



THE RIVER CATHOLIC

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 08/01/2021

VOL. 38, NO. 45

3625 HIGHWAY 75
ST. GABRIEL, LOUISIANA
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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8am-3pm
(closed 12- 1pm for lunch)
Friday, 8am-12pm

PASTOR:

Reverend Charles R. Landry

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANTS

Myra G. Tircuit
Barbara V. Hornstein

CONFESSION

First Saturday, 3:15pm.&
by appointment

VIGIL MASS

Saturday, 4pm.

SUNDAY MASS

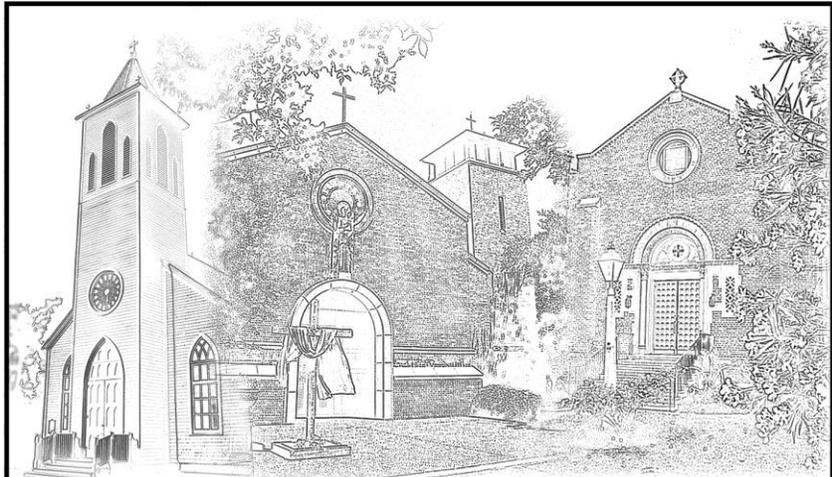
Sunday, 8am & 10am
Presently no mass @ Carville

DAILY MASS

Tuesday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday, 8am

HOLY DAY MASSES

8am & 7pm



OLD
ST. GABRIEL
CHURCH
(1769)



NEW
ST. GABRIEL
CHURCH
(1953)



SACRED
HEART
CHAPEL
(1935)

We, the St. Gabriel family in Christ, through the teachings of the Catholic Church, commit ourselves to the fulfillment of the kingdom of God. In our church community we make present the spirit of Jesus Christ, proclaim His gospel, and make visible His church. We believe that each of us is called to ministry to be of service to others to encourage participation to bring a spirit of family unity and responsibility to our fellow parishioners, and to show our love through our words and deeds.

BAPTISM: Parents wishing to have their child baptized must be registered parishioners and complete baptismal preparation prior to the date of baptism. Please contact the church office during the early days of pregnancy for details on baptismal preparation.

MARRIAGE: Contact the Pastor at least six months prior to the date desired to begin the mandatory Preparation program.

CARE OF THE SICK: Emergency calls are made as soon as the priest is available. If desired, communion may be brought to the homebound each weekend by a Eucharistic Minister. Families are asked to contact the Church Office to make arrangements. Communion Calls to the homebound are the first Friday of the month. Please contact the Church Office in regard to those who are seriously ill or hospitalized, leaving the hospital and room number.

FUNERALS & BURIAL: The family must make arrangements with the Pastor before finalizing arrangements with a funeral home.



STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCE

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| WEEKLY ATTENDANCE | 369 |
| WEEKLY BUDGET | \$7,975.66 |
| AMOUNT COLLECTED | \$5,316.25 |
| NUMBER OF DONATIONS | 55 |

There will be 2 envelopes 9/10-11, reg. & Cath. Univ. of America. Your weekly donations help meet our immediate needs, repairs and improvements. We thank all who give of their time, talent and treasure to our parish community. We always appreciate your generosity.

Manna: What is it?

If you could ask an ancient Israelite what is Manna, the Israelite would answer "What is it?" That is exactly what the word "Manna" means. It's a question, sort of like, "Whatchamacallit?" They really didn't know what the stuff was.

There have been several attempts to answer the question. The most likely explanation is that is a secretion of an insect. If that sounds weird, where do you think honey comes from? The Sinai desert is not completely barren. There are trees that thrive even in this wasteland. They bear tiny leaves. During the night, when it is cooler, a species of insect comes out and eats the leaves. They get piggish and eat too much. This forces them to exude a form of highly concentrated sugar. It drops to the ground and begins to dry, leaving a white, flaky substance behind. At dawn other insects quickly eat the stuff. Moses knew this and taught the Israelites to gather it up first. It wasn't really bread, but it was bread-colored and sweet. After a while, the Israelites got sick of it, like we can become tired of a diet of only candy.



I am the Bread of Life

Sometimes hindsight can be a disadvantage. We make assumptions and then ignore everything else. This is true about the words in today's gospel. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life." We naturally assume that he is talking about the Eucharist, and of course he is. But that conclusion can prevent us to see beyond the simplest interpretation. There is more to the Eucharist than just wafers and wine. Even when we correctly understand that Holy Communion is Christ's body and blood, we fail to understand the full meaning of his words.

Jesus is also telling us that we must ravenously devour him. We must hunger for spiritual as well as physical union with him. Simply put, this means that taking Holy Communion can become a mechanical action. It's sort of like taking an aspirin for a headache. We take it without trying to understand its uses and dangers. There is a danger to the Eucharist: to take it requires a commitment to a life change. Are you ready to accept that commitment?

Together We Can!

If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please contact Fr. Charlie for an appointment.



ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process through which adults (and children/teens) become full members of the Catholic Faith. If you have never been baptized or, if you have been baptized in another Christian church and would like to consider your faith journey in the Catholic Church, you are invited to attend. There is absolutely no pressure to become a catholic. This is your time and your decision. If you were baptized as a Catholic but never received any formation or never received the remainder of the sacraments of initiation (i.e., Confirmation/and or Eucharist) this process is for you as well. You can begin the process now by attending our Inquiry Nite on Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m. in the PAC.



Let's try this again...Save the date!

Wednesday, September 15

Bus trip to the Michaelangelo Exhibit, Old State Capital, and nice lunch. Cost should be around \$65.

For more information, contact:

Jeanne Billodeaux, Brenda Blanchard,
362-1618, 677-9464,
jbilodo@cox.net brendatblanchard@gmail.com

“ART”

Ya'll really **ART** to come with us!



Faith Formation

Register today!! Forms are available online.

St. Gabriel offers a Parish School of Religion for students in grades 1-12. There is a RCIA and RCIC program for those adults and children interested in joining the Catholic Church as well as a Sacramental Preparation Program for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Informational Packets as well as registration forms for these programs are available in the vestibule of church.



CHILD PROTECTION



Part of the Diocesan requirements for all employees and volunteers in a parish or Catholic School is to complete an Employee/Volunteer application, sign a Code of Ethics, undergo a background check and complete the Safe Environment Training. If you are interested in this process please contact the parish office.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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|---|----|--|---|
| Sat. | 31 | 4:00 p.m. | Vigil Mass |
| 18th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME | | | |
| Sun. | 01 | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | MASS MASS |
| Mon. | 02 | 8:00 a.m. | No Mass |
| Tues. | 03 | 7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. | Men's Reflection Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel |
| Wed. | 04 | 8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Daily Mass Ladies Altar Society Mtg. Baptismal Seminar |
| Thurs. | 05 | 8:00 a.m. | Daily Mass Adoration Comm. Mtg. |
| Fri. | 06 | 8:00 a.m. 8:45 a.m. | Daily Mass Adoration & Benediction |
| Sat. | 07 | 3:15 p.m. 4:00 p.m. | Reconciliation Vigil Mass |
| 19th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME | | | |
| Sun. | 08 | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | MASS MASS |
| Mon. | 09 | 8:00 a.m. | No Mass |
| Tues. | 10 | 7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m. | Men's Reflection Daily Mass Adoration in Chapel KCs in PAC |
| Wed. | 11 | 8:00 a.m. | Daily Mass |
| Thurs. | 12 | 8:00 a.m. | Daily Mass |
| Fri. | 13 | 8:00 a.m. | Daily Mass |
| Sat. | 14 | 4:00 p.m. | Vigil Mass |
| 20th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME | | | |
| Sun. | 15 | 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. | MASS MASS |
| Mon. | 16 | 8:00 a.m. | No Mass |

DAILY READINGS

18th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35

Monday, August 02 Daily Readings

Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday, August 03 Daily Readings

Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday, August 04 Daily Readings

Numbers 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26a-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28

Thursday, August 05 Daily Readings

Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23

Friday, August 06 Daily Reading

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Mark 9:2-10

Saturday, August 07 Daily Readings

Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20

19th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:30-5:2

John 6:41-51



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Pray for our Sick and Homebonds: Frank Banta, Sr., Betty Jean Barbay, Phyllis Babin, Joan Chapman, Melissa Conrad, Joyce Crochet, Lily Fairchild, Carolyn Harelson, Michael Landaiche, Genie LaPlace, Anthony & Bessie Pizzolato, and Flory Reynolds. Include in your prayers all of the sick & suffering in our families especially those living in nursing homes. Also, pray for peace in the world, & for all men and women in our armed forces.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME REMOVED FROM THIS LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.



WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

- 08/02 8:00 a.m. No Mass
- 08/03 8:00 a.m. Marie Rivett & Roy Gomez; Alvin Fairchild, Sr.
- 08/04 8:00 a.m. Deceased of Altar Society; Buddy Lee Templet-Blanchard Families; James A. Betty Tubre; Betty Bonin Dugas
- 08/05 8:00a.m. Michael Ragusa; Cindelle Avants; Amato-Alesci Families; Bourgyne-Chanove Flys.
- 08/06 8:00 a.m. Babin-Ruiz-Smith Families; Nezida Ruiz
- 08/07 4:00 p.m. Soileau-LaFleur Famlies; Virginia Majors; Dewey Hymel Family & Betty; Leon Ambeau
- 08/08 8:00 a.m. For the Parish
10:00 a.m. Gerald Crochet; M/M Ralph Layman
- 08/09 8:00 a.m. No Mass

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of Aug. 01-08 in memory of Alvin Fairchild.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of Aug. 08-14 in memory of Betty Tubre & Jimmy.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of Aug. 22-28 in memory of Ruby Edmonston.

There will always be someone who can't see your worth. Don't let it be you.

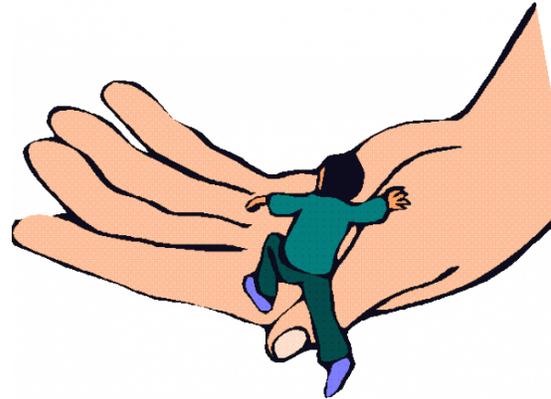
-Mel Robbins



Fellow Parishioners:

I do not know about you, but during these trying times I find so much solace and peace in God's Word and in the words of some of the great spiritual writers of our faith. I share the following with you.

The first is verse 8 from Psalm 143. It reads: in you I trust. Show me the way that I should
The psalmist is simply putting her/his life in hands with the confidence and trust that God provide. Rather than living in fear, let us trust the Divine Providence of God.



**“Lord,
walk.”
God’s
will
in**

This second comes from a prayer that Thomas Merton, a great spiritual writer wrote. It is entitled: A Prayer of Trust.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone

AMEN

Last but not least let us remember: We do not know what our future holds, but we do know who holds our future.

God bless.



July 28, 2021 by Most Rev. Michael G. Duca



To the Pastors, Principals, and Parents of Children Enrolled in Catholic Schools:

On 14 July 2021, the Diocese of Baton Rouge published a series of guidelines for returning to school this fall using the same process of consultation as was done for the 2020-2021 school year. The creation of these guidelines was based on those that had been recently published for schools by the state of Louisiana and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This preparation included a process of consultation with a team from Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. It was our expectation that public, parochial, and private schools would apply these or similar guidelines and protocols to begin the school year. These guidelines suggested that all non-vaccinated students should be masked and, for those who are vaccinated, masks would be optional.

As you know, the reaction from some was immediate and impassioned. The ensuing reaction surprised me in intensity, conviction and breadth of reasons which were based on both medical and political opinions, and in some few cases, in the rage and disrespect (though possibly not intended) shown to the parish secretaries, pastors, and the staff at the Catholic Life Center. I felt this personally, not because of the disagreement about guidelines or proposed protocols, but because of the explicit assumption that the diocese was not acting in the best interest of our children or that I was being influenced by a political narrative that was obstructing personal or religious freedom. I want to be clear and assure you that such thoughts are not true. There have never been, nor are there now, nor will there ever be any secret motives on my part or on the part of our Catholic schools' leadership.

As I write this, reported COVID numbers, particularly the Delta variant cases, are rising. The CDC has expanded substantially its guidance with respect to the wearing of masks. I feel it necessary to speak to you directly so that you will know my mind in these matters and clearly understand the principles that will guide any future decisions made by me and those who work with me regarding COVID policies for Catholic schools as we account for a surge in spread of COVID in our state.

Catholic schools in our diocese successfully opened in the Fall of 2020 on time and in person and remained open for the entire school year because of the tremendous work of administrators and teachers who remained flexible in serving the needs of students. Throughout that time and now, my leadership team and I have been guided by only two goals:

1. Ensuring that each day everyone in our schools (especially children, faculty, and staff) is as safe as possible; and,
2. Keeping our elementary and high schools open for in-class learning with minimal disruption.

These two goals were our only ones, and each of the protocols and procedures used last year were implemented to successfully accomplish them. Any assumptions about any other motivations are mistaken. Procedures were effective because masking, static cohort groups, and physical distancing greatly limited the number of students who needed to quarantine in the event of infection due to exposure in the classroom. The infection rate within Catholic schools averaged in the single digits, and the origin of infection came mainly from events outside of the classroom.

We have approached this year's school opening with the same two goals. After publishing our procedures for this school year, the state superintendent of schools stated that the published procedures and protocols for returning to school were considered best practice recommendations, not mandates. Further, the state Department of Education this week delegated to each school district the authority to implement protocols as it deems fit. This clarification changed how we could proceed and, after hearing from some parents and stakeholders, we set out to create a different set of procedures and protocols for our schools, making masks optional and eliminating the need to confirm vaccination status. Currently, this is how the decision stands.

When our plan for reopening schools changed, some sent me thank-you notes for listening to parents. While I appreciate this acknowledgment, please know that for every parent who does not want his or her child to wear a mask, there is a parent who believes that masks are still important to ensure safety. I believe that both views come from concern for our children. These disagreements in viewpoint will not be settled by any decision we make. I accept this fact, and so I will move forward with a focus only on keeping our schools open and everyone safe. These two goals remain at the core of my motivation.

It is possible that if COVID cases continue to increase, we will need to change our procedures and protocols to accomplish our goals. Any changes in protocol will be made public by next Monday, 02 August 2021 at the latest.

Let us remember that Catholic schools are a mission of our Church, and we are called to protect those under our care. While I do not have at this time a specific plan going forward, my focus will be to do what needs to be done to keep students, faculty, and staff safe and to keep our schools open in service to families. If we update any protocols, even if it means wearing masks some or all the time, I hope you will better understand my reasoning. I hope that despite our differences of opinion, our love for our schools and our common Catholic faith will allow us to work together and support our teachers and principals so our schools remain open for our children again this year.

Hope in the Lord!

Most Reverend Michael G. Duca
Bishop of Baton Rouge

