

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011**

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

—Luke 1:35

THE ETERNAL GOD

King David wished that the ark of God might have a more permanent home. David may have envisioned something like the cedar palace where he resided. God had in mind something more: a throne where David's descendants would rule for ever, a kingdom where Jews and Gentiles alike would be welcome.

Mary's prayerful nature led to an even more disturbing message. She would conceive and bear a Son though she was not yet married. "How can this come about?" Mary wondered. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," she was told (Lk 1:35).

Mary's acceptance of this difficult challenge ushered in this, the final age of God's reign. What was once a secret known only by chosen people like King David and his descendants must now be made clear to all so that, as Saint Paul wrote to the Romans, we can be brought to the "obedience of faith" "according to the command of the eternal God" (Romans 16:26).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
- Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
- Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius
- Friday: St. John of Kanty
- Saturday: The Vigil of Christmas

SANCTUARY LIGHT: DECEMBER 17 - DECEMBER 23

The Sanctuary Light at St. John will burn in memory of Richard and Joey Vince. The Sanctuary Light at Our Lady will burn in memory of John Guillory.

In Sympathy Our Communities of Faith extend our sympathy and prayerful support for the family of **Helen LaCour**, mother of John and James LaCour. May the Lord grant comfort and peace to her family and may she and all who sleep in Christ, find in God's presence, light, happiness, and peace.

Our Church Pictorial Directories are here!

If you took a picture earlier this year for our Photo Directory, you may pick up your copy now. The Directories are available for St. John's parishioners in the Parish Office and for Our Lady in Assumption Hall following Masses. If you did not take a photo this year, a limited supply of directories are available for \$10.00 each.



- James A. Benning, USMC
- Drew Michael Boatner, USMC
- Matthew Boyd, Army
- Andrea Byrd, USCG
- Eugene Cazedessus, USMC
- LeLand Crochet, III, USMC
- Matthew Charlet Dart, USN
- Stephen DiLorenzo, Army
- Adam Foster, USN
- Brad Gautreaux, USMC
- J. Michael Head, USMC
- Brien Hollkamp, USN
- James Hollkamp, USN
- Joseph N. Jones, Jr., Army
- Sabrina Jones, USNG
- Millie King, USCG
- Markus Kippers, USN
- Zachary Konechne, Army
- Joseph L. LeBlanc Jr., Army
- Brian Plauche, USAF
- Patrick Roberts, USMC

- Brandon Robichaux, USN
- Griffin Robichaux, USN
- Jesse B. Richard, Army
- James Rouchon, USMC
- Christopher Vaccaro, Army
- Gordon M. White, USAF
- Tyler Wigger, USN



WEEKLY COLLECTION 12/11/2011

Stewardship Offering -St. John

Identified Contributions (219 Families)	\$	9,641.00
Unidentified Contributions	\$	418.35
Total	\$	10,059.35
Building Fund-Maintenance (11)	\$	420.00
Retirement Fund (14)	\$	230.00
Immaculate Conception 12/8/11 (49)	\$	1,134.30
Christmas Flowers (50)	\$	1,076.00
Legacy of Faith Cap. Camp. (32)	\$	1,625.00
Capital Campaign Total	\$	1,808,001.82

Stewardship Offering -Our Lady

Identified Contributions (49 Families)	\$	2,556.50
Unidentified Contributions	\$	255.35
Total	\$	2,811.85
Building Fund-Maintenance (2)	\$	100.00
Immaculate Conception 12/8/11 (17)	\$	642.21
Christmas Flowers (14)	\$	235.00
Retirement Fund (3)	\$	125.00

FUND RAISER FOR MARCH FOR LIFE PILGRIMAGE

Due to a significant increase in young people attending next January's March for Life pilgrimage to Washington, DC, our youth are still working to raise funds to pay for this awesome spiritual journey, which costs \$450 per person. In the coming weeks, you will see our young people—who must plan and carry out all fund raising efforts—at the back of church, "selling their wares." This weekend, they will have \$25 gift certificates for Mike Anderson's Restaurant in Gonzales, for a requested minimum donation of \$15, and in the coming weeks, who knows what else they will do? Thank you for your support.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY

St. John the Baptist

† Next day of class for K-4 is Tuesday, January 10th, for 5th-8th is Wednesday, January 11th, and for 9th - 11th is Wednesday, January 4th.

† Elementary Class Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m.

† **WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A TEACHER FOR 3RD GRADE.**

Our Lady of the Assumption

† The next class is January 8th.

† Christmas Play and Social on Sunday, December 18th at 5PM.

Holy/Holiday Day Schedule

Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	4:00 pm	OLA
	Christmas Eve	6:00 pm	SJB
	Christmas	Midnight	SJB
Dec. 25	Christmas	9:00 am	SJB
Dec. 31	Mary, Mother of God-Vigil	4:00 pm	OLA
	Mary, Mother of God-Vigil	6:00 pm	SJB
Jan 1	Mary, Mother of God	8:00 am	SJB
	Mary, Mother of God	10:00 am	SJB

Confessions

Saturday, December 24th at SJB 10:00 am till Noon

Christmas Programs

At Our Lady's this evening at 5:00 p.m.

Please join the children as they present "Star of Wonder - A Kids Christmas Musical of Hope" followed by a holiday pot-luck dinner and reception in Assumption Hall. Families are asked to bring a salad, side dish, casserole, vegetable or dessert. Come enjoy the fellowship and support our young people.

At St. John's on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Please join the children as they present their annual Christmas play and program.

Papal Blessings are In—If you ordered a Papal Blessing for a Family Member or loved one, please stop by the Parish Office to pick yours up in time for Christmas.

Not Married in the Church Because of a Former Marriage?

Annulments *are not* punishment; they do not affect children; they do not assign blame to one party or another. Much to the contrary, annulments simply determine if a prior bond was not sacramentally called by God to be an everlasting covenant. The process is much easier than you may think, is *not* expensive and ultimately serves to purge all the old baggage that may be holding you back from being in full Communion with the Church. Come by the parish office to begin the process!

Visit the Holy Land With Father Paul Counce

There are only a few seats left for our upcoming 10 Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land February 28 - March 8, 2012, led by Father Paul Counce, sponsored by The Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Baton Rouge This Pilgrimage will visit historic places and sacred sites in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Tiberias, Capernaum, Haifa, and Caesarea. This trip includes first class hotels, round trip airfare from New Orleans and much more. For further information and a brochure, please call Lennette Lasseigne in the Stewardship Office of the Diocese of Baton Rouge at 225-336-8787.

†~† THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE †~†

Sunday, December 18th

Fourth Sunday in Advent

-7 a.m. Mass / Coffee & Pastries
-10 a.m. Chaplet of Divine Mercy & Rosary
-11 a.m. Mass

-OLA
-8:30 a.m. Rosary / Choir
-9 a.m. Mass

-5 p.m. Christmas Play and Social

Monday, December 19th

-9 a.m. Bible Study SJB
-6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer Grp., SJB Church
-6:30 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday, December 20th

-8:30 a.m. Legion of Mary
-5 p.m. Children's Choir
-5:45 p.m. Youth Choir
-6:30 p.m. Adult Choir

-OLA
-6:30 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, December 21st

-7 a.m. Mass
-6 p.m. Christmas Program

-OLA
-10 a.m. Bible Study

Thursday, December 22nd

-7:30 a.m. Mass SJB
-6:30 p.m. Handmaids of the Lord
-7 p.m. R.C.I.A.

Friday, December 23rd

-7:30 a.m. Mass / Chaplet of Divine Mercy/ Coffee and Biscuits

Saturday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

-10 a.m. - Noon Confessions at SJB
-6 p.m. Vigil Mass
-Midnight Mass

-OLA
-4 p.m. Vigil Mass

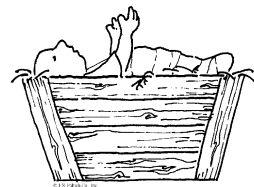
Sunday, December 25th

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Day

-9 a.m. Mass
-6:30 p.m. Our Lady's Armada Grp.

-OLA
No Mass



The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd.

"Paved with Souls" by Father Bayhi

When I arrived at the Motherhouse Sidiro, the young man from Spain who worked with computers, was waiting for me. I went into the sacristy, heard confessions and then prepared for Mass. What a beautiful experience! The entire group of 260 novices, Mother Teresa, her forty professed sisters, and about 100 volunteers all gathered together. As you walked in and saw this sea of young eager faces who were volunteers for Christ, most of them white-clothed, it was an overwhelming experience. They were preparing to take off to find Christ in the poorest of the poor they encountered that day.