



The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2008

All you who are thirsty, come to the water!

We are a Sacrificial Giving Parish, Giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure
Our offertory for Sunday, December 28th was \$6,140.00.
Our Offertory for New Years Day was \$2,388.00.
For Sunday, January 4th, Offertory is \$6,071.85.
(For 2007-2008 our average weekly expenses were \$6,509.00.)

Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of Ferdie & Rosemary Duos
By: Bob & Shirley Dugas

Novena of Prayer for our Nation

Many newly elected and appointed persons will soon take office in our government. Without doubt these are some of the more difficult and divisive times for our country, and for the world. Let us all use the prayer below in a novena of prayer beginning on Monday, January 12th.

A Prayer for our Nation

Gracious and loving God, we come to you in humble prayer for the United States of America.

Bless our President. Give him wisdom and strength to serve the American people and to lead our country in ways that are pleasing to you.

Bless our Congress. Instill in them knowledge and understanding to enact laws that protect the sanctity of life—from the unborn to the elderly; and promote the good of all people.

Bless the people of the United States. Make us aware of our responsibility as citizens to uphold the principles of life, liberty, justice, and equality. Send your Holy Spirit upon our beloved country. Make us people of faith in time of uncertainty. Make us people of hope in times of trouble. Make us people of compassion with those who are less fortunate. Make us people of peace in our homes, our communities, our country, and our world.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Senior Citizens will gather at **Thensted Center** on Friday, **January 16th** at 10:00 A.M.

Sacrament Preparation for Adults

St. Charles Church offers a program to prepare adults for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion). Classes start on February 5th and meet weekly on Thursdays 7:00-8:00 P.M. Sacraments will be received at the Easter Vigil Service on April 11th.

This program is for YOU if you are:

A baptized or un-baptized adult who would like to inquire about the Catholic Faith or who wants to become a Catholic.

A baptized adult who has not yet celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation in the Catholic Faith and who would like to do this.

A Catholic adult who is fully initiated and is interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith.

Call the church office at 662-5279 to register. Please tell others about this opportunity, especially family members or friends who might be interested.

Activities of the Week Jan. 12-17

M 12	4:00 PM Vigil Mass Choir Practice
T 13	6:00 PM 7:30 Choir Practice 7:00 PM Parish Council Meeting
W 14	6:00 PM Registration for 6-Steps Religion
TH 15	5:45 PM 10:30 Mass Choir Practice
FR 16	10:00 AM Senior Citizens gather at Thensted
SA 17	

Minister Schedule-January 17-18

Vigil -Lector	Kalina & Darryl Cormier
Communion	Deacon Herd Guilbeau, Pat Sonnier, Ivy Lavergne, Ada Barry, Juanita Comeaux
Altar Server	Nicholas Smith
7:30-Lector	Joe Landry & Julia Quebedeaux
Communion	Deacon Sam Henry, Ruby Gardiner, Perry & Brenda Kennerson, Warren Norton
Altar Server	Taneisha Cormier
10:30-Lector	Peggy & Bub Harper
Communion	Stephanie Richard, Natasha Williams Keith & Ginger Myers, Julia Key
Altar Server	Hunter Myers, Cody Williams Jillian Lyons

Church Cleaners for January 17-18

Kandy Boss Velma Boss Agnes Lewis
Anna Lee Boss Gloria DeValcourt
Larry & Jean Janise

Evangelization—Home Visitation

St. Charles Borromeo Church has begun a program of Home Visitation to invite persons to our church community and to offer help for needs that might be found. The visitations are done by teams of two, three, or four persons. We go to each home in a systematic way, and plan on visiting everyone living within our church parish boundaries. The visitations are done usually on the first Saturday of each month. We begin with Mass at 8:00 AM, followed by a brief orientation session. The visitations are made from 9:00 until 10:00 or 10:30. Then all return for reporting and sharing. The first visitation Saturday was in October. Visitors have been enthusiastic about their experiences of the past four months.

Would you like to participate in this ministry? Please come to a training session on Wednesday, January 14th, at 7:00 PM in the Holy Family day-chapel of St. Charles Church.

Confirmation Practice is scheduled for all students and sponsors on **Wednesday, January 21st at 6:45 P.M.** The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00 P.M. Bishop Michael Jarrell will be the celebrant. Please keep these young men and women of our community in your prayers.

THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

When new sod is put in, it needs constant saturation with water. Landscapers say that this "knits" the sod to the soil. The same when a branch is grafted onto a tree: the poultice that joins them at the splice must be kept wet at all times. Water is the stuff that binds the very cells of our bodies together. No wonder religions throughout all times and cultures have used it so prominently. When Jesus stepped into the Jordan for baptism, he "knit" himself to what had come before him. By going to the Jordan, he made himself one with the people of Israel who had crossed it into their Promised Land. With John the Baptist, Christ wove himself into the prophetic tradition that heralded the coming reign of God. He had become fully human in the waters of Mary's womb, and by partaking in the rite of the baptism of repentance, Jesus identified himself with our sinful, frail humanity. It is through the waters of baptism that Christ continues to graft new members onto his Body, the Church; through these waters we are cleansed from sin and filled with the promise of grace, given our destiny for eternal life. For us, as for Jesus, it is also the waters of baptism that inaugurate our mission to proclaim the Good News.

Registration for "Six Steps to Easter"

Religious Education Program is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 P.M. in St. Charles Chapel. This program is for students in Jr. High & High School (grades 7-8, 9-10 & higher). Completed form and a fee of \$15.00 are due at registration. Four years of this program are required for Confirmation as a Junior in high school. Parent and child must attend this mandatory meeting. Classes start February 25th.

The office of Family Life Ministry is again sponsoring the **DIOCESAN MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** to honor couples who have been married 25, 40, 50, 60 or more years. Only the above mentioned years will be honored, no between years will be accepted. It will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, 2:00 p.m., St. Edmonds Church 4131 West Congress St., Lafayette. Bishop Michael Jarrell will celebrate a special Mass and will give certificates, suitable for framing, to all couples being honored. Couples who wish to be honored must register no later than January 23, 2009. For more information, please call Family Life at 261-5653.

*Joy
The fullness of joy is to behold
God in everything.*