

## IN MEMORIAM

### • Recently Deceased

**INTO YOUR HANDS, O LORD, WE HUMBLY ENTRUST OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

**Kenneth Gremillion | Valentine Tony Carmello | Shirley L. Ducote | Thelma Firmin | Nellie Brassette | Julius Daigrepoint | Jane Thevenot | Felton Kidder | Rebecca Jeansonne Villemarette | Beverly Desselle | Audrey Firmin Guillory | Tara Lacombe Ramour | Anita B. Ray | Betty D. Ponthier**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THEIR SOULS AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES

• **Sanctuary Candles:** in memory of Deceased Buzz Jeansonne Family Members (*church*) and Megan Ducote Parra (*day chapel*).

(ALTAR FLOWERS CAN BE PURCHASED IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR SCHEDULING AND PRICING.)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

-**SMS Mass** next week will be held on Friday and May Crowning will be celebrated at that time – there will be no school Mass on Wed., May 1.

-**National Day of Prayer:** Thurs., May 2 at 12:00 p.m. (St. Joseph's – Marksville). A rosary will be said with this country as its intention – all are welcome.

-**Catholic Daughters Meeting:** first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the SMS multipurpose building.

-**Women's Bible Study / Book Club:** Fridays at 10:00 a.m., Cottonport Museum. All women (age 18+) are invited to attend. Call 717-3619 for more information.

-**Women's Marian Prayer Group:** third Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the rectory garage meeting room.

-**AA Meeting / Big Book Study:** first and the third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the SMS multipurpose building. Contact Chester Landry at 318-359-7628.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- CHILDREN'S LITURGY – BEGINS NEXT SUN., MAY 5 – 9:30 A.M. MASS
- FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING – MON., MAY 6 – 6 P.M. (RECTORY GARAGE MEETING ROOM)
- PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUES., MAY 7 – 6 P.M. (RECTORY GARAGE MEETING ROOM)
- NEIGHBORHOOD ROSARY – WED., MAY 8 – 4:30 P.M. (HOSTED BY DIANE MERRICK)

### • CONFIRMATION – THURS., MAY 9 – 6:00 P.M.

**MANDATORY PRACTICE AND INSTRUCTION – WED., MAY 8 – 5:15 P.M. (BEGINS WITH MASS)**

• **SMS CRAWFISH BOIL – FRI., MAY 10 – PICK UP IS 4:00-5:30 P.M. - \$20 FOR 4 POUNDS OF CRAWFISH, CORN, AND POTATO**

• **SMS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION – SAT., MAY 18 – 10:00 A.M. IN THE CHURCH**

• **CORPUS CHRISTI EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION AND PARISH PICNIC – SUN., JUNE 2**

• **LECTOR FORMATION WORKSHOP – SAT., JUNE 15 AT 8 A.M. (HOSTED BY ST. MARY'S)**

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL CURRENTLY SERVING AS LECTORS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN SERVING – REGISTER ONLINE (DIOCESEALEX.ORG) PRIOR TO THE TRAINING.

## SICK LIST

**LORD, EASE THE SUFFERINGS AND COMFORT THE WEAKNESSES OF YOUR SERVANTS**

Kathryn Ducote | Iris Ducote Jeansonne | Alisa Lacombe | Pat Rabalais | Roderick Ray | Kim Wixson | Dede Lemoine | Jeremy Andress | Louie Laborde | Kristin Callegari

(note: names are published for six weeks – call the church office with additions, deletions, or renewals)

## COLLECTIONS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

January 2024	February 2024	March 2024
\$30,597	\$30,770	\$37,521

(DONATE BY TEXTING **ASSUMPTION** TO **73256**; OR BY THE **E-GIVING** TAB ON THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE; OR BY CASH, CHECK, OR ENVELOPE AT MASS)



## SCAN TO DONATE

USING YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA, SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GIVE TO ST. MARY'S – IT'S EASY AND SECURE!

## DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA

-**Annual Diocesan Appeal:** prayerfully consider giving to the diocesan church – visit [diocesealex.org/donate](http://diocesealex.org/donate)

-**Safe Environment:** All adults who work/volunteer with minors in the church or school must be trained in the Virtus child sexual abuse awareness program. Register by clicking on "Safe Environment" at [diocesealex.org](http://diocesealex.org) or call 318-445-6424 (ext. 213). Once certified, you are required to login to your online account and read your monthly bulletins to maintain certification.

• **Virtus Training:** Wed., May 15 at 6:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Church (church office – Marksville).

## PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PATRONS

Escudé Funeral Home • 964-2324

Attorney Peter J. Lemoine • 318-717-1995 • *Social Security Disability Law*

Druco Lumber Company • Mansura, LA • 318-964-2214

7Voip • 318-295-9557 • [sevenvoip.com](http://sevenvoip.com) • Ron Juneau, Owner

Philip Davis • Independent Associate • [philip61.legalshieldassociate.com](http://philip61.legalshieldassociate.com)

T-Jim's Grocery & Market • 318-876-2351 • Jacques Moreau, Owner

Jacob E. Gauthier, DDS • 253-8529 • *Complete Family Dentistry*

Mike's Glass & Tinting, Inc. • 876-3893 • Mike Dobison, Owner

René C. Desselle, DDS • Mansura, LA • 964-2300 • *General Dentistry*

Poret's Thrifty Way Pharmacy (Religious and Other Gifts) • 876-2104

First Insurance Marksville • 253-9202 • *Commercial / Home / Auto / Life*

Bernard's Cajun Sea Fry Seafood Restaurant • Cottonport • 876-2136

Juneau's Cajun Meats • Mansura, LA • Damon & Shelley Juneau, Owners

Rabalais Flooring, LLC • 876-2018 • *For all your flooring needs*

The Cottonport Bank • [cottonportbank.com](http://cottonportbank.com)

Cottonport Corner Drug (Gift Boutique & Religious Gifts) • 876-3665

New York Life • 876-3226 • William "Scotty" Scott, Agent

Juanita D. Brouillette, Certified Public Accountant • 876-2725

Knights of Columbus • St. Mary's Council 1199

Catholic Daughters of the Americas • Court Padre Pio 2141

Clark's Collision Center • 876-2980 • Danny Clark, Owner

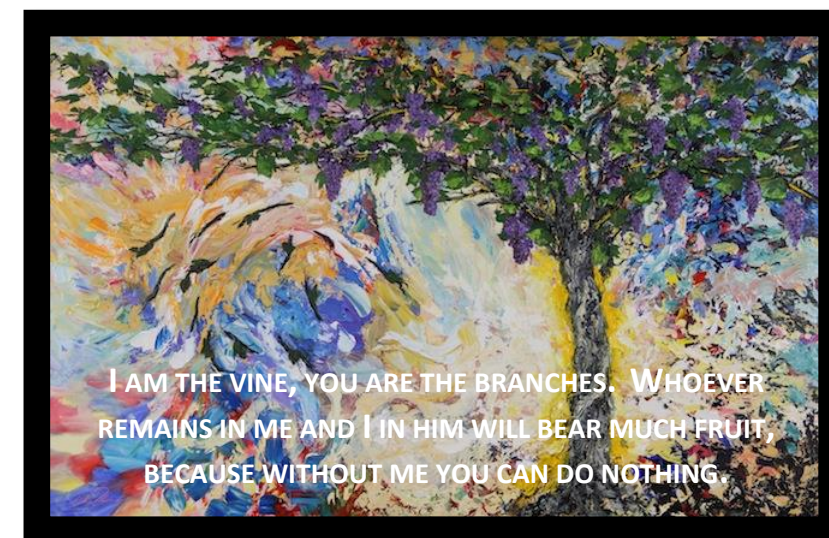
Roy, Scott, & James • Marksville, LA • 240-7800 • *Injury Attorneys*

Cottonport Family Clinic • 876-3696 • Jamie Garrett, FNP • Buzz Jeansonne, FNP

*In Honor of St. Isidore – Patron Saint of Farmers • May 15 – Feast Day*

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## APRIL 28, 2024



# ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH

820 Front Street • Cottonport, LA 71327 • 318-876-3681  
[stmaryscottonport.com](http://stmaryscottonport.com) • Facebook: @saintmaryscottonport  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday • 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m./1:00–4:00 p.m.

Rev. Charles Ray, Pastor • [frcray@diocesealex.org](mailto:frcray@diocesealex.org)  
Deacon Doug Moreau • [dcndmoreau@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcndmoreau@diocesealex.org)  
Stephen Scott, Parish Manager • [stmary@diocesealex.org](mailto:stmary@diocesealex.org)  
Priscilla Brouillette, Bookkeeper  
Nettie Chenevert, Organist

## SCHOOL

850 Front Street • Cottonport, LA 71327 • 318-876-3651  
[smsangels.org](http://smsangels.org) • Facebook: @SMSCottonport  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday • 7:30 a.m.–2:45 p.m.

Blaine Dauzat, Principal • [principal@stmaryscottonport.com](mailto:principal@stmaryscottonport.com)  
Casey Armand, Secretary • [secretary@stmaryscottonport.com](mailto:secretary@stmaryscottonport.com)  
Paul Newton, Athletic Director

## TO MY BELOVED PEOPLE

Catholicism is the pursuit of Truth, and human beings gain a greater participation in truth through distinctions. Inasmuch as things are the same, they are also different. For example, we have the same desire for happiness, the necessity to eat, and we will all die; but we also are each unique, some enjoy rodeos, others not so much. There is a huge difference between fruits and gifts. Fruits must be cultivated and are thus products of particular actions. Gifts, on the other hand, are given freely by God and are not merited. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are:

- **Wisdom** is the knowledge of and judgment about “divine things” and the ability to judge and direct human affairs according to divine truth.
- **Understanding** is penetrating insight into the very heart of things, especially those higher truths that are necessary for our eternal salvation – in effect, the ability to “see” Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.
- **Counsel** allows a man to be directed by God in matters necessary for his salvation.
- **Fortitude** denotes a firmness of mind in doing good and in avoiding evil.
- **Knowledge** is the ability to judge correctly about matters of faith and right action, so as to never wander from the straight path of justice.
- **Piety** is reverence of and the act of worshipping God.
- **Fear of God** allows us to avoid separating ourselves from God.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit are much different – kindness, generosity, joy, charity, self-control, faithfulness, modesty, patience, peace, chastity, goodness, and gentleness. Pray for the former, cultivate the latter!

I will be traveling with Dad to MD Anderson this week. I hope to return for the May Crowning Mass on Friday. I am very thankful for your cards, emails, and condolences of support over these past two weeks. My heart has softened greatly, and I am excited for each of you to take up a place of residence in my heart. Thank you and love you!

In Service to Christ and His Church,  
Fr. Charlie

## MEDITATION IMITATION OF CHRIST

Jesus has many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few cross-bearers. Many desire His consolation, but few His tribulation. Many will sit down with Him at table, but few will share His fast. All desire to rejoice with Him, but few will suffer for Him. Many will follow Him to the breaking of the bread, but few will drink the bitter cup of His Passion. Many revere His miracles, but few follow the shame of His cross. Many love Jesus when all goes well with them, and praise Him when He does them a favor; but if Jesus conceals Himself and leaves them for a little while, they fall to complaining or become depressed. They who love Jesus purely for Himself and not for their own sake bless Him in all trouble and anguish as well as in time of consolation. Even if He never sent them consolation, they would still praise Him and give thanks. Oh, how powerful is the pure love of Jesus, when not mixed with self-interest or self-love!

— Thomas à Kempis, p. 88-89

## BEARING FRUIT

This Sunday's Gospel presents us with the beautiful metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus emphasizes the importance of remaining in Him to bear fruit. Like branches that cannot survive, let alone bear fruit when severed from the vine, our spiritual lives wither without a deep and sustaining connection to Christ. This imagery invites us to consider the nature of the fruit we're called to bear. It's not merely about individual accomplishments but about contributing to the flourishing of the whole community, to the glory of God. Bearing fruit requires trust and drawing strength from the Lord. It involves pruning – letting go of what hinders our growth and embracing a process of spiritual refinement. This is not always comfortable, but it is necessary for growth. We are reminded that our efforts, grounded in faith and sustained by grace, can lead to abundant life for ourselves and for others.

As we reflect on the readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, we are called to embrace boldness in our proclamation and living of the Gospel, to foster communities grounded in love and service, and to bear fruit that brings glory to God. Let us draw strength from our connection to Christ, the true vine, trusting that He will guide and sustain us in our journey. Just as the early Christians' boldness in faith and action played a pivotal role in the growth of the Church, so too are we called to be instruments of God's love and grace in the world today.

### MONDAY, APRIL 29 MEMORIAL OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

- **Confessions:** 4:45-5:10 p.m.
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Mass:** 5:15 p.m.  
**Readings:** Acts 14:5-18 / Ps 115 / Jn 14:21-26  
**Lector:** Carlene Gauthier  
**Intention:** Ronald J. Juneau, Sr.
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet:** 5:45 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 30 TUESDAY OF THE FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER

- **Men's Rosary:** 6:00 a.m. – chapel
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Communion Service:** 5:15 p.m.  
**Readings:** Acts 14:19-28 / Ps 145 / Jn 14:27-31a  
**Lector:** Jacob Gauthier

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 MEMORIAL OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

- **No SMS Mass**
- **Rosary:** 4:45 p.m.
- **Communion Service:** 5:15 p.m.  
**Readings:** Acts 15:1-6 / Ps 122 / Jn 15:1-8  
**Lector:** Sharon Juneau

### THURSDAY, MAY 2 MEMORIAL OF ST. ATHANASIUS



- **ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT:** 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.  
**O SACRAMENT MOST HOLY, O SACRAMENT DIVINE!  
ALL PRAISE AND ALL THANKSGIVING BE EVERY  
MOMENT THINE!**

- **Communion Service:** 5:15 p.m.  
**Readings:** Acts 15:7-21 / Ps 96 / Jn 15:9-11  
**Lector:** Diann Poret

### FRIDAY, MAY 3 FEAST OF ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES, APOSTLES

- **SMS Mass: 8:00 a.m. (MAY CROWNING)**  
**Readings:** 1 Cor 15:1-8 / Ps 19 / Jn 14:6-14  
**Intention:** Maggie Rabalais

### SATURDAY, MAY 4 VIGIL FOR THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- **Confessions:** 4:00-4:25 p.m.
- **Rosary:** 4:10 p.m.
- **Mass:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Readings:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 / Ps 98 / 1 Jn 4:7-10 / Jn 15:9-17  
**Lectors:** Adriane Blackledge (A) | Aimee Richardson (B)  
**EMHCs:** Renee Armand | Chris Lemoine  
**Altar Server:** Sophie Lemoine  
**Intentions:** Pat & Raymond Tassin | Leo Tremblay | Ray & Shirley Ducote | All the Souls in Purgatory especially deceased members of the Friends of the Suffering Souls | Rozas-Thevenot Families | Ben and Marie Juneau | Otis and Agnes Thevenot | Bill & Flo Scott | Beverly Desselle | Johnny Truman Taylor | Tara L. Ramour | Protection of the Unborn | Buddy & Sue Normand and Family | Blumes Lemoine Family and Pappy Juneau

### SUNDAY, MAY 5 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- **Confessions:** 30 minutes before each Mass
- **Readings:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 / Ps 98 / 1 Jn 4:7-10 / Jn 15:9-17
- **Mass:** 7:00 a.m.  
**Lectors:** Stephen Scott (A) | Tessa Clark (B)  
**EMHCs:** Jodi Guidry | Ron Juneau  
**Altar Servers:** Lawson Juneau | Abram Juneau | Brant Juneau  
**Intention:** For the People of St. Mary's (*Pro Populo*)
- **Mass:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Lectors:** Lenon Johnson (A) | Paul Newton (B)  
**EMHCs:** Becky Scott | Kathy Lacombe  
**Altar Servers:** Molly Newton | Sadie Newton  
**Intentions:** Debbie Gauthier | Bascom, Sadie, & Henry Gremillion | Ken Gremillion | Donald Daigrepoint | Nina & Bennett Joffrion | M/M A.J. DaGian | M/M Max Merrick, Sr. | Maggie Rabalais | Dewey & Joe Devillier and Marie Michel | Becky J. Villemarette | Tara L. Ramour | Francis (Joe) Ducote & Etheal Hess
- **Mass:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Lectors:** Cain Merrick (A) | Terri Thevenote (B)  
**EMHCs:** Diann Poret | Debbie Decuir  
**Altar Servers:** Lillian Scott | Lyla Scott  
**Intention:** June Giglio

## YOUTH EVENTS

- **Youth Group (all grades):** Sun., May 12 beginning with 5:30 p.m. Mass followed by an End of Semester social. Supper will be provided.
- **Steubenville South:** June 21-23 (Alexandria)
- **Covecrest Summer Camp:** July 7-13 (Georgia)

**BUT NOW THUS SAYS THE LORD, HE WHO CREATED YOU, O JACOB,  
HE WHO FORMED YOU, O ISRAEL: "FEAR NOT, FOR I HAVE  
REDEEMED YOU; I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME, YOU ARE MINE."**

Isaiah 43:1