



“Who did you come to see? A version of this question is posed by Jesus many times in the Gospels. He asks it of Andrew and John when they begin to follow him. He asks it of Mary Magdalene in the garden of the resurrection. He asks it in today’s Gospel. “What did you go out to the desert to see?” There is something innately human about “seeing.” Animals have eyes — some with much more powerful vision than our own — but that’s not the kind of seeing Jesus is talking about. We could phrase the question several other ways. “What are you looking for?” “What are you longing for?” “Whom do you seek?” It is in seeing for ourselves that our suspicions or hypotheses are confirmed, that our desires discover their fulfillment, and that we can rest for a moment in certainty. John the Baptist sought certainty of Jesus’ identity. “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus sends word to him based on the testimony of sight, observations of the mighty deeds Jesus has begun to work. “Go and tell John what you hear and see.” God recognizes our desire to see. In the Incarnation, the Word is made flesh. The invisible is made visible. The supernatural is made manifest in an infant who can do little more than the most natural of movements as he feeds, cries, sleeps. We don’t need to wait for Christmas to see God. The work of God is all around us. Those blinded by sin “regain their sight.” People overcome backgrounds of poverty and violence to make world-changing contributions. Addicts grow and heal. Truth is spoken, and people listen.

Readings for the Week of December 15th, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
 Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
 Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
 Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
 Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
 Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45



Prayers for the Sick: Merciful Jesus, onto your Compassionate Heart we recommend Emelda Harris, Morris St. Julien Sr., David Bernard Sr, Mary Jane Jacquet, Shavanna Flugence, Gustavia Thibeaux, Reginald Brown, Florena Landry, John Albert Ledet, Andre’ Serio, Roy Brown, Lisa Trahan, Barbara Leon, Charles Lee, Mayola Williams, Lorena & Lester Mouton, Mrs. Louvenia L Gibson, Hazel Allen, Edward Lawrence, Audrey Armelin, Rodney Dupuis, Bessie Johnson, Lorita Jeanbatiste, Rita Lewis, Florence Jacquet, Albert Sam Jacquet, Byron Knox, Keith Broussard, J. Breaux, B. Hampton Guidry and those in the following nursing homes:

Maison de Lafayette:

Dorothy Lavan

Camelot of Broussard: Sylvania Cormier

The next Baptismal class will be held on **Monday, February 3rd, 2020** at 7pm in the Bishop Perry Learning Center. The actual baptism will take place following the 5pm vigil mass on **Saturday, February 8th, 2020**. Parents are required to bring a

Mass Intentions

Sat. 5:00 p.m: Hilda Johnson, Alexson Mathieu, Audrey Mathieu, deceased members of the Mathieu & Mouton families, Christopher J Anderson, Wilbert & Thelma Jeanlouis, Harold Anderson Sr. & Ethel Mae Decuir, Mildred Davis, M/M Paul Joe, Lucius & Rosalie Joe, Leroy Raymond, Louis Washington, Arnel Nickerson, Curtis Nickerson and Ashton Thomas. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

Sun. 8:00 a.m: Alfred Lewis (2nd Anniversary), M/M Lemel & Florence Lee, and the deceased members of the Lewis & Lee families. Special Intentions for all of our church Benefactors and Donors and for the wellbeing and intentions of our church members.

Sun. 10:00 a.m: Joseph Leo Sias III, Christopher Anderson, deceased members of the Decuir & Anderson families, Anne Lasseigne, Mildred Davis, Alvin Davis, Oliver Provost, Wilfred Thompson, M/M Harold & Velma Flugence, deceased members of the Thompson & Flugence families, Laurence “Fee Fee” Green (29th Anniversary), Herbert “Dobbie” Green, Ernest Green, Madora Nickerson, Alice Nickerson and Steven N. Nickerson. Special Intentions for all of our

God’s Housekeepers:

St. Joseph: Thanks to all of the ladies in **Group B** that cleaned the church on December 14th, 2019. The next group is **Group C:** Carolyn Domingue, Laura Williams and Barbara Thomas — December 21st, 2019.

St. Anthony — December, 2019: (Group C) Anne Tate, Theresa Jones and Marie Decuir.

PSR (Parish School of Religion) Corner:

Classes are on Saturdays from 9am – 12 Noon

1st – 5th Grade		6th - 11th Grade
Jan 11, 2020		Jan 4, 2020
Feb 8, 2020		Feb 1, 2020
Mar 14, 2020		Feb 29, 2020
Apr 18, 2020		Mar 21, 2020

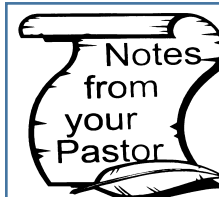
UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2019

- ◆ **ADVENT MISSION:** Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, December 16-17-18, 2019 beginning with a music prelude at 6:30pm and the Mission at 7pm. The presenter will be Deacon Roland Jeanlouis
- ◆ **50th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY** for Fr. Thomas James: Sunday January 26th, 1:30pm at the Cathedral of St. John. Please RSVP to the Church Office by Dec 20th.
- ◆ **MLK AWARD CEREMONY:** Friday, January 17th at 7:00pm at the Cathedral of St. John.
- ◆ **FREE GUMBO SUPPER** Celebrating the Christmas season in honor of the newborn King: St. Paul Catholic Church, 326 S Washington St., Lafayette, Friday December 27th from 5—7pm. Sponsored by the Franciscans

Mass	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Ushers
SATURDAY December 21, 2019 5:00pm	Cynthia Jacquet Melanna Sam	Cathy Sigur Linda Alfred Harold Anderson Patty Derouen	Jayde Spurlock Jordan Sprulock	Jarrot Spurlock Russell Flugence Harold Johnson Curtis Sebillé
SUNDY December 22, 2019 8:00am	Lilly Faye Jones Theresa Cormier	Jeanette Mitchell Donald Mitchell Anne Tate Marie Decuir	Jarvis Berard	Loucinda George
SUNDAY December 22, 2019 10:00am	Jennifer Harris Brenda Washington	Christine Decuir Edward Decuir Barbara Thomas Delores Sais	Gabriel Decuir Victoria Decuir	Lucius Savoy George Thomas Anthony Wiltz Ervan Flugence

Please Note: Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion; by calling for a replacement when you are scheduled but cannot serve, you honor your commitment and help to ensure that there is no interruption for mass. Thanks!!

PASTORS CORNER



As we celebrate *Third Sunday of Advent*, we light the 3rd candle which represents the New Born Savior as our Shepherd. Amazingly, shepherds would eventually announce His birth. But before I focus on the central theme of our readings, my family and I would like to express great thanks and gratitude to the faith community of St. Joseph and St. Anthony for the wonderful reception as I celebrated my 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood. No doubt, this is a milestone in my life. It is also a great honor to acknowledge that God has blessed us, and for that we are forever grateful. About three weeks ago, I mentioned specifically that Jesus rarely answers a question directly. He usually presents us with something we can see in the form of an example (a parable). It is something *physical* that He moves to *spiritual* and is called *feeding*. In the Old Testament, manna was physical bread. Then, in the New Testament, He moves to the Spiritual, the Eucharist. He does the same in today’s gospel. Today, John hears about Jesus and sends his disciples to ask him, “is He the Christ?” As usual, He does not answer directly. His response is, “return to John and tell him what you see!” They reported to John what they saw and experienced. The following is what they saw and heard:

- 1) The blind regained their sight
- 2) The lame walked
- 3) Lepers were cleansed
- 4) The deaf heard
- 5) The poor had “*Good News*” preached to them

As we prepare for our mission and the birth of our New Born Savior, ask yourselves “what do you see and what are you experiencing”? I pray that we all see God working in our lives, those we love, and everyone in our faith community as we open our hearts to receive His Word. Let us seize every opportunity to enrich our lives and each other.

~ Rev Thomas James ~

Our Giving

Dec 7th & 8th, 2019

St. Joseph: (115 Envelopes out of 213) **\$1,660.00**
 St. Anthony: (30 Envelopes out of 84) **491.00**
\$2,151.00

“No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord your God has bestowed upon you.”

The Web Site for St. Joseph/St. Anthony is: stjostant.org

Highlighting Our Youth

Lafayette Christian Academy

KIERA WASHINGTON

GUARDS THE NET



She's five-feet-six and a senior at Lafayette Christian Academy. She likes spending her off time with her sister. And it's not until now that I'm mentioning Kiera Washington is one of the best volleyball players around. "She's never too up, and she's never too down," said LCA Volleyball Coach Bryan Barrett. "Kiera is 'unfazeable', and I've never seen her have a bad game." That, in any sense, in any sport, deserves incredibly high praise.

Now in her fourth year at Lafayette Christian, Barrett didn't always have Washington as his premier outside hitter; in fact, he didn't have her at all. "Kiera attended another school her freshman year; but even then, I was familiar with her because she was so good, and you had to watch her in action," laughed Barrett. "I think she practically beat my varsity team all by herself."

Because of transfer rules, Washington couldn't play her sophomore year and sat next to Barrett during the matches, soaking up the nuances of the sport. "We talked a lot about the X's and O's of the game, why teams play certain defenses in certain situations. She was already a gifted athlete, but that year Kiera grew mentally and really became a student of the game."

Washington wants to attend college and major in psychology with, of course, some volleyball thrown in for good measure. "She's a quiet leader", added Barrett, "preferring to use her fantastic play to set an example for her teammates. She reads the entire defense and knows what the other team wants to do. And because she's so prepared, Kiera's already thinking three steps ahead."



LEARN TO BE OKAY WITH PEOPLE NOT KNOWING YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE TO ANYONE.