The River Catholic

12/28/2025, Vol. 41 #19

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

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.

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St. Gabriel, LA 70776

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secretary@stgabrielcatholic.org
www.stgabrielcatholic.org

A Holy Day of Obligation

Solemnity of the

Mary, Mother of God

MASS TIMES 8 am & 6 pm, St. Gabriel
12 pm, Sacred Heart Chapel- Carville

Thursday, January 1st

This solemnity is a rather recent addition to the cycle of seasons, Sundays, and feasts in our liturgical year. We have Pope Paul VI to thank for the 1974 enshrining of the devotion to Mary into our calendar on January 1. It is also a day in our calendar as a World Day for Peace.

ALL ARE WELCOME

A Ministry for Individuals with Special Needs and Their Families

JOIN US AT ST. GABRIEL FOR A SENSORY-FRIENDLY MASS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11TH @ 1PM

The Roman Catholic Diocese of
BATON ROUGE

January 26, 2026 | 8:30 AM
St. Joseph's Cathedral

Celebrated by Bishop Michael Duca

RESPECT LIFE MASS

St. Gabriel's Outreach Ministry
Winter 2025

Boy's Baby and Toddler Clothing
(6 mo. - 2 yr.)

Underwear Belts Handsoap
Deodorant Pillows

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

In Sympathy

We extend our prayers to the friends and family of Mary Helen Sanchez Wells, who died in Christ.

The Parish Office will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 23rd for the Christmas Holiday.

SORRY! WE'RE CLOSED

We will reopen Monday, January 5th, 2026.

Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together. Amen.

Fostering Holy Family Life

We certainly need to share God's plan for marriage and family with others by our words, but as Blessed Pope Paul VI reminded us in Evangelii Nuntiandi, today's world needs witnesses and not just teachers. We need to practice and foster holy family life and to show people that this is the truly "good life." What are some practical ways we can do this?

- The family is a "school of prayer," St. John Paul II taught, and it is literally true that the family that prays together stays together. We cannot let our religion remain private. We need to share the most important part of our lives with the most important people in our lives. Holy Mass is obviously most important, but families going to confession together, praying the rosary together, saying night prayers together, and praying before meals have a much better chance of flourishing than families that do not pray together.
- Display symbols of our Catholic faith in our homes. It was very common two generations ago to see lots of Catholic images in family homes, but unfortunately they are much rarer today. We do a much better job of this at Christmas, with nativity scenes and religious ornaments on the Christmas tree, but all-too-often that is the only time of year when we have a daily, visible reminder of what is most important in our lives. Even hanging a crucifix and a picture of the Blessed Mother in each Catholic home would do a lot to change that for the better.
- Talk about our faith. It's so easy to fill our conversations, at worst, with fighting or insults, or at least with sarcasm and insincerity. A shared sense of humor should be a part of family life, but we need to have times when we talk about "the serious stuff," when we can discuss what is really going on in our lives, and especially about our faith and what it means to us. If we do not learn about Christ and the Church in our families, it will be very hard to learn these things anywhere else.
- Forgive each other. Jesus makes it clear again and again that we need to love each other even to the point of self-sacrifice. In my own life, I know that I will never be able to repay my parents and other family members who have done so much to help me, and forgiven me so many times when I have hurt them. But repaying people is never really the point anyway. Family life is about more than fairness. It is about loving others no matter what, and forgiving them the way God has forgiven us, even when that forgiveness is undeserved.
- Discern and do God's will. Here again the Holy Family is our greatest example. Their whole lives were dedicated, not to the question "What will make me happy," but to doing whatever the Father called them to do. Jesus Himself said, "I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me" (John 6:38). Doing the will of the Father is the reason for Christmas, and it is needs to be the driving purpose of our lives. Doing God's will brought Jesus to the Cross, and it will always involve sacrifices for us, too, but God's promise is that our sacrifices are never offered in vain. They will always bring new life.

(Editor's note: This essay was originally posted at CWR on December 29, 2018.)

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph | Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee…" (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

— Father John Muir

Readings of the Week

©LPi

Sunday 12/28: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday 12/29: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday 12/30: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday 12/31: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday 1/1: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday 1/2: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday 1/3: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday 1/4: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Join us for Scripture Study!

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

WEEKEND OFFERINGS

Envelopes & Loose Total
$ 8,562.00
Online Giving month-to-date
$ 11,365.00

There will be one envelope, 1/4.
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 12/30– Tryve Brackin
Wednesday 12/31 – Amedee-Crochet Flys
Thursday 1/1- 8A: Kevin Minor
12p: Glynn & Lois Hernandez; Mary Ann Tassin; W. Allen White; Cecile Johnson; Anthony Pizzolato; Kenneth Johnson; White-Crochet Families
6p: For the Parish
Friday 1/2 – M/M Vincent Amato
M/M George Chenove, Sr.
Saturday 1/3 – For the Parish
Sunday 1/4– 8A: Amedee Fly; Vicky Bourne
10A: LaPlace Family

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

JANUARY 3RD & 4TH

4PM- AS: Matt Saia; Alexander Gros; Sam Hays
Lector: Sandra Alfred; Deborah Marchand-Lewis
EMHC: Bertha Aycock; Melva Hymel; Kaye LeBlanc
8 AM- AS: Todd Pourciau; Ethan Tschirky
Lector: Liz Hoffman; Cathy Ragusa
EMHC: Mike Tubre; Liz Payne; Sonya Granier
10 AM- AS: JJ LaPlace; Andrew Davis; Bethany White
Lectors: Yanira Morales; Monica Tircuit
EMHC: Mary Ray; Karen LaPlace; Carmel Taylor

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

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
LPi BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

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.