

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 19, 2023



**God Didn't Give
You a Talent
For You To Go
and Bury It**

St. Matthew 25:14-30

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

ABOUT OUR PARISH

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday
5:00 p.m.

Sunday
7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon	No Mass
Tue	8:00 a.m.
Wed	6:30 p.m.
Thu	8:00 a.m.
Fri	8:00 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

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

SPECIAL DEVOTIONS

Tuesday: St. Jude Novena following
8:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday: Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Novena following 8:00 a.m. Mass

Thursday: Patriotic Rosary in Church
6:30 p.m.

First Friday: The Most Blessed Sacrament
and Eucharistic Adoration following 8:00 a.m.
Mass until 5:00 p.m. closing
with Benediction

First Saturday: Mass at 8:00 a.m. followed
by the Rosary and Confession

RECONCILIATION

Sat	4:00-4:45 p.m.
Wed	6:00-6:15 p.m.
Or by request	

YOUR CLERGY

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond, D.D.
Archbishop of New Orleans

Very Rev. Gerald Seiler
Dean, Deanery X

Fr. Kevin DeLerno
Pastor

Deacon Francis "Frank" Drake
(Retired)

YOUR STAFF

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Jerry Broussard
Facility Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00-3:00
Tuesday-Thursday 8:00-3:00
Friday 8:00a.m.-3:00 p.m.

CONTACT US

Main Office
985-863-7935

Fax

985-863-5431

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."

REGISTER

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 place it in the collection basket or come by the office.

SACRAMENTS

Baptism

Usually the third Sunday of the month (except during Lent) following the 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.

Communion for Ill/Shut-In

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

Funerals

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday Morning Rosary—Tuesday after 8:00 a.m. Mass and St. Jude Novena in Parish Hall

RCIA Tracks I & II—No class due to Thanksgiving

Office Closed—Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving

PSR—No class due to Thanksgiving

EARNEST AND ENERGETIC EFFORT

When I look at today's reading, I think of the word "diligence." Diligence is defined as a "steady, earnest, and energetic effort." I don't know about you, but when it comes to effort, I am more of a sprinter than a long-distance runner. I would rather put in a lot of effort for a short period of time, then, satisfied with my frantic activity, sit down and drink a Gatorade under a shady tree and take a nap.

As we read Scripture, there is no doubt that the Christian life is a race of perseverance and diligence (see Heb 12:1). In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the parable about a master giving his servants money "each according to his ability." The master expects a return on his investment. His two faithful servants do not attempt to get rich quickly, rather they engage in legitimate business and produce results. When the master returns "after a long time," he praises them. They had no need to be afraid or ashamed.

Hopefully, as Catholics, our aim is to do the will of the Father and make the most of the gifts and the grace God has given us. When we are young, we might be tempted to think, "I'll start using my time, my gifts, my resources to bless others and to grow in my relationship with Christ tomorrow. I am too busy with my own stuff right now." Those who think this way may be developing lazy, self-centered habits that will be hard to break when "tomorrow" comes.

Or if we are an older Catholic faithful, we might be tempted to say, "I have made so many sacrifices to get where I am. It's time for me to enjoy life." There is nothing wrong with enjoying the fruits of our labor, but our lives aren't spent serving others so that we can reach a certain point and then start serving only ourselves.

No matter where we are in life, when our focus becomes ourselves, we lose. Through passive and negligent Christianity, we weaken ourselves to the point where we could even lose our souls. This is no light matter. God is merciful, but we must not forget that we will have to give an account for the graces He has poured out on us. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much" (Lk 12:48). On the day of judgment, hopefully we will not be like the third servant who makes poor excuses for his weak and fruitless Christianity.

Imagine instead hearing our Father say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." May we learn how to diligently cooperate with the grace of God so that we can please our loving Father, growing in intimacy with Christ and minister to others through our "steady, earnest, and energetic efforts."

By Christine Hanus

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 20

(1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Lk 18:35-43)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, November 21

(2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10)

8:00 a.m. Noel Cusimano†

Wednesday, November 22

(2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, November 23

(Sir 50:22-24; Lk 17:11-19)

8:00 a.m. Debra Goodey†

Friday, November 24

(1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48)

8:00 a.m. Audrey Gurtler†

Saturday, November 25

(1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40)

5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Tracey†, Cpt. Pete Vogt†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Glen Parker†, Kelley Milam†, Lawrence Otilio†, Dan Jocks†, Eleanor Strickland, Sarah Stokes

Sunday, November 26

(Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46)

7:00 a.m. Teresa Nguyen Thi Chien

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Danny Ragusa, Sr., Donald Laughlin†, Fr. Otis Young†, JC Spiers†, Jeff Howell†, Glen Parker†, Kelley Milam†, Dan Jocks†, CJ Lightell†, Jeff Howell†

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM

Weekly Rosaries: 456

Year to Date: 17,167



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Audrey Bonnet, May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, Mary Salzer Brown, Elizabeth Kittel, Zachary Cresson, Patricia Cuccia, Kathy Johnson, Ed Roszczynialski, Norris Ripp, Bunny Shriver, Mary Ware, Ryan Ware, Lily Jorns, Dalin Davis, Maria Kalcic, Beverly Cosse, Lou Lou Battle, Fay Vogt, I&J Landry, Steve Dunn, Joann Brewin, Vivian Sedgebeer, Romana Smith, Joseph Decaro, Barbara Galino Gonzales, Isaiah Deblanc, Larry Dickerson, Shirley Matthews, Jim Richmond, Catherine Lambert, Ed & Carol Wallace, Frederick Songy, Sue Miller, Bonnie aguilar, Lucy Reese



ALTAR FLOWERS

The beautiful flower arrangements adorning the altar this weekend were donated in memory of

Earl & Mavis Conravey

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

First Reading – Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Husbands and wives are called by God to their vocation of marriage. Marriages based in faith and love are a beautiful gift from God.

Psalms 128:1-5

Stewards who put their faith in God will be blessed with a happy home.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

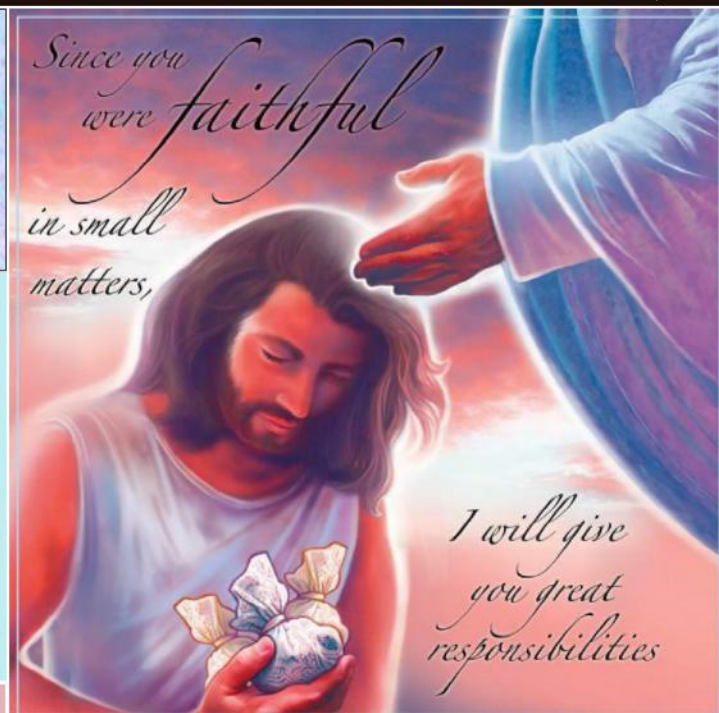
Good stewards, guided by the light of Christ, are always alert and prepared for the coming of the Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew's account of the talents clearly illustrates Christian stewardship — using God's gifts wisely and prudently. As stewards, do we use our time, talent, and treasure to further God's mission here on earth?

Stewardship Thought

Good stewards are like the industrious and reliable servants in today's Gospel, prudently using and multiplying the gifts entrusted to them by God (Our Sunday Visitor, *ibid.*, page 14).



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Coming to the end of the Church year, we can wonder how we got “extreme unction” out of “anointing of the sick.” “Extreme” comes from a Latin phrase, *in extremis*, which in English refers to the last struggle of a dying person. “Last rites” is a phrase in common usage, and refers to the fact that years ago everyone waited until the last crisis of illness to summon the priest. The goal of anointing had always been healing and forgiveness, but in time it began to be seen as a preparation for death. In a hard world, almost anything from a hangnail to a sneeze could be life-threatening, so perhaps the change was inevitable. The emphasis on the penitential aspects was heightened, even to the odd practice of Rome in the twelfth century, when the sick person was sprinkled with ashes mixed with holy water and given a hair shirt as a sign of penance.

The reformers thankfully overlooked some of these oddities of history, and today the sacrament of the sick is much more generously applied to persons in a wide range of situations. Still, it is a sacrament of reconciliation, and for that reason is not celebrated for an infant or toddler, although there is a rite for a visit to a sick child not including anointing or Communion.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ITALY PILGRIMAGE DAY 4 PISA



PASTOR'S CORNER

This morning we started out our day going on a train ride, well actually it was a vehicle made to look like a train towing passenger cars that looked like those of a train. After we disembarked from the train, we visited the town of Pisa that is known for the famous Leaning Tower of Pisa. Now here is an interesting thought, do you know what the tower was used for and what is close to it? It is a bell tower for a church. I have never heard this before. Until I visited the town of Pisa, I was always under the impression that it was a leaning tower in the middle of nowhere. Every picture that I have ever seen of the tower shows it by itself in the middle of nowhere. However, this could not be further from the truth. The tower is only about one hundred feet from the church it was made to be a bell tower for. It is situated in the Piazza dei Miracoli, which has a portion of the wall around the city with the Church, the Piazza dei Duomo, and the Pisa Baptistery. I enclosed a picture found online to show you the sight of the three buildings from the air.

Upon entering the town, we walked through a walled entrance to the city. At first I did not know we were anywhere close to the leaning tower because the plaza and the church and baptistery are so big. We proceeded into the Piazza dei Miracoli, which is next to an old mausoleum, with paintings painted onto the walls of various scenes from the bible as well as scenes after death. In the hall there were plenty of old ossuaries, which are ancient burial boxes. Those boxes are made of marble and decorated with carvings of people or scenes of nature or floral decorations. There were plenty of statues and busts of important people that were very true to the people they depicted.

We walked through the mausoleum to a chapel space which had an old high altar, with a beautiful lifelike painting of St Jerome with a crucifix in the background. This chapel had two large display cases, one on each side of the altar, with what looked like somewhere between fifty to one hundred relics of saints. There were several glass boxes with what looked like most of the bones of the bodies of saints. Most of the smaller reliquaries contain several saints in them, so this is how there were so many saints here. Over all this was an impressive display of saints because two reliquaries contained relics of the eleven apostles, as well as, the four gospel writers. Most of the time that I have seen relics of the apostles it was just the smallest of fragments, but one of the reliquaries of the apostles had the lower jaw bone of one of the apostles, as well as, other bone pieces of others. This was truly a holy place because of all the relics of saints. We celebrated mass here in this holy place.

After mass, we were given free time to visit the mausoleum, as well as, journey outside for lunch and it was not until we went around the Cathedral Church that I even saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa, just a short distance from the church. It was at this time that I realized that the leaning tower was so close to the church and that it was not just in a field all by itself. I had already been told it was a bell tower, but I had not seen it for myself.

Next, our guide for Pisa gave us a tour of the church. As with pretty much all churches in Italy, it was big and beautiful. There was a different architecture to the roof in this Cathedral; it was flat instead of domed. Our guide told us that it was because the original church had a fire that broke out 400 years ago that burnt the original roof and it had to be replaced. The family that replaced it was known over Italy as the powerful Medichi family. They fixed the roof in a Florentine Style instead of one particular to Pisa, which made many people mad since the people of Pisa were at war with those of Florence years ago. This ceiling is very elaborate with wood carvings of cherub angels, many types of flower patterns, all framed in squares covered in twenty four karat gold. The ceiling must be about 80-100 feet high.

The front large metal doors to the Cathedral church are moulded in bronze with three dimensional images of Mary and Joseph with the child Jesus. There are floral patterns, vases, Moses, and angels covering the two doors. The walls have paintings of the saints and kings, with angels all around. There are stone columns that hold up the arches to the ceiling. Around the church are marble statues of various saints. Over the altar there is a very large mosaic of Jesus the teacher, holding a book of scriptures, with angels above him. One particular point of interest is the lectern where the scriptures are read from. It is about 8 feet tall, held up by columns made of red and black granite, and there were marble carvings of lions and the prey as well as marble statues of saints. It has many carved angels and saints with images of crowds of people with what looks like Moses commanding them. There is a marble eagle perched at the top, which must be a depiction of the symbol of John the Evangelist, since this is where the Gospels would be read. The Leaning Tower of Pisa itself is quite tall, 183 feet 3 and 5/16 inches to be exact, with columns all around, made from white marble. The tower itself has seven bells at the top.

Here is some interesting info I learned online about it, the tower has survived at least four strong earthquakes since 1280. A 2018 engineering investigation concluded that the tower withstood the tremors because of dynamic soil-structure interaction: the height and stiffness of the tower combined with the softness of the foundation soil influences the tower's vibrational characteristics in such a way that it does not resonate with earthquake ground motion. The same soft soil that caused the leaning and brought the tower to the verge of collapse helped it survive. From 1993 to 2001 a project was undergone to stabilize the tower before it would collapse. Using various methods it was eventually stabilized after many failed attempts.

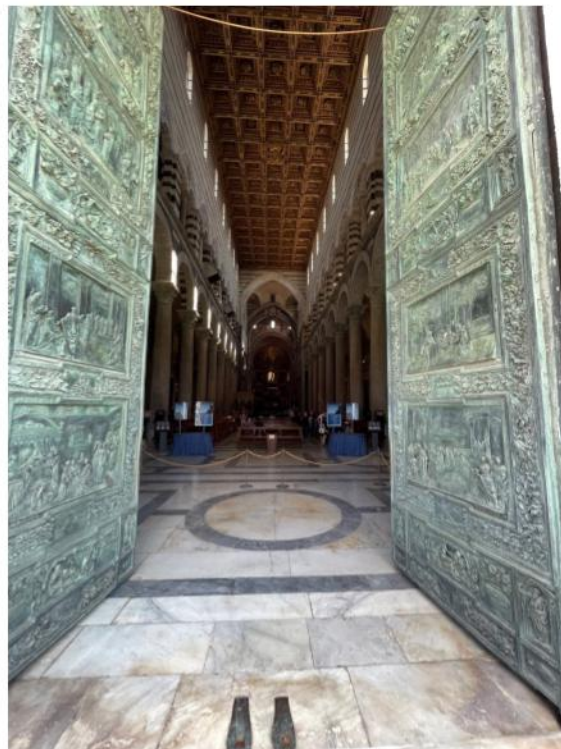


The last sight we saw this day was the Pisa Baptistery, made of marble stones with a metal statue of St. John the Baptist on top, it is almost as tall as the leaning tower itself. The whole building is hollow inside. It only has a lectern that stands above the most important furnishing in the building the Baptismal Font. The ceiling was originally open at the top, so that rain would come in to fill the font, but was later closed. The most striking feature of the building, cannot be seen, it must be heard. There was a man with an operatic voice who sang for us and his wonderful voice resonated throughout the whole one hundred or so foot tall eighty foot wide building. It was very impressive.



Left: Pisa Cathedral and Bell Tower, The Leaning Tower of Pisa

Right: The Pisa Cathedral



THANKSGIVING

In today's Gospel, Luke recounts the story of the healing of the lepers. At the time of Christ, lepers were one of the most marginalized and isolated groups. In order to avoid spreading leprosy, which is highly contagious, they were not even allowed to live with their families. Those who had leprosy were without hope because their ailment could not be cured. Lepers were considered unclean and, therefore, sought purity. When they encounter Christ, they recognize Him as someone who can heal them and grant them purity. When Christ heals the ten lepers, He then tells them to show themselves to the priests so that they may be welcomed back into the community. However, only one of the ten comes back to offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ. And Christ's response is, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

How often do we ask something of God in prayer and receive it but then forget to give thanks? How often do we forget to give thanks for our everyday blessings be it our jobs, families, food on our tables, roofs over our heads, etc.? The Gospel acclamation today is "In all circumstances, give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ." That seems difficult, right? What if our circumstances are less than ideal? What if we have a lot on our plates or are going through a tough time? It seems impossible to give thanks when those are the circumstances, but we ought to look at those circumstances as an opportunity to unite our suffering to that of Christ on the Cross and give thanks for his Passion and Resurrection.

We can continuously offer thanksgiving to God by staying close to His sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Eucharist means thanksgiving and, by taking part in this Sacrament, we are taking part in the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are recognizing that he laid down his life for us in order that we may be saved. He became man so he could say to each one of us, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

On this Thanksgiving day, may we not take for granted all our blessings. May we praise God for all His works and remember that our faith will save us.

St. Clement, St. Miguel Pro, and St. Columban, pray for us!

By Dakota Pesce



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Susan Mercier 985-690-6617

3rd Thursday each month 9:15 am

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Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

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Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917

cynthiaripoll@yahoo.com

Mike & Cynthia Ripoll 8:30 am

Harold & Shelia Loyacano 10:30 am

PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Every Thursday in Church 6:30 pm

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Barbara Laughlin 985-290-9482

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

Andrea 985-640-7412

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Tony Colombo 985-863-7309

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Eydie Richmond

Every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass

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howardhebert@bellsouth.net

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Sandra Bailey 985-250-9013

Stella Jenevein 504-884-0106

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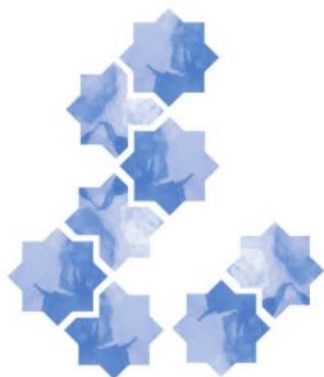


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