

St Hilary



Mass

Weekend

Saturday Vigil | 4pm

Sunday | 7, 9, & 11am

Weekday

Monday | 7am

Tuesday | 5:15pm

Wednesday | 7am

Thursday | 5:15pm

Friday | 7am

{First Saturday | 7am}

Adoration

Our Adoration chapel is available for prayer 24/7. There is a keypad with a code to get in after hours. Please call the office for the code.

Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available 30 minutes prior to the start of every Mass and by appointment.

Clergy

Rev. Fr. Rusty Bruce

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Davis Ahimbisibwe

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Mr. Tim Vedros

Deacon

St. Hilary of Poitiers

333 Twin Oaks Drive
Raceland, LA 70394

Facebook | @sthilaryofpoitiers

Website | sthilaryraceland.org

Parish Office | 985-537-6002

Emergency Line | 985-300-5022

Email | sthilarychurch@hdiocese.org

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Week at a Glance

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Immaculate Conception

6:15am | Mass

12:15pm | Mass

6:15pm | Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Office Closed from 10:30am-2pm

5:15pm | Mass + Perpetual Help Novena

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:20am | Divine Mercy + Vocations
Prayers

7:00am | Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:15pm | Mass

6:00pm | Estate Planning Seminar

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00am | Mass

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

Third Sunday of Advent

2:00pm | Advent Confession

4:00pm | Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Third Sunday of Advent

7:00am | Mass

9:00am | Mass

11:00am | Mass

2:00pm | Advent Confession

3:00pm | Christmas Choir Practice

6:00pm | First Reconciliation

Advisory Councils

The Advisory Councils of St. Hilary of Poitiers serve to support the pastor in the administrative leadership of the parish. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the members.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council consists of elected representatives who bring parishioner ideas and concerns to the pastor, assist in brainstorming solutions, and help plan major parish events. The current members are:

- President - Kristen Hernandez
- Secretary - Kelly Dufrene
- Monique Aucoin
- Brady Theriot
- Tommy Blanchard
- Misty Eschette
- Andrew LeBlanc
- Leon Richard
- Cynthia Thibodeaux
- Ann Babin
- John Dufrene
- Moraine Griffin

FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council, appointed by the pastor, meet quarterly to assess financial matters, provide advice on budgeting, and ensure the parish's financial well-being. The current members are:

- Chairman - Norris Cantrelle
- Lester Haydel
- Daniel Duplantis
- Bud Breau
- Dr. Sarah Knight
- Eric Landry
- Neal Bollinger

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Thursday | 8 am - 12 pm & 1 pm - 4 pm

Friday | 8 am - 12 pm

Parish Office Staff

Diane Melancon | Office Manager & Youth Formation Team

Sarah Matherne | Coordinator of Parish Life & Youth Formation Team

Harold Matherne & Rhett Griffin | Maintenance Manager

Cindy Martin | St. Hilary Housekeeper

Liturgical Assistants

Nicholas Matherne | Coordinator of Music

Misty Eschette & Kelly Dufrene | Sacristans



Youth Formation Schedule | 2025 + Spring 2026

K-10 th Grade Class 6:00 MPB	Youth Mass 6:00pm Church	Confirmation 5:00 MPB
 December 7th		December 14th
January 4th	January 11th	Jan. 11 th Retreat (12pm)
January 18th		January 25th Class
February 1st	February 8th	Feb. 8 th Class then Mass
February 22nd		Feb. 22 nd Confession Night
March 8th		March 1st Class
March 22nd	March 15th	March 15th Class then Mass
March 29th		
April 12 th (no 2 nd grade)	April 19th	April 19 th Class then Mass

Youth Group Events

Youth Group - December Gathering Update

Our final Youth Group night of the semester will take place on Tuesday, December 16th. We will begin with Mercy Night at 6:00 PM in the church, including Adoration and Confession. Following Mercy Night, students will gather in the Multipurpose Building from 7:00–8:00 PM for a relaxed small-group discussion with snacks, reflecting on the evening and looking ahead to the new year. All middle and high school students are welcome.



Kiddie Corner

Use the list on the right to find all of the words from our Sunday readings!

F J O R D A N R P Y A
O S S B D E S E R T F
R A R D N L G P O B O
G L I W D E C E C D P
I V Y I E M D N L P A
V A B N R Q W T A R T
E T F D Z E T K I E H
N I A I M A I A M P N
E O M N F E O G G A F
S N G G P I X F N R U
S Z S C V B Y Q G E V

REIGN
DESERT
JORDAN
PROCLAIM
REPENT
FORGIVENESS
PREPARE
PATH
WINDING
SALVATION

ALL THINGS YOUTH

Major Life Moments

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

We have not celebrated any baptisms in the past week, but we continue to pray for all children, especially the unborn. If you are interested in the Sacrament of Baptism for your child, please visit our website at sthilaryraceland.org/baptism

MARRIED IN CHRIST

Congratulations to Nathan and Megan Hodson! The Hodsons were married on Saturday, December 6th here at St. Hilary. We pray that they have a long life together filled with many blessings! If you would like to be married or have your marriage convalidated (blessed) at St. Hilary, please visit our website at sthilaryraceland.org/marriage

DIED IN CHRIST

We pray for the repose of the souls of our departed brothers and sisters who have died in Christ, especially Sylvia Verret and Terry LeBlanc. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Happening Soon

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation where we celebrate Mary being conceived without original sin. There are three opportunities to attend Mass on Monday, December 8th - 6:15am, 12:15pm, and 6:15pm. Please make every effort to attend with your family!

KC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The entire parish is invited to the Knights of Columbus Christmas party on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the Multipurpose Building. Everyone will enjoy a meal together, plus there will be a photo booth and activities for the kids. And there might even be a special appearance by the jolly guy in the big red suit! We hope everyone can make it to celebrate Christmas as a parish family.

BAPTISM SEMINAR

Our baptism seminar is held on the first Sunday and the third Saturday of every month. Seminars begin at 2pm in the Multipurpose Building and are for parents and godparents. Registration is required, so please contact the parish office to register.

Happening Soon

ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

All parishioners are invited to a special Estate Planning Seminar hosted in partnership with the Catholic Foundation of South Louisiana. The seminar will take place Thursday, December 11th at 6:00PM in the Multipurpose Building following daily Mass. You'll hear from attorney Eugene "Gene" Gouaux III and parishioner and financial advisor David Ponson, who will share insightful, practical advice and answer your questions. The event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Sarah at the parish office.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

The Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - December 12 - with Mass at St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Houma at 7:00pm. There will be a procession around the block of the Cathedral starting at 6:15pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATION

On Saturday, December 13, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux will celebrate the ordination of Rev. Mr. Scott Beslin as a transitional deacon. The celebration will take place at 10:30am Mass at Saint Joseph Co-Cathedral with a reception to follow. Please join us in congratulating Scott "Doc" as he takes the next step toward being ordained a priest this summer.

CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

There are several opportunities for you to attend the Sacrament of Confession this Advent. In addition to the normal times - 30 minutes prior to every Mass - Fr. Bruce or Fr. Davis will be available in the confessional **every** Saturday and Sunday from 2pm-4pm. The Light is On for You is also in Advent and will take place on Wednesday, December 17th from 6pm-8pm at St. Hilary and St. Anthony. Please take advantage of these opportunities to participate in this wonderful Sacrament of Healing.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

If you are a man who is at least 18 years old and you would like to meet a group of men who enjoy eating together and talking about life and faith, then please join our Men's Fellowship Group at our meeting on Wednesday, March 15th at 6:00pm at the Multipurpose Building. Ladies, feel free to send your husbands, brothers, sons, and fathers.



Calendar of Events

DECEMBER



LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. 7th | Second Collection – Bayou Catholic
Baptism Seminar | MPB | 2:00pm



Confession (Advent) | Church | 2:00pm–4:00pm
Christmas Choir Practice | Church | 3:00pm–5:00pm
Youth Formation | MPB | 6:00pm–7:30pm

Mon. 8th | Immaculate Conception Masses | Church | 6:15am, 12:15pm, 6:15pm

Tues. 9th | Parish Office Closed | 10:30am–2:00pm

Wed. 10th | KC Christmas Party – Open to Everyone | MPB | 6:30pm

Thurs. 11th | Estate Planning Seminar w/ Gene Gouaux III | MPB | 6:00pm

Fri. 12th | Our Lady of Guadalupe Procession | St. Francis de Sales | 6:15pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass | St. Francis de Sales Cathedral in Houma | 7:00pm

Sat. 13th | Second Collection – Priests' Retirement

First Reconciliation Practice | Church | 10:00am–12:00pm
Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass for Scott "Doc" Beslin (Reception to follow) | St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Thibodaux | 10:30am
Confession (Advent) | Church | 2:00pm–4:00pm
Mass | Church | 4:00pm



Sun. 14th | Second Collection – Priests' Retirement

Confession (Advent) | Church | 2:00pm–4:00pm
Christmas Choir Practice | Church | 3:00pm–5:00pm
First Reconciliation | Church | 6:00pm

Tues. 16th | Youth Group Mercy Night | Church | 6:00pm–7:00pm
Youth Group Small Groups + Snacks | MPB | 7:00pm–8:00pm

Wed. 17th | The Light is On for You | Church | 6:00pm

Men's Fellowship Group | MPB | 6:00pm



Sat. 20th | Baptism Seminar | MPB | 2:00pm

Confession (Advent) | Church | 2:00pm–4:00pm

Sun. 21st | Confession (Advent) | Church | 2:00pm–4:00pm

Christmas Choir Practice | Church | 3:00pm–5:00pm



Mon. 22nd | Christmas Choir Practice | Church | 6:00pm–8:00pm

Tues. 23rd – Fri. 27th | Office Closed – Christmas | Office | 12:00pm

Wed. 24th | Creche Blessing + Carols | Church | 3:15pm

Christmas Eve Masses | Church | 4:00pm, 6:00pm



Thurs. 25th | Christmas Midnight Mass | Church | 12:00am
Christmas Morning Mass | Church | 9:00am

Sun. 28th | Jubilee Closing Mass | Cathedral of St. Francis | 5:30pm



Please note that dates and times are subject to change. Check back weekly for updates.

Mass Intentions

Sanctuary Lamp | Yves Verret Sr (DA), Sylvia Boudreaux (B)

Saturday, December 6 | Patrick Danos Jr., Jessie Danos, Clifton & Mary Danos, Ella Mae Bailleaux, Elsie & Clayton Comeaux, Iola & Abel Folse, Sheila Gautreaux, Barbara Prejean Boudreaux (B), Bennie A. & Barbara Prejean Boudreaux (WA), Belinda Billiot (B), Chester Boudreaux, Leon Sr., Ruby & Kenneth (DA) Foret, Desiree Boudreaux, Howard Jones, Weldon Lovell, Hugh Foret, John Foret, Wallace Landry, Warren Robichaux, David Robichaux, Louise, Nilton, Weldon Eschette & Fam., M|M Lucien Toups & Fam., M|M Sullivan Eschette & Fam., Oakland & Rita Bourgeois & Fam., Carroll Guidry & Fam., Bourgeois & Foret Fam., Madge & Hudson Foret, Noel LeBlanc (B), Bolton & Cerita LeBlanc, Zachary Foret, Kathy Blanchard, Nikki Garner, M|M Edwey Adams, M|M Richard Borne, Daniel Garner, Marie Bananto, Shedrie Bananto, M|M Frank Bananto & Sons, Leona & Nessey Adams, Bonnie & Victorin Hotard, Andrew Frederick Jr. (WA), Yves Verret Sr. (DA), Yves Verret Jr., Lula P. Verret, M|M George Parr, M|M Edward Verret Sr., Eugene Verret, Theresa Verret, Sr. Gabriella Richard, Madeline Najolia, Winston Gaston, Eddie Orgeron, Ray Hodson III, Juanita Detillier, Ethel Arabie (B), Richard & Ada Cologne Fam., Donald & Janice Leininger Fam., Mathew W. Leininger Fam., Jimmy Aucoin Fam., Mike & Irene Aucoin Fam., Troy & Debbie Smith Fam., Patricia Leininger Fam., Holy Souls in Purgatory, Joseph Champagne, Linda & Wesley Landeche, Donald Theriot, Weldon Lovell, Hazel G. Babin, Martial Babin Sr., Mary & Joseph Cantrelle, Eloise F. Babin, Candace Landry

Sunday, December 7 | Jaime Loren Robichaux (WA), Jaime Loren Robichaux Jr., Christopher Zeringue, Earl Walker Jr. (B), Donald, Marlene (DA) & Kevin Bourgeois, Norman, Theresa, Erroll, Betty Falgout, Scuddy Bourgeois (DA), Ella Bourgeois (B), Barbara Dupre Orgeron, Rosalie Toups, Brandy Toups, Chelsie Pertuit Eschette, Lois Toups Crosby, Etite, Julia & Gerald Guidry, Sherry Zeringue, James E. Trant, James "Joe" & Carol Franklin, James W. & Pasty G. Zeringue, Freddie Chiasson, Easman & Marie Chaisson & Fam., Felician & Clara Dempster & Fam., Cheryl Plaisance, Velma & Moise Ford Jr., Irvin & Michael Boudreaux, Luke Sposito Sr., JT & Rena Allemand, Elmo & Kathleen Broussard, Linda Boudoin Lee, M|M Enoch Lee, George Foret, Jr., M|M George Foret Sr., M|M Warren Boudoin Alexandre Romero, Owen Matherne, Spring Guidry, & Julie Gautreaux & Fam., Carol Gautreaux, Mike & Loretta Jambon, Charley & Marie Pierce, Bruce A. Zeringue, Geraldine Adams, Katherine "Kitty" Dupre, Lonis Compeaux, Geraldine Adams, Emelda Foret, Emile P. Guidry, James "TJ" Cantrelle III, Celia Faulkner, Vin Espouge, Mary Ann Espouge, Jason Espouge, Alden, Todd, Eugene & Modress Degruise, Clinton, Maude, Louis & Emily Breaux, Phillip & Darrell Knight, Jada Marie Le, Pro Populo (For the People)

Monday, December 8 | Milton & Norma Champagne & Fam.

Tuesday, December 9 | Iola & Abel Folse (DA), Linda Boudoin Lee, M|M Enoch Lee, George Foret, Jr. (DA), M|M George Foret Sr., M|M Warren Boudoin, Wilma Gaudet (DA), Jada Marie Le

Wednesday, December 10 | Kern J. Rodriguez

Thursday, December 11 | Priscilla & Leon Dufrene, Damian Theriot, Sylvia Boudreaux (B), Weldon Lovell, Douglas Lovell

Friday, December 12 | Ruby Bourg Sr. (B), Erin Parfait (B), Roland & Sarah Savoie (WA), Audrey Scheuermann, Jada Marie Le

Prayers for Healing

Heavenly Father, we pray for peace and healing for: Bailey Adams, Robin Adams, Sawyer Jean Adams, Ann B. Allemand, Joann Allemand, Donna Anderson, Lynelle Arabie, Keelan Arbuckle, Allen Arceneaux, Debbie Arceneaux, Rodney Arceneaux, Susan Arceneaux, Braden Ashbey, Monique Aucoin, Mary Ayo, James Badeaux, Mike Bailleaux, Ellie Barker, Roy Blouin, Lindsey Boudreaux, Betty Breaux, Caleb Breaux, Debbie Breaux, Jolie Breaux, Lester Breaux, Monique Breaux, Chris Brunet, Caleb Byrd, Ronald Callais, James "Jimmy" Cantrelle I, Franky Carlisle, Claire Savoie Champagne, Shelby & Ralph Champagne, Demi Charrier, Jason Chiasson, Kellee Chiasson, Lucy Chiasson, Michael Comardelle, Nancy Couture, Richard Crosby, Gilbert Danos, Jackie Danos, Jamie Danos, Keith Davis, Dave DeFalice, Jr., Andrew Dufrene, Harold Dufrene, Joetta Dufrene, Leann Dufrene, Stacy Melancon Dufrene, Todd Dufrene, Andre Engleton, Allie Ewing, Annie Falgout, Roger Felarif, Leonard Folse, Milton Folse, Dianna Foret, Kenneth P. Foret, Maria Foret, Alan France, Carolyn France, Herman Freitag, Dale Gaudet, Loyce Gaudet, Norman Gaudet, Sandy Gaudet, Kris Grabert, Kathi Griffin, Dot Griffin, Cheryl Guidry, Seth Guidry, Sue Gouaux Hagman, Mona Hebert, Ben Holbert, Brenda Hunter, James Peter Johnston, Jackson Knight, Chanelle Matherne Knotts, Scarlet Lafont, Denise Lagarde, Linda Landry, Jimmy Leblanc, Julie Leblanc, Terry LeBlanc, Cullen Lebouef, Kyla Lebouef and her unborn baby, Roland Lecompte, Percy Lee, C.J. Leonard, Angie Lewis, Kathy Lyles, Randy Martinez, Annick Matherne, Benny & Gert Matherne, Florence Matherne, Eve McKee, Ben Minchew, Bonnie Morris, Glenn Mousseau, Lily Grace Mouton, Kevin P. Naquin, Frank Oncale, Ruby Ordoyne, Marguerite Orgeron, Rose Orgeron, Janet Pellegrin, Lonnie Pellegrin, Ted Pellegrin, Sonia Pennison, Danielle Pierce, Virginia Pitre, Wade Plaisance, Dora Mae Rebstock, Clyde Paul Richardel, Tammy Robichaux, Mark Rodriguez, Robert Roger, Colette Ryals, MaryAnn Saucier, Verina Schouest, Jessica Schultz, Troy Temple, Marvin Theriot, Dawn Toups, Deb Ullrich, Jasmine Uzee, Brenda Vedros, Deacon Tim Vedros, Bridget Verret, Sylvia Verret, and anyone who has no one to pray for them. Amen.

If you or a loved one is in need of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or there is an emergency, please call our **Emergency Line at 985-300-5022**.

Generosity

November 16th Collection | \$9,143.00

Catholic Campaign for Human Development | \$1,622.00

November 23rd Collection | \$7,829.00

Hurricane Melissa | \$1,870.00

November 30th Collection | \$9,890.00

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish. Each week's collection total reflects the combined contributions made through envelopes, cash, and online giving. Your faithful stewardship allows us to carry out our mission and serve our parish family and community more fully. We are truly grateful.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Dec. 8th Holy Day of Obligation | Masses at 6:15am, 12:15pm, & 6:15pm

Why do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception?

In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception:

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the very first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stains of original sin. (Ineffabilis Deus, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX on the Immaculate Conception)

Thus, the Church teaches that the Blessed Mother was redeemed by her Son, just as we are, but by a divine anticipation of the merits of the Word-made-flesh. Like Eve before her, she was not subject to the Fall and thus to the prince of this world. However, unlike Eve, she would never surrender that freedom that God's grace provided her.

How do we know Mary was immaculately conceived?

The Church teaches us that Mary was immaculately conceived. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

CCC 490-491 *To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.*

Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

Is the Immaculate Conception in the Bible?

Although the Immaculate Conception is not found in Sacred Scripture in any literal sense, the Church has arrived at the teaching by drawing out the implications of many texts that speak of her and her role in salvation.

In Genesis 3:15, immediately after the sin of Adam, God revealed His plan of salvation to be accomplished through the fidelity of a man and a woman, just as our fall occurred through the infidelity of a man and a woman.

"I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

The offspring of Satan is sin; therefore, the Woman and her Seed will be without it, completely opposed to Satan and his offspring. Thus, we see in the very first announcement of God's plan for salvation that He intends to keep Mary free from sin so that Jesus would assume a pure human nature.

The New Testament also shows the truth of this role. In the Gospel of John, the Apostle reports two significant occasions when the Lord calls His mother "Woman," connecting her to the Woman of Genesis 3:15. First at the beginning of His ministry (see John 2:4) and then again at its consummation on the Cross (see John 19:26) - the moment of Satan's apparent triumph. He likewise speaks in Revelation 12 of the "Woman clothed with the sun" who gives rise to the Child destined to rule the world.

We get further confirmation from Luke 1:28, which records the angel addressing Mary as "full of grace" ("perfected in grace"). And again, in 1:41-44, when Elizabeth greets her cousin Mary,

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy."

The Church very early, therefore, recognizing the parallels between the Fall and the Redemption, began to refer to Mary as the New Eve, and over the centuries to draw out all the implications of this role of grace - the reality of which began with her preservation from the sin of Adam, through the Immaculate Conception.

WEEK 2



Receive
LIKE MARY

Through the Eyes of Mary

Diocesan Challenge | Time in the Word

"In the sacred Liturgy, Heaven and earth meet. Angels and saints surround us and worship with us. Jesus Christ becomes truly present. Because of this mystery, we strive to offer God nothing less than our very best. During this season of Liturgical Renewal, we will work to cultivate **reverence** that reflects the holiness of the mystery before us, **beauty** that lifts our hearts to God, **noble simplicity** that reveals rather than distracts from the sacred, and **prayerful participation** that draws the faithful deeper into Christ's sacrifice."

-Bishop Simon Peter in his Pastoral letter entitled *"Reclaiming and Renewing Our Catholic Identity"*

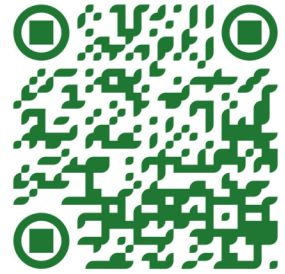
In the letter, he challenges families to do the following as preparation for Mass each Sunday:

- Carve out 15 minutes each week to read and listen to the upcoming Sunday readings together.
- Make use of resources such as Laudate, Hallow, Ascension, FORMED, Magnificat, and iBreviary to become more familiar with the Sunday readings and their meaning. Many of these platforms (particularly Hallow, FORMED, and Magnificat) have resources available specifically for children.
- Grow in the practice of navigating the Bible by regularly seeking out the Sunday passages.

**Bishop Simon
Peter's Letter:**



**USCCB Sunday
Readings:**



Parish Challenge | Family Rosary

This Advent, our parish family is invited to **"Pray Like Mary."** We challenge each household to commit to praying one decade of the Rosary each night, five nights a week. Each week, we'll focus on a different set of mysteries so that by Christmas, every family (or individual) will have prayed through all the mysteries of the Rosary.

How It Works

- Pick up a rosary coloring sheet from the Advent table in the vestibule.
- Each time you complete a decade, color in the corresponding beads on your sheet.
- When your Rosary is fully colored (and prayed!), bring it back to church and place it in the red present box in the vestibule.
- On Christmas Eve, we will offer this present to Jesus — a gift of our parish's prayers.

Of course, you are welcome to pray as many Rosaries as you wish! (And bring back the coloring sheets to show the prayers we've offered.) The challenge is simply to pray at least one decade a day, five days a week.

Weekly Focus

- Week 1: Joyful Mysteries (Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, Finding in the Temple)
- Week 2: Luminous Mysteries (Baptism of Jesus, Wedding at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, Institution of the Eucharist)
- Week 3: Sorrowful Mysteries (Agony in the Garden, Scourging at the Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Carrying the Cross, Crucifixion)
- Week 4: Glorious Mysteries (Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assumption, Coronation)

Need Help Getting Started?

Pamphlets on the Advent table will guide you in how to pray the Rosary as a family. If you already pray the Rosary frequently, take a copy of our Scriptural Rosary booklet (created by some of our own parishioners as a gift to the parish) to deepen your meditation — connecting the Old and New Testaments through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Let's unite in prayer this Advent and, **through the eyes of Mary**, prepare our hearts for the coming of her Son.

1. First Reading (*Isaiah 11:1-10*)

- a. There are many types of poverty
- b. The prophet Isaiah has been called by God to go out and preach to sinful Judah about their particular poverty and to give hope that one day, God will deliver them from their poverty

2. What is Judah's Poverty?

- a. Their poverty is not knowing, loving, and serving God and in not knowing, loving, and serving God, they have fallen into sin
- b. They are **spiritually poor**
- c. Sin separates us from God; it is the worst form of poverty
 - i. Because without God we have nothing
 - ii. We lose our true sense of purpose and meaning in life when we are cut off from the Divine Life of God due to our actions and refusal to let God in
 - iii. When we are full of sin, we cannot be full of God/Grace
 - iv. When we are full of sin, we cannot be open to receiving what God wants to truly give us

3. Our Gospel (*Matthew 3:1-2*) deals with similar poverties (sin)

- a. John the Baptist is called (like Isaiah) to first preach the word of God
- b. Once the word of God is preached to us, it either
 - i. Finds a home in our hearts or
 - ii. Falls on deaf ears
 - iii. If it finds a home, then it calls us to take action/change

c. Repent

- i. The desert, where John the Baptist is preaching the Word of God, is a place where everything is stripped away (there are fewer distractions)
- ii. This allows us to focus on what is most important/ahead of us
- iii. This allows us the space and time to discern how God's word is calling us to change
- iv. To repent means to recognize that we are doing something that we should not be doing
- v. When this is made known to us, we must choose to act or not to act

4. Sacrament of Confession

- a. Is the formal way in which we repent and experience a conversion which is a turning in another direction (opposite) of what we were doing before; we realize that we needed to stop doing these things and avoid them when possible
- b. By confessing our sins, which are made known to us when we are rooted in his word, we are allowing ourselves to be emptied of the things that kill the Divine Life in us
- c. We, like John the Baptist, must decrease in order for the Lord (in us) to increase

5. Mary

- a. Is a vessel that was already **predisposed to receive** all that God desired to give her in that she was empty of all sin (a singular grace given to her in her **Immaculate Conception** - **see page 7 for more information**)
- b. Which is why the angel said to her, "Hail, Mary, **full of grace**"
 - i. Another way to say this, is "Hail Mary, full of God"
- c. Mary's capacity to be full of God allowed for the Son of God to enter into her in a radical way (**Incarnation**)
- d. God wants to enter into us in a radical way to via the Holy Spirit

6. Application

- a. Yes, Mary was Immaculately Conceived, and we were not, so we know that we have sin
 - i. "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:10)
 - 1. And if his word is not in us, then He is not in us either
 - ii. Are we properly disposed to receive God into our life?
 - iii. When was the last time you received God's mercy and grace in the Sacrament of Confession?
 - iv. Are you full of God/Grace?
 - v. God desires this for all of us. He desires it for you.
- b. **Receiving God's Grace** - we must first be disposed to receive it
 - i. Find a good examination of conscience; sit with it and reflect
 - 1. Let God reveal what he wants to reveal to us that needs letting go of and give it to him in the Sacrament
 - 2. He came to save us from our sins, so we must repent and confess if he is to save us
 - ii. The Sacrament of Confession is offered 30 minutes before each Mass
 - iii. Saturdays and Sundays from 2-4 during the Advent season
 - iv. If we want to be filled, when we first must be willing to empty ourselves
 - v. Then and only then can we, like Mary, be full of grace/God

Notes:



Advent Wreath Lighting Prayer | Receive Like Mary

All: Loving God, as we light this second candle, we see through the eyes of Mary — who received Your grace with humble joy. Help us to open our hearts to receive Your mercy and peace. Like Mary, may we make room for Christ to dwell within us and shine through us to the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and fill us with Your life and love. Amen.