



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Morgan City, Louisiana

PARISH DIRECTORY



## HISTORY

The town, originally named Brashear, celebrated its first Mass on January 1859 with Fr. Justine Joseph Claris the celebrant. During this same year, Fr. Claris said the second Mass in a home he purchased in which he arranged a chapel measuring 30'x 16' placing it under the name and protection of St. Justin, martyr. This was the first Catholic Church in Morgan City but was short lived. The chapel burned that same year and Morgan City had no church until 1867. Fr. Claude Fabre assistant at Thibodaux started what was called a "subscription" and built a new frame church. This church was blessed on August 2, 1868 under the patronage of St. Clothilda, Queen of France. In 1883, Fr. Thomas Alphonse Smith was appointed as pastor of St. Clothilde Church. Not long after his arrival, Fr. Smith enlarged the existing church and on August 15, 1885, the Feast of the Assumption, blessed and renamed the church, placing it under the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In December of 1885, Fr. Smith blessed the "new bell" which now hangs in the baptistery.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our parish community is the realization of the church as the People of God. Sacred Heart Church is a community of believers "united in the profession of the one Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Ephesians 4:5) The community is a caring family that welcomes and invites everybody to participate actively in its ministries:

- ❖ To worship the Lord as a community and to grow in ones' spiritual life.
- ❖ To share and live the Christian message.
- ❖ To profess our faith through service for peace and justice.

We are committed to building a community that fosters a sense of communal belonging and hope, encourages reconciliation and love of others, and seeks nourishment in the Eucharist.

## THE PARISH COUNCIL

Born out of the need for co-responsible leadership, the parish council is the focus for the effective participation of clergy and laity in the total mission of the parish as called for in Vatican II.

The philosophy is one of community (common unity) and communion (common union). We are to have unity of purpose, direction, action...unity of discernment, articulation, evaluation...a people not static, but moving. A parish's advancement toward a "coming kingdom" is one of moving from being called to being sent...to build the kingdom. We must take on the mind of Jesus...put Jesus at the center of our collective experiences.

The objectives of the council are to help the ordained leadership in the administration and development and implementation of ministries needed to build up the local church; to be a sounding board and a body through which new ideas are sounded and pastoral suggestions are made and to act as an advisory board and a "think tank" in policy making, decision making, and setting the mission and goals of the parish.

Membership is made up by chosen representatives of each of the groups, programs, organizations, societies, etc. of the parish such as liturgy, religious education, service, African Americans, Hispanics, youth, finance, stewardship and staff. Each of these representatives is to form a committee that will in turn provide both the parish and the parish council with information of the activities or work of each group, program, organization, society etc.

The formation of parish councils is based on the Canon Code #536. This new and evolving concept in church law results from the conciliar emphasis on the expanding role of the laity. Conciliar texts stressing the collaboration of clergy and faithful in the evangelization and sanctification tasks of the Church provide the broad context within which the concept of parish councils can best be understood.

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## ADMINISTRATION

The guiding principle of administration is not to lord over others but to serve. It works closely with the pastor who is primarily responsible for the administration of the parish. Their areas of responsibility are to study and make recommendations regarding budget, revenues and expenditures, maintenance and proper use of parish grounds and facilities, to promote open and ongoing communication within the parish, heighten the awareness of stewardship among the parishioners and foster smooth interpersonal relationships with other church committees.

It is the coordination body of all parish life or activity. Almost 1,400 families have to be provided for in the administration of liturgical, educational and service needs. Fortunately, because of the generosity of the people of Sacred Heart, we now have one of the most beautiful churches anywhere, many programs in the educational area, liturgical ministries and many services to offer those in need. There are many people involved in this ministry. The parish staff is made of the pastor, associate pastor, secretaries, and religious education coordinators. All are working together to minister to the people of God of Sacred Heart parish.

### A. FINANCE

The Parish Finance Committee advises and assists the pastor in handling the parish finances and the wise management of its resources. They review periodically the parish income and expenditures and provide the parishioners with periodic reports on its financial position.

### B. STEWARDSHIP

This committee assists the pastor in the development of the parish in the areas of time, talent and treasure. Yearly they review the needs of the parish, promote time and talent services, and review and revitalize the tithing program of the parish.

### C. MONEY COUNTERS

The purpose of this committee is to open the envelopes and count the money from the weekly and holy days collections. The committees are served by members who are recruited by invitation only.

### D. BUILDING MAINTENANCE

This committee assists the pastor in the maintenance of parish properties. They make regular visual inspections of the parish plant and make recommendations to the pastor and finance council as to the proper upkeep of said properties.

## **E. BULLETIN**

The bulletin is a weekly publication of the parish. It is mailed weekly to every registered household and to advertisers. The bulletin is uploaded to Houston for printing ten (10) days before the time of mailing. Anyone wishing to submit items for publication should receive permission from the pastor and not submit the item any later than the Monday morning PRIOR to the week they wish it published.

## **F. BULLETIN VOLUNTEERS**

These committees were formed to assist the office staff in preparing the bulletins for mailing. The committees meet each Tuesday on an alternating basis.

## **G. PARISH CORRESPONDENT**

The Parish Correspondent sends greetings and acknowledges activities of parishioners such as baptisms, birthdays, anniversaries of priests and religious, get well greetings, bereavement, etc.

# **WORSHIP**

The members of these committees represent the different parish organizations, movements and groupings whose main thrust is the proper worship of the Lord and promotion of spirituality and prayer life in the community.

## **A. EUCHARISTIC AND CUP MINISTRIES**

An extraordinary minister of the bread and wine is a lay person who has been duly deputed by the Bishop for the purpose of assisting the Ordinary Minister (priest) in distributing the bread and wine (Mass, hospital, nursing home and to shut-ins). Persons of this committee are appointed and must be duly instructed and should distinguish themselves by Christian life, faith and morals striving to be worthy of this great office cultivating devotion to the Holy Eucharist and acting as an example to the other faithful by piety and reverence for this most holy sacrament of the altar.

## **B. COMMENTATORS / LECTORS**

The persons of this ministry proclaim the Word of God to the congregation. Their responsibility is to proclaim the Word of God in such a way that God can be heard. They should reinforce the word of God by their lives as well as by their proclamation. To do so, they need to be filled with the spirit of the liturgy. Membership to this committee is by appointment.

## **C. ALTAR SERVERS**

This is a group willing to serve the priest at the altar during the weekend liturgies. There are 12 teams currently serving on a rotating basis. To serve, a member must be willing to train and be faithful to their obligation. Students, grades 3 and upward, are invited to participate.

## **D. MUSIC MINISTRY / SONG LEADERS**

The purpose of the music ministry and song leaders is to encourage and lead the congregation in singing praise to God during the Eucharistic celebration. Song leaders are trained for leading congregational singing. They serve on a rotating basis by following a prepared schedule.

## **E. USHERS / HOSPITALITY**

The ushers welcome people, attend to the needs of the congregation, take up the collection and promote order in the celebration of the liturgy. Each Mass is assigned a captain and co-captain. At least six volunteers from the usher role are recruited to assist. Teams serve on a rotating basis. To volunteer, contact the priest, an usher or call the rectory office at (985) 385-0770.

## **F. ROSARY GROUP**

The rosary group, Our Lady Star of the Sea was founded in Morgan City in 1973 through the efforts of Mrs. Carol Ackerman and other devotees. The group, now a confraternity by an official decree of Bishop Warren L. Boudreaux on August 22, 1979, has as its primary purpose to increase devotion to Mary as Our Lady Star of the Sea. The Morgan City area has been placed under her protection.

## **G. COME, LORD JESUS!**

A home-based prayer study group first organized in Sacred Heart as part of a Lent-Easter renewal program. Anyone interested in studying scripture and prayer in the small group home setting may contact one of the study group leaders or participants for time and place of meetings.

## **H. ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS**

Sacred Heart parish has a long history of diversity. In continuing the tradition of honoring the many gifts of the Spirit, the ethnic groups of our parish are encouraged to celebrate. This was done in the past with Black Catholic Outreach liturgies and with Hispanic fiestas and liturgies. Sacred Heart currently celebrates a Spanish Mass every Sunday at 3:00 PM. We encourage any group to organize and celebrate in a special way that builds the kingdom and gives praise to God. Both African American and Hispanic outreach programs are represented on the Pastoral Council.

## **I. ADORATION COMMITTEE**

Twenty-four (24) hour adoration begins every Thursday morning following the 6:30 a.m. Mass and ends on Friday morning following the morning Mass. Adoration is held in the Baptistry. Sign-up sheets are in the Baptistry. Volunteers are encouraged.

## **EDUCATION**

The members of this committee represent the different religious programs, organizations, movements and groupings whose main objective is to proclaim the Christian message... "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News to all creation." (Mk. 16/15)

### **A. PRESCHOOL RELIGION**

The preschool religion program is called "Jesus Loves Me" and is extended to children ages 2 – 6. Class is held twice a month in the school during the 11:00 AM Mass. The program was instituted to give religious instruction to this age group and to foster a sense of belonging. There is no registration required. The invitation to participate is an open one.

### **B. CCD PROGRAM**

The purpose of the CCD program is education in Catholic Doctrine for public school children and also the preparation for reception of the sacraments. The program consists of a priest director, director of religious education, principals, secretary, and classroom teachers. There are approximately 300 children involved in the total program, preschool through high school. This involves many instructors, small group leaders and aids. Each teacher is invited to attend workshops and courses offered by the parish and the diocese to work toward certification.

Elementary CCD meets each Tuesday at 3:50 PM until 5:00 PM. The Jr. High and Sr. High programs meet on Monday evenings 6:15 PM to 7:45 PM. All classes take place within the school facilities.

The preparation for First Penance and First Communion takes place within the instruction given to the second graders. First Penance is usually conferred in December with First Communion being received before Easter.

Registration for CCD is required. There is a before registration fee per child with a maximum payment of per family. If this poses a problem to anyone, please call the rectory at (985) 385-0770. Registration for previously enrolled students takes place at the end of each CCD year. Newcomers and first graders register in July. Announcements are made in the parish bulletin and are sent to homes of the registered families.

## **C. CONFIRMATION**

The Confirmation program is a two (2) year program with special requirements and is conducted for the students of the ninth and tenth grades. Confirmation is conferred by the Bishop of our diocese, typically after Easter, upon the tenth grade students. The program includes students of both the public and Catholic school systems. It is the obligation of the church parish for the preparation of students for the reception of this sacrament.

### **D. RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a universal program for welcoming and instructing converts to the Catholic faith and those baptized Catholics who wish to complete the sacraments (e.g. First Communion, Confirmation). Sessions are held each Thursday evening for 90 minutes and begin in September. Announcements are made in the bulletin.

### **E. MARRIAGE PREPARATION**

Marriage preparation is conducted by the priest in charge of the couple to be married. This preparation should begin at least six (6) months prior to the date of marriage. The program is one of discernment, where the couple takes a serious look at the marriage commitment. The preparation involves several meetings with the priest, testing and a pre-cana program presented by the diocese.

### **F. FOCCUS – Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study**

FOCCUS is an instrument administered to the couple planning to marry. It is part of the services of the Office of Family Ministries for the Diocese and is given by the local priest. The instrument is sent to the diocese for evaluation of the results. The couple then meets again with the priest to discuss the findings.

### **G. BAPTISMAL SEMINARS**

Parents requesting baptism for a first-born are required to attend a baptismal seminar. Seminars are held on the first Sunday of each month at 9 a.m. in the rectory. Parents may call 385-0770 to register. The seminar is an educational forum for new parents about the history of the sacrament of baptism; about baptism as expressed and practiced since Vatican II; about parent and godparent responsibility regarding the child's continued religious education and church participation.

## **SERVICE**

The members of these committees represent the different parish organizations, movements and groupings whose main objective is to promote service to others as an integral part of Christian life...“the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve.”

### **A. ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

An old account with the purpose of giving aid to the needy. Here at Sacred Heart Church the funds from this account provide food, medicine, shelter and transportation to the needy who come to our door and provide monies for St. Mary Outreach. Donations can be deposited in the poor box in church or brought to the rectory.

### **B. THRIFT STORE**

The Sacred Heart Thrift Store is located on South Railroad and Second Street. The store was organized to provide quality clothing at reasonable prices for the needy of our area. Donations to the store may be made each Wednesday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The store is open for sales each Thursday from 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM. Operations are dependent upon volunteer help to run the store and donations from the people of the area to stock the store. Work is done on a rotating schedule with the use of teams.

The money collected through sales is used to support mission work, help the needy of the area, buy equipment for the religious education programs of the parish, maintenance of the store, operations of the store, support of the youth programs, training of youth leaders, etc. As one can see, the work of the Thrift Store benefits many.

### **C. SAMARITANS**

There was a need to assist the bereaved family on the day of the funeral. In response to this need, the Samaritans were organized. Team members, on an alternating basis, provide meals to the bereaved family the day of the funeral. It is a small way that the family of Sacred Heart can express that its members care for each other. There are approximately forty (40) funerals a year in our parish. Over a year's time, many people are embraced at a time of great need through this program.

There are no required meetings to attend. The work of the group members is done in the home. If being a member that prepares a dish of food is impossible for you, you may consider being a monetary donor. Provisions such as aluminum foil, paper plates, meats, etc. are always needed. Please call the rectory at (985) 385-0770.

### **D. CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA**

Court Massabielle No. 1134 was organized at Sacred Heart in 1929. The ladies dedicate themselves to service of others. To this day, they are involved in activities that aid the church, the Catholic schools and other charitable works. Meetings are held the third Tuesday each month in the cafeteria at Sacred Heart. Membership is by invitation of the Court.

### **E. PASTORAL CARE**

The pastoral care team was organized in cooperation with the other church parishes in the area. Members visit on a daily basis Teche Regional Hospital, distribute communion to shut-ins and visit the area nursing homes. While some Eucharistic Ministers are involved in this ministry, it is not required that you be one. Anyone with a desire to comfort those people who are sick, lonely or shut-in may do so.

### **F. ST. MARY OUTREACH**

The outreach program is a concerted effort on the part of all area churches and groups to centralize aid to the needy. This centralization affords the service organizations a better opportunity to reach more people with fewer funds. It is the desire of Sacred Heart that more people support the outreach program.

### **G. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

A fraternal order of Catholic men dedicated to God, church and family. The Knights meet each second Wednesday of the month at Cau Hall, Sacred Heart 7:00 PM. The KC organization is one of the oldest in the parish established during the tenure of Fr. Andrew Souby.

### **H. ALTAR SOCIETY**

A society of women who offer their service in maintaining the altar and sanctuary of the church. This includes the cleaning of the church, setting of the altar for service, caring for the vestments and decorations for special occasions as well as the care for the plants and flowers.

### **I. MATTHEW 25**

This program is an emergency preparedness group with established subgroups in each parish. Members are educated about and serve in times of disasters in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. Their philosophy is based on the scripture reading from Matthew 25.

**OTHER BOARDS WITH SACRED HEART PRIESTS AND/OR PARISHIONERS SERVING AS MEMBERS:** Catholic Social Services Board, Diocesan Campaign for Human Development, St. Mary Ministerial

Alliance, Diocesan Employee Benefits Committee, Directors of Religious Education Committee, PASS – Administration Group, Diocesan Pastoral Councils Meetings.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Rectory		(985) 385-0770
Finance	Paul Govenale	(985) 384-6424
Stewardship	Cameron Webster	(985) 384-8863
Building Maintenance	Thane Aucoin	(985) 384-5474
Bulletin	Evie Bertaut	(985) 385-0770
Bulletin Volunteers	Rectory	(985) 385-0770
Parish Correspondents	Yvonne Ozzio	(985) 384-5095
Bread Ministers	Susie Myers	(985) 384-4889
Cup Ministers	Linda Sue Webster	(985) 384-8863
Commentators	Carroll Kraemer	(985) 384-2373
Lectors	Carroll Kraemer	(985) 384-2373
Altar Servers	Terrie Verrett	(985) 384-5252
Music Ministry	Lee LeBlanc	(985) 385-0700
Song Leaders	Lee LeBlanc	(985) 385-0700
Ushers/Hospitality	Jack Robisheaux	(985) 384-3554
OLSS Rosary Group	Carol Ackerman	(985) 384-2196
Come, Lord Jesus	Peggy Gowland	(985) 384-1238
Adoration Committee	Donald Loupe	(985) 384-2059
Children's Church	Christy Thomas	(985) 385-3572
CCD Program	Evie Bertaut	(985) 385-0770
Confirmation	Carroll Kraemer	(985) 384-2373
RCIA	Carroll Kraemer	(985) 384-2373
FOCCUS	Fr. Greg Fratt	(985) 385-0770
Baptismal Seminar	Rectory	(985) 385-0770
Thrift Store	Florina Bergeron	(985) 702-1821
Samaritans	Karen Duhon	(985) 385-0616
Catholic Daughters	Sundra Deshotel	(985) 384-5968
Pastoral Care	Marvin Compton	Cell (985) 518-0070
		Home (985) 385-3905
	Conrad Poe	(985) 385-2938
St. Mary Outreach		(985) 385-0525
Knights of Columbus	Carroll Kraemer	(985) 384-2373
Altar Society	Karen Duhon	(985) 385-0616
Matthew 25	Karen Duhon	(985) 385-0616