

## CLERGY

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

## 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](mailto:info@sppcprla.com)

## PARISH STAFF

**Bonnie Milczarek**, Office Manager  
[info@sppcprla.com](mailto:info@sppcprla.com)

**Mary Kittel**, Director of Religious Educa-  
tion

[mary@sppcprla.com](mailto:mary@sppcprla.com)

**Karen Dickerson**, Office Secretary  
[kdickerson@sppcprla.com](mailto:kdickerson@sppcprla.com)

**Elizabeth Kittel**, Web Site  
[ekittel@sppcprla.com](mailto:ekittel@sppcprla.com)

**Jerry Broussard**, Facility Custodian

## Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish, we invite  
you to register by filling out a form located  
in the holder at the Church entrances and

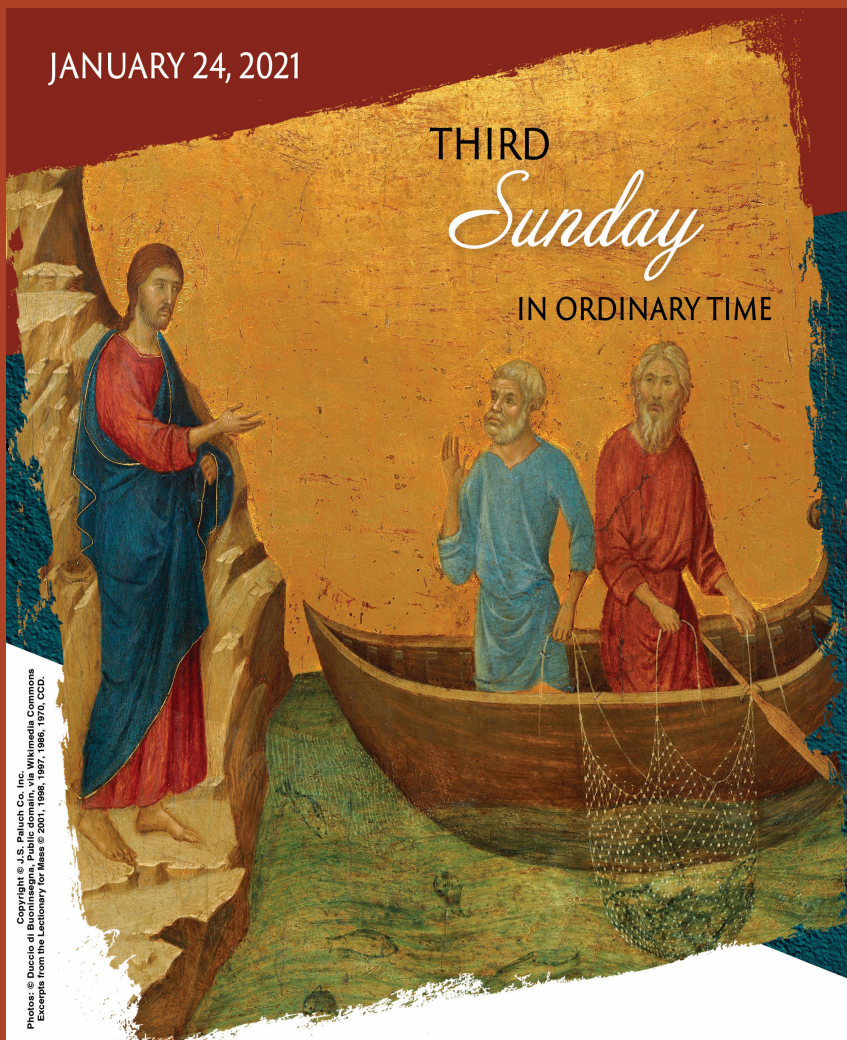
# Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

JANUARY 24, 2021

THIRD

*Sunday*

IN ORDINARY TIME



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THEY ABANDONED THEIR NETS  
AND FOLLOWED  
*Jesus.*

MARK 1:18

## 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. PAYSE, V.F.  
MOST REV. GREGORY M. AYMOND, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF NEW ORLEANS

66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana, 70452  
[www.sppcprla.com](http://www.sppcprla.com) email: [info@sppcprla.com](mailto:info@sppcprla.com)

## SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS

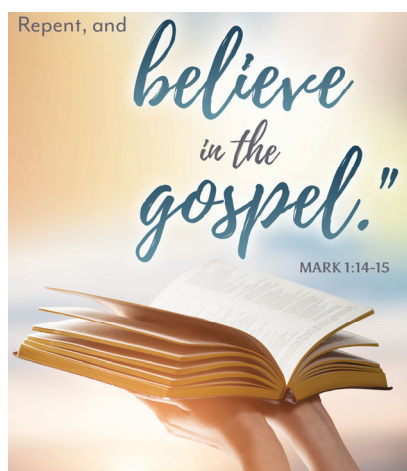
Written in the period after the exile to Babylon, the Book of Jonah is a prophecy to the Jews returning home. Ancient prophecies were intended to call God's people back to faithfulness. They often contained indictments of neighboring powers that defied God by conquering God's people. So it is not unusual that Jonah would be directed to pronounce doom on Nineveh, capital of Assyria. That nation had conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in an earlier period of Israel's history—722 years before the birth of Christ.

The Book of Jonah is unusual, however, because the Ninevites believe Jonah immediately and repent. No prophet to the Jews had such instantaneous success. Isaiah was warned that the people would not believe (Is 6:8-10); Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern (Jer 38); Ezekiel found the Israelites rebellious (Ez 3:27). But the Ninevites changed their ways. More astounding—God repents of the punishment that was intended.

This had happened before, but rarely (Ex 32:18 is a notable example). It had never happened with non-Jews and sworn enemies of Israel. If we read further, we find that Jonah becomes very angry with God for this.

How does this story prophesy to Jews after the exile and bring them back to faithfulness? How does it prophesy to us? The story of Jonah speaks eloquently to the constancy of God as one who is "slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity" (Ex 34:6; Jon 4:2). It also draws on a theology of creation that understands God as Lord of all. Whoever turns to God is gathered in love. Finally, the story cautions against putting boundaries on God's care and concern. Israel cannot claim God will care for Israel that much more. (Matt 6:26 makes a similar point.) The prophecy of Jonah teaches that God is not bound by human notions of judgement and justice and that we do not have exclusive rights to God's mercy and love.

How do we counteract the idea that we are more favored by God than others?



## A NEW WAY, A NEW WORLD

In the reading from Jonah, God told him to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh. When the whole city repented the very first day, they showed it by wearing sackcloth and fasting from food. Sometimes we might think that way: That repenting means punishing ourselves or feeling sorry. Jesus sees things differently.

He preached repentance that was a change of heart, a new way of looking at things, a new way of acting. In the gospel today, we see an example. The first people He calls to be disciples were fisherman. They would have considered their family, their partners, and their boat as the most important things in their lives. You need all of them to be a successful fisherman. One man sitting on a dock with a pole could barely keep himself fed, much less support a family.

Yet the disciples do not even hesitate when called by Jesus. They leave behind their boats, their nets, even their father, to follow Jesus. They do not worry about what they will do, or look back at what they are leaving behind. Now they are fishers of men. Their "repentance" was more than just giving up sins. They were beginning a new life and a new way of looking at the world.

Saint Paul refers to this as a new world. By following Jesus, we put the values of the present world behind us and look forward to a new one. His examples could apply today as much as in His time. Marriages, joy, sadness, buying property are still considered important to worldly people. Paul does not expect everyone to stop doing those things. When he talks about not using the world fully, he means not fully engaged in the world, but looking to a better one, where God is more important than any passing pleasure or pain. Is your marriage an example of God's love for your friends and relatives? When you are rejoicing, do you give thanks to God? When weeping, do you ask for His help? When you are shopping, do you buy what you really need, or what you think will make you happy? Jesus calls us all to this new way of living. With Jesus, we can make a new world.

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## FAMILY INFLUENCE

Disorder in the society is the result of disorder in the family.

— St. Angela Merici

## Today's Readings

**First Reading**—The Ninevites turn from their evil ways in response to Jonah's message (Jonah 3:1-5,10).

**Second Reading**—The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

**Gospel**—Jesus proclaims, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." The new disciples abandon their nets and follow Him (Mark 1:14-20).

The financial report for January 23rd will be posted in the January 31st bulletin due to early publication.



**Next Week's 2nd collection is for Catholic Schools. The letter will be read at all masses this weekend and copies are at the entrances to the Church.**

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 25

(Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18)

No Mass Scheduled

### Tuesday, January 26

(2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 3:31-35)

**8:00 a.m.** William R. Wahl, Sr.†

### Wednesday, January 27

(Heb 10:11-18; Mk 4:1-20)

**6:30 p.m.** Purgatorial Society

### Thursday, January 28

(Heb 10:19-25; Mk 4:21-25)

**8:00 a.m.** Altar Society Members Living & Deceased

### Friday, January 29

(Heb 10:32-39; Mk 4:26-34)

**8:00 a.m.** Pearl C. Skinner†

### Saturday, January 30

(Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Mk 4:35-41)

**5:00 p.m.** Joseph D'Antonia, Jr.†, Lee and Yvonne Tracey†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Tina Mangano†, Louis Mangano, Sr.†, Louis Mangano, Jr.†, Captain Pete Vogt†, Danny & Marlene Ragusa, May Cabellero. Fr. Wayne Paysse, Mary Joyce Howard Noto†, Sandy Pecoraro, Antonia Milliet†, Inez Mendez

### Sunday, January 31

(Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28)

**7:00 a.m.** Jacques Fuselier †

**8:30 a.m.** Danny Olson†, Steve Navarre†, Scott Fandal†, Andrew Lambert†, Deacon Pat Downey†

**10:30 a.m.** People of the Parish



### Tabernacle Lamp

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

† **Women's Spirituality Group** †



### Pope Francis' Intention for January

May the Lord give us the grace to live full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all."

## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

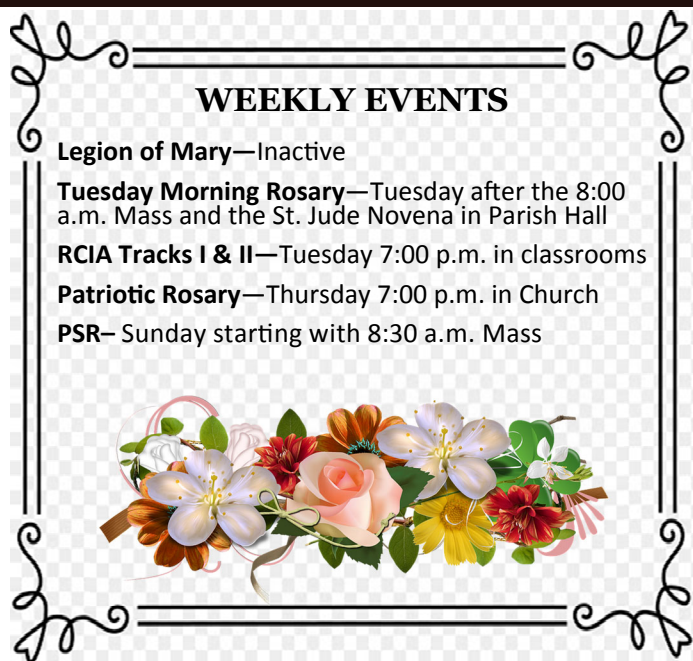
The first disciples of Jesus in today's Gospel left their work and their daily routines to follow Him. They abandoned their livelihoods, familiar surroundings and the lives to which they had become accustomed to be closer to Him. The good steward finds ways to be removed from what may be a comfortable existence or daily routine in order to serve the Lord more faithfully. All too often, out of fear, insecurity or even selfishness, we refuse to leave the safety of the little world we have created for ourselves in order to hear the Lord's call and be challenged by His Gospel. Perhaps we should reflect on what comforts we need to sacrifice in order to be better stewards of God's mercy, compassion and hospitality He planted within us.

## TRADITIONS OF OUR FAITH

The harsh reality of our continent is that America is a land of martyrs. This week we remember that martyrdom of the Quechua indigenous Segundo Francisco Guamá from Ecuador. Like most Native Americans, the Quechuas regard the land as belonging to the human community. Every living being eats and lives from it. Since the arrival of the Europeans, the American land has been exploited and with it the indigenous peoples.

Last century, some Ecuadorian peasants led by Segundo Francisco began to meet with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ecuadorian Institute of Agrarian Reform and Colonization. That civil agencies take an interest in indigenous rights is always "good news". Unfortunately what is "good news" for the poor crowd is "bad news" for the powerful. One of these decided to take revenge against the peasants. In his rage, he murdered the young Segundo Francisco, only 25 years old. But his death like that of every martyr, was not in vain. His blood shed on Mother Earth has been sowing more movements for indigenous rights.

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## Pray for the Sick

Audrey Bonnet, Diane Bourgeois, May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, JoAnn Brewein, Mary Salzer Brown, Shirley Callais, Augie & Sondra Paretti, Dotsy Chedville, Zachary Cresson, Patricia Cuccia, Kathy Johnson, Ed Roszczynialski, Norris Ripp, Bunny Shriver, Cathy Smith, Mary Ware, Ryan Ware, Frenchie Cheramie

## A NEW DAY DAWNS

Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing "by their actions" how the people turn from evil (Jon 3:10). A new day dawns.

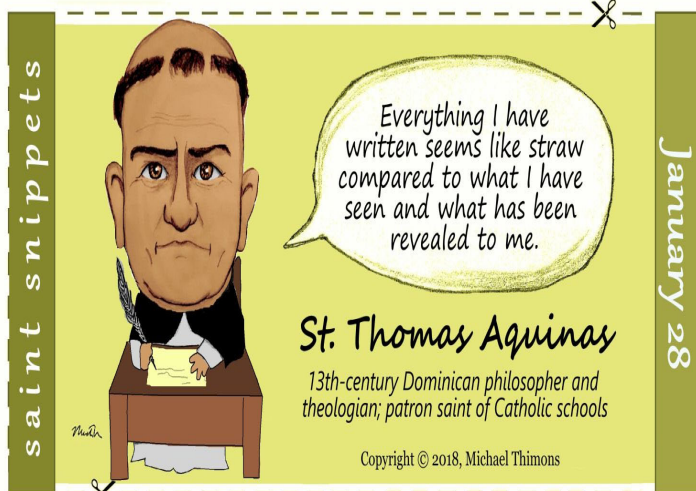


Next we hear Paul telling the Corinthians, "The world in its present form is passing away" (1 Cor 7:31). He calls for a change of heart. Stopping short of telling them to stop carrying out their everyday activities, he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live "as though" they are not doing the things they are doing. A new day has dawned.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, "The kingdom of God is at hand!" (Mk 1:14). Simon and Andrew abandon their nets—and even their father—and follow him. A new day had dawned.

Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Did not a new day dawn today for us as well?

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Our readings today speak of “Kairos” times, of God proclaiming new moments of opportunity of encounter with the Divine. From Jonah, we hear of God’s summons to the people of Nineveh to turn from evil. We hear Paul tell the church in Corinth that those who live in Christ must avoid clinging to anything transient, as all is secondary to God. And we hear of the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in Mark, as Jesus proclaims a moment of both opportunity and crisis. In these passages, there are no delaying tactics, no getting caught up in life’s distractions. Just a simple moment of choice. Perhaps we have had “Kairos” moments like these, or we may be facing one now. Sometimes, amid the complexities and uncertainties of our lives, clear choices emerge, and God asks us to choose. And our always patient and merciful God will accompany us in our choices.

## THE INAUGURATION

Mark describes the beginning of Jesus’ ministry with his proclamation that the “kingdom of God is at hand.” The rest of Mark’s Gospel—all of Jesus’ preaching and healing, His death and resurrection—describes the inauguration of this kingdom of God. For Mark, the life of Jesus is the center point of history, where everything leads up to Jesus, and everything follows from Jesus. Mark then tells us that the first disciples follow Jesus immediately and wholeheartedly. They leave their work and family, all for Jesus. Because compared to Jesus and the life He offers, everything else is secondary.

Perhaps our invitations from God do not entail such dramatic life changes. But all who follow Jesus are called to align our life and values with His ways of love. As we continue to mature in love and in faith, we might ask: What needs to be renewed, re-oriented or discarded in light of our life in Christ?

## JONAH AND NINEVEH

Jonah makes a rare appearance this week. The book of Jonah is a fascinating tale of God, stubborn Jonah, surprising Nineveh, and the famous fish (or whale). Please consider reading the whole book, just 48 verses, together with a good commentary. The book is read at Jewish services at Yom Kippur, as a profound reflection about God and about all of us.

Today’s passage takes place shortly after Jonah’s time in the fish’s belly. Jonah finally performs the task that God asks of him, to call the people of Nineveh to repentance. (Nineveh was notorious for its brutality.) Their sudden repentance is bitterly accepted by Jonah, as he resents God’s mercy for Nineveh. God reminds Jonah that the people of Nineveh are God’s beloved too. Like the parable of the Prodigal Son, the story hints at the vastness of God’s mercy, especially forgiveness of those who seem least deserving. We are reminded that all of us are sinners, and we are all in need of God’s mercy.

## THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Standing together in the presence of the Lord, we acknowledge our weakness, our sins and faults and failings. But the penitential rite is really less about our sins than it is about God’s mercy. It is not a time for individual confession, like a mini-sacrament of reconciliation. It is, rather, a preparatory rite, preparing us to praise the mercy of Christ as we acknowledge our own weakness. When Simon Peter witnesses the miraculous catch of fish—when he realizes who is in the boat with him—he falls at Jesus’ feet with the words, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man” (Lk 5:8). We are like Peter. The more aware of the Lord’s presence we become, the more awareness we also have of our sinfulness, our weakness.

The penitential rite of the Mass takes several forms, from the traditional *Confiteor* or “I confess” to a litany, spoken or sung by the deacon or cantor with responses by the entire assembly. The penitential rite always includes the words *Kyrie, eleison; Christe, eleison*—Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. This ancient Greek prayer came to the Roman liturgy from the East, and still echoes in many of the litanies of the Eastern Rite Churches. These words turn our gaze from our own weakness to the gentleness, the kindness, the forgiving love of Christ.

### CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL



## Stewardship in the New Year: *Making New Commitments to the Lord*

We have suffered through a long and stressful year. It is a year that has heaped upon us many distractions. But as we look toward 2021 with hope, let us remember to get back to the fundamentals of being good stewards of our life in Christ. Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation. This time of year has always been one of looking forward to a new year, reflecting on the changes we need to make in our lives and resolving to follow through on those changes. Perhaps those who



seek to make resolutions to be better stewards might find inspiration in one or more of the following areas of Christian stewardship:

**Stewardship of Prayer:** Resolve to strengthen your relationship with the Lord through prayer. Notice how often you pray and what hinders you from praying. If you are a beginner, commit to short, daily prayer times.

**Stewardship of Family:** Resolve to set aside more time to stay connected with your family even if it is through digital technology. Eat dinner together, schedule regular dates with your spouse, plan family outings, and go to Mass together if that is possible at this time. Practice patience and forgiveness.

**Stewardship of Health:** Resolve to get those medical and dental checkups when it becomes safe. Adopt healthier eating habits. Add exercise and other physical activity to your daily routine.

**Stewardship of Possessions:** Resolve to possess a little more “lightly” this year. Consider ways you can reduce the amount of all that stuff you own. Distinguish between those items that are necessary and those that are considered luxurious and unnecessary.

tasks and offer them up to the Lord. Cultivate your skills. Deepen your knowledge. Be mindful of how you are building the Kingdom of God.

**Stewardship of Mind:** Resolve to keep your mind active. Commit to being more informed on the issues of the day. Read your Bible. Become even more familiar with Catholic social teaching.

**Stewardship of Neighbor:** Realizing the need for social distancing, resolve to be a person of hospitality

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**Stewardship is a commitment of mind and heart to the Lord; a way of life that needs constant renewal and transformation.**

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**Stewardship of the Parish Family:** Resolve to serve your faith community in creative way given the new limitations on some parish activities. Is it time to enhance your generosity to the parish?

**Stewardship of Money:** Resolve to render sacred your annual budget. Reprioritize your financial goals to ensure that the Lord comes first in your spending. Take positive steps to improve your financial health

**Stewardship of Work:** Even if you are working remotely, resolve to be faithful to your daily, work-related

and mercy. Make time and space for others who enter your life. Be more aware of those times when a neighbor, co-worker, fellow parishioner or stranger, needs a moment of kindness, a little attention or an affirming gesture on your part.

**Stewardship of the Poor:** Resolve to live with more compassion and in solidarity with those less fortunate. Remember the poor in prayer, and commit to helping relieve in some way the plight of those who are impoverished or marginalized.



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## BULLETIN DEADLINE:

The office requires information

**no later** than Monday, two (2)

weeks before publication.

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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.

### ANointing 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](http://www.sppcprla.com/census)

**OFFICE: 985-863-7935**

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 601-337-6401  
[sppcaltarservers@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rcia.stsppc@gmail.com)

### FATHER SEELOS BLESSING

Church Office 985-863-7935

### FINANCE

Robert Johnson 985-863-7935

### FLORAL DESIGN

Cathy Downey 985-863-7947

### GRAND 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

Inactive

### MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST:

#### SUNDAYS

Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917  
[cynthiaripoll@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:howardhebert@bellsouth.net)

### WIDOWS GROUP

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

### WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

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### YOUTH GROUP

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Please check meeting times and  
dates with ministry leaders, the  
Church Office or inside the bulletin.

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