

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

P.E.A.C.E



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.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

Farmer's Market: Saturday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

Christmas Program & Potluck Lunch—Sunday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall



PSR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & POTLUCK LUNCHEON



Join our Parish School of Religion students and staff to celebrate the birth of Our Lord in their Christmas program on Sunday, December 17th starting at 12:00 p.m.. Bring your favorite holiday dish to share with your parish family at the potluck luncheon that will follow the program. Everyone is welcome!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses: 5:00 p.m. and Midnight
Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 a.m.



The regular Sunday Mass DOES NOT fulfill the obligation of the Christmas Mass. Sunday masses will be held at regular times.

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, Lois & Larry Dickerson, Shirley Matthews, Jim Richmond, Catherine Lambert, Ed & Carol Wallace, Frederick Songy, Sue Miller, Bonnie Aguliar, Lucy Reese

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 11

(Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, December 12

(Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47)

8:00 a.m. Gail Sanderson†

Wednesday, December 13

(Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, December 14

(Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15)

8:00 a.m. Diane Basford

Friday, December 15

(Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19)

8:00 a.m. Karen & Gabriel Dickerson

Saturday, December 16

(Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13)

5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Tracey†, Cpt. Pete Vogt†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Manuel Selva, Sr.†, Antonians & Benefactors, Altar Society, Lawrence Otilio†, Dan Jocks†, Sarah Stokes, Eleonore Strickland, Claude Yarborough†

Sunday, December 17

(Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28)

7:00 a.m. John Lacourrege†

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, Lucille Lorio†, Jery Roszczynialski†, Henry Dietrich†, Teresa Nguyen Thi Chien, Glen Parker†, Lawrence† & Beverly Otilio, Dan Jocks†, Claude Yarborough†, Corbin DeBoutte†, Earline Garity, Jackie Ott

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Weekly Rosaries: 317
Year to Date: 18,061



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.



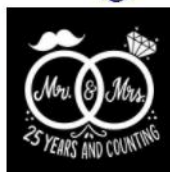
2024 ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS MEN'S CONFERENCE: "I Have Called You Friends"

Registration is now open for the Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference, Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie. This year's conference is "I Have Called You Friends". Recent studies indicate that the percentage of adult men with at least 6 close friends has been cut in half since 1990 and as many as 20% of men report having no close friendships at all. It is a growing problem not only for the life of the Church, but one which is gaining attention and causing concern even within secular society. Our Catholic faith is rooted in friendship. Even as the Apostles were sent out into the whole world to proclaim the good news, it was their friendship with Christ and with one another that held them together in the unity of faith. That same friendship holds us together today. Our men need friends to live up to their calling as men of God and as men of the Church. Register by contacting the office to qualify for the group discount. Call 985-863-7935



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Silver Wedding anniversary Celebration



The Office of Marriage and Family Life is pleased to announce that the annual Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans. This prayer service will honor couples who are celebrating or who have recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The celebration is open to couples married between 1994-1999. To register, please contact the parish office before Tuesday, January 16, 2024.



Top: Basilica of St. Francis

Left: Habits of St. Francis

Right: Sweets





ITALY PILGRIMAGE DAY 6 ASSISI

The hotel we stayed at last is named Grand Hotel Assisi and it is a very fancy hotel, with many different levels and a swimming pool. A large tree was in the front foyer. This was a real olive tree top, but it was cut at the base and placed in the foyer with fake leaves. There were pictures of saints in each room, a well motif in front and various other adornments, and a large gathering room for dinner. It is set up primarily for Pilgrims who are on their way to see the shrines of St Francis and St Clare.

At the beginning of our day today, we started by heading to the monastery of St Francis, which is also a seminary for Franciscans that is usually closed to outsiders. Since we were celebrating mass, we were allowed into one of the seminary chapels to celebrate mass. The chapel itself had plain white walls with a simple wooden altar and a copy of the cross of San Damiano. The Franciscans like things simple in accordance with St Francis simple lifestyle. For those who do not know, the Cross of San Damiano, is a cross painted in the form of an icon with Jesus and angels and saints around Jesus' body. It was before this cross, which was originally housed in the chapel of San Damiano, that Francis rebuilt, where he received the stigmata, or five wounds on his hands, feet and side of our Lord Jesus.

The Monastery is on top of a tall mountain, so there was a wonderful view of the countryside from the chapel window. Since we were walking up a mountain path to get to the church, we had a bit of a hike, but it was a wonderful view of an old town with buildings built of stone. There was even one store with tables set out front that had the back legs shorter than the front since it was on such a slope.

After mass we had a guided tour of the hometown of St. Francis. The first place we toured was the convent of St Clare of Assisi. The chapel of the convent is beautiful, but simple compared to other churches in Italy. It has painted arches with bible scenes painted on the plaster with a simple white altar. One scene shows Christ being taken down from the cross. Over the altar is the cross of San Damiano. I believe that it is the original one from the church of San Damiano where St Francis received the wounds of Christ. In the basement of this convent is the partially incorruptible remains of St Clare. There is a mask over her face to protect her face from the elements. On the wall in the basement is a painting of a scene from Clare's life when an army was raiding across and destroying most of Italy and they were approaching her convent. Clare called upon the help of Christ Jesus and she took the monstrance from the chapel and placed it on the top of the wall to the convent. Then she knelt in prayer for Jesus' help in the time of dire need. At the moment when the Huns saw the monstrance, they fled the area in great disarray. The painting shows the scene with soldiers on horses fleeing the monstrance in St Clare's hands.

There are also glass display cases showing the original clothing (now 2nd class relics) worn by St Clare and St Francis. They are made from simple brown sack cloth and I can only imagine that they must have been very itchy touching the skin. Talk about penance. As I think about it, that clothing was the antithesis to the fine silk clothing that both Francis and Clare had worn early in life since both of them came from rich families; one was a rich cloth merchant and the other was a noblewoman.

After leaving St. Clare's Convent, we toured the town and viewed a few of the other beautiful churches in the town. One church had statues dedicated to the parents of St Francis, with a penitent look on their faces. It is most likely that St Francis prayed for his parents, so these statues were made to show that they were most likely repentant in life or in the afterlife for how they treated Francis.

As we journeyed through the town, we stopped to look at many store windows selling wonderful baked goods, like scones and Italian pastries. My brother and I bought and thoroughly enjoyed one really good pastry made with layers of flakey dough and blueberries and jam. Yum!

One of the churches we stopped at on our journey had a gallery of paintings of St John Paul II that were very well done and real to life. There was even a stone replica of his papal seal.

One of the highlights of the day was our visit to the grave of St Francis where his relics are interred and the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi. We were given a guided tour of the Basilica. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take pictures inside the basement where he is interred, so I have no photos to show of that part. The basilica has many levels like the basement, a middle section and the upper church that has beautiful paintings on the plaster walls, all of the way around the interior showing the story and life of St Francis. The basilica has vaulted ceilings with painted arches, as well as, painted ceilings showing angels. One of the paintings was of the wolf of Gubbio. I have always loved this story. In the small town of Gubbio there was a large wolf that live outside of town that would terrorize the town attacking anyone who went down the road where it lived. St Francis heard about the wolf and went out and talked to the wolf pleading that if the people of the town would give it food to eat each day that it would in turn protect the town. The wolf agreed by lowering his head and shaking Francis' hand with its paw to show its agreement. Ever after that, until it died, the wolf protected the town that it had previously attacked, since it was now getting plenty of food to eat.

Even though St Francis only lived into his 40s, he still had a very full life and did many wonderful things. He healed those who were sick, cured the blind and lame, and preached to birds that listened to what he had to say and they only left when he gave them permission. While all of these things sound too good to be true, one thing we have to remember is that before the fall of man all of these things were possible for any person. But after the fall, no one could do this unless they were very close to God, like Francis or Padre Pio.

This was a great day, but due to the activity of walking up and down the streets we were a bit more tired this day than previous days. At the end of our journey this day, we were rode to San Giovanni Rotondo.

WHAT A MOTHER WE HAVE!

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a familiar one: on the rough Tilma of a peasant is an image of a mixed-race woman (a *mestiza*) who is pregnant, standing on the moon (the Aztec symbol for Mexico). But the depth and beauty of this apparition is sometimes lost behind the colorful (and miraculous) image. (And if you have not seen the recent scientific research on the Tilma, please do an online search and learn how incredible it is!)

When the Aztecs founded what is now Mexico City, they were able to achieve much, with their knowledge of math and science and philosophy and art. But their belief in many gods required human sacrifice, and the Aztec priests kept the people in fearful submission; tens of thousands of human victims were offered to their god. The Conquistadors and the Franciscan missionaries (who had cultural and language barriers) had tried to convert them from this kind of terror, but made little progress. The bishop there at the time said that if God did not intervene, the land would be lost to Christ forever.

Then came Mary, as Mother and comforter, promising to St. Juan Diego that she would show her love, compassion, and protection to the people. "I will hear their complaints and I will comfort their affliction and their sufferings." To prove to the bishop that the command to build a church was really from Heaven, the Virgin imprinted an image of herself on the garment of the peasant Juan Diego.

Soon, conversions began to happen at an astounding rate, with Indians coming from "far away lands asking for sacraments"! Just eight years after this apparition, 9 million people in Mexico had converted to Catholicism.

As we look at this image, let us each receive Our Lady's words, as our Mother's words to us:

"Listen and let it penetrate your heart...do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?" (translation of Our Lady's words to her servant Juan Diego.)

By Kathryn Mulderink

—DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE—

Immaculate Conception

SOMETIMES MISTAKEN AS THE CONCEPTION OF JESUS, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION REFERS TO THE CONCEPTION OF MARY, CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN

ON MARCH 25, 1858 IN AN APPARITION AT LOURDES, OUR LADY REVEALED HER NAME AS, "I AM THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION."

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS CELEBRATED ON DECEMBER 8TH, 9 MONTHS BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY (BIRTHDAY) OF MARY



IDEAS TO INCREASE YOUR DEVOTION:

DO AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE AND SAY AN ACT OF CONTRITION BEFORE GOING TO BED EACH DAY
PRAY THE LITANY OF LORETO AND MEDITATE ON A DIFFERENT TITLE OF MARY, INVOKING HER INTERCESSION EACH DAY
PRAY A NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION WITH THE WRITINGS OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION
READ ABOUT THE APPARITION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

IN 1854 BL. PIUS IX PROCLAIMED :

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.

— INEFFABILIS DEUS

Content courtesy of novenacards.com



Volunteers are needed to help clean the House of God. If you are interested in helping to clean the church, call Audrey Ruiz at 601-799-4527. This will only take a little bit of your time once a month.



MINISTRY DIRECTORY

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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