critically ill children. For each letter to Santa delivered to Macy's on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> Macy's donated \$2.00 to the non-profit organization. The entire school participated in the project in gratitude for one of its own students who was a recipient of the program last year and survived a very serious illness.

One HRCS family recently solicited, collected, and donated \$12,186.00 to the **Make A Wish Foundation "Believe" Program**. The donations were presented to the organization in gratitude as their family was the recipient of the "Wish" program last year. The Gisclair family including RJ, Sarah, 4th grader Drake & Kindergarten Madison, was extremely blessed and grateful for their child's recovery.

The **HRCS Choir** visited the Larose Civic Center Seniors and sang Christmas carols on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

HRCS extends sincere **CHRISTMAS WISHES** to our families and friends for a Blessed Christmas Holiday and Happy New Year!

**NEW YEARS WISHES** - HRCS extends sincere wishes to our families and friends for a Blessed New Year!