



COME, LORD JESUS!

*Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates*

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

April 5
*The Resurrection of
the Lord*

April 12
*Divine Mercy Sunday
2nd Sunday of
Easter*

April 19
*3rd Sunday of
Easter*

April 26
*4th Sunday of
Easter*



Resurrecting to New Life

Jesus assures us that all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and those who have done good will rise to the resurrection of life. For he is the resurrection and the life, and those who are united to him through faith will never really die. They will pass through death to the fullness of life. Jesus promised to return and take us with himself so we could be with him and the Father. He wants to share his glory with us. He was crucified, died and buried. But on the third day he arose from the dead. For forty days he appeared to his disciples. He ate and drank with them. He invited them to see and touch his wounds. He was the same Jesus they knew and had seen crucified. They were filled with joy in his presence. He gave them a foretaste of heavenly life.

Our reflections on the Sunday Gospels surrounding Easter Sunday draw us into the excitement of the disciples when they began to realize Jesus had risen from the dead. His glorious life affected them with holy joy and new hope. He breathed his divine life into them. They experienced for themselves that glorious new life he won for them and us. It was in our own human nature that Jesus was glorified. This fills us with hope that our human bodies will also be glorified if we live in communion with Christ and retain his life given to us at baptism. Jesus has already lifted us up and the whole church with him. We already have an initial experience of that glorious life through our union with him.

St. Paul encountered Jesus in his glory even after he had ascended to heaven. He looked forward to departing from this life so he could again be in Jesus' glorious presence. The book of Revelation gives us a symbolic preview of the life to come in the glorious presence of God and his glorified Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus overcame death in his own body. He entered into death voluntarily and then destroyed it by his glorification. He promises to do the same for us who are united to him in love and holy friendship.

I pray that reflecting on the Easter mysteries in your Come, Lord Jesus! groups will strengthen your faith in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Our flesh will be glorified just as Jesus' was. We too are destined for glory and immortality.

Father Conley Bertrand





Jesus' Resurrection Appearance to His Blessed Mother

Jesus overcame death and arose with his own divine power. We believe Jesus appeared first to Mary his mother who was so faithful and supportive till the very end. St. Teresa tells us in her *Spiritual Testimonies* that “He (Jesus) told me that immediately after His resurrection, He went to see our Lady because she then had great need and that the pain she experienced so absorbed and transpierced her soul that she did not return immediately to herself to rejoice in that joy...He also said that He had remained a long time with her because it was necessary in order to console her.” (*The Collected Works of St. Teresa of Avila*, Vol 1/ *The Book of Her Life, Spiritual Testimonies*).

It is understandable that Mary had “great need and that the pain she experienced so absorbed and transpierced her soul that she did not return immediately to herself.”

St. John tells us that Mary was “*standing by the cross of Jesus.*” She saw and experienced everything that was being done to Jesus: his being nailed to the cross, both his hands and his feet – She was standing so close she could see and experience the extreme cruelty that was being done to him – She could see and hear the hammering of the nails piercing his flesh and the blood spurting and gushing out of his gaping wounds. She saw his body raised, attached to

the bloody wood of the cross, as it fell into the hole they had dug for it, causing extreme pains to his bleeding wounds. She was close enough to hear his words expressing the different forms of his painful anguish. For example, his extreme thirst – she was so near Jesus she could hear him murmur, “*I thirst*” (Jn 19:28). He had been totally rejected by the people he and his Father loved so much – even after he had given his all to them. Even so, she heard him pray, “*Father, forgive them, they know not what they do*” (Lk 23:34). She saw him die of love through asphyxiation; and as he was breathing his last, he gave up his spirit and said, “*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*” (Lk 23:46).

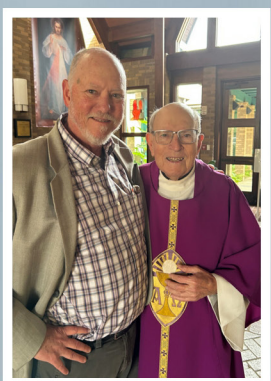
This is just a partial and feeble attempt to understand somewhat the appalling atrocities Mary experienced Jesus undergoing at his crucifixion – to say nothing about the complexity and the painstaking experience of Jesus’ being taken down from the cross, the painful care and difficulty of detaching Jesus from the cross and removing these long, large nails piercing his hands and feet embedded in those heavy wooden beams. It is difficult to imagine what all of this entails. Then there was the cleansing of his bloody body and limbs.

After this painstaking care the totally wounded body had to be taken and carried to the tomb. It is difficult to understand and take into one’s mind all that this involved and Mary was totally immersed in it all! It is understandable that “immediately after His resurrection Jesus went to see our Lady because she then had great need” after experiencing all the horrors of Jesus’ crucifixion. After she had totally revived, what a glorious joy it was for her to see Jesus in his glorious new state! What supreme joy must have taken over her life!

As we rejoice in the glorious Resurrection, may we have the grace to never forget the price Jesus paid for our redemption. May our hearts be filled with Easter joy, knowing that the victory Christ Jesus won through suffering has opened the way to our eternal life.

Father Conley Bertrand

Come Lord Jesus! Annual Conference St. Mary Catholic Church Lafayette, LA



**Come Lord Jesus!
Anniversary Mass
Dioceses of Houma- Thibodaux
Baton Rouge - Lafayette
St. Joseph the Worker
Pierre Part**



NEW MEMBER WELCOME

Algiers, LA: Sue Matthews, David McLean, Dina Edwards
Bill Mosgrove

Baton Rouge, LA: Richard Smith, Barbara Stryjewski

Carencro, LA: Reba Landry

Church Point, LA: Cassie Bidstrup

Iota, LA: Marilyn Leger, Sarah Eaton

Lafayette, LA: Jane Toups Conrad, Tona Campbell

Lake Charles, LA: Judy Doucet, Barbara Diamond

Metairie, LA: Sherrie Kapisis

Morgan City, LA: Missy Little, Lois Bergeron

Morse, LA: Lisa LeJeune

New Iberia, LA: Kourtni Lopez, Allister Martin

Plaisance, LA: John Davis, Rachel Davis

Ragley, LA: Alicia Dennis

Sunset, LA: Dawson Cormier

Youngsville, LA: Joy Parrott, Wilda Gunn



February 2026 Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!

Abbeville	Franklin	New Iberia
Algiers	Fritch TX	New Orleans
Arnaudville	Grand Coteau	Opelousas
Basile	Grand Prairie	Parks
Baton Rouge	Gretna	Patterson
Bayou Vista	Harvey	Paulina
Bell City	Henderson	Pierre Part
Berwick	Houma	Prairie Ronde
Bossier City	Jeanerette	Ragley
Breaux Bridge	Jefferson	Schriever
Broussard	Jennings	Scott
Buda TX	Judice	Slidell
Cankton	Kenner	St. Amant
Carencro	Kinder	Terrytown
Carlyss	Krotz Springs	Vidrine
Cecilia	Lacombe	Ville Platte
Centerville	Lafayette	Washington
Charenton	Lake Charles	Welsh
Church Point	Lufkin TX	Westwego
Coteau	Lyons Point	Youngsville
Coteau Holmes	Marrero	
Duson	Maurice	
Erath	Metairie	
Eunice	Mire	
Fenton	Morgan City	
Forked Island	Morse	

Welcome, New Groups

UL Lafayette, LA : - Luke St. Germain - **Leader**
Maggie Chatman, Anna M. Doll, Alexandra Sanchez,
Braxton Roger, Julian Reyes, Warren Smith III

Lafayette, LA: - Anita Fontenot - **Leader**
Stephanie Hanes, Katie Broussard, Jessica Leger,
Tommie Legg, Hope Lewis, Cheri Landry, Denise Simon,
Rebecca Thomas, Jade Fontenot, Shelby Fruge,
Theresa Bodker, Kathleen Larson, Stephanie Judice.

Port Barre, LA: - Schleen Thibodeaux - **Leader**
Laurin Gary, Emily Joubert.

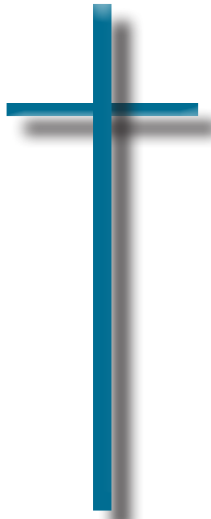
Ville Platte, LA: - Daniel Lemoine II - **Leader**
Dane Fontenot, Wayne Vidrine, Jake LaFleur,
Steve Buller, Tristan Soileau, Marty Brown, Ted Buller.

50 Years of Leadership



We had the incredible privilege of honoring Joyce Melancon at our 2026 Annual Conference for 50 YEARS of leadership with her *Come, Lord Jesus!* group, “*Hope in Abundance.*” Founded in 1976, Joyce’s group has been a steadfast source of inspiration for five decades. Her commitment to lead others closer to Christ is a beautiful testament to the power of community and a life lived in service. Congratulations to Joyce and members of “*Hope in Abundance.*”

Condolences



To member Moral Ortego of Washington, LA on the death of her sister, Joanna Robin (also the aunt of leader Tricia Fontenot).

To the members of "Fishers of Men" group in DeRidder, LA on the death of their member, Margo Roll.

To the members of "You Are Mine" group in Algiers, LA on the death of their member, Shirley Spedale.

To member Rita Fontenot of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her sisters-in-law, Laura Thibodeaux and Melba Dupre.

To members Rita Landry and Casey Sedotal of Pierre Part, LA on the death of their brother-in-law, Harry Aucoin.

FEB 25 - MARCH 23, 2026 Memorial Burse Donations



Harry Aucoin
Betsy Boswell Cox
Rose Ann Guidry
Mary Lillian Leger
Joanna Robin
Shirley Spedale
Jack Turner
Monique Watts

Keri Bonin Boutte
Melba Dupre
Erwin Laviolette
Diana Lusk
Margo Roll
Laura Thibodeaux
Betsy Viator

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Come, Lord Jesus!
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