

Come, Lord Jesus!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



December

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

**December 4
2nd Sunday of Advent**

**December 8
The Immaculate Conception
of the Virgin Mary**

**December 11
3rd Sunday of Advent**

**December 18
4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 25
The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas)**

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

Jesus assumed a human nature to bring about the salvation of our fallen race. This is the mystery of the Incarnation. Jesus is God the Son who became man. He is one divine Person with two natures and two wills – human and divine.

The words “made his dwelling among us” literally in Greek means “pitched his tent among us.” This image recalls the tabernacle, where the Israelites were instructed to keep the Ark of the Covenant, which signifies the presence of God among his people. In the fullest sense, the Incarnation of Christ brought the presence of God into our midst.

“We saw his glory” refers to the fact that John and the Apostles were eyewitnesses to the signs that confirm Jesus’ claims of divinity which were demonstrated in his glorified humanity and in his many works. The Nicene Creed uses these words to describe Jesus as the Father’s only Son: “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father, through him all things were made.”

Jesus is the divine brightness or radiance that shines forth from the Lord. As such, he is Light from Light, true God from true God. This is a term from Wisdom 7:26, where the divine Wisdom of God is described as the “*reflection of eternal light*.” “The very imprint of his being” testifies to the divinity of Jesus, who is said to bear the “character” or “stamp” of God’s eternal being. The context of “his mighty word” implies that Jesus himself is the Word of God, in contrast to the fragmentary expression of God’s word that comes through the prophets.

In view of our continued need to understand the Jesus we call upon when we plead for his coming, we must review St. Paul’s description of him in his Epistle to the Colossians:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers: all things were created through him and for him...For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace....”

Father Conley Bertrand

O COME
LET US
adore
Him
CHRIST
THE LORD



Mother of the Messiah

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth."

In keeping with the marriage customs of the time, Mary was probably a girl of some fourteen or fifteen years at the time of the annunciation. Her home was probably like most in this poor village, a cave, dug into the side of a hill with perhaps a small extension to the front. There could have been a single door to the house, with a small opening on the side for ventilation. Light came from the open door or from a lamp consisting of a saucer of oil in which floated a wick. On the floor were perhaps a few mats, perhaps not even that. The floor itself was simply clay beaten hard by the many footsteps of the family. Mary's life was definitely a hidden one, leaving her intimate relationship with God undisturbed and free to grow and thrive.

The angel said to Mary, *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."* "Hail" is a common greeting, which literally means "Rejoice!". The call to rejoice echoes Old Testament passages that address daughter Zion. In the prophets this refers to Mother Jerusalem, whose faithful children will rejoice in the Messianic age because God has chosen to dwell in their midst. Mary, chosen to be the virgin Mother of the Messiah, is greeted with the same summons because she is the embodiment of faithful Israel and the most privileged recipient of God's Messianic blessings.

The angel's greeting, *"full of grace"*, means that Mary is the object of God's grace and favor. This Greek word means "most favored one". This title not only preserves all that "full of grace" might imply of personal sanctity, but also points to the reason for that fullness: for the favor that will make of Mary the "Favored One" par excellence is the Messianic motherhood, the divine maternity. The titles "full of grace" and "most favored one" indicated that Mary is the object of God's grace and favor from the beginning.

She has been chosen for a long time past, making her a vessel who has been and is now filled with divine life. God endowed Mary with an abundance of grace to prepare her for the vocation of divine motherhood, and to make her a sterling example of Christian holiness. God is her "Savior" (Luke 1:47) in the most perfect way possible: he sanctified Mary in the first instance of her conception and preserved her entirely from sin and even from the inclination toward sin that we experience.

Mary, more than any other human being in the Bible, is the recipient of the most impressive salutations (see Lk 1:28, 30, 35, 42-49). In her, more than in anyone else, God's Messianic fulfillment is achieved. As such, she has received more from and through God's anticipation of Jesus' redemptive work, than anyone else in the Old or New Testament. *"The Lord is with you,"* means God will aid Mary in carrying out the role for which he has chosen her to be, mother of the Messiah. These consoling words are a guarantee that the promise will be efficacious; the divine purpose will be accomplished. Mary is assured of this; she will not be alone; God will be present working through and with her.

"Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid Mary, for you have found favor with God.'" God's divine graciousness has endowed Mary with a supernatural quality making her pleasing in his sight. God has favored Mary to the full, above and before all other creatures. She was the closest of all creatures to God because of the all-important role given her as Mother of the Messiah. Moreover, her humility, her joy in God, her love for others, her fortitude and plentitude of virtues demonstrate how well she has responded to her graced and favored condition.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father, David, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Father Conley Bertrand

Retreat & Anniversary Mass



In celebration of the gift of *Come, Lord Jesus!*, members from the **Bayou Vista, Berwick, Bourg, Houma, Morgan City, Patterson, Pierre Part and Thibodaux** areas recently gathered at the Lumen Christi Retreat Center for empowering presentations, Mass, Adoration, fellowship and lunch. ***Glory to God!***



Rev. Dan Duplantis



Father Conley Bertrand



Rev. Duplantis & Katherine Distefano

Recent Events



Church Parish Representatives Workshop

A workshop for *Come, Lord Jesus!* Church Parish Representatives (CPRs) was held at St. Jules in Lafayette to encourage the continued spread of the program in parishes with active *CLJ!* groups. Continue to bring life to your parish through the spread of *CLJ!!*



Introduction Night

Ginny Dufrene introduced parishioners from Christ the King parish in Terrytown to the *Come, Lord Jesus!* program. Ginny's discipleship has led to the formation of more than 16 groups in different parishes in the Archdiocese of New Orleans! WOW!



New Group Formation

Joining our *CLJ!* family are several Spanish - speaking groups from St. Henry Parish in the Lake Charles Diocese. Pictured is one of the new leaders, Deacon Canelo and his team.

Welcome, New Groups!



Westwego



Terrytown



Lawtell



Mamou

Welcome New Members!

Broussard, LA: Ron McCarthy
Breaux Bridge, LA: Sandra LaPorte
DeRidder, LA: Stacie Babin
Gretna, LA: Julie Belsom
Kenner, LA: Carmen Andara
Lafayette, LA: Mary Waguespack
Lake Charles, LA: Angela Steiner
Metairie, LA: Joan Dantin
Mire, LA: Tina Leger
Morgan City, LA: Sybil Lasseigne
New Iberia, LA: Cheryl G. Reaux
Pierre Part, LA: Toni Guillot, Karen
Cindy Daigle
St. Amant, LA: Peggy Breaux
Vidrine, LA: Cindy Johnson

WELCOME NEW GROUPS!

Terrytown, LA: ... *John Carpenter* *Leader*
Bobbie Ellender, Gayle Pfister, Carolyn Daigle,
Blanca Abreu, Luann Daigle, Jimmy Davis
Terrytown, LA: ... *Mai Vu*.... *Leader*
Allissa S. Leach, Johnita Smith, Susie Siegel,
Janice Strohmeyer, Karen Johnson, Pamela Allwein
Sheila Gernon, Milagros Matthews, Judy Babin
Beth DePaso, Roberto Matthews
New Iberia, LA: ... *Adrienne Alexander* *Leader*
Jennifer Oliver, Danelle Henry, JoRhonda Gregoire
Jenerette, LA: ... *Susan Garcia*.... *Leader*
Brenda Moss Prejean, Tia Simmons, Angela Breaux
Harriet Pirnie, Lisa St. Germain
Lawtell, LA: ... *Sharon Thibodeaux*.... *Leader*
Janet Prudhome, Judy Venable
Mamou, LA: ... *Nina Perron*.... *Leader*
Angela Soileau, Robin Berzas, Crystal Fuselier,
Deidra Guillory



October 2022

Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Forked Island	Paulina
Algiers	Franklin	Pensacola, FL
Arnaudville	Grand Prairie	Pierre Part
Baker	Gretna	Pine Prairie
Basile	Harvey	Prairie Ronde
Baton Rouge	Henderson	Ragley
Bayou Vista	Houma	Rayne
Borger, TX	Jeanerette	Richard
Bossier City	Jefferson	Schriever
Breaux Bridge	Kinder	Scott
Broussard	Lacombe	Slidell
Buda, TX	Lafayette	St. Amant
Cankton	Lake Charles	St. Martinville
Carencro	Lawtell	Sulphur
Catahoula	Marrero	Thibodaux
Cecilia	Metairie	Vidrine
Coteau	Mire	Ville Platte
Delcambre	Morgan City	Washington
DeRidder	Morse	
Duson	Mowata	
Egan	New Iberia	
Erath	New Orleans	
Estherwood	Oberlin	
Eunice	Opelousas	
Fenton	Patterson	

OCT 25 - NOV. 16, 2022 Memorial Burse Donations

Dr. Zachary Duncan Byerly
Peggy Cotton
Wendi Mancuso
Josephine Marie Richard
Mignonne Marie Simoneaux
Stan Ybarra

Hilda L. Chaisson
Ellsworth Lee Kingery
James Martin
Charles Saunier
Catherine J. Walker

Condolences

T^o member Marie Walsh of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her nephew, Dr. Zachary Duncan Byerly.

T^o member Gloria Girouard of New Iberia, LA on the death of her husband, Ron Girouard.

T^o member Bonny Van of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her father, Ellsworth Lee Kingery.

T^o the members of "Your Face Lord Do I Seek" group in Broussard, LA on the death of their member and former leader, Catherine Walker.

T^o member Beth Parker of Lake Arthur, LA on the death of her mother, Hilda L. Chaisson.

T^o leader Jo Ann Briscoe of Leonville, LA on the death of her sister, Gloria Stelly Dailey.

T^o member Maria Ybarra of Buda, TX on the death of her husband, Stan Ybarra.

T^o leader and Area Coordinator Elaine Karam of Franklin, LA on the death of her husband, William Karam.

