

IN MEMORIAM

• Recently Deceased

INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, WE HUMBLY ENTRUST OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Shirley L. Ducote | Thelma Firmin | Nellie Brassette | Julius Daigrepoint | Jane Thevenot | Felton Kidder | Rebecca Jeansonne Villemarette | Beverly Desselle | Audrey Firmin Guillory | Tara Lacombe Ramour | Anita B. Ray | Betty D. Ponthier | Ewell J. Gaspard, Jr. | Zelian Armand

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THEIR SOULS AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES

• **Sanctuary Candles:** in memory of Ronald J. Juneau, Sr. (*church*) and Crew Michael Bolton (*day chapel*).

(ALTAR FLOWERS CAN BE PURCHASED IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR SCHEDULING AND PRICING.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-**Children's Liturgy** has made its weekly return to the Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass. All children ages 3 and up who have not made their First Communion are invited to participate. Father will gather the children for their activity at the beginning of the Gospel, and they will return to their families after the homily. Each session is facilitated by a Virtus-certified volunteer.

-**Catholic Daughters Meeting:** first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the SMS multipurpose building.

-**Women's Bible Study / Book Club:** Fridays at 10:00 a.m., Cottonport Museum. All women (age 18+) are invited to attend. Call 717-3619 for more information.

-**Women's Marian Prayer Group:** third Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the rectory garage meeting room.

-**AA Meeting / Big Book Study:** first and the third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the SMS multipurpose building. Contact Chester Landry at 318-359-7628.

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **COUNCIL MEETINGS – 6:00 P.M. – RECTORY GARAGE MEETING ROOM**

• **FINANCE – MON., MAY 6**

• **PARISH (PASTORAL) – TUES., MAY 7**

• NEIGHBORHOOD ROSARY – WED., MAY 8 – 4:30 P.M. (HOSTED BY DIANE MERRICK)

• **SMS CRAWFISH BOIL – FRI., MAY 10 – PICK UP IS 4:00-5:30 P.M. - \$20 FOR 4 POUNDS OF CRAWFISH, CORN, AND POTATO**

• SMS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION – SAT., MAY 18 – 10:00 A.M. IN THE CHURCH

• CORPUS CHRISTI EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION AND PARISH PICNIC – SUN., JUNE 2

• **LECTOR FORMATION WORKSHOP – SAT., JUNE 15 AT 8 A.M. (HOSTED BY ST. MARY'S)**

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CURRENTLY SERVING AS LECTORS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SERVING – REGISTER ONLINE (DIOCESEALEX.ORG) PRIOR TO THE TRAINING.

SICK LIST

LORD, EASE THE SUFFERINGS AND COMFORT THE WEAKNESSES OF YOUR SERVANTS

Roderick Ray | Kim Wixson | Dede Lemoine | Jeremy Andress | Louie Laborde | Kristin Callegari | Barbara Mayeux | Kathryn Ducote | Pat Rabalais

(note: names are published for six weeks – call the church office with additions, deletions, or renewals)

COLLECTIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

February 2024	March 2024	April 2024
\$30,770	\$37,521	\$31,720

(DONATE BY TEXTING ASSUMPTION TO 73256; OR BY THE E-GIVING TAB ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE; OR BY CASH, CHECK, OR ENVELOPE AT MASS)



SCAN TO DONATE

USING YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA, SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GIVE TO ST. MARY'S – IT'S EASY AND SECURE! USE THE PULLDOWN MENU TO DONATE TO THE CHURCH OR TO THE SPECIAL DIOCESAN COLLECTION

(note: in the "Memo" section, please specify name of the special diocesan collection).

DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

-**Annual Diocesan Appeal:** prayerfully consider giving to the diocesan church – visit diocesealex.org/donate

-**Safe Environment:** All adults who work/volunteer with minors in the church or school must be trained in the Virtus child sexual abuse awareness program. Register by clicking on "Safe Environment" at diocesealex.org or call 318-445-6424 (ext. 213). Once certified, you are required to login to your online account and read your monthly bulletins to maintain certification.

• **Virtus Training:** Wed., May 15 at 6:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Church (church office – Marksville).

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

Escudé Funeral Home • 964-2324

Attorney Peter J. Lemoine • 318-717-1995 • Social Security Disability Law

Druco Lumber Company • Mansura, LA • 318-964-2214

7Voip • 318-295-9557 • sevenvoip.com • Ron Juneau, Owner

Philip Davis • Independent Associate • philip61.legalshieldassociate.com

T-Jim's Grocery & Market • 318-876-2351 • Jacques Moreau, Owner

Jacob E. Gauthier, DDS • 253-8529 • Complete Family Dentistry

Mike's Glass & Tinting, Inc. • 876-3893 • Mike Dobison, Owner

René C. Desselle, DDS • Mansura, LA • 964-2300 • General Dentistry

Poret's Thrifty Way Pharmacy (Religious and Other Gifts) • 876-2104

First Insurance Marksville • 253-9202 • Commercial / Home / Auto / Life

Bernard's Cajun Sea Fry Seafood Restaurant • Cottonport • 876-2136

Juneau's Cajun Meats • Mansura, LA • Damon & Shelley Juneau, Owners

Rabalais Flooring, LLC • 876-2018 • For all your flooring needs

The Cottonport Bank • cottonportbank.com

Cottonport Corner Drug (Gift Boutique & Religious Gifts) • 876-3665

New York Life • 876-3226 • William "Scotty" Scott, Agent

Juanita D. Brouillette, Certified Public Accountant • 876-2725

Knights of Columbus • St. Mary's Council 1199

Catholic Daughters of the Americas • Court Padre Pio 2141

Clark's Collision Center • 876-2980 • Danny Clark, Owner

Roy, Scott, & James • Marksville, LA • 240-7800 • Injury Attorneys

Cottonport Family Clinic • 876-3696 • Jamie Garrett, FNP • Buzz Jeansonne, FNP

In Honor of St. Isidore – Patron Saint of Farmers • May 15 – Feast Day

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 5, 2024



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH

820 Front Street • Cottonport, LA 71327 • 318-876-3681
stmaryscottonport.com • Facebook: @saintmaryscottonport
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday • 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m./1:00–4:00 p.m.
Rev. Charles Ray, Pastor • frcray@diocesealex.org
Deacon Doug Moreau • dcndmoreau@diocesealex.org
Stephen Scott, Parish Manager • stmary@diocesealex.org
Priscilla Brouillette, Bookkeeper
Nettie Chenevert, Organist

SCHOOL

850 Front Street • Cottonport, LA 71327 • 318-876-3651
smsangels.org • Facebook: @SMSCottonport
Office Hours: Monday-Friday • 7:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m.
Blaine Dauzat, Principal • principal@stmaryscottonport.com
Casey Armand, Secretary • secretary@stmaryscottonport.com
Paul Newton, Athletic Director

TO MY BELOVED PEOPLE

Although I was away in Houston this week, I got to spend a good amount of time planning and praying about the future of St. Mary's. The stoic Roman philosopher Epictetus elaborates on the concept that some things are within our control, and some things are not. It is only after you apply this distinction within your life that inner tranquility can take root. We have a choice about what opinions, aspirations, and desires we have. We do not have a choice about what kind of body we have, whether we're born into wealth or poverty, how others regard us, and others' thoughts and actions. It has been my experience that peace is obtainable, even in difficult or traumatic times, when your attention is focused solely on what truly concerns you. However, this requires you to give up some things entirely! For example, you might have to forgo wealth, a career promotion, or a friendship to attain happiness and freedom.

I encourage all of us to live life fully. God has gifted us with life, and we can live however we want: prudently or foolishly. What are behaviors, habits, attachments, and relationships that keep you from truly living a life in pursuit of Christian virtue and perfection? We aren't in control of most things, but we are in control of the things that determine happiness and freedom. Pray, study, and accomplish acts of charity and mercy. It is good to be here!

In Service to Christ and His Church,

Fr. Charlie

THE HUMAN MIND MAY DEVISE MANY PLANS, BUT IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD THAT WILL BE ESTABLISHED.

Proverbs 19:21

MEDITATION

A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

Each of us must come to the evening of life. Each of us must enter on eternity. Each of us must come to that quiet, awful time, when we will appear before the Lord of the vineyard, and answer for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or bad. That, my dear brethren, you will have to undergo. ... It will be the dread moment of expectation when your fate for eternity is in the balance, and when you are about to be sent forth as the companion of either saints or devils, without possibility of change. There can be no change; there can be no reversal. As that judgment decides it, so it will be for ever and ever. Such is the particular judgment. ... when we find ourselves by ourselves, one by one, in his presence, and have brought before us most vividly all the thoughts, words, and deeds of this past life. Who will be able to bear the sight of himself? And yet we shall be obliged steadily to confront ourselves and to see ourselves. In this life we shrink from knowing our real selves. We do not like to know how sinful we are. We love those who prophesy smooth things to us, and we are angry with those who tell us our faults. But on that day, not one fault only, but all the secret, as well as evident, defects of our character will be clearly brought out. We shall see what we feared to see here, and much more. And then, when the full sight of ourselves comes to us, who will not wish that he had known more of himself here, rather than leaving it for the inevitable day to reveal it all to him!

— St. John Henry Newman, p. 101

LIVING IN LOVE

In the Gospel of John, Jesus explains what it means to remain in His love: we must keep His commandments, just as He has kept His Father's commandments. Jesus associates love with joy, saying that His desire is for His disciples' joy to be complete. By commanding us to love one another, He is inviting us to live a life of true joy. Jesus also redefines the relationship between Him and His disciples. They are no longer just servants; they are His friends, for He has shared everything with them. By choosing us, just as He chose His first disciples, Jesus has given us a mission to bear fruit in the world – fruit that will last. This means living out love in our actions every day.

Jesus assures us that whatever we ask the Father in His name will be granted, emphasizing the power of living in accordance with His command to love. We experience God's presence through the love we give and receive in our everyday interactions. Through His words and example, Jesus has equipped us to bring this divine love into the world. He has also given us the Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfill this noble task. As followers of Christ, we are called to live out the love of God in a real and tangible way, showing love to everyone we meet without partiality. This is what it means to be a disciple of Christ. When we love genuinely, we make the truth that "God is love" visible and active in the world. Let us strive to embody this love in all that we do, bringing the light of Christ to every corner of our lives and beyond.

MONDAY, MAY 6 MONDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

- **Confessions:** 4:45-5:10 p.m.
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Mass:** 5:15 p.m.
Readings: Acts 16:11-15 / Ps 149 / Jn 15:26-16:4a
Lector: Aimee Richardson
Intention: Mr. and Mrs. Levy Michel & Dr. John Tassin
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** 5:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7 TUESDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

- **Men's Rosary:** 6:00 a.m. – chapel
- **Confessions:** 4:45-5:10 p.m.
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Mass:** 5:15 p.m.
Readings: Acts 16:22-34 / Ps 138 / Jn 16:5-11
Lector: Jacob Gauthier
Intention: Michael Normand

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 WEDNESDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

- **Readings:** Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 / Ps 148 / Jn 16:12-15
- **SMS Mass:** 8:00 a.m.
Intention: Living and Deceased Ducote and Welch Family Members
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Confirmation Practice (mandatory):** begins with 5:15 p.m. Mass followed by instruction
- **Mass:** 5:15 p.m.
Lector: Sharon Juneau
Intention: June Giglio

THURSDAY, MAY 9 THURSDAY OF THE SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER

- **ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:** 6:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
TO VISIT THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IS...A PROOF OF GRATITUDE, AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE, AND A DUTY OF ADORATION TOWARD CHRIST OUR LORD. – POPE PAUL VI



HOLY SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

6:00 p.m.
Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. (celebrant)
Readings: Acts 1:3-8 / Ps 104 / Rom 8:26-27 / Jn 14:15-17

Lector: René Desselle

Intention: Intention of the Bishop

SATURDAY, MAY 11 VIGIL FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- **Confessions:** 4:00-4:25 p.m.
- **Rosary:** 4:10 p.m.
- **Mass:** 4:30 p.m.
Readings: Acts 1:1-11 / Ps 47 / Eph 1:17-23 / Mk 16:15-20
Lectors: Sharon Juneau (A) | René Desselle (B)
EMHCs: Lauren Ducote | Carlene Gauthier
Altar Server: *volunteer needed
Intentions: Rose Anne Juneau | Gary Tassin | Mary Grace Tassin | Juliet Normand | Curtis Duplechain | Gertie Michel | Ducote, DeMars, and Prevot Families | Goudeau-Morgan Families | Harold & Frankie Gauthier Family | Cylton (Junior) & Alma Normand | Ryan (Sonny) Gauthier | Ray & Shirley Ducote | Leon & Eldie McNeal | Harry & Elizabeth Tassin | Tara L. Ramour | Eleanor Slocum | Harry Chatelain & Abbie Boniol

SUNDAY, MAY 12 SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

- **Confessions:** 30 minutes before each Mass
- **Readings:** Acts 1:1-11 / Ps 47 / Eph 1:17-23 / Mk 16:15-20
- **Mass:** 7:00 a.m.
Lectors: Mark Tigner (A) | Stephanie Gauthier (B)
EMHCs: Glenn Normand | Stephen Scott
Altar Servers: Lawson Juneau | Abram Juneau | Brant Juneau
Intentions: Buddy & Sue Normand and Family | Neil Armand, Jr. | Michael Normand | Ronald J. Juneau, Sr. | Leland Gauthier & Hamp Lemoine Families | George & Mary Ann Voinche | Butch & Mary Jo Garrett | Elton Bernard, Sr. | Dorothy Bernard | Living and Deceased Louis Moreau Family & Irvin Juneau | Brooklyn Chenevert | Lucille Mose & Rena Mitchell | Elizabeth Dobison & Catherine Sampson
- **Mass:** 9:30 a.m.
Lectors: Paul Newton (A) | Kay Lewis (B)
EMHCs: Priscilla Brouillette | Gayle Thevenot
Altar Servers: Hudson Normand | Graham Gremillion
Intention: Steve Riche
Children's Liturgy Facilitator: Kallie Riche
- **Mass:** 5:30 p.m.
Lectors: Diann Poret (A) | Aimee Richardson (B)
EMHCs: Melissa East | Cain Merrick
Altar Servers: Thomas Welch
Intention: For the People of St. Mary's (*Pro Populo*)

MONTH OF OUR LADY

DEVOTION OF THE MONTH – MAY

In addition to the myriad feast days honoring Our Lady under her many titles and virtues, the entire month of May is especially given to her praise. In the words of Pope Paul VI, May is "a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God ... For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne." (*church*) and M/M Roger Caldwell (*day chapel*).