The River Catholic

12/14/2025, Vol. 41 #17

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church | Sacred Heart Mission

Fr. Albert Blount,
Pastor
Dcn. John Veron,
Deacon
Janene Hebert, Pastoral Assoc.
Julia LaPlace, Secretary
Myra Tircuit, Bookkeeper/DRE
Andrew Darce, Maintenance
Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30am-3pm
Friday- Closed

SCHEDULE

CONFESSION
Tuesday-Friday,
7:30-7:50 a.m.
Saturday, 3:00-3:45 p.m.

ADORATION
Tuesday, 8:45 a.m. - 8 p.m.
First Friday,
8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

VIGIL MASS
Saturday, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY MASS
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.

DAILY MASS
Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES
8 a.m. & 6 p.m.
12 p.m. at Sacred Heart

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you." - Mt 11:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

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

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

CARE OF THE SICK: If desired, communion may be brought to the home bound each week by an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Eucharistic, but families are asked to contact the church office to make arrangements. Please contact the church office in regard to those who are seriously ill or hospitalized, leaving the hospital name and room number. Emergency calls are made as soon as the priest is available

FUNERALS & BURIALS: Please call the emergency line to make arrangements with the Pastor. We ask that this be done before finalizing arrangements with a funeral home.

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.

3625 Highway 75
St. Gabriel, LA 70776

(225) 642-8441

secretary@stgabrielcatholic.org
www.stgabrielcatholic.org

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
4 PM, St. Gabriel
4 PM, Sacred Heart
9 PM, St. Gabriel

Christmas Day
9 AM, St. Gabriel

In Sympathy

We extend our prayers to Lyle Michel's family, for the death of his mom, Linda, and to Mrs. Helen Ambeau for the death of her brother, Wendell.

The Parish Office will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 23rd for the Christmas Holiday.
We will reopen on Monday, January 5th, 2026.

Contributions

Reminder: All contributions should be received in the parish office no later than December 28th to ensure they are processed prior to year-end.

LOCAL ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All services begin at 6:30 pm.

Tuesday, 12/16	St. Stephen	Maurepas
Wednesday, 12/17	St. John	Prairieville
Thursday, 12/18	St. Michael	Convent

Prepare the way for the Lord

St. Gabriel's Outreach Ministry Winter 2025

Boy's Baby and Toddler Clothing
(6 mo. - 2 yr.)
Men's & Ladies' Underwear
Men's & Ladies' Deodorant
Belts – Pillows – Hand soap

Please place your new and unused donations in the basket provided in the vestibule of the church.

Sacramental Preparation

CONFIRMATION

Our parish is blessed to have 29 candidates preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on January 20th, 2026. Please pray for the candidates.

FIRST EUCHARIST

We will soon begin our preparation for First Eucharist. Parents, please be on the lookout for an email soon regarding our first meeting in January.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of BATON ROUGE

RESPECT LIFE MASS

Celebrated by Bishop Michael Duca

January 25, 2025 | 8:30 a.m.

VOCATION CORNER

Third Sunday of Advent -- "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 225-336-8778 or via email: ablount@diobr.org

Dear God,

Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

Marian Hymn | Alma Redemptoris Mater

This is the Marian (to Mary) Hymn is one of four songs sung from Advent through February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The other songs are: Ave Regina Caelorum (Hail Queen of Heaven), Regina Coeli (O Queen of Heaven), and Salve Regina (Hail Holy Queen).

We sing these songs prior to our closing song to express devotion to our Blessed Mother and to acknowledge her role in the story of salvation.

Why do we sing it in Latin? Latin acts as a unifying language across different cultures within the Catholic Church, allowing people from diverse backgrounds to participate in the same liturgy and express their devotion to Mary in a shared, historical language, even if they don't understand the exact words; this practice also connects worshippers to the rich tradition of the Church throughout the centuries.

We encourage you to participate each week in the Marian Hymn.

Latin Text:
Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli
Porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,
Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti,
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

English Translation:
Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again,
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
Yet remained a virgin after as before
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
Have pity on us poor sinners.

Third Sunday of Advent | Matthew 11:2-11

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind.

I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort … for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7).

He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit.

He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for?

Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow?

Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Readings of the Week

©LPi

Sunday 12/14: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
Monday 12/15: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday 12/16: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday 12/17: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
Thursday 12/18: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25
Friday 12/19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Saturday 12/20: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38
Next Sunday 12/21: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Join us for Scripture Study!

Tuesdays 8:30 - 9:30 AM & Wednesdays 9-10 AM in the Kleinpeter Center

WEEKEND OFFERINGS

Envelopes & Loose Total
$8,685.16

There will be one envelope, 12/21.
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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday 12/16– Holliday Family
Mr. & Mrs. L.G. Hoffman, Jr. & Sr.
Wednesday 12/17 – Jesse Lunsford
Thursday 12/18- Michael Ragusa
Friday 12/19 – Gerald Hernandez
Saturday 12/20 – Carlin-Mouch Families
Tryve Bracklin
Francis Murphy
Sunday 12/21– 8A: Rodney Gomez
Babin-Ruiz-Smith Families
10A: M/M Vincent Amato
M/M George Chenove, Sr.
Dr. Emile Frisard

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

DECEMBER 20TH & 21st

4PM- AS: Matt Saia; Alexander Gros; Sam Hays
Lector: Sandra Alfred
EMHC: Deacon John Veron;
Brigitte Fields; Kaye LeBlanc

8 AM- AS: Todd Pourciau; Ethan Tschirky
Lector: Wendy Spedale
EMHC: Deacon John Veron;
Sonya Granier; Liz Payne

10 AM- AS: JJ LaPlace; Elena & Marcus Brandt
Lectors: Yanira Morales; Monica Tircuit
EMHC: Deacon John Veron;
Karen LaPlace; Chase LaPlace

Our online giving program is set up to make it easy for you to achieve your stewardship goals. Visit our website or scan the QR code to contribute.

GIVE ONLINE

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers, especially:

Fr. Charlie Landry; Wayne & Carolyn Achee; Dorella Banta; Austin & Betty Jean Barbay; Billy & Phyllis Babin; Brenda Blanchard; Kim Comeaux Bonnette; Melissa Conrad; Ronald Dauterive; Lily Fairchild; John Guerin; John & Lilian Holliday; Martha Laurent; Deborah Marchand Lewis; James Minchew; Frank & Barbara Panepinto; Bessie Pizzolato; Flory Reynolds; Enith Roy; Catherine Sharp; Mary Joyce Sheldon; Curt Solieau; Gary & Lisa Switzer; Margie Warthen; Joyce Williams

To add to or remove from this list, please call the parish office.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS, PROFESSIONALS, SELF-EMPLOYED AND FAMILIES

NEW BULLETIN COMING!
Support the church by placing an ad!
Your ads allow the church to receive the weekly bulletin at no cost.
The bulletin is a main source of communication to everyone in the parish and is handed out by ushers at all the masses throughout the week – EVERY week of the year.

Kim Broyard from **Liturgical Publications**, our new bulletin printer, will be in our office working on securing new ads for our bulletin. We need your help! Please consider purchasing an ad, sponsoring a charity, or in memory of a loved one. Your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING
- Local, targeted community advertising for **one full year, at one low price.**
- A FREE ad listing on **parishesonline.com**.
- FREE, professional ad design.

KIM BROYARD (504) 333-2816 | kbroyard@4LPi.com
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