

RECTOR'S CORNER

We have just celebrated the solemn Feast of St. Francis de Sales, Patron of our Cathedral Parish and the Principal patron of our Diocese last Tuesday, January 24th. Our Parish Pastoral Council has planned a **POT LUCK SUPPER for this Sunday, January 29th after the 5:30 PM mass at the Parish Hall of the Youth Center** to celebrate the Feast day of St. Francis de Sales. Please come and bring your favorite dish to share with all! Father Andre will give a brief talk on the life and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales before the meal begins. Please come, join us and let us celebrate our Patron Saint.

Thanks for all your prayers this past week for Fr. Andre and the people of our Parish and Diocese who attended the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. So far I've heard that despite the freezing temperature, the event was a success, the Concelebrated Masses were fantastic and the whole experience was (in the words of our young people) "awesome"! Thanks also for supporting last weekend's "Baby Bottle Fundraising" to benefit Crossroads Pregnancy Life Center in Thibodaux that was sponsored by our own KC Council's right-to-life group.

Thanks also for your prayers for the success of the "*ad limina apostolorum*" (meaning: to the threshold of the Apostles) visit of the Bishops of our Province (Archdioceses/Dioceses of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Louisiana) this week. Reading the daily blog of Archbishop Rodi of Mobile, I can tell you that their visit with the Vatican Offices and the Holy Father went well. I'm sure Bishop Jacobs and all the Archbishops and Bishops appreciate your kind prayers.

The Book of Deuteronomy (18: 15-20) and the readings this weekend speaks of who God sends to us to bring His presence among us and in the world. Moses spoke: "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your kin; to him you shall listen." These words of the Prophet Moses at the beginning of Israel's journey to the promise land gave them an idea on what kind of prophets they could expect from the Lord.

Like the ancient generations, people tend to think that prophets or God's messengers are "special" kind or breed of people that comes from special places. People always imagine prophets as unusual (or weird) persons who are holier-than-thou that God pre-determined or chosen from a group (or reservoir) of prophet factories. Not true, Moses says so. Prophets and God messengers are ordinary people who **chose to participate** in God's plan of salvation. Look at the emphasis! These prophets or God's messengers are one of us, like us, among us. What makes them God's messengers is because THEY chose to do God's will.

This is the example Jesus is trying to foster in the gospel narrative we hear this weekend from St. Mark (1:21-28). In this gospel story, we encounter Jesus at the beginning of public ministry when he visited Capernaum and healed a possessed man. Here He is portrayed as an ordinary religious Jew who comes to the synagogue to visit and teach like the teachers (Rabbi's) of His time. The astonishment of His listeners and audience who heard His teaching and witnessed His powers is expected because to them, He is just an ordinary man and teacher; they don't know His identity yet. To His first audience, Jesus was just one of them from Nazareth.

As we continue our faith-journey, we need to keep in mind and heart the words of Moses to all and the experience of Jesus: a prophet like him the Lord will raise from among us. Jesus gave us an example to follow and the Church gave us the means to become. You and I are called to be God's messengers in today's world, among our families, community, society, nation and Church. We need modern-day prophets to speak God's words to all, bring His presence, and gather His flock. The modern-day messengers come from among us, our families and friends, from within our communities. They are the people who choose to participate in God's plan of salvation – they are you! If God is calling you to give witness to Him, to be His voice, His hands and feet, to be His presence, please don't say "no," the Church needs you. So, "if today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Psalm 95:1-9).

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 30 – FEB 5

Monday - 2 Sm 15:13-14,30;16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday - 2 Sm 18:9-10,14b,24-25a,30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday - 2 Sm 24:2,9-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday - Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Friday - Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29
Saturday - 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday - Jb 7:1-4,6-7; 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23; Mk 1:29-39

PRAYER LINE

For prayer request, call 879-1032 or 580-1575. Help is needed! If anyone is interested in becoming a prayer line member please call the Cathedral Office at 876-6904.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill: Matt Matherne, Mable Rhodes, Connie Ghirardi, Wendy Couvillon, Margie & C.J. Amedee, Barbara Lapeyrouse, Judy Melancon, Deacon Eldon Frazier, Ernest Bourgeois, Durrelle Verrette, Janet Viteaux, George Foret, Ruth Wright, Florence Cunningham, Penny Simmons, Joan Pitre, Norma Fanguy, Megan Chancy, Beulah Doiron Parr, Connie Breaux, David Ledet, Mae Soudelier.

SANCTUARY LIGHTS**Church**

In Loving Memory of Jerome Michael Dagate donated by M/M Larry Straatmann & Family.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

"He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." Gospel Mk 1:21-28

Capernaum where Jesus lived with Simon [Peter] was a small town on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Simon and his brother Andrew operated their fishing business with Zebedee, father of James and John. Archaeologist have found what they believe to be the synagogue in Capernaum, and next to it, the home of Simon. It is in that synagogue that the man with *unclean spirits* confronted by Jesus and challenged him to reveal his identity and authority. Jesus chose not to, but commanded the *unclean spirits*, "Quiet, come out of him." People were amazed. Do we harbor *unclean spirits* such as *ingratitude* to God for all he has given us and *failure to demonstrate our appreciation* for all that we are, all that we have, and all that we every will be by *failing to use* everything to the best of our ability for ourselves and for others? Do we demand that Jesus reveal himself in some special way before we let him drive out our *unclean spirits*? If we would only let Jesus heal us, people would be amazed. We would be amazed.

Sunday – January 22nd

Envelopes (277)	\$10,380.50
Loose	1,528.26
	\$11,908.76
Latin America	\$ 2,217.00

Flowers on the Altar this weekend were donated in loving memory of M/M George C. Fakier and Family by Dr. John Dagate.



2012 Annual Bishop's Appeal – Commitment Weekend!

With Commitment Weekend for the 2012 Annual Bishop's Appeal having arrived, all parishioners of St. Francis de Sales parish are encouraged to prayerfully consider making a commitment. When making your commitment, please remember how Your Gift Strengthens Your Church Parish, Your Community and Your Self by supporting our seminarians, our youth and your peace of mind knowing that your gift will be used to support the many ministries across the diocese. The goal of the diocese is \$875,000 and based on past results, it is a very achievable goal; however, your support is greatly needed. All parishioners are asked to return their personalized commitment cards at Mass this weekend, or you may simply mail your commitment to the diocese in the provided envelope. If you would like more information about the 2012 Annual Bishop's Appeal, please contact the diocesan *Office of Stewardship and Development* at 850-3155 or visit www.htstewardship.org.

The Altar Society will hold a meeting on February 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the small meeting room at the Youth Center.

ABBEY YOUTH FEST

St. Francis is getting a group together to attend Abbeyfest on March 10. If you've never been, here's a little information about it: It will be a great day of faith, friends, music and...monks! If you or someone you know between 8-12 grade is looking for a great day of music, speakers, Mass and outdoor festival fun... join our youth group to attend Abbey Youth Fest on the grounds of Saint Joseph Abbey March 10. The day will be packed with great speakers like Mark Hart (aka: The Bible Geek) and Mother Adela, great bands like Ayleron and L'Angelus, great food, outdoor fun and thousands of youth from across the Gulf South! Registration for the trip is only \$40 and includes transportation, meals and a free t-shirt for those registered by February 5th! After this date, the price is \$50 and a t-shirt is not included. A great day of faith and fun awaits you! The shopping is really great too....super cool t-shirts! For more information, please email me at carolineluke@live.com.

For more information about this event, or to download registration, check out abbeyyouthfest.com. I hope everyone can come!! It will be a blast! I can't wait!



Youth Ministry meeting to discuss Steubenville, Youth Rally, Abbeyfest and other upcoming events has been moved to 4:30 this Sunday, Jan 29 in the youth center.

THANK YOU for your participation in Crossroads Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Your support helps save lives. It's not too late to turn in your bottle even if it is empty. Crossroads reuses them for each event. Thank you and God Bless!

SPIRITUALITY SESSIONS

The Office of Religious Education in the diocese of Houma-Thibodaux is offering a six session course on Spirituality taught by Mr. Vince Scozzari, from the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for all interested individuals. The sessions will be held at the Pastoral Center Conference Hall from 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. on the following dates: February 1, 8, 15, 29, March 7 & 14. The cost is \$20.00 for all six sessions. Come join us for these faith-filled sessions.



CATHOLICISM PROJECT

Father André will begin a faith formation series starting in February. The name of the series is the ***Catholicism Project***. This is a video series produced by Word on Fire Catholic Ministries with host Fr. Robert Barron. In this course, you will learn about what Catholics believe and why, while being immersed in the art, architecture, literature, beliefs, and practices of the Catholic tradition. The series was filmed in 50 locations throughout 15 countries. The Catholicism DVD series is on-location and in the streets illustrating the splendor of the global Church. There will be time for discussion after watching the video and a workbook to help you go deeper into the material. This is a free event to participate in. I think this quote about the series says why you should come. ***“Simply the most vivid catechism ever created; a high-def illustrated manuscript for the twenty-first century; the best-ever film about the Catholic faith.”***

The nights will be held in the parish youth center where the DVDs will be viewed on a nice big projector screen. The 1st night will be February 15 at 7:00 p.m. The other dates will come in our next bulletin.

Topics are:

- 1st Night: “Amazed and Afraid: The Revelation of God Become Man”
- 2nd Night: “Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus”
- 3rd Night: “The Ineffable Mystery of God: That Thank Which Nothing Greater can be thought”
- 4th Night: “Our Tainted Nature’s Solitary Boast: Mary, the Mother of God”
- 5th Night: “The Indispensable Men: Peter, Paul, and the Missionary Adventure”
- 6th Night: “A Body Both Suffering and Glorious: The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church”
- 7th Night: “The Word Made Flesh, True Bread of Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist”
- 8th Night: “A Vast Company of Witnesses: The Communion of Saints”
- 9th Night: “The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit”
- 10th Night: “World Without End: The Last Things”

This series will give you a new found understanding of how to embrace your Catholic Faith in all of its beauty and splendor! Please spread the word!

ANNULMENT WORKSHOP

Do you have questions concerning an annulment? Then this workshop will answer your questions. The Very Rev. Vicente DeLa Cruz, J. V., Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, will present an annulment workshop on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Genevieve Family Center.

THANK YOU for your generous donations to the Collection for the Church in Latin America. Your gifts will continue to **keep faith** in the region by supporting evangelization, developing lay leadership programs, and strengthening religious and seminarian formation. The future of the region's Church is brighter today because of your help. To learn more about how your donations are making a difference, please visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

“A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.”

- Blessed Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 100
