

Fr. Peter Akpoghiran, Pastor
for emergency use only: 703-895-5709)

Fr. Peter's St. Mark Office Hours:
Mondays – 9 am - 12 noon
Wednesdays – 1 pm - 4 pm
or by appointment

Rosary Crain, Secretary
504-431-8505 (parish office) 504-431-8506 (FAX)

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Mark Office email.....stmarkama@arch-no.org

Mary Loup, PCL.....504-289-2900

PCL email..... mloup@arch-no.org

St. Mark website..... www.stmarkama.com

Facebook.....St. Mark Catholic Church Ama, LA

ST. MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

10773 River Road, Ama, LA 70031

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 7, 2021

**LECTION ON
THE READINGS**



GENERAL MASS SCHEDULE

The rosary is prayed 30 minutes before each Mass.

8:00 am DAILY MASS: MON. – SAT.

Tuesdays: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena after Mass

Fridays: Sacred Heart Novena after Mass

5:30 pm SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

9:30 am SUNDAY MASS

HOLY DAYS: 8:00 am & 6:00 pm (no vigil)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

All Grades are online using: **“My Catholic Faith Delivered: Faith and Life online”**

CONFESSION:

Saturday 5:00 pm— 5:15 pm;
Sunday 9:00 am—9:15 am;
or by appointment.

WEDDINGS:

Please contact Father at least 6 months before proposed wedding date to begin the required preparation process.

FUNERALS:

Notify Father before contacting the funeral home.

BAPTISMS:

Parents must attend a seminar before the baptism of their first child. Godparents who have never attended a seminar must also attend. Please contact the parish office for further details.

BAPTISM SEMINARS

The Baptism seminars will be held “as needed.” Please contact Parish Office to schedule a Baptism Seminar. Once the parents and godparents have attended a seminar, the Baptism date can be set.

In the first reading, **Exodus 20:1-17**, the Ten Commandments are not just “listed;” rather, they are set in their original context as a covenant, that is: a contract or agreement between God and the Israelites. God made this covenant / agreement with Moses on Mt. Sinai. Through the Sinai Covenant, God makes the Israelites his own Chosen People and promises to lead them back to their homeland. God assures them that they will live long and prosperous lives in the Promised Land as long as they and their descendants after them keep their part of the Covenant agreement--the Commandments. Like any contract, the Sinai Covenant is binding only as long as the terms are kept. Since God’s Word is Truth and cannot be broken, the Israelites themselves will determine whether or not the Covenant remains in force.

The Israelites not only have the responsibility to keep God’s Commandments themselves, but they must also instruct their children about the importance of obeying the commandments. The Israelite commitment to God and to keeping His Covenant must be renewed in every generation for the Covenant to remain unbroken. Therefore, the Israelites’ understanding of the command to honor father and mother goes much deeper than treating one’s parents with love and respect. It is a command to honor the religious beliefs and moral values of one’s parents by teaching those same beliefs and values to one’s children.

Each generation that follows must learn, teach, and obey the Commandments so that the Covenant will remain in force. [See also, Deuteronomy 4:25-40, 6:4-7, 7:20-25] As long as the descendants of the Israelites show their love for God by keeping His commandments, God promises to show them love and mercy and allow them to live peacefully in the Promised Land. Unfortunately, this does not happen. Eventually, the Israelites break the Covenant by turning away from God; as a result, they lose ownership of their beloved Promised Land.

The Gospel, **John 2:13-15**, takes place in the outer courtyard of the temple in Jerusalem. The area is crowded with people doing business. Because the Jews do not allow any currency with graven images to be used for religious purposes, money changers exchange the unacceptable coins for acceptable ones. Also, merchants sell sacrificial animals for the convenience of those who have journeyed great distances to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke place the “cleansing of the Temple” near the end of Jesus’ life, and they focus on Jesus’ anger at the money changers and merchants for taking advantage of their customers. In these Gospels, Jesus says they are “thieves” because their rate of exchange on the money is unfair and the animals are overpriced; moreover, their corrupt business practices have defiled a holy place, a place of prayer.

The placement and focus of this incident are different in John’s Gospel. John is written to bring those who are already familiar with the other three Gospels to a deeper level of spiritual understanding. In John’s Gospel, Jesus does not mention the thievery of the merchants; rather, Jesus is angry because the Jews are relying on sacrifices that cannot save them. John sets the cleansing of the temple in the beginning of Jesus’ public life to make the point that Jesus himself is destined to be

CONTINUED PAGE 3 , COLUMN 2

MASS INTENTIONS: March 8-14

MONDAY 8:00 AM: Dick & Ethel Vial by Patsye Lunk	SATURDAY 8:00 AM: Melba Lemoine by Marjory Robert
TUESDAY 8:00 AM: Special Intention	SATURDAY 5:30 PM: Parishioners of St. Mark
WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM: Linda Berard	SUNDAY 9:30 AM: Jules & Josephine Petit by Ernest & Shirley Webre Robert Ward by Sandra Ward Shirley Dufrene by Joan D. Pitre Larry Nicholas by Myra Nicholas Alice Louviere by Randy & Leslie Petit Family Blaise Bacas by Family
THURSDAY 8:00 AM: Robert Barry by Lloyd & Curtis Alexander	
FRIDAY 8:00 AM: Clotilde Keller by Dudley & Brenda Webre	

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dutch Kappel, Dolena Robert, Carol Jones, Sam Granier, Monica Schexnaydre, Audrey Zeringue, Dana Jones, Gay-Lynn Folse, Morris Zeringue, Gaye Webre, Sandra Cortez, Ernest Webre, Diane Triche, Joyce King, Easton Owen, Glenna Smith, Vanessa Johnson, Juli Zeringue, Elsie Sandolph, Larry Landry, Troy Pintado, Kerri Breaux, Hilton Landry, Linda Caminata, Mende Ford, Babette Robert, Haley Dufrene, Ken Oberle, Mabry Laviolette, Daryl Riddle, Al Luquette, Debbie Luquette, Donald Hare, Jr., Sylvia Isidore

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST. PLEASE CALL, ALSO, TO REMOVE NAMES FROM THE LIST.



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

MURPHY ROBERT

(3/7-13)

by Marjory Robert



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

VAYNE & MARY BASCLE

(3/14-20)

by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

CHURCH SUPPORT:

February 27-28 . . . \$1,025.00
 Catholic Charities Appeal . . . \$242.00



St. Mark Parish is deeply grateful to the **Knights of Columbus 9933** for their amazing generosity in donating to us the proceeds from TWO of their Lenten Dinners.

We did not learn about their intention to make so generous a gift until the Wednesday before the dinner on Friday; therefore, we did not have time to announce it church or in the bulletin. We did our best to ask for your support on our social media, and we know that many of you were able to purchase the KC dinners at Holy Family on the past two Fridays.

The donation will be made to Fr. Ed's Memorial Fund to continue the necessary repairs (see below) at the rectory.

YES, WE NEED TO MAKE MORE REPAIRS!

- When the Risk Manager from the Archdiocese was here, she noted that the rectory steps were broken and not up to code and that the sidewalks were cracked and dangerous. Fr. Peter uses the front door, and he has stumbled on the steps--fortunately, he did not fall--but the steps and sidewalks need to be fixed.
- The ceiling tiles in one classroom in the Fr. Cote Center must be completely replaced due to water damage. The leak that caused the damage has been repaired, but the ceiling tiles were ruined.



So far, response to the announcement of our fundraising Raffle has been underwhelming!

The money we make at the Lenten Dinners (which was over \$9,000 in 2018, and again in 2019) is not "extra"-- it is part of the operating budget we need to run the parish.

MELANIE PLAISANCE, the raffle chairperson, is working hard to make this a successful fundraising event, but she can't do it alone. We need more than three prizes.

In the past, we asked for "start-up money" to help with the initial expenses of the Lenten Dinners. We are going to do that again, but this time **we will use the donations to purchase the "gift card" prizes.**

FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKENDS (3/14-15 & 3/20-21), THERE WILL BE CONTAINERS FOR THE "**RAFFLE START-UP FUND**" IN THE BACK OF CHURCH. PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN. (It does not have to be a huge donation--just a few dollars, like you did with the Lenten Dinners start-up fund.)

(If you are reading the bulletin online, you can put your donation through the letter slot in the parish office door or by send it mail.)

Of, course, if you have a have a new or gently used prize to donate, please call or email the parish office asap. 504-431-8505 / stmarkama@arch-no.org

St. Mark School of Religion's "HOMELESS PROJECT" ends next weekend, March 13-14. There are containers in the back of church for donations. Thank you!



The Archbishop asked all parishes to put the following letter in their parish bulletins:

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I pray that your Lenten journey has been a time of drawing closer to Christ and responding to his invitation to conversion.

As we identify an area of our life that needs change, we can be assured of God's help for us to face our weakness and experience a change of heart. Lent should include standing before our merciful God and asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, better known as Confession.

Please be reminded that a priest will be available in every church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans for the next three Wednesdays (March 10th, March 17th & March 24th) from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The heart of Jesus is open, and he invites you to know and accept his mercy.

Whether we have been to Confession recently, or perhaps it has been many years, now is the time to know that his heart is open and eager to forgive.

Let us remember one another in prayer as we continue this journey through Lent to the new life of Easter.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
+ *Glenn*

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

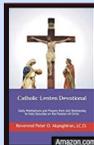


The Divine Mercy

Way of the Cross: on the WEDNESDAYS of Lent at 5:30 pm.

CONFESSION THIS WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 pm
Confessions: in church on Wednesday,
March 10th, March 17th & March 24th
from 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm.

Father hears confessions **every Saturday from 5:00-5:15 pm**
and **every Sunday from 9:00-9:15 am.**



TWO NEW BOOKS BY FR. PETER
(available at Amazon.com)

Marian Lenten Devotional gives a better appreciation of the sorrows of the Blessed Mother during the passion of her Son through scripture readings, meditations, and prayers for each day of Lent.

Catholic Lenten Devotional gives brief daily narrations, meditations, and prayers on the passion of Christ from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday.

Reflection continued . . . the ultimate Passover sacrifice--the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Only in John's Gospel does Jesus use a whip to drive away everyone and everything associated with the worthless sacrifices that cannot atone for sin. When they are gone, Jesus stands alone in their place--a powerful symbol which the people with Jesus do not yet understand. John, however, wants his readers to make the connection, to see that from the beginning of his ministry, Jesus' mission is to be the one, true Sacrifice of Salvation.

Upset by Jesus' actions, the Jewish leaders demand to know who gave him the right to drive the merchants away [They don't like losing their "kickbacks"!]. They want a "sign" of Jesus' authority to act contrary to their long established system of conducting Temple business. Jesus replies that he will "destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." As is often the case in John's Gospel, Jesus is speaking on a symbolic, spiritual level; he is referring to the temple of his body that will die and be raised. Sadly, the understanding of the Jews remains on the literal level. King Herod had started massive renovations and additions to the Temple that are still going on 46 years later. So, to those who can't get past the literal meaning, Jesus' claim to be able to raise the Temple in three days is complete nonsense.

True disciples of Jesus do not always understand him, but they believe in him--and their understanding grows along with their faith. In John's Gospel the "Jews" represent all who refuse to believe in Jesus unless he gives them a sign, a proof, of who he is. They want to "see" first, and then they will believe. That is not the way faith works. Faith means that we must first believe in Jesus, and then we will see/understand his signs.