



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*



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

November 1
All Saints Day

November 6
*32nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

November 13
*33rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

November 20
*Our Lord Jesus
Christ, King of
the Universe*

November 27
*First Sunday of
Advent
Begin Cycle A



Jesus is eternally grateful for his being born, that is, for his proceeding eternally from the Father – his whole being is an eternal act of thanksgiving to the Father. Jesus expresses his eternal gratitude to the Father by his total surrender to him in the paschal mystery (his suffering, death and resurrection). His self-gift to the Father is Eucharist, that is, thanksgiving, an eternal act of gratitude to the Father for his being begotten by him.

Jesus is Father-centered, not self-centered: His whole being was oriented toward the Father in love and thanksgiving. Such thanksgiving enabled him to continually live out of himself and in the Father. In this way, he was totally connected to the Father in an unbroken, life-giving union and communion.

That is how we must be: living out of ourselves in continuous gratitude to the Father for our being – living no longer for ourselves but for him who brought us into being both naturally and supernaturally. When we receive the Eucharist, we are swept into the current of Jesus' eternal gratitude to the Father. We want to join him with all our hearts in this movement of thanksgiving to the Father.

The only reason why we were conceived and born is because God wanted us to be: "he chose us in him (in Christ), before the foundation of the world" (Eph 1:4).

Out of a possible 500 million persons, he wanted us specifically to be – no one else. It is not by chance that we were conceived – we were chosen by God, our Father, to be conceived and born for a particular purpose. Moreover, through baptism, he endowed us with special graces for us to praise and thank him by pointing out his overwhelming love and mercy toward us who are totally without merit or deserving of such blessings.

St. Paul, in a hymn of praise to God expresses this truth in this singular way: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him (Christ), before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved: (Eph 1:3-6).

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, surrounded by such an abundance of food and family, friends and many other things, we pray that our spirit of gratitude will spontaneously raise our hearts to a continuous, unending hymn of praise and thanksgiving to God, our Father.

Father Conley Bertrand

Thank you for the gift of *Come, Lord Jesus!*



Flourishing Membership Leads to Group Splintering

Kathy Purpera's *Come, Lord Jesus!* story begins twenty five years ago when the program was brought to Franklin. "At the time, Fr. Russo selected several parish members to be leaders and divided those in attendance into their groups. Most, if not all of the groups, were in the evenings which did not work for me since evenings were designated family time. So, I decided to start my own group of other moms. I started making phone calls – determined to start my own group. It was slow at first, but the calling was strong. I could hear Jesus' words in my heart, "I will make you a fisher of men"... "Go out again and throw the net into the deep." That was the beginning of my very first group, "True Light that Enlightens" in Franklin. We were together for three years before I moved back to Lafayette in the year 2000.

One of my greatest regrets about leaving Franklin was leaving my *Come, Lord Jesus!* group. In the three years we were together, I felt my spiritual growth. The gospels coupled with the catechism gave me great insight into my Catholic faith. I still had so much to learn. In *Come, Lord Jesus!* you are in a constant state of conversion. Once again, I found myself determined to start a new group in Lafayette."

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Kathy was able to begin a new group, "In the Hands of the Potter". "It was finding a treasure you wanted to share with everyone. Over the next few years, we continued to grow in numbers but also in faith and love for one another. We were and are there for one another when trials and tribulations come into our lives. United prayers are powerful. We felt the support of our soul sisters. We carry one another through difficult times."

"Our meetings were fruitful but when we began to have fourteen and more consistent members attend the meeting, it did become difficult and saw the time to split was near. Father Bertrand was there to help. He reminded us of the need for detachment in order to do God's work. His words were true. Growing in numbers and having to split was the work of the Holy Spirit. We had to be obedient to His promptings.



Kathy and Fr. Bertrand with new leaders

It was with much prayer and discernment that we began the process." A new group formed: "Roses Planted near Running Water" They have been together for twelve years with sixteen members.

"We are in a constant state of conversion. If we stop growing, we begin to die. Once again, we began adding new members to our group. More and more beautiful soul sisters were added to the fruit of *Come, Lord Jesus!*. Again, it wasn't long before we had to split again! This led to the formation of another new group: "In My Father's House".

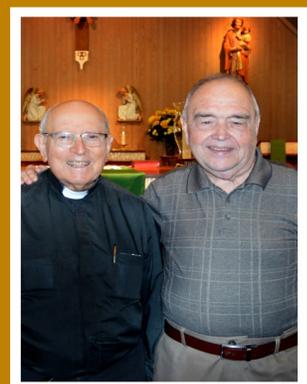


Reunion of Groups

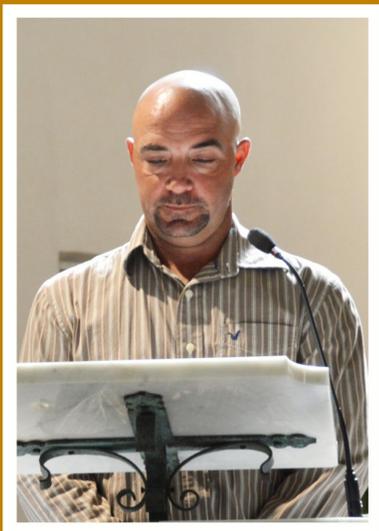
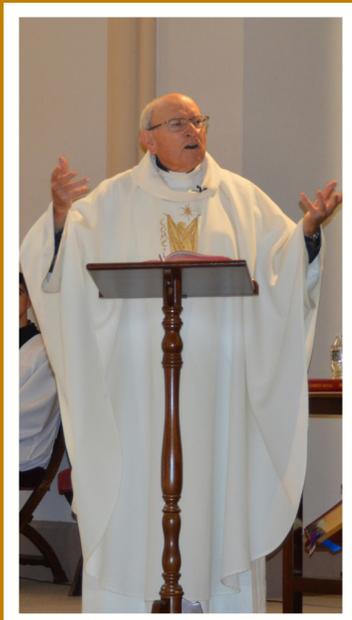
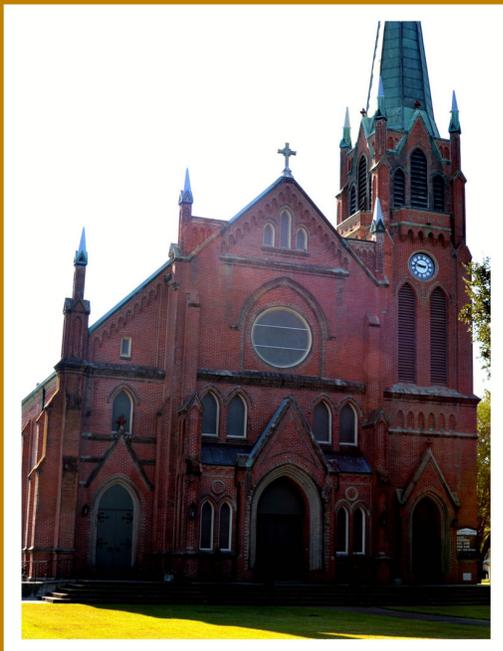
I believe God's Divine Providence places us where we are needed, along with others who help us grow and stretch in ways we never dreamed. Each member brings to the table unique gifts. We love one another. We play, we sing, we cry. We hold each other up. We inspire one another to step out of our comfort zones. We feed the poor together. But most importantly we pray for one another.

Come, Lord Jesus! Come, in grace and glory! Raise up many small faith communities in your church. Set us on fire with love for you and for one another. We want to become one as you, the Father and the Holy spirit are one. This is my/our inspiration. God answers prayers."

Anniversary Mass / St. John of the Cross / Lacombe



Anniversary Mass / St. John the Evangelist - Jeanerette



Adding to our Numbers

NEW MEMBERS:

Abbeville, LA: Dianne Forsythe

Bayou Vista, LA: Betty Hebert

Buda, TX: Cindy Colunga, Gina Speer

Catahoula LA: Diana Buford

Egan, LA: Vickie Broussard

Erath, LA: Sandra J. LeBlanc

Eunice, LA: Madeline Manuel

Forked Island, LA: Tailor Broussard, Darla Castille

Gretna, LA: Dianne Kron, Sharon Marse

Joy Acosta, Gayle Kluttz, John Fortier, Tammy Nolan

Kinder, LA: Kathy Harrell

Lafayette, LA: Frank Cormier, Connie Cormier

Lawtell, LA Linda Prevost-Vallot

Marrero, LA Linda Breaux

Metairie, LA Yvonne Morise

Morgan City, LA: Helen Solar

Pierre Part, LA: Hilda Simoneaux

Prairie Ronde, LA: Ellie Lafleur, Grace Lafleur

Scott, LA: Becky Keigley

St. Amant, LA: Jeanette Braud

Ville Platte, LA: Anne-Marie Fontenot

Reminder:

On the first Sunday of Advent, which falls on Nov. 27th, the cycle for the readings changes from **Cycle C** to **Cycle A**.

All of the Cycle A Commentaries by Father Bertrand are available and can be ordered by contacting the office.

September 2022 Gift Bags Received



Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Forked Island	Mermentau
Algiers	Franklin	Metairie
Baker	Grand Prairie	Morgan City
Basile	Gretna	Morse
Bayou Vista	Harvey	New Iberia
Bell City	Houma	New Orleans
Berwick	Iota	Opelousas
Breaux Bridge	Jeanerette	Orlando FL
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Cankton	Jennings	Prairie Ronde
Carlyss	Judice	Ragley
Cecilia	Kenner	Rayne
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Eunice	Marrero	Washington
Fenton	Maurice	Youngsville

On behalf of Father Conley Bertrand and the *Come, Lord Jesus!* staff, we would like to wish you a very **Happy Thanksgiving!**

"We thank God in remembrance of you always in every prayer, thankful for our partnership in the gospel..." 1 Phil 1:3

LET OUR LIVES
BE FULL OF
thanks
&
giving

Condolences

To the members of "Seed On Good Ground" in Morgan City, LA on the death of their member Linda Duke.

To member Joan Mayeux of Kenner, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Jim Azcona.

To the members of "Mustard Seed" Group in Basile, LA on the death of their member, Bea Langley.

To member Melba Blanchard of Abbeville, LA on the death of her grandson, Phillip Blanchard.

To member Catherine McGowen of Lafayette, LA on the death of her husband, Charles McGowen.

To the members of "Salt and Light" Group in Slidell, LA on the death of their leader, Joan Gros.

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

To member Patsy Guidry of Breaux Bridge, LA on the death of her brother, Louis Roland Green, Sr.

To Area Coordinator Mary Carlin of Baton Rouge, LA on the death of her niece, Daphne Butler.

To member Shelli Pericone of Slidell, LA on the death of her sister, Wendi Mancuso.

To the members of "Overflow With Hope" in Lafayette, LA on the death of their member, Geraldine Bernard.

To member Patty Marks of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her aunt, Eleanor Guillot.

To member Joyce Guillot of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her brother, Linwood Guillot.

To member Dolores Guillot of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her brother-in-law, Linwood Guillot.

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCT 24, 2022

Memorial Burse Donations

Celia Mae Ardoin

Juanita Blanchard

Helen Simon Boudreaux

Daniel J. Dietrick, Sr.

Louis Roland Green, Sr.

Eleanor Guillot

Bea Langley

Janet LeBlanc

James Doyle Martin

Jonathan Perry

Mearid Rivette Robichaux

Jim Azcona

Phillip Blanchard

Daphne Butler

Linda Duke

Joan Gros

Linwood Guillot

Judy Lapeyrouse

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Robert J. Pipsair

Dillon G. Walls

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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