

HOW DO WE KNOW GOD LOVES US?

Today’s Gospel reading invites us to reflect upon the questions: How do we know that God loves us? And what proof has God given us that we are loved? If we are honest, we have to acknowledge that love cannot be proven. Love can only be accepted.

How do we know that God loves us? Well, God the Son became one of us. He was born as a little baby just like us. He gave us inspired teachings. He suffered and died a horrible death for us. He rose from the dead, giving us hope that we, along with Him, can defeat death. He opened the gates of heaven for us. This is why it is important for us to take some time on a regular basis to contemplate Jesus hanging on the cross. This might give us a greater appreciation for the depths of God’s love for us, and allow that love to more fully penetrate our hearts.

Because of God’s love for us, we have hope that we can live forever in heaven with Him. If that is not loving and caring for us, then I don’t know what is.

How do we know that God loves us? We are given the gift of sacred Scripture, which contains God’s word for us. In it and through it, Jesus speaks to us of the many ways God shows forth His great love for us. Such is the case with today’s Gospel, in which Jesus teaches that one of the ways our loving Father shows His great love for us is by continually watching over us, and providing for what we most truly need.

Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap; they gather nothing, into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not more important than they?

How do we know that God loves us? We know because He made us free to not love Him. He gave us freedom of choice. God did not make us like computers, pre-programmed to love Him. A computer program responds only to a command. Love responds only to an invitation – not to a command. Love has no meaning unless it is freely given. Coerced love isn’t love at all. Nor can it be bought. It exists only when freely given and freely received – in faith and in hope. God created us so that we could love Him and experience ourselves as being loved by Him.

In closing, let’s remember that love is not something that can be proven, but instead must be accepted. And let’s make sure that we open ourselves to the many ways that God continually pours Himself out in love to us. So this day and every day, let us resolve to be vigilant in prayer so we might not only experience the many ways in which God loves us, but more importantly, know the inexplicable joy that comes from loving Him in return.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Feb 27	Sir 17:20-24, Mk 10:17-27
Tues	Feb 28	Sir 35:1-12, Mk 10:28-31
Wed	Mar 1	2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2, Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thur	Mar 2	Dt 30:15-20, Lk 9:22-25
Fri	Mar 3	Is 58:1-9a, Mt 9:14-15
Sat	Mar 4	Is 58:9b-14, Lk 5:27-32
Sun	Mar 5	Gn 2:12-19, Rom 5:12-19, Mt 4:1-11



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND

CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	8,150.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	20.00
Capital Improvement	\$	40.00
Miscellaneous	\$	272.45
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	8,482.45
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUND

TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE	\$172,664
PAYMENTS TO DATE	\$166,139
BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES	\$ 6,525

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE, MARCH 1ST

Masses for Ash Wednesday are as follows: 6:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., in the Cathedral. We will also have masses at noon and at 6:00 p.m., in the Cathedral.

CATHEDRAL RECTORY CLOSED!

The Cathedral Rectory will be closed on Tuesday, February 28th, for Mardi Gras. We will reopen at 9:00 a.m., on March 1st, Ash Wednesday.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

We will not have CCD classes this week. Classes will resume on Wednesday, March 8th, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

BINGO MANIA

Due to Mardi Gras, we will NOT have Bingo on February 28th. Bingo will pick back up on March 7th.

R.C.I.A.

We will not have RCIA class this week. Class will resume on March 7th at 6:00 p.m. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as we enter the Easter Sacraments and as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348

WOMEN’S ACT RETREAT

Thursday-Sunday, 9th through the 12th of March, 2017 and sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Parrish. Cost is \$125.00 and includes all food and lodging. Held at Paul B. Johnson State Park in Hattiesburg Ms. Please contact director Lisa Jones-228-806-0778/ljwhitnuts3@aol.com or Lisa Ladner 228-297-2204/lladner239@yahoo.com, or Renee Klein 228-990-6983. Hope to see you there!

SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Mar 1 ASH WEDNESDAY Please Volunteer	ASH WEDNESDAY Sr. Mary Jo 12:00 pm Matthew Manint 6:00 pm	Mar 4 4:00 pm Keegan Cuevas Sabree Sander
Mar 4 4:00 pm 1. Helen Languirand 2. Andrea Gilich 3. Liz Joachim 4. Gayle Mavar 5. Kalin Lloyd	Mar 4 4:00 pm Rhonda Clark	Mar 5 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan
Mar 5 7:00 am 1. Vicki Howard 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh 9:00 am 1. Barbara Ziz 2. Linda Welter 3. Judy Trahan 4. Marianne Sherman 5. John Sherman 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Rocky Greathouse 3. Brad Butterfield 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler 5:30 pm 1. Roland Creel 2. Tricia Creel 3. Kristy Arguelles	Mar 5 7:00am Jim Compton 9:00 am Terry Simons 11:00 am Peter Abide 5:30 pm Youth Ministry	9:00 am Troy Fulton Trent Fulton Brennan Tarrant Annabelle Tarrant 11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Greysen Ross McRae Ross 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wells
	CANTORS Mar 4 4:00 p.m Nicholas Radolfich Mar 5 9:00 a.m. John Welter 11:00 am Choir	

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 28 - Nativity Rectory Closed
 Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
- Mar 1 - **Cleaning Team “D”**
 Ash Wednesday Masses, 6:30, 8:00, Noon, 6:00
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
- Mar 2 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

*Youth from our parish are preparing for the 2017 Diocesan Youth Celebration, which takes place at the MS Coast Coliseum March 17-19. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare and spend a faith-filled weekend with youth from across our Diocese.

*Youth meetings will take place February 26, March 5, & March 12, following 5:30 p.m. Mass. The next *Youth Mass will be held Sunday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m. Please join us! Show your Support!!! Youth will be present after Masses March 4-5 & 11-12 to collect baby diapers (all sizes). They will prepare baby items as a service project on Saturday afternoon, March 18, at the Youth Celebration. There will be no meeting on Sunday, March 19 or March 26. If you have a youth, grades 6-12, that is interested in joining Youth Ministry, please email nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com or contact Kristy Arguelles 228-324-9934 or Kim Audo 228-365-3248.

Mass Intentions

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Feb 27	Thomas Edward Connell	Sonny/Helen Ross
Tue	Feb 28	Dan Williams	Jimmy Braun, Jr.
Wed	Mar 1	Eileen McAuliffee	Chester Balius Fly.
Thur	Mar 2	Robert Emmett McAuliffee	Stanley Dellenger
Fri	Mar 3	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich	Skip Butterfield
Sat	Mar 4	8 – Collins-Sims Fly.	4 Clare Sekul Hornsby
Sun	Mar 5	7 – Jerry O’Keefe	9 - For the Parishioners
		11 – Dr. Jessica Crowder.	5:30 - Dan Williams

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Steve Zorich, Sr., on the anniversary of his death. In loving memory from his wife, Beverly and family.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Nativity BVM School will be closed on Monday, February 27th through Wednesday, March 1st, in celebration of Mardi Gras. Classes will resume on Thursday, March 2nd.

*Nativity Students will celebrate Read Across America Day on Thursday, March 2nd. Special guests for the day include Shrimp Louie and friends from Bubba Gumps Restaurant.

*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will begin on Monday, February 13th for families with children currently enrolled in Nativity School. Registration for new families registered at Nativity, Blessed Seelos, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Michael and Church of the Vietnamese Martyrs parishes will take place on **March 6th through March 8th** from 8:30-5:00. Open registration for all other new families begins on Thursday, March 9th until all openings are filled. Nativity School provides a well-rounded, Catholic education for children in prek 3 through 6th grade.

*Lenten Dinners will be held at Nativity School on Friday, March 10th, March 17th, March 24th, March 31st, and April 7th. Dinners will be available from 2:45 – 7:00 – Dine in or take out. To pre-order meals or for more information, please contact the school office at 432-2269.

*The drawing for the Nativity School Raffle (\$3,000) will take place on Thursday, March 2nd.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTION

It is time to renew our Magnificat subscription for 2017. For those of you who subscribe through Nativity, please call or email Jackie Hewitt at the rectory to renew or cancel. jhewitt@nativitybvm.org. **This order will be placed at the beginning of March, so please respond as soon as possible.**