

# A New Year— OPTIMISM

As we gradually move into the New Year, it is valuable to keep before us the idea of New Plans and New Resolutions that will support us in our efforts throughout the New Year. In last Sunday's homily, I spoke of the importance of *understanding Jesus in a new way*. The name Jesus means **God Saves**. How important is that truth-- Our God Saves! However, He doesn't save by clicking His Divine fingers.

He saves by being with us, being an integral part of our journey and of our life. In St. Matthew's Gospel this is very important. Jesus is Emmanuel which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:25) He saves by journeying *with us* in a personal relationship.

Throughout this New Year, I invite you to be hopeful and excited about growing your personal relationship with Jesus. See Him as the one who invites you to Eucharist. Invite Him to be an integral part of your whole life. In March, we will once again offer the Discovering Christ series which has been helpful to so many people. (details available on our website and at the church office) Consider signing up for this 7 week process. It sure can open up new opportunities for growing your relationship with Him.

A friend of mine handed me the Optimist Creed after Mass on Wednesday night. She is a member of Optimist International. I thought to myself, *Wow... that just fits in with what I am writing about in this week's bulletin!*

**Be optimistic about your growing relationship with Him!**

— Fr. Gerry

The poster has a blue, textured background. At the top, "The Optimist" is written in a cursive, orange font, and "CREED" is in a large, white, blocky font. Below this, several affirmations are listed in various colors and fonts. At the bottom right is the Optimist International logo, which consists of a stylized 'O' inside a square, followed by the words "OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL" in a bold, sans-serif font.

*The Optimist*  
**CREED**

*Promise Yourself*

To be **SO STRONG** that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk *health, happiness and prosperity* to every person you meet.

To make all your friends **feel that there is something in them.**

To look at the **sunny side of everything** and make your optimism come true.

To *think* only of the best, to **work** only for the best and to **expect** only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about *the SUCCESS of others* as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the **GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS** of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance **AT ALL TIMES** and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have **NO TIME** to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and **too happy** to permit the presence of trouble.

 **OPTIMIST**  
INTERNATIONAL

January 8, 2017

The Epiphany of the Lord

## Mass Intentions

Week of January 9– January 15, 2017:

7:30 am Mon.: COMMUNION SERVICE

7:30 am Tues.: COMMUNION SERVICE

6:00 pm Wed.: COMMUNION SERVICE

7:30 am Thurs.: COMMUNION SERVICE

7:30 am Fri.: People of the Parish

5:30 pm Sat.: Christie Junquist (RIP)

8:00 am Sun.: Rose & Nicholas Valentine (RIP)

10:30 am Sun.: Edna Mangialardi (RIP)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00pm or by appt.

## New Announcements

\***Sunday Adult Class starts again on 1/15/17** between the Sunday masses. We will be starting a new study, The Jesus of Scripture by Fr. Donald Senior. ALL ARE WELCOME! Come and grow with us!

\*Children's Liturgy and Nursery start back this Sunday at the 10:30 mass.

\***The Food Pantry Ministry** needs your contributions of non-perishable food in unbreakable family size packages. The food collections go alternately to the Stewpot Food Pantry and the South Rankin Food Resource Center. More information and suggestions can be found on our website. Please place items in the basket in the back of church.

**Journey to Wholeness: In Divorce and Beyond—Jan. 20-22, 2017**  
As with any journey into unknown territory, it is wise to have a guide and the companionship of other like minded travelers. Join us for a weekend of preparation and equipping for the journey ahead. Facilitators: Larry Brown, LPC and Cori Brown Cater, LPC from Clarity Counseling in Starkville. Begins with 6:30 supper. Donation: \$200 For more information contact the Dwelling Place at 662-738-5348 or email us at [dwellpl@gmail.com](mailto:dwellpl@gmail.com)

Weekly offering for Jan. 1st: \$27,599

**Thank You!**

Congratulations to Cory and Meredith Head on the recent birth of their son, Thomas James Head!

## Prayer Intentions

Landon Lemonis  
Santa Crout Ed Hayes  
Tami May, friend of Ro Agosta  
Marian Beall, friend of Fr. Gerry & Jennifer Henry  
Iva Beth Lindsey, 2 year old cousin of Melinda Cannon

## Rest of the Soul

Doris Moody, mother of Robert Moody  
Bill Carollo, father of William Carollo  
June Shoop, mother of Lynn Glover

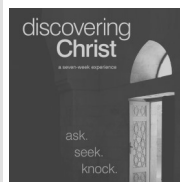
**Adoration This Week:** Monday—Friday 8 am- 12 pm;  
Wednesday 6:30 pm—7:30 pm

## Reminders

### ◆ Faith Formation:

- RCIA will resume *this Tuesday, Jan. 10th.*
- **Wednesday night Religious Education** classes will resume this week, January 11th.
- **Sunday Religious Education and Adult Religious Education** will resume next Sunday, January 15th.

## **Saint Paul Drawdown: January 28, 2017.**



We will host another **Discovering Christ Session in March!** This is the first session of the ChristLife series. Registration will open in January on our website. **\*\*Due to insufficient numbers we will not be holding Following Christ in January 2017. Another session will be offered later in 2017!**

\***Living Everyday with Passion & Purpose** led by **Matthew Kelly** will be in our area on March 11th. Our parish will have tickets available soon!

*Blessed Mother flowers are donated by Joe & Linda Granger in memory of their sister-in-law Frannie Granger.*

**Applications are now being accepted at Saint Joseph Catholic School for the 2017-2018 school year.** You can pick up an application at the school or go online to our website, [www.stjoebruins.com](http://www.stjoebruins.com), under the Admissions tab and print out or we can mail one to you. Registration begins February 1, 2017 .

**SAVE the DATE:** "Jeans, Jazz and Bruin Blues," Saint Joseph Catholic School's 24th Annual Draw Down is set for February 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. To sponsor or purchase tickets, visit the Saint Joseph Catholic School website at [stjoebruins.com](http://stjoebruins.com) or call the school office at 601-898-4800.

**Save the Date:** Krewe de Cardinal Mardi Gras Carnival Ball- February 24, 2017 Old Capitol Inn Downtown Jackson 7:00 PM-11:00PM For sponsorship and ticket information please contact Chris Lombard [clombard@strichardschool.org](mailto:clombard@strichardschool.org)

\***Altar Flowers and Blessed Mother Flowers sign-up for 2017** is now available on our website. Simply go to our website and go to the registration form tab.

**\*\*BULLETIN:** Information must be submitted in writing by note or email to the parish office **no later than 12:00 noon on Wednesdays** for the following weekend. When sending an email, please put **"BULLETIN"** in the subject line. Thank you for your cooperation!

This week, I'd like to share with you a response from Bill Stevens. Thank you, Bill for sharing your thoughts and a portion of Marie Livingston Roy's letter. It offers much reflection on how we can all move from *Maintenance to Mission*.

Please continue to send me your thoughts on the following:

***"If you were the person charged with writing the "Rules of Engagement in Catholic Worship" what are some of the items/conventions you would address? Please write me your responses or send an email."***

- Fr. Gerry

Father Hurley, I guess your questions, asked in the bulletin, struck a nerve with me. You were right on point in wondering why the inattention and seemingly uncaring prevails among many people during the worship service. Certainly, I cannot presume to have all the answers, but sometimes the question is more instructive than the answer.

- Would a screen above the altar, as many other churches have, help children, hearing impaired, and others follow the mass?
- Would a larger, carpeted foyer upon entering the church, help newcomers and different ethnic groups mingle, meet and feel more a part of the total parish family?
- Would it help, if occasionally, you could stop in your readings, and say a few brief words as to what the section of the mass is directed to, or the significance of the section? This tends to wake people out of their wondering minds!!
- What if we took more time when we greet each other, say two or three minutes during the service, to actually have time to meet new people, find out their names, their children, etc? Would that reenergize them to the service?

There are times one must close their/our eyes to concentrate on the words and prayers of the mass, so as not to be distracted into the Netherlands. Maybe this is natural, but we all know our interest span is very short.

I recently read a letter from Marie Livingston Roy about *why* someone didn't accept the Christian faith, and I quote a portion of her letter:

"Never speak to me of church. What does the church know of my despair, the church barricaded behind its stained glass windows against the likes of me? Once, I heard your pleas for my repentance and sought a fellowship of faith within your walls.

There I saw your God reflected in your faces as you turned away.....Forgiveness never came.....The healing love I sought was carefully hoarded, reserved only for your kind.

Be gone from me and speak no more of God. I've seen your God made manifest in you: a God with no compassion. So long as your God withholds the warmth of human touch from me, I shall remain an unbeliever."

Pretty strong words, possibly filled with self pity, but our Church was founded on the human touch, family worship, love and compassion. When we don't have that, it's just a building that gathers a neighborhood together to hear words spoken without meaning. The REASON FOR THE MEETING, ie, THE MASS, gets lost in the "obligation to attend".

Just some of my thoughts,  
Bill

 <p>Five Convenient Locations Crossgates Blvd./Reservoir 1866 Spillway Road   601.992.4468 335 Crossgates Blvd.   601.309.0660</p>	 <p>Lakeland Commons 253 Ridge Way - Flowood, MS 39232 601.992.1700 Ron &amp; Paul Muffuletto - Parishioners www.jacksonjewelersinc.com</p>		 <p>ITALIAN RESTAURANT</p> <p>FRED CERAMI, OWNER 5417 Lakeland Drive, Suite 1 Flowood, MS 39232 601.919.2829 • cell 601.842.1492 ceramistalians@gmail.com <b>EAT FREE ON YOUR BIRTHDAY!</b></p> <p>Karen Arender 1001 Lake Village Circle Brandon, MS 39047 Specializing in Haircuts and Color Alicia Hair and Spa—601.992.3823 Parishioner</p>
<p><b>SAMUEL C. MARTIN</b> <i>Criminal Defense - Family Law Personal Injury</i></p> <p>252 Katherine Dr, Suite B Flowood, MS 39232-9024</p> <p>(601) 714-1169</p> <p>SAM@SMARTLAWMS.COM WWW.SMARTLAWMS.COM</p>	 <p>(601) 497-3275</p> <p>133 Tradition Pkwy. Flowood, MS 39232</p> <p>Pat Pizzetta Brown and Earl Brown</p>	<p><b>BIRTHRIGHT</b> <b>Pregnant? Need Help?</b></p> <p>Call 601.371.7711 or 1.800.550.4900 (24 hrs.)</p> <p>Volunteer counselors save lives. Would you help us in our mission? All services are free and confidential.</p>	<p>General Partners Ken Lowrey 601.954.7262 Parishioner</p> <p>Stanley Philips 601.946.9629 Roofingresources@att.net</p> <p>LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED</p>
<p><b>Reservoir Loc-N-Stor Self Storage</b> Household*Business*Boats*Open</p> <p>200 Grants Ferry Road Brandon MS 601-992-0907 Bill Harris, parishioner</p>	<p><b>John M. Colette &amp; Associates</b> <i>Criminal Defense</i></p> <p>John M. Colette • Sherwood A. Colette</p> <p>601.355.6277 www.colettelawms@gmail.com</p>	 <p>General Partners Ken Lowrey 601.954.7262 Parishioner</p> <p>Stanley Philips 601.946.9629 Roofingresources@att.net</p> <p>LICENSED, BONDED AND INSURED</p>	
<p> <b>Rowena Agosta</b> 601-398-3775 rowenas23@comcast.net</p>	<p><b>Tim Carney, D.M.D. Daniel Carney, D.M.D.</b> General Dentistry 100 Avalon Centre, Suite A Brandon, MS 39047 601.982.3351</p>	<p> <b>FIDELITY MORTGAGE, LLC</b> A Mortgage Lender/ Broker Company</p> <p>JOHN M. BONELLI NMLS #7940 Vice President 601-482-9764</p> <p>60 Katherine Drive, 6001 Flowood, MS 39232 Office: 601-487-2772   Fax: 601-487-2771 john@fidelitymort.com</p>	<p><b>Batteries + Bulbs</b></p> <p>381 Ridge Way FLOWOOD 601-500-5500 (Behind News at Dogwood) Mon-Sat 9 - 9, Sun 11 - 6 www.batteriesplus.com</p>
<p> <b>David E. Welch Construction, LLC</b> David E. Welch Parishioner 601.822.7912</p>	<p> <b>Chris Cox, Sr.</b> President 601-982-0328 chriscox@capitalglass.com Parishioner</p>	<p> <b>JOHN M. BONELLI</b> Vice President 601-482-9764</p> <p>60 Katherine Drive, 6001 Flowood, MS 39232 Office: 601-487-2772   Fax: 601-487-2771 john@fidelitymort.com</p>	<p><b>Honey Do Home Projects</b> Pete Canizaro, Owner 601-940-9293</p>
<p> <b>St. Dominic's</b> FAMILY MEDICINE 1050 River Oaks Dr 601-200-4760</p>	<p> <b>Gigi's cupcakes</b> Cathy Richardson, Owner</p> <p>730 Woodside Lane • Flowood, MS 39232 Tel: 601.989.1388 • Fax: 601.919.1267 gigis@att.net • www.gigiscupcakes.com</p>	<p><b>Chris Irby, Agent</b> Winnie Brownman, Team Leader Parishioners</p> <p>401 Cross Park Dr., Suite F Pearl, MS 39208-8970 Bus 601.939.4224 Fax 601.982.2526 Chris.irby.m04@statefarm.com</p>	<p> <b>pediatric dentistry OF BRANDON</b> Henry W. Cook, DMD, PA PARISHIONER</p> <p>www.pediatricdentistryofbrandon.com 601-824-1950 142 Gateway Drive</p>
<p><b>Church Militant TV</b> "Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on God's saving justice, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." <b>Dynamiccatholic.com</b> <b>Catholiconline.com</b></p>	<p> <b>Jayne Welch</b> 601.832.8684 cell 601.607.4777 office Parishioner</p> <p>GRAHAM &amp; ASSOCIATES, INC., REALTOR®</p>	<p><b>SNIPPERS Hair &amp; Nails</b></p> <p>Full Service Salon &amp; Barber Shop Tails, Trims, &amp; Treatments</p> <p>601.825.2332 5230 Hwy 80 E Pearl, MS The Haircut Spot of Flowood</p>	<p><b>HARKINS REALTY, INC.</b> COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE OFFICE AND RETAIL SPACE Lakeland Dr. Office Space At River Bend Pl.</p> <p><b>"Will Build TO SUIT"</b> 601.932.4663 Parishioner</p>
<p> <b>Allstate</b> You're in good hands. Auto • Home • Business • Life</p> <p>Steve Gosselin, Parishioner 601.825.0772 stevegosselin@allstate.com</p>	<p> <b>HOME LAND TITLE</b> 515 Kyrwood Circle • Flowood, MS 39232 Phone 601-948-3595</p> <p>Buying, Selling, Refinancing Land or Home? Let us be the one to close your Loan!</p> <p>Now 10% Bonus Loan Title for New-Building and New-Construction sales only at HomeLand Title! We Close Your Loan In Under 45 Days! Choose Home Land Title Mobile and Home Based - Parishioners www.homelandtitle.com</p>	<p> <b>MEA Medical Clinics</b> a service of St. Dominic's</p>	<p><b>EIMP Group</b> Edward Prybylko   Financial Consultant 5759 Hwy. 25   Flowood, MS 39232 Phone: 601-487-6827   Fax: 601-487-6832</p>
<p> <b>YOUNG LIVING</b> NATURAL OILS</p> <p><b>Rachel Westerfield</b> WWW.YLOIST.COM/MSWELLNESSENGINEER/ MSWELLNESSENGINEER@GMAIL.COM 601-906-7072</p>	<p>Sound Products Company 485 Hwy. 49 South Jackson, MS 39211 601.939.2844 • 1.800.393.4398</p> <p>Soundproducts@sigbiz.com N6121100 DMA/681 Home/284 Secretary/Treasurer</p> <p><b>Discount Gun Safe</b> Residential &amp; Commercial</p> <p>IN-HOME DELIVERY 601.939.8233 2636 OLD BRANDON ROAD JOE &amp; ALICE THOMAS PEARL, MS PARISHIONERS</p>	<p><b>Stephen E. Gardner</b> <b>Young Wells Williams PA</b> Business Litigation, Creditors Rights &amp; Family Law 601-948-6100 Parishioner</p> <p> <b>AAA PRINTING &amp; GRAPHICS</b> BOB HAGEN 601-932-3138 parishioner</p>	<p><b>SUMMER HOUSE REALTY</b> RUTHANNE HEINTZELMAN RUTHANNE@HATT.NET WWW.MYRHOUSE.COM 601-718-0118</p> <p> <b>Harmony</b> Denise Gullory 5719 Hwy 25, Suite 2 Nail Specialist Flowood MS 39232 601-259-2289 (owner of Lakeland/Moe Dr)</p>

**Church Office Hours: Tuesday — Thursday, 8 am - 4 pm /Friday 8am - 12pm**

**www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com (601) 992-9547**

**Pastor — Fr. Gerry Hurley — pastor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com or office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Administrator — Deacon John McGregor — jmcgregor@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Faith Formation — Sarah O'Donnell — rel.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Finance/Bookkeeper — Renee Carpenter — finance@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Grounds/Maintenance — Kevin Smith — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Learning Center — Jennifer Henry, Director — stpaullearningcenter@gmail.com**

**Liturgy, Prayer Requests, Births, Baptisms — Monica Walton — liturgy@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Music Ministry — Ed Thomas — est5271@gmail.com**

**Receptionist — Renee Borne — office@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**R.C.I.A. — Rodney Hipp — adult.edu@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Senior Adult Ministry — Monica Walton — sradults@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**

**Youth Group — Cory Head — youth@saintpaulcatholicchurch.com**