

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

H·O·P·E

THE PROPHECY CANDLE



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

Karen Dickerson
Office Secretary
kdickerson@sppcprla.com
info@sppcprla.com

Mary Kittel
Director of Religious Education
mary@sppcprla.com

Cedric Konyaole
Web Site
ckonyaole@sppcprla.com

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.

MONTH OF NOVEMBER WEEKLY COLLECTIONS & EXPENSES

Ordinary Income	28,277.00
Extraordinary Income	3,519.00
Expenses	19,209.92
Total	\$ 12,586.08

thank you

WEEKLY EVENTS

Bake Sale—Sunday after all masses

GASPP—Monday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall

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

RCIA Tracks I & II—Tuesday 6:30 p.m. in classrooms

Antonians—Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Legion of Mary—Thursday 10:00 a.m. St. Anthony Hall

Patriotic Rosary—Thursday 6:30 p.m. in church

Immaculate Conception Mass—Thursday 6:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Advent Mission—Saturday Begins with 9:00 a.m. Mass and ends at 12:00 p.m. Church & Parish Hall (bring Bible, notebook & pen)

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 4

(Is 2: 1-5; Mt 8:5-11)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, December 5

(Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24)

8:00 a.m. Agnes V. Marchese†

Wednesday, December 6

(Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, December 7

(Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27)

8:00 a.m. Glen Parker†

Friday, December 8

(Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38)

8:00 a.m. Legion of Mary

Saturday, December 9

(Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8)

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

Sunday, December 10

(Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8)

7:00 a.m. Deacon John & Mary Joyce Howard†

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, H. T. Stottman†, Teresa Nguyen Thi Chien, Kelley Milam†, Glen Parker†, Lawrence† & Beverly Otilio, Dan Jocks†, Corbin DeBautte†, Fr. James Campbell Thompson†, Joel & Adele Scott, Eric Ceferot, Frederick Songy

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

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 Aguiar, Lucy Reese

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Week 1 Rosaries: 265

Week 2 Rosaries: 335

Year to Date: 17,744



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church,

especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

First Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7

As good Christian stewards, we learn to surrender and let God mold our lives.

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

As practicing stewards, we put our full faith in God, knowing He will be with us and protect us.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

In anticipation of Christ's revelation, as Christian stewards we never lack in spiritual blessings, and we give thanks and praise for these gifts.

God calls us to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading – Mark 13:33-37

Being watchful, we as wise and faithful stewards know that God will hold us accountable on how we used His gifts in this life to further His kingdom.

Stewardship Thought

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called (Used with permission from Our Sunday Visitor, *Stewardship by the Book: Bulletin Bits Based on the Sunday Readings*, by Sharon Hueckel, 2004 edition, page 15).

This Advent Enjoy Learning

HOW TO PRAY WITH THE BIBLE?

Saturday, December 9, 9AM to Noon

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church 66192 Mary Drive Pearl, River, La 70452

- Bring a bible
- Bring a notebook and pen

9:00 Mass in church

Coffee and snacks in Family Life Center

10:00 – 12:00 Learn and Experience Praying with Your Bible

We will take you step by step through the ancient way of praying with the Bible called *Lectio Divina* – Divine Reading.

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PASTOR'S CORNER

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Why do we celebrate the Immaculate Conception?

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception a Holy Day of Obligation, on December 8. In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: "The Most Holy Virgin Mary was, in the very first moment of her conception, by a unique gift of grace and privilege of Almighty God and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin." (Ineffabilis Deus, Apostolic Constitution of Pope Pius IX on the Immaculate Conception)

Thus, the Church teaches that the Blessed Mother was redeemed by Her Son, Just as we are, but by a Divine anticipation of the merits of the Word-made-flesh. Like Eve before her, she was not subject to the Fall and thus to the prince of this world. However, unlike Eve, she would never surrender that freedom which God's grace provided her.

What is the difference between the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth?

The Immaculate Conception indicates that our Lady was preserved from the penalty of original sin from the moment of her conception. The Virgin Birth means that Jesus was conceived and born, not of man, but by the Holy Spirit.

How do we know that Mary was Immaculately Conceived? The Church teaches us that Mary was Immaculately Conceived. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, to become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the Annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

Through the centuries, the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." (CCC 490-491)

"It is not to be believed that He, the Son of God, would be born of a Virgin, and take her flesh, were she in the slightest degree stained with original sin." – St. Bernadine of Siena

Who is the Immaculate Conception and why?

Mary, the Mother of God, is the Immaculate Conception. This is because she was chosen by God and given the grace of being preserved from original sin.

Pope St. John Paul II said, "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Sm 16:7). And Mary's heart was fully disposed to the fulfillment of the divine will. This is why the Blessed Virgin is the model of Christian expectation and hope... In her heart there is no shade of selfishness: she desires nothing for herself except God's glory and human salvation. For her, the very privilege of being preserved from original sin is not a reason to boast, but one for total service to her Son's redemptive mission.

WHY DID GOD CHOOSE MARY?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraphs 492-493) teaches,

The "splendor of an entirely unique holiness" by which Mary is "enriched from the first instant of her conception" comes wholly from Christ: she is "redeemed, in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son." The Father blessed Mary more than any other created person "in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" and chose her "in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love."

The Fathers of the Eastern tradition call the Mother of God "the All-Holy" (Panagia), and celebrate her as "free from any stain of sin, as though fashioned by the Holy Spirit and formed as a new creature." By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.

What does the Blessed Virgin Mary have to say about all of this?



Blessed Mary ever virgin herself told Bernadette Soubirous that “I am the Immaculate Conception.” In 1858 four years after *Ineffabilis Deus* was written, although the dogma was out for four years, this was at a time when it took a long time for information like this to be passed all over the world. Even though the bishops and priests of Europe knew about the dogma virtually no one else knew. So, when Mary appeared to Bernadette, to test whether or not it was really the Blessed Virgin Mary, the pastor of Lourdes France asked Bernadette to ask the lady who was appearing to her who she was, up to this point she did not know, she only called her the beautiful lady. The crux of the whole matter was that poor Bernadette had a terrible memory and was barely able to remember basic teachings of her faith. So when she ran into the pastor’s rectory reciting over and over again “I am the Immaculate Conception,” so that she would not forget, the priest froze, he knew what that phrase meant. He asked Bernadette, “Do you even know what that means?” The response that he received was no. So therefore Mary, Ever Virgin, herself proclaimed that she is in fact the Immaculate Conception. It’s beautiful that Mary confirmed the Church dogma as truth!



MARY’S SINLESSNESS AND SIMPLICITY

It has been my mission lately to live as simply as possible. One of my mottos has become: “Make Due”. In other words, if I want green beans for supper but only have broccoli on hand, I will make due with broccoli. If I have a couch with broken springs and am unable to replace it, I will make due with a few chairs. If I run out of shredded cheese, I will shred some by hand. In other words, I will try my best to use what I already have on hand instead of jumping on Amazon or jumping in my car and going to the store.

One of my models for living simply is the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose Immaculate Conception we celebrate today. I can picture her in her home, baking bread, mending clothing or spending time with her family and friends. I can’t imagine she desired more earthly things, and I *can* imagine her being thankful for everything she did have, no matter how small. Her pure soul proclaimed the greatness of the Lord and her simple spirit lacked for nothing.

In today’s Gospel, Mary’s response to the Angel Gabriel was “I am the handmaid of the Lord.” She did not put on airs saying, “Why yes, I knew there was something special about me. I thought for sure God had a very important mission in mind for me.” Nor did she demonstrate false humility by responding, “Who, me? No, no, no. I think there must be some mistake here. I could never be good enough for something so monumental.” Rather, she recognized herself for what she truly was, for what we all are, simply servants. Simple handmaids.

The second part of her response was, “May it be done unto me according to your word.” She didn’t say, “Hey, could you wait a week or so while I prepare all my family and friends for this, so they don’t freak out on me?” She didn’t request “Ok, sure, but could you make sure I don’t gain too much weight and find a comfy spot for me to give birth?” She simply allowed it to be done, in God’s timing and in God’s way.

On this special Solemnity, may we not only recognize Mary in her sinlessness, but in her simplicity as well. Sin complicates and multiplies confusion. It fosters negativity and division. But Mary did not suffer those side effects within her being. She desired one thing, to do the will of God. As we seek to live less sinfully and more simply, may this be our desire as well.

By Tami Urcia

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8th



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ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

kdickerson@sppcprla.com

ALTAR SOCIETY

Susan Mercier 985-690-6617

3rd Thursday each month 9:15 am

ANTONIANS

Steve Fecke 985-863-7646

1st Tuesday each month 7:00 pm

APOLOGETICS

Peter Dakin 985-781-4789

peter@peter315.org

ELIJAH HELPERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

kdickerson@sppcprla.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Ellie Ross 985-960-1613

1st Friday each month 8:00 am

FAITH FORMATION-RCIA

Elizabeth Brent 985-640-6938

FINANCE

Robert Johnson 985-863-7935

FLORAL DESIGN

Cathy Downey 985-290-4702

GRAND ADULTS (GASPP)

Alicia O'Brien 985-863-1938

1st Monday each month 12:00 pm

LECTORS

Office 985-863-7935

LEGION OF MARY

Laurie Howell 985-290-6983

Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

MINISTER OF EUCHARIST SUNDAYS

Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527

rogrus1@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

PRAYER CHAIN

Barbara Laughlin 985-290-9482

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

Andrea 985-640-7412

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Tony Colombo 985-863-7309

TUESDAY ROSARY

Eydie Richmond

Every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass

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 12:00 pm

YOUTH GROUP (CYO)

Laurny Jeffrey 985-259-9604



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