



Several Catholic Schools participated in food drives to aid Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Lake Charles with food baskets for those in need. In the top picture members of the eighth grade student council at Immaculate Conception Cathedral School and administration are Caroline Solari, Rose Viau, Dinah Bradford, principal, Deacon Edward Lavine, Randall Credeur, Nicole Aquino, Hunter Thibodeaux, and Jacob Ieyoub. Members of the St. Louis Catholic High School National Honor Society spearheaded the effort in the middle photo, from left, Jonathan Harless, Quinn Pharr, Tyler Vincent, Sharon Monteaux, campus minister, Leslie Guillory, National Honor Society student project coordinator, and Richard Shetler. In the bottom photo Sacred Heart/Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School fifth graders Angelo Budwine and Romante Lewis are shown with Deacon Lavine.



THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

December 21, 2007

My dear People of God,

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). Christmas is a time to be struck with particular awe at the mystery of the Incarnation. God entered the world of His creation, its movement and its history. At every turn the writers of the Gospels remind us of this important point. The Eternal Word of God took human flesh for our salvation, and He did this in time and history.

St. Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' lineage from Abraham, the Patriarch of the Jewish People. St. Luke extends the genealogy even more by pointing out that Jesus is descendant from Adam. However we might view these marvelous chronicles of timing, the holy Evangelists want to place Jesus in historical perspective and at a significant moment of sacred history.

The Evangelists remind us that Jesus enters the world at a particular time. It is a period called the "Pax Romana", the "Roman Peace" when the world seemed to be under the peaceful yoke of Rome. Caesar Augustus was emperor. "Quirinius was governor of Syria" (Luke 2:2). Herod was king of Judea (Matthew 2:1). Here at this moment the real Prince of Peace came into the world.

There are many today who think that history has no purpose. They see the course of human events as futile and pointless at times. Man is the master of his own destiny, they say. Only man can give meaning to his life and create his proper end. This is pure folly, a madness that can only isolate man further. The great Catholic theologian, Henri de Lubac once observed: "It is not true, as is sometimes said, that man cannot organize the world without God. What is true is that, without God, he can ultimately only organize it against man. Exclusive humanism is inhuman humanism." The truth of that observation has been demonstrated countless times in the course of human events.

Christmas reminds us that history does have purpose, or God would not have entered it. God has a plan for us. That plan is love and a peace the world cannot give. We are not alone. Jesus is the Lord of history. As the Letter to the Hebrews states it, "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Christmas is a time to celebrate hope. Through that hope comes peace. May it be so for your families and friends as you rejoice in the Word of God made flesh.

Sincerely in the Prince of Peace,

+Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

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January Forty-Hours Devotion sites, times

LAKE CHARLES – The January 2008 schedule for Forty-Hours Devotion before the Blessed Sacrament in the Diocese of Lake Charles will involve churches in the Central Deanery. The purpose of the Devotion is to promote vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Diocese of Lake Charles.

Christ the King Church, Lake Charles 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8, Wednesday, Jan. 9, and Thursday, Jan. 10, and noon to 5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 11. **St. Theodore Church**, Moss Bluff, 6 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 17 to 10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18. **St. Martin dePorres Church**, Lake Charles, Monday, Jan. 21 and Wednesday, Jan. 23, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Thursday, Jan. 24, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church**, Lake Charles, Tuesday, Jan.

29, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, Jan. 30, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church**, Lake Charles, Thursday, Jan. 31, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 1, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast Jan. 4

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost will host the Jan. 4 "First Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast" at 7 a.m. in the Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Catholic men who wish to attend should call 439-7400 to register.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed beginning at noon today, Dec. 21 and will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 8:30 a.m.

The next issue of the Catholic Calendar will be Jan. 11.

Did you know...

Msgr. Hubert Cramers served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church from 1902 until 1935. He died on August 10, 1935 and was interred in a special vault just outside the sanctuary in the main aisle of the church.

Two former pastors of the Cathedral Church of the Immaculate Conception were later named Bishops. Do you know who they are? Find out in the January 11 issue.

Diocese of Lake Charles Christmas Mass Schedule

Bell City St. John Vianney (7120 Hwy. 14 E.) 4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)	6:00 p.m. (St. Peter the Apostle) (Eve); 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. Latin Mass (Day)	8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day) St. Margaret of Scotland (2500 Enterprise Blvd.) 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)	10:00 a.m. (Sacred Heart) (Day)
Big Lake St. Mary of the Lake (11054 Hwy. 384), 4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (St. Patrick Chapel) (Day)	Iowa St. Raphael (211 Thompson Ave.) 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day) (St. Joseph, LeBleu Settlement), 10:00 a.m. (Day)	Immaculate Heart of Mary (2031 Opelousas St.) 4:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)	Oberlin St. Joan of Arc (112 S. 7th St.) 5:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Cameron Our Lady Star of the Sea (135 Our Lady Rd.) 4:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve)	Jennings Our Lady Help of Christians (710 N. State St.) 4:00 p.m. (Church & St. Mary Center), 7:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)	Our Lady Queen of Heaven (3939 Lake St.) 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)	Raymond St. Lawrence (5505 Pine Island Hwy.) 5:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Carlyss St. Theresa (4822 Carlyss Dr.) 4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)	Our Lady of Perpetual Help (920 S. Broadway) 12:00 Midnight (Eve), 9:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. (Day)	St. Henry (1021 8th Ave.) 7:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (Day)	Sulphur Our Lady of Prompt Succor (1109 Cypress St.) 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)
DeQuincy Our Lady of LaSalette, (203 S. Grand Ave.) 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)	Immaculate Conception (705 S. Lake Arthur Ave.) 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)	Our Lady of Good Counsel (221 Aqua Dr.) 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m., (Day)	Immaculate Conception (2700 Maplewood Dr.) 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)
DeRidder St. Joseph (1125 Blankenship Dr.) 6:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)	Kinder St. Philip Neri (607 4th Ave.) 4:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)	Christ the King (7680 Gulf Hwy.) 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM (Eve); 8:00 AM (Day)	Our Lady of LaSalette (602 N. Claiborne St.) 4:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)
Elton St. Paul/St. Joseph (1100 St. Mary St.) 7:00 p.m. (Eve), 7:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. (Day)	Lacassine St. John the Evangelist Chapel (306 Ann St.) 4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)	St. Martin dePorres (5326 Elliott Rd.) 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)	Vinton St. Joseph (1502 Industrial St.) 4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)
Fenton St. Charles Borromeo (804 3rd Ave.) 7:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:45 a.m. (Day)	Lake Arthur Our Lady of the Lake (203 Commercial Ave.) 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)	St. Patrick Hospital Chapel (524 S. Ryan St.) 9:00 a.m. (Day)	Welsh Our Lady of Seven Dolours (209 N. Adams St.) 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)
Grand Chenier St. Eugene (5035 Grand Chenier Hwy.) 5:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)	Lake Charles Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (935 Bilbo St.) 4:00 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (Eve); 9:30 a.m. (Day)	Moss Bluff St. Theodore (785 Sam Houston Jones Pkwy.) 5:30 p.m. (St. Pius X Chapel, Ragley), 4:30 p.m., 12:00 Midnight (St. Theodore) (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (St. Pius X), 9:00 a.m. (St. Theodore) (Day)	Westlake St. John Bosco (1301 Sampson St.) 4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)
Hackberry St. Peter the Apostle (1210 Main St.) 4:00 p.m. (Assumption Chapel, Johnson Bayou)	Sacred Heart of Jesus (1102 Mill St.) 4:00 p.m. (Eve);	Oakdale Sacred Heart (1208 E. 7th Ave.) 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (St. Frances of Rome Chapel, Elizabeth),	

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