

Mass Intentions (Jan 14-20, 2023)

Sat. Dec 14/4:30 p.m. Thanksgiving for Blessings received - Vic & Alicia Somera

Sun. Jan 15/10:00 a.m. Nick Baird - Teresa Baird
Gino Alfonso - Yvonne Gouveia
Paul McMahan - Kahawita family
Barbara Tramley - Samia Cassar
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott Families
Raymond, Ivy & Fabian Edward - Edward family

Wed. Jan 18/10:00 a.m. Antonio Muzzo - Anna Muzzo

Thu. Jan 19/10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird

Fri. Jan 20/10:00 a.m. Dr. Nagib Cassar - Samia Cassar

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading (Isaiah 49:3. 5-6)

God's servant is called to bring all people to God, to be "the light of all nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth".

PSALM:

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading (1 Cor 1:1-3)

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel (John 1:29-34)

John the Baptist saw the Spirit of God come down upon Jesus in the form of a dove and identifies Jesus as "The Chosen One of God" and "the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world".

Reflection:

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of the Year. Last Sunday, we celebrated the Epiphany and on Monday we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord.

At his baptism in the River Jordan Jesus was revealed as the second person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, as the Spirit descended upon him and the voice of the Father called from the heavens.

Who is Jesus – for you? That is really a couple of questions.

We need to answer it by professing what we know of or about Jesus.

We could use some of the titles and phrases that are associated with Him in scriptures: Son of Man, Son of God, the Christ, Lamb of God, Lord, Immanuel, the One Who Saves, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Light of the World, the Good Shepherd, Prince of Peace, King of kings, etc.,

Yet even after we mention some of His titles and names, the more important questions is *Who is Jesus for you?*

That implies a relationship that you have with Him. When you think about Jesus, and more importantly, when you pray (relate) to Him, how do you address Him and what images of Him do you have?

Isaiah says that the Chosen One will come as a servant to manifest GOD's glory. This Messianic Servant will be called from the womb to lead people back to GOD.

May the Lord Jesus continue to manifest His presence to you and may you lift up His name in praise!



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week In memory of Raymond, Ivy & Fabian Edward.

By – Edward family.

Sick and Shut-Ins

If you have a family member or know of a friend who is shut-in and wish to receive Holy Communion or a visit from our pastoral home care team please call the parish office. We are here to serve you.

Sacrament of Reconciliation every Sunday, 30 minutes before mass or any other day/time by appointment. (514) 488-0778.

MASS INTENTIONS REMINDER...

Please keep in mind when requesting a mass or Sanctuary Lamp for your deceased loved ones. Each mass or lamp is \$15/-. Please remember to put in your request 30 days before your requested date to avoid disappointment.

Thank you for understanding.

Churches today have continued the mission, but many still face difficulties in developing their churches, and St. Richards Parish is no different. As generations pass on, younger people have less interest in the traditional ways. The reality is churches must grow to survive and spread the Gospel. The benefits of growing a church come with reaching more people, sharing God's message, and making a difference in people's lives.

Fr. George wishes with every parishioner's help to build a vibrant parish community for St. Richards Parish. He humbly request we all make an effort to invite and bring family and friends to Sunday mass. We can only succeed with your help.

Thank you for making that effort.

STEWARDSHIP (The Eight T's of Stewardship)

The Eight T's are: **Time, Talent, Treasure, Testimony, Touch, Tissue, Trash, and Technology.** You know the first three; the last four go like this: testimony (Christian witnessing), touch (relationships), tissue (care of our bodies), trash (care of God's creation), and technology (our use of the electronic devices and tools with which God has blessed us).

TALENT - Our TALENTS include the gifts, skills and abilities that God has given to us. We often hear people talking about their "God-given abilities." And this is right on target because all we are and have is a gift from a good and gracious God. Our TALENTS include the gifts that God has entrusted to us. The 12th chapters of Romans and 1 Corinthians speak about some of these gifts and remind us that the Holy Spirit gives various gifts according to His will, and He desires that we use these gifts for the common good (1 Peter 4:10). Using our God-given TALENTS wisely and well produces the fruit of the Spirit that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Just as God provided skilled workers to help with the building of the Old Testament tabernacle and temples, so He continues to bless His people today with special gifts and skills to be of service in ways that honor God and bless others. We are members of the body of Christ (in our congregations) and each of us has TALENTS to put to work within that body so that it may be built up to be the worshipping, witnessing and serving community that God intends. Make every effort to discover your gifts, skills, and abilities and find ways to put them to work in your congregation.

TREASURE - TREASURE, or money, is what people most often think about when they hear the term "stewardship." And it is true that money and, specifically, the wise use and management of money are important parts of Christian stewardship. One of the Bible passages that speaks to the wise use of money is 1 Timothy 6:17-19: "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of life that is truly life." **There are only a few things we can do with money—earn it, give it, save it, spend it and bequeath it.** Good stewardship means striving to keep a healthy balance with these uses. For example, one can get so concerned with earning that he overworks at the expense of his health and relationships. Or, one can get carried away with spending and not have anything left for giving and saving. The above Scripture passages affirm that God gives us all kinds of good gifts for our enjoyment, but adds that we are to use these gifts for more than our own enjoyment. Our cold and selfish natures encourage us to use money and goods only for ourselves, adopting some strange strategy like, "God helps those who help themselves." But the new nature within us because of the working of the Holy Spirit urges us to use all our gifts, including the gift of money, for the common good and for the expansion of God's kingdom on earth. What joy will follow us into heaven when our glorious Lord commends us for our wise use of money and says, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21) Did you know Jesus talked often about money? Sixteen of the thirty-eight parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing one out of ten verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, less than 500 verses on faith, but more than 2,000 verses on money and possessions. (Howard L. Dayton, Jr., Leadership, Vol. 2, no. 2)

To be cont'd

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts,
all we have to do is:
Water it with prayers
Fertilize it with words of God
Cultivate it with lots of love.

