

CLERGY

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS
Administrator
Rev. Karol L. Shirima, C.S.Sp.
Deacon
Rev. Mr. Francis "Frank" W. Drake
(retired)

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday
No Mass
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00 a.m.
Wednesday
6:30 p.m.
Saturday
5:00 p.m. (Vigil)
Sunday
7:00, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

Vigil and Holy Day Mass times vary;
please see bulletin and website.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday
4:00 to 4:45 p.m.
Wednesday
6:00 to 6:15 p.m. or by request

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Tuesday
St. Jude Novena immediately following
8 a.m. Mass
Thursday
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
following 8 a.m. Mass
Thursday
Patriotic Rosary in Church at 7 p.m.
First Friday
The Most Blessed Sacrament and
Eucharistic Adoration following 8 a.m. Mass
until 5 p.m. closing with Benediction

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT

Phone: 985-863-7935
Fax: 985-863-5431
Email: info@sppcprla.com

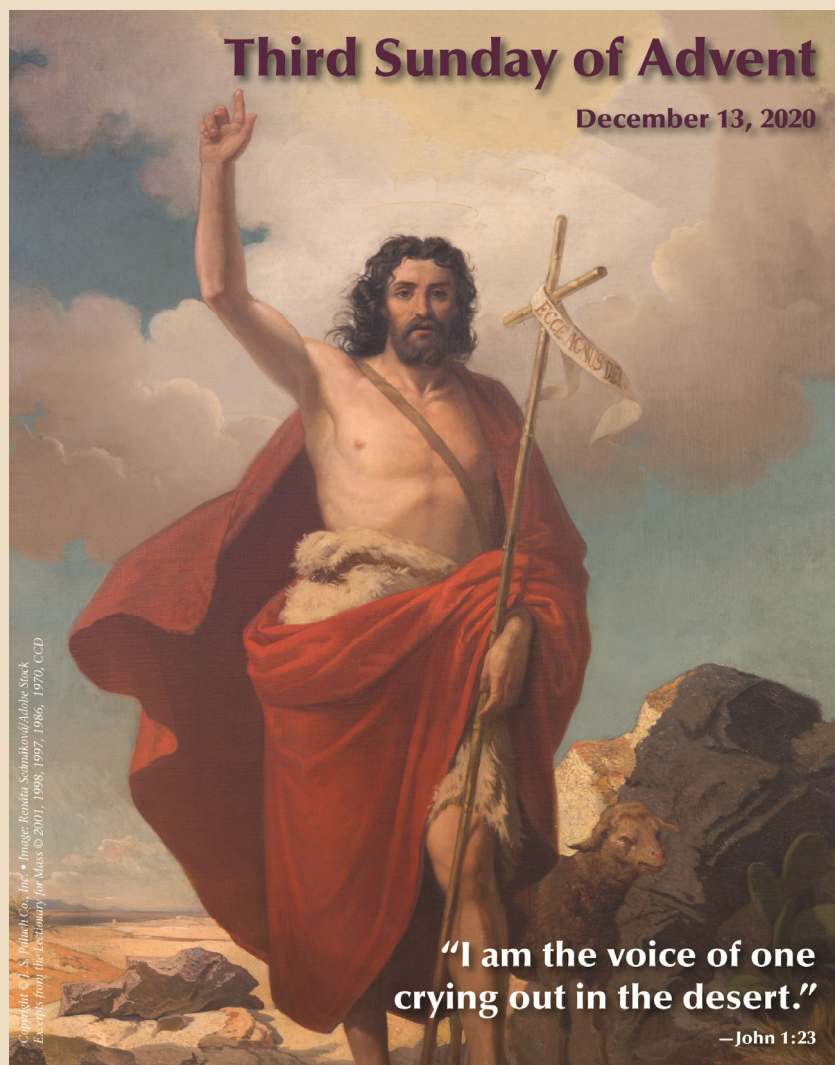
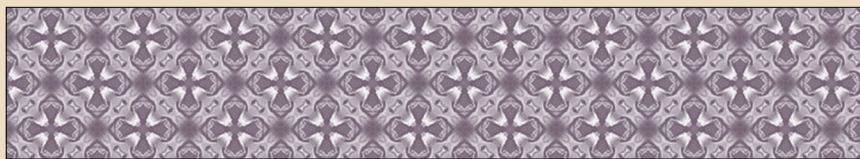
PARISH STAFF

Bonnie Milczarek, Office Manager
info@sppcprla.com
Mary Kittel, Director of Religious Education
mary@sppcprla.com
Karen Dickerson, Office Secretary
kdickerson@sppcprla.com
Elizabeth Kittel, Web Site
ekittel@sppcprla.com
Jerry Broussard, Facility Custodian

ANTONIANS (Assistance)
985-863-7646 (leave message)

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

December 13, 2020
ADVENT



Parish Mission Statement:

It is the mission of our Church Parish to follow the commands of Jesus to Saints Peter and Paul: "Feed My sheep" and "Carry My name among the nations."

A PARISH OF DEANERY X, DEAN: VERY REV. WAYNE C. PAYSSE, V.F.
MOST REV. GREGORY M. AYMOND, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF NEW ORLEANS

66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana, 70452
www.sppcprla.com email: info@sppcprla.com

READINGS FOR THE WEEK**Monday, December 14**

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday, December 20

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16;

Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Father requests that you continue to register for Mass at:
www.sppcprla.com
 Or you may call the office at 985-863-7935 for assistance

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth spring up, so will God make justice spring up before all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John 1:6-8, 19-28).

**REASONS TO REJOICE**

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always? Who can do that?" It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we do not like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thes 5:17) we will not be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We will not be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thes 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I would say that is a reason to rejoice.

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WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, "I am not He." He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your "ducks in a row" and always has been. Today's encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve mass will be celebrated in the Parish Hall at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Christmas Day mass will be held in the Church at 10:00 am.

Please remember to register for mass on the web site at: www.sppcprla.com



Pray for the Sick

Audrey Bonnet
Diane Bourgeois
Diana Bradshaw
JoAnn Brewin
Mary Salzer Brown
May Caballero
Augie & Sondra Paretti

Dotsy Chedville
Zachary Cresson
Patricia Cuccia
Pat Freeman
Virgie Hurstell

Norris Ripp
Ed Roszczynialski
Bunny Shriver
Cathy Smith
Mary Ware
Shirley Callais
Kathy Johnson



In Our
Prayers

Tabernacle Lamp



This week, the Tabernacle Lamp in the Sanctuary burns in memory of

† **Benjamin Spansel** †



Pope Francis' Prayer intention for December

"We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer."

Happy 84th Birthday on Dec. 17th!

What is special about the Third Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church's history, this Sunday had a special name: "Gaudete" Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called "St. Martin's Lent." "Gaudete Sunday" was the Advent counterpart to "Laetare Sunday," which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, "The Lord is coming." But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, "The Lord is near." This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await His coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.



The Widow's Group will be holding their monthly meeting on Thursday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Food will be provided, members just need to bring their own beverage.

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 14

No Mass

Tuesday, December 15

8:00 A Diane Migliore

Wednesday, December 16

6:30 P Purgatorial Society

Thursday, December 17

8:00 A † Darlene Matherne

Friday, December 18

8:00 A Larry Leslie & Family

Saturday, December 19

5:00 P Don & Sonia Braud

† Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.

† Thierry Gaubert, Jr.

† John Lacourrage, Sr.

† Alvin Noggerath, Sr.

Mary Joyce Noto

† Louis J. Mangano, Jr.

† Louis J. Mangano, Sr.

† Tina Mangano

† Ruth Olson

† Yvonne Tracey

† Delphine Patterson

Roszczynialski/

Stottman Families

† Ken & Adele Salzer

† Manuel Selva, Sr.

† Lucas Tracey

Sunday, December 20

7:00 A † Gail Wright

8:30 A Dana Bunting

† Frank & Bessie Cuccia

† Frank Paul Cuccia

† Rodney Dale

† Deacon Pat Downey

Bruce Frederick &

Family

† Carl & Katsy Fandal

† Scott Fandal

† Ramon & Gail Garray

† Norman Gilchrist, Sr.

Debbie Howard

† Andrew Lambert

† Steve Navarre

† Alvin Noggerath, Sr.

Mary Joyce Noto

† Jerry Roszczynialski

10:30 A People of the Parish

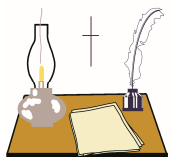


A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In today's second reading Paul concludes his letter to the Christian community at Thessalonica by providing it with actions to take as they wait for the return of the Lord. The first action is to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This does not sound easy in a time of pandemic. The two words that make this task difficult are "always" and "all." This means giving thanks and rejoicing even when our circumstances are not always moments of joy and thanksgiving, or when we are confronted with a broken world. Prayerful stewards rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances, even during these uncertain and stressful times, because they are people of hope. A good reflection this week would be how the season of Advent can give you reason to hope.



From the



Pastor's desk

Reminders from Father Karol

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God New Year's Vigil is Thursday, December 31st at 5:00 p.m. in Church.
- New Year's Day Mass will be at 8:00 a.m. in Church. There will NOT be Adoration on this day.
- Adoration and Benediction will be moved to **Friday, January 8, 2021** due to the holiday.
- Confessions as we prepare for Christmas:
Saturday evenings : **4 p.m.-4:45 p.m.**
- Wednesday evenings : **5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m.**
- To schedule a private confession with Fr. Karol please call the office between 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at 985-863-7935
- Christmas and New Year's Day are Holy days of obligation. For those who are elderly or their health is compromised, Archbishop Aymond has extended the dispensation to attend Holy Mass on those days.
- You can make your Christmas offering three ways: Place in the collection basket or the drop box outside the office door, on-line giving on the web site or mail to: 66192 St. Mary Dr., Pearl River, LA 70452

I wish you God's Blessing as we prepare for the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Thank You!

Father Karol

WEEKLY EVENTS

MON DEC 14	4:00p	Legion of Mary (St. Anthony)
TUES Dec 15	8:45a 7:00p	Tuesday Morning Rosary (Parish Hall) after 8 am Mass and St. Jude Novena RCIA I & II (Parish Hall)
WED Dec 16	7:30 p	KC Meeting (St. Anthony)
THU Dec 17	11:00 a 7:00p	Widows Group (Parish Hall) Patriotic Rosary (church)
FRI Dec 18		
SAT Dec 19		New Envelope Distribution
SUN Dec 20	8:30a	PSR Classes (parents and students meet in Church for Mass then students report to class) New Envelope Distribution

Sunday, December 6:

Envelopes	\$2,350.00
Loose	\$2,121.01
Online Giving	<u>\$2,250.00</u>
Total	\$6,721.01
Second Collection	\$517.61
Retired Religious	



Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

John the Baptist said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight ..."

O	R	D	F
L	H	T	O
T	E	E	Y
H	W	A	

T _ _ _ _ _

Answer: *the way of the Lord*

HALOS

HEALING AFTER LOSS TO OVERDOSE OR SUICIDE

This is an informal, Christian led postvention support group that provides support for all family and friends grieving the loss of a loved one who has been afflicted by overdose or suicide. Our community is committed to support one another by embracing feelings, sharing conversations, and nurturing one another through spiritual guidance. Our mission is to help each other transform mourning and grieving into a lifelong journey of healing.

PLEASE JOIN US:

2nd Monday of every month at 7:00pm
St. Margaret Mary Parish/E-Building
1050 Robert Blvd. • Slidell, LA 70458
Moderator: Deacon Chris Schneider

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Donna 985-201-2143 or Ester 504-621-7864

CHURCH CLEANERS NEEDED

Audrey Ruiz is looking for people to help with the weekly cleaning of the Church. You will work in a 3 person team on a rotation schedule. If interested, call Audrey at 601-799-4527



NEW YEAR ENVELOPES

Church contribution envelopes for 2021 will be distributed in the Parish Hall after all weekend Masses **December 12-13** and **December 19-20**. Those who are already using envelopes in 2020 will automatically be assigned a box for 2021. If you are not registered we ask that you complete a Parish Census Form (located in clear plastic holders at church entrances), and submit it to the office. Please check the box requesting envelopes.



Next meeting is Monday, December 14, 7:00 p.m. in the Evan. Bldg at St. Margaret Mary.

Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Archdiocese of New Orleans will host a wedding anniversary celebration on Sunday, March 14, 2021 for those couples who have been married for 25 years (Only for couples married in 1996). Please visit the office to register. (All registrations must be received by the Archdiocese no later than January 15, 2021.)



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION ENVELOPES

Those who would like to donate funds for flowers and decorations for the altar at Christmas will find envelopes at church entrances. If you wish to make your donation in memory of loved ones, please **PRINT** names **LEGIBLY** on the envelope, as all persons remembered in this way will be listed in a special Christmas handout. Place the envelopes in the collection basket or return them to the Church Office. (Please keep in mind available space on the insert when listing names.) **Deadline is Monday, December 21 by 4:00 p.m.**

The Giving Tree

The Antonina's have their annual giving tree in the back of Church for items to be collected for client's of: The Pregnancy Help Center in Slidell and Safe Harbor, Inc. in Mandeville (a shelter for battered women).

Please choose a tag from the Christmas tree, which will identify the needed donations. Donations should be dropped off in the boxes at the church entrance and at the Church Office. **Please do not wrap.**





Saint Josephine Bakhita

Black-on-black or Arab-on-black slavery normally preceded and made possible the white-on-black slavery practiced by the colonial powers. These powers—England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy—were not slave societies, but their colonies were. The complex, pancultural reality of the slave trade and of slavery itself was on full display in the dramatic early life of today's saint. The future Josephine was born in Western Sudan, centuries after the Church and most Catholic nations had long since outlawed slavery. Enforcing such teachings and laws was infinitely more difficult, however, than issuing them. And so it happened that a little African girl was kidnapped by Arab slave traders, forced to walk six hundred miles barefoot, and sold and resold in local slave markets over a period of twelve years. She was forcibly converted from her native religion to Islam, was cruelly treated by one master after another, was whipped, tattooed, scarred, and beaten. After experiencing all the humiliations inherent to captivity, she was bought by an Italian diplomat. She had been too young, and it had been too long, so she did not know her own name and had unclear recollections of where her family would be. She, essentially, had no people. The slave traders had given her the Arabic name Bakhita, "The Fortunate," and the name stuck.

Living with limited freedom as a maid with her new family, Bakhita first learned what it meant to be treated like a child of God. No chains, no lashes, no threats, no hunger. She was surrounded by the love and warmth of normal family life. When her new family was returning to Italy, she asked to accompany them, thus beginning the long second half of her life's story. Bakhita settled with a different family near Venice and became the nanny for their daughter. When the parents had to tend to overseas business, Bakhita and the daughter were put in the care of the nuns of a local convent. Bakhita was so edified by the sisters' example of prayer and charity that when her family returned to take her home, she refused to leave the convent, a decision reaffirmed by an Italian court which determined she had never legally been a slave in the first place. Bakhita was now absolutely free. "Freedom from" exists to make "freedom for" possible, and once free from obligations to her family, Bakhita chose to be free for service to God and her religious order. She freely chose poverty, chastity and obedience. She freely chose not to be free.

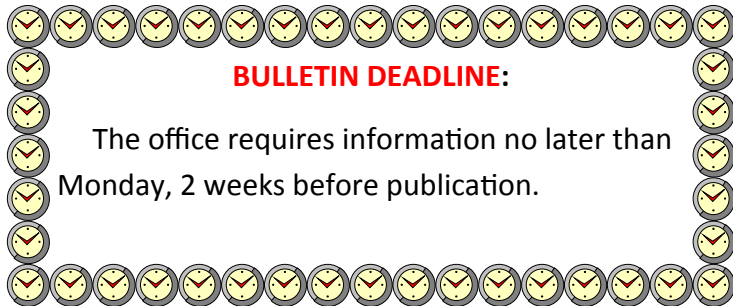
Bakhita took the name Josephine and was baptized, confirmed, and received First Holy Communion on the same day from the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, Giuseppe Sarto, the future Pope Saint Pius X. The same future saint received her religious vows a few years later. Saints know saints. The trajectory of Sister Josephine's life was now settled. She would remain a nun until her death. Throughout her life, Sister Josephine would often kiss the baptismal font, grateful that in its holy water she became a child of God. Her religious duties were humble—cooking, sewing and greeting visitors. For a few years she travelled to other communities of her order to share her remarkable story and to prepare younger sisters for service in Africa. One nun commented that "her mind was always on God, but her heart in Africa." Her humility, sweetness and simple joy were infectious, and she became well known for her closeness to God. After heroically enduring a painful illness, she died with the words "Our Lady, Our Lady" on her lips. Her process of Saint hood began in 1959 and she was canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II in 2000.

Saint Josephine, you lost your freedom when young and gave it away when an adult, showing that freedom is not the goal but the pathway to serving the Master of all. From your place in heaven, give hope to those enduring the indignity of physical slavery and to those bound tightly by other chains.



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The office requires information no later than
 Monday, 2 weeks before publication.

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In Loving Memory of
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**Barrois, Frayle
 and Schaefer
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In Loving Memory of
Louis Joseph Mangano, Sr.
Louis Joseph Mangano, Jr.
Tina Antoinette Mangano
 Husband, Son and Daughter
 Sadly missed by Lee Mangano Family

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISM:

Usually the third Sunday of the month (except during
 Lent) following 10:30 a.m. Mass. Please call for
 registration forms at least three weeks in advance.

MATRIMONY:

By appointment with the parish priest or deacon at
 least **six months** in advance. No other arrangements
 should be made before contacting the priest.

ANOIDING OF THE SICK:

Upon request for the seriously ill, infirm and those
 undergoing major surgery. Please contact the Church
 Office when someone is homebound or hospitalized
 and in need of the sacrament.

FUNERALS:

Families should contact the priest (office) before
 making arrangements.

COMMUNION FOR THE ILL OR SHUT-IN

Please call the Church Office if you know anyone who
 would benefit from this ministry.

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register by filling out a census form located at
 the entrances of the church and return to the Church
 Office or register online at:
www.sppcprla.com/census

MINISTRY DIRECTORY

ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 601-337-6401
sppcaltarservers@yahoo.com

ALTAR SOCIETY

May Caballero 985-863-2467

ANTONIANS

Steve Fecke 985-863-7646
 1st Tuesday each month 7pm

APOLOGETICS

Peter Dakin 985-781-4789
peter@peter315.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Ellie Ross 985-960-1613
 1st Friday each month

FAITH FORMATION-RCIA

Angel Vicknair 985-788-0380
rcia.stsppc@gmail.com

FATHER SEELOS BLESSING

Church Office 985-863-7935

FINANCE

Robert Johnson 985-863-7935

FLORAL DESIGN

Gandy Downey 985-863-7947

CATH ADULTS (GASPP)

Alicia O'Brien 985-863-1938
 1st Monday each month 12pm

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Jonathan Fandal 985-863-3380
 3rd Wednesday each month 7pm

LECTORS

Office 985-863-7935

LEGION OF MARY

Laurie Howell 985-290-6983
 Every Monday 4pm St Anthon

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST:

SUNDAYS

Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527
rogrusr1@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917
cynthiaripoll@yahoo.com
 Mike & Cynthia Ripoll 8:30am
 Harold & Shelia Loyacano 10:30am

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Every Thursday 7pm in Church

PRAYER CHAIN

Catherine Lambert
 985-863-2749

ROSARY

Eydie Richmond
 Every Tuesday following 8am Mass

ST. JOSEPH DAY

Shirley Lightell
 985-863-2603

USHERS & GREETERS

Howard Hebert, Sr.
 985-863-5319
howardhebert@bellsouth.net

WIDOWS GROUP

Sandra Bailey 985-250-9013
 Stella Jenevein 504-884-0106
 3rd Thursday each month

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

Barbara Laughlin
 985-290-9482
 Inactive until 2021

YOUTH GROUP

Inactive

Please check meeting times and dates
 with ministry leaders, the Church Office
 or inside the bulletin. Most ministries
 are not active until further notice due to
 the COVID-19 pandemic.

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