

*PASTOR'S THOUGHTS:**April 21-22, 2018*

SOMETHING NEW: *Carrara Marble fixtures cleaned and restored.* We have been cleaning and polishing the old Carrara Marble Fonts inside our Co-Cathedral church. 1st: the old baptismal font returned to its original make by removing the divider that was inside the recessed part of the bowl. The divider made it difficult for us to put a good-size large bowl inside when we are doing baptisms giving us only a quarter of the space to use. With the divider gone, we can now use the whole space to place a bowl that will be filled with water for baptism. In order to protect the porous marble inside the font from constant use, I have commissioned a large copper bowl that would fit inside the recessed part to hold the water and protect the marble from staining (algae). 2ndly: the old Carrara Holy Water Fonts located at the main entrance have been cleaned as well with the addition of 2 small copper bowls to hold the Holy Water. We've been using "copper" as our metal motif in order to compliment the copper fixtures we already have inside our church (baptismal font cover, small holy water fonts in side entrances). And more to come.

Please mark your calendar: On **Saturday, April 28th** is the 150th anniversary (1868-2018) of the arrival of the **Relic of St. Valerie** at St. Joseph's Church. Obtained by Peré Charles Menard from the Holy See during his visit in 1867, the relic arrived via the Steamboat *Nina Simmes* from New Orleans by way of Bayou Lafourche, the reliquary bier being carried to the old church by a fire truck. Since her arrival to "Thibodauxville," the Feast of St. Valerie (officially, December 9th) has been celebrated with a procession around town, her bier always carried by a fire truck, concluding with a "High Mass" in the old church. Early Tuesday morning on May 25, 1916, a fire started in the Sacristy of the old St. Joseph Church (at the time located on Highway 1, behind the Peré Menard's monument) that engulfed the whole wooden church very quickly. Knowing that the old church could not be saved, the firemen and volunteers rushed to save the bier of St. Valerie (and some few items) from the devastating the fire. Perhaps out of gratitude from being saved from another form of martyrdom (i.e. "being burned"), St. Valerie had watched over the City of Thibodaux and its inhabitants through the years from any disaster and natural calamities! Out of gratitude then, let us gather around the bier of St. Valerie on this day, to ask her for her continued protec-

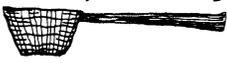
tion and intercession this year. In a special way at this celebration, I will ask St. Valerie to watch and protect all our firemen and women as they try to save the lives of many. All y'all come – you hear? On a side note: I'm doing a special project trying to identify "which St. Valerie" we actually have in our church, St. Valerie of Limoges (France) or St. Valeria of Milan (Italy). Anyone who's interested in doing a "Dan Brown discovery," come and see me!

The 4th Sunday of Easter this year has, as its theme, the Good Shepherd (Pastor bonus). This is one of the titles of Jesus and an image that we, the ordained and the consecrated, are asked to emulate. On so many occasions, the Holy Father has spoken against "clericalism," the very destructive attitude among some priests. Wikipedia defined "clericalism" as "*Clericalism is the application of the formal, church-based, leadership or opinion of ordained clergy in matters of either the church or broader political and sociocultural import. In a pejorative manner, 'clericalism' is often used to denote an ecclesiolatry approach to issues beyond the church by either clergy or their supporters, as well as to describe the cronyism and cloistered political environs of Christian denominational hierarchy, mainly in reference to the Roman Catholic Church. The phenomenon of clericalism is not restricted to the ordained, as it occurs in purely secular guilds, such as academia, the legal and medical establishments, and the public-safety, clergy, the police and military.*" In short, it is when someone uses his/her power and position not to promote but to subject, not to lead but to govern, not to serve or minister but to be served and to exploit. In the gospel-image of the Good Shepherd, Jesus lays down the model for all of us to follow, whether we are ordained/consecrated or not. As DISCIPLES OF CHRIST by virtue of our baptism, we are all called to be shepherds of ALL of God's people, willing and always ready to (1) lay down our lives, (2) stands before and ahead of everyone, (3) know and known by the sheep, (4) led by Jesus and lead all others to God, (5) sacrifice always for the glory of God.

This weekend, we all will be shepherds of our own flocks after the examples of Jesus.

Father Vic+

April 7th/8th

Weekly Offering  <small>© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.</small>	Weekly Collection	\$ 14,023.80
	Weekly Loose	2,063.63
	ACH Weekly	335.00
		\$ 16,422.43

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Catholic Home Missions Appeal
Strengthening the Church at Home

Next week, we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Right now, over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions.



Children's Liturgy

We are in need of adult volunteers for our Children's Liturgy Ministry during the 9:30 AM Mass.

If you are interested in finding out more information, call the Life Center at 446-1387.



"The Men of St. Joseph is an association of Christian men, united under the Catholic Church, who meet weekly to pray together and encourage each other to be the spiritual leaders of their families. The purpose of the Men of St. Joseph is to instill holiness in men and facilitate spiritual leadership in family and community life."

Meeting are held in the Life Center at 6AM on Tuesday mornings. Please feel free to join us.

Save the Date...



June 7-10, 2018: Women's Cursillo Weekend
August 9-12, 2018: Men's Cursillo Weekend

This three day Cursillo is a personal encounter with Christ- a weekend just for you and our Lord. Please pray about this, for you can only attend a Cursillo Weekend ONCE in your lifetime.

Email: htcursillo@yahoo.com with any questions or visit our website @ <https://htcursillo.weebly.com>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious education department is in need of a 6th grade teacher for the 2018-2019 school year.

If you are interested, please contact Sue at 985-446-1387.



- Rosalyn Fauchaux & James Stieb (3)*
- Victoria Roy & Kade Steib (2)*
- Hannah Waguespack & Alexander Morwant (1)*
- Heidi Gaudet & Blake Hymel (1)*



Please remember **Kathleen Daigle** who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that her family may find comfort and consolation through their faith.