

Mass Intentions (Feb 4-10, 2023)

Sat. Feb 4/4:30 p.m. Gael Shannon - Erin Shannon

Sun. Feb 5/10:00 a.m. Nick Baird - Teresa Baird
Emile Mina - Leila Mina
Gino Alfonso - Linda Alfonso & family
Eileen Shanahan - Shanahan & Scott Families
Estela & Ray Angelo Taguino & Richard Gélinas - Guia Gélinas

Wed. Feb 8/10:00 a.m. Living & Deceased members of the Baird, Shanahan, Scott, Ryan, Malone, Faherty, McGarry & Kostner Families - Teresa Baird

Thu. Feb 9/10:00 a.m. Special Intentions for 2023 through the intercession of Mary – Florine Blessing

Memorial – St. Scholastica

Fri. Feb 10/10:00 a.m. Ida Cassar - Samia Cassar

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

“You are the light of the world.”

First Reading (Isaiah 58:6-10)

The prophet shows how the light of faith is expressed in action.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 2:1-5) Paul speaks of his need for Christ in order to be an effective witness and preacher of the gospel.

Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16) By means of a simple illustration, Jesus shows us our dignity and importance as his followers today.

Reflection: The theme of light shines through our readings today. The emphasis is not exclusively or even primarily on Jesus as the Light of the world, but on our call to be light to the world. Today’s First Reading takes place as the exiles from the Babylonian captivity return to Jerusalem and their homeland. They once again start to worship at the place of the Temple and perform their ancient rituals and practices. They are disappointed that performing their various ceremonies and practices of fasting has not brought a favorable response from GOD. GOD speaks through the prophet saying that rituals and religious practices are not what GOD wants. GOD desires that they reach out to the poor and outcasts and meet their needs by feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked. This is what will bring light (favor) upon them. The Responsorial Psalm picks up the theme of the light flowing from the Good deeds of the just. Those who are gracious and merciful will receive the light from GOD because they give to the poor.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul does not use the imagery of light, but speaks about living a different life – a life that the world says is nonsense. Instead of speaking eloquently and using words which impress and “wow” his audience, Paul speaks of the crucified Lord Jesus. Paul focuses not on the persuasive force of argumentation, but on the power of GOD as manifested in the Lord Jesus Christ and His serving the poor and outcasts and ultimately laying down His life.

In the Gospel today, Jesus challenges His disciples, including us to live out our lives as salt for the earth and light for the world.

May you continue to be a source of the enhancement in other people’s life, by bringing light into their darkness and providing a sense of hope in them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

New Choir Members needed

We need new choir members for our Sunday choir. Only requirement is to be available for practice at 9:30 am on Sundays and thereafter for mass. If you are interested please contact our Choir director Connie Wilson after the Sunday mass.

Volunteers needed to maintain the Altar and the Sacristy

We need volunteers to assist in maintaining the altar and the sacristy. The requirement is one volunteer to be present at 9:30 am on Sundays to assist Yvonne Gouveia.

Two more volunteers are needed to clean the altar and the sacristy on Saturdays at 10:45 am for one hour.

Please contact Anna Maria Marinoni after the Sunday mass.



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for Special Intentions for the Gouveia family.

By – Yvonne Gouveia.

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE YOUR USED COMPUTER FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN!

Children belonging to refugee and asylum seeker families need computer or laptop to do their homework. If you no longer use your old one, please bring it to the Church office. One of our volunteer engineer will repair them before giving it to the families.

Thank you for helping.

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.

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, 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 an effort.

STEWARDSHIP (The Eight T’s of Stewardship)

Time, Talent, Treasure, Testimony, Touch, Tissue, Trash, & Technology.

TECHNOLOGY - Once again, Christian Stewardship begins with the conviction that everything we have—time, talent, treasure, testimony, touch, tissue, trash, and now technology—is a gift from God’s hands. Our response as called and redeemed children of God is to seek to use these gifts effectively and efficiently to His glory and in service in and to the kingdom of God both here on earth and ultimately in heaven for all eternity. As we deal with the idea of our Christian Stewardship of Technology as we narrow that definition to electronic devices and how they are used in our lives. As with anything else, technology can be used for “good” or for “evil”. The same laser beam that can cut the cancer from our body with very little damage to surrounding tissue, can guide the bomb to destroy the village. The car that carries people to church can also be the tool by which a drunken person can bring an end to life or a terrorist can kill many. The computer that can bring our Sunday morning worship service to a shut-in or a soldier deployed overseas can also destroy a young man addicted to pornography. How technology is used, as is the case in the seven other T’s is what we are talking about as we talk about Christian Stewardship. As with the seven other T’s a good question to ponder is; Is technology, or any of the other gifts God gives to us, our servant to use to His glory and for the benefit of His creation, or are we its slave? In short, how can we use any of these T’s, including technology, to the glory of God and in the service of His kingdom—in our individual lives, in our congregations, and in our communities as we live life in all those places as a forgiven child of God. Very briefly, technology is used incorrectly when it becomes our god and we are indebted to it and under its control. It becomes our god when it is an all-consuming part of our life and we in effect serve technology when we always have to be connected, instead of allowing it to serve us. The technology we are talking about can also have incredible impact in and for the Kingdom of God as we practice good stewardship of this gift from God. Technology can and does (and has for centuries) helped God’s people in making the most of the gifts with which He blesses us and has aided in proclaiming the Gospel message of salvation alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, throughout the whole world. Think back to the invention of the printing press and the numbers of people who could now have their own Bible and other books; to radio and the ability in the day to broadcast the good news of Jesus Christ around the world; to computers today, and phones and tablets and other technology that allow us and everyone else to have the Word of God constantly at their fingertips. Without a doubt, technology, and more importantly our use of it, can enhance or destroy our Christian walk. As we sum up these 8 T’s of Stewardship, there is one foundational Word from God to us through the pen of St. Paul that we need to consider? It is found in 1 Corinthians 10:31 where he writes, 31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. May this be our goal, to use every gift with which our Heavenly Father blesses us, in whatever quantity He sees fit to bless us, to achieve the purpose for which He has sent us out into His world, namely to make disciples of all nations so that His kingdom here on earth, and His kingdom in heaven, may grow as more and more people come to know Him as their Father, and Jesus Christ as their only Savior from sin and eternal death, through the power and working of the Holy Spirit in their life. **End.**