



# Come, Lord Jesus!

*Spiritual Insights  
Reports  
Formation  
Program Updates*



## *December*

*Every Thursday  
Memorial Mass  
for the enrollees in the  
CLJ! Memorial Burse*

*December 5  
2nd Sunday of Advent*

*December 8  
The Immaculate  
Conception of the  
Virgin Mary*

*December 12  
3rd Sunday of Advent*

*December 19  
4th Sunday of Advent*

*December 25  
The Nativity of the Lord*

*December 26  
The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary & Joseph*

### *Peace and joy in our infant Savior!*

The Christmas season is the celebration of our God's self-giving. From all eternity the Father and the Son have been giving themselves to each other in the eternal *Love of the Spirit*. This self-gift, which is the nature of God who is Love, reached us in time through the marvelous mystery of the Incarnation.

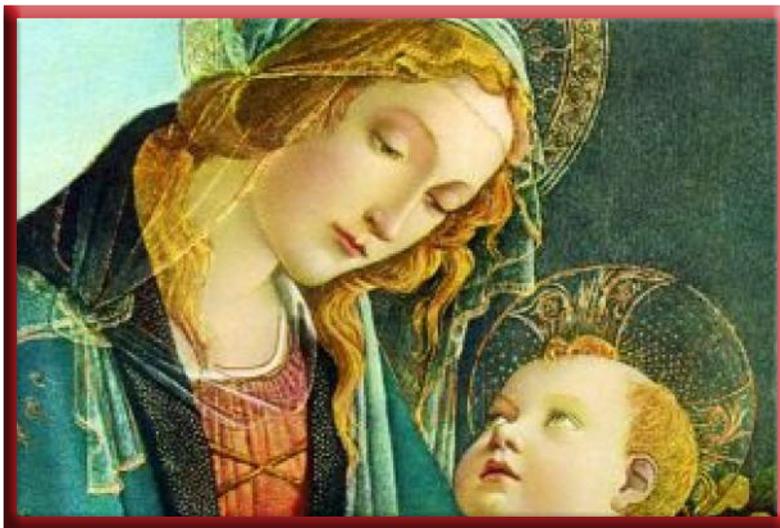
This is the Christmas mystery, when we celebrate God's gift of himself to us in Jesus. It took place through the cooperation of Mary who herself had entered into this movement of self-gift from the moment of her Immaculate Conception. Her "fiat" (let it be) was but an audible manifestation of what had been going on all along. This eternal motion of love's self-giving was extended to us and became part of our world so that we could become participants in it. We are invited to enter into this blissful current of self-giveness toward God and toward each other, and thus realize our true nature which is to be *love*.

It is only when we fully realize the nature of our beings as children of this self-giving God that we can be truly happy.

Let's hope that our Christmas gifts will become more and more expressions of the gift of ourselves. We give ourselves to God through our gifts to others. We use material means and service to express the disposition of our hearts. Our whole lives are taken up with the love of God.

This puts us on the level of Mary who hastened into the hill country: no journey is too long, no task is too difficult, no burden too heavy. We no longer rest in self; each manifestation of God's will prompts us to fly towards its fulfillment; the body no longer weighs us down; we have been freed! We live on a new level – God's own self-giving *LOVE* has become our own!

*May God himself reward you with countless blessings this holy season as we celebrate Jesus' gift of himself to us.*



Jesus images and radiates the Father's glorious being and mirrors his perfections for us to see. He fully contains and reveals the Father's divinity to us. He possesses entirely the divine essence and makes it known to us. The incarnate Jesus reflects the nature of the invisible God so that we can see what God is like in human form. *"For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily"* (Col 2:9).

This is what St. John refers to when he writes, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him"* (Jn 1:1, 14, 19). Jesus is God's eternal Word who perfectly images him and makes him present to us. As Jesus put it, *"The Father and I are one"* (Jn 10:30).

Jesus further identified himself as one with the Father when he used the same divine name that God named himself to Moses. God revealed that his name is *"I AM"* in response to Moses' request (Ex 3:14). On several occasions Jesus identified himself with the divine name. For example, he said...*"before Abraham came to be, I AM"* (Jn 8:58; See also Jn 8:24, 28; 13:19). That is why Thomas exclaimed – when he saw the risen Jesus, *"My Lord and my God!"* (Jn 20:28). He experienced Jesus to be God. Jesus had already explained to the disciples, even before he was glorified, *"If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him"* (Jn 14:7). In response to Philip who said, *"Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us"*. Jesus said, *"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...I am in the Father and the Father is in me"* (Jn 14:8,9,10).

Jesus, as the Word of God (Jn 1:1), is the Wisdom of God in Person, and possesses and reflects all the perfections of God to an infinite degree, since he shares the divine nature and is one with God. He incarnates the divine Wisdom proclaimed in the Old Testament of which it is written, *"For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness...For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars"*. (Wis 7:25, 26, 29).

We must look for and come to know Jesus as he imaged and portrayed God in the Gospels. That is why it is so important that we read and meditate on him and all of his actions. Everything about him reveals who God is. In him we see the characteristics of God – from his birth to his death. We must look at him intensely and study his every move and word: his gentleness, compassion for the weak and suffering, his patient endurance and persistent teaching of the apostles who were so slow to catch on to the spiritual, his fidelity and love for the Father, his just anger, his zeal for the kingdom, his faithfulness as a friend to his weak and failing apostles, his submissiveness and obedience to the Father's will, his self-effacement, his spirit of self-denial etc.. Jesus also reveals to us the continuous communion he enjoyed with the Father in the love of the Holy Spirit. In this way, by contemplating Jesus and his behavior, we come to know the Father whom Jesus images and reveals: *"If you know me"*, Jesus said *"then you will also know my Father"* (Jn 14:7).

Father Conley Bertrand



On behalf of Father Bertrand and the entire *Come, Lord Jesus!* community, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and admiration for your commitment to the calling of *Come, Lord Jesus!* leadership, dedication to the program and your members, and service to Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Thank you for exemplary leadership shown by your perseverance in providing ongoing meetings for 45 years, by having regular contact with members, encouraging prayerfulness, spiritual growth and unity, by your obedience in following the meeting format, and consistency in attending leader seminars and workshops. Thank you for representing *Come, Lord Jesus!* as a way of life to your church parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Broussard, LA and providing a solid foundation for its continual growth in your parish. Congratulations to each member who has been a part of this group throughout the years, serving the Lord with faithfulness and contributing to the honorable reputation of the program. "Well done, good and faithful servant(s)". You are an inspiration to all of us!

## *45 Years of Leadership!*



# Recent Events



## Leadership Meetings

*Come, Lord Jesus!* leaders met virtually throughout the months of September and October in discussion of Father Bertrand's booklet:

*"The Grace of Acceptance - When Things Go Wrong"*

By popular demand, we will be sponsoring additional workshops on numerous topics for the purpose of spiritual growth for our members.



## Advent Program

Our 4-week *Come, Lord Jesus!* Advent program is being introduced by outreach representatives in numerous church parishes. This short-term program allows participants to experience the true meaning of Christmas with emphasis of the glorious birth of Jesus. Pictured are Sybil Vidrine and members of the leadership team from Sacred Heart in Ville Platte.



## Outreach Campaign

An Outreach Campaign was recently held at Christ the King Catholic Church in Lake Charles. We happily welcome our new groups into our *Come, Lord Jesus!* family! Pictured is Deacon Glen Bertrand during the Introduction Night presentation where details about the program were provided and groups were formed.

## *Aspiring to Live the Highest Life*

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## Beware of the "World"

Beware of the allurements of the world that tend to lead us astray. Satan uses these to deceive and ensnare us. St. John warns us: "The whole world is under the power of the evil one" (1Jn 5:19).

What is so bad about befriending this world? First of all, if we give our hearts to the things of this world, they are divided – we cannot love God with our whole hearts as the great commandment tells us (Mt 22:36-38). If we devote most of our attention, energies, time and talent to the pursuit of this world in such a way it takes God's place in our lives. We serve *it* instead of God (Mt 6:24) – this is a kind of idolatry! Secondly, our appetites for the goods of this world consume us! We are no longer free for God. Desire for this world and its pleasures puts us on the level of selfish sense which incapacitates us for union with the risen Christ, who has become Spirit (2 Cor 3:17).

## Welcome New Members!

**Carencro, LA:** Vicky Baccus  
**Delcambre, LA:** Melanie "Sookie" Hopkins  
**Erath, LA:** Brenda Brasseaux, Donna Istre  
**Esther, LA:** Christine F. Laperouse  
**Fenton, LA:** Keta Burton, Chrissy Tarver  
**Gretna, LA:** Sharon Marse  
**Jeanerette, LA:** Martha Frederick  
**Lafayette, LA:** Lydia Robichaux, Karen B. Judice  
Betty Tujague  
**Lake Charles, LA:** Dawn Courville  
**Leesville, LA:** Vaneesa Williams  
**Marrero, LA:** Rose Champagne  
**Opelousas, LA:** Cecile Dupre

## WELCOME NEW GROUPS!

**Borger, TX: ... Celine Ramirez .... Leader**  
Alicia Salinas, Cynthia Gutierrez, Sandra Muñiz,  
Felipe Muñiz Veronica Pineda, ZeFerino Jimenez  
Norma A. Corrales, Hilda Marquez, Gregoria Ramos  
Lucia Marquez, Ana L. Mendieta

**Broussard, LA: ... Susan Slovacek .... Leader**  
Andy Slovacek, Mary Parker, Colette Anzalone,  
Joey Anzalone

**Lake Charles, LA: ... Annette Dyke .... Leader**  
Harold Dyke, Renita Papillion, Kim Trahan, Janice Crador  
John Nunez, Joyce Webster, Madeline Colligan,  
Mary A. Richard

**Lake Charles, LA: ... Donna Gary.... Leader**  
Jendy Trahan, Cathy Thibodeaux, Kalyn Buck, Jill Breaux  
Trudy LeJeune, Mirinda Morales, Julie Buck,  
Johnny Hensgans, Becky Hensgans, Carlton Babineaux

## October 2021 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Gretna	St. Martinville
Arnaudville	Harvey	Thibodaux
Baker	Iota	Ville Platte
Baton Rouge	Jeanerette	Washington
Bell City	Jefferson	
Berwick	Jennings	
Borger, TX	Kaplan	
Breaux Bridge	Kinder	
Broussard	Lafayette	
Buda TX	Lake Arthur	
Cankton	Lake Charles	
Carencro	Leesville	
Carlyss	Marrero	
Coteau	Maurice	
Cow Island	Metairie	
Delcambre	Morgan City	
DeRidder	Morse	
Duson	New Iberia	
Erath	Opelousas	
Esther	Pierre Part	
Estherwood	Pine Prairie	
Eunice	Plaisance	
Fenton	Richard	
Franklin	Schriever	
Fritch TX	Slidell	
Grand Prairie	St. Amant	

## OCT 21 - NOV. 15, 2021 Memorial Burse Donations

Nanette Briggs  
Dr. David Fisher  
Joseph Hughey  
Judy Lapeyrouse  
Delma Meaux  
Shirley Smith  
David Trimble

Jason Derousselle  
John Hesterly  
Lester Key  
David Lejeune  
Kristy McCall Rivers  
Linest Trahan

## *Condolences December 2021*

To member Cynthia Fontenot of Ragley, LA on the death of her brother, David Courville.

To member Dolores Trahan of Abbeville, LA on the death of her husband, Linest Trahan.

To the members of "Lord, Teach Us to Pray" group in Jeanerette, LA on the death of their member, Judy Lapeyrouse.

To the members of "We Live for the Lord" group in Slidell, LA on the death of their member, Lester Key.

To member Nell Meaux of Delcambre, LA on the death of her husband, Delma Meaux.

To the member Susan Doumite of Kinder, LA on the death of her mother, Rosemary Vaussine.

To the members of "In The Hands of the Potter" group in Lafayette, LA on the death of their member, Nanette Briggs.

To member Kathy Screen of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her sister, Kristy McCall Rivers.

To the member Lisette Borné of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her brother, Joseph Hughey.



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Come, Lord Jesus!  
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