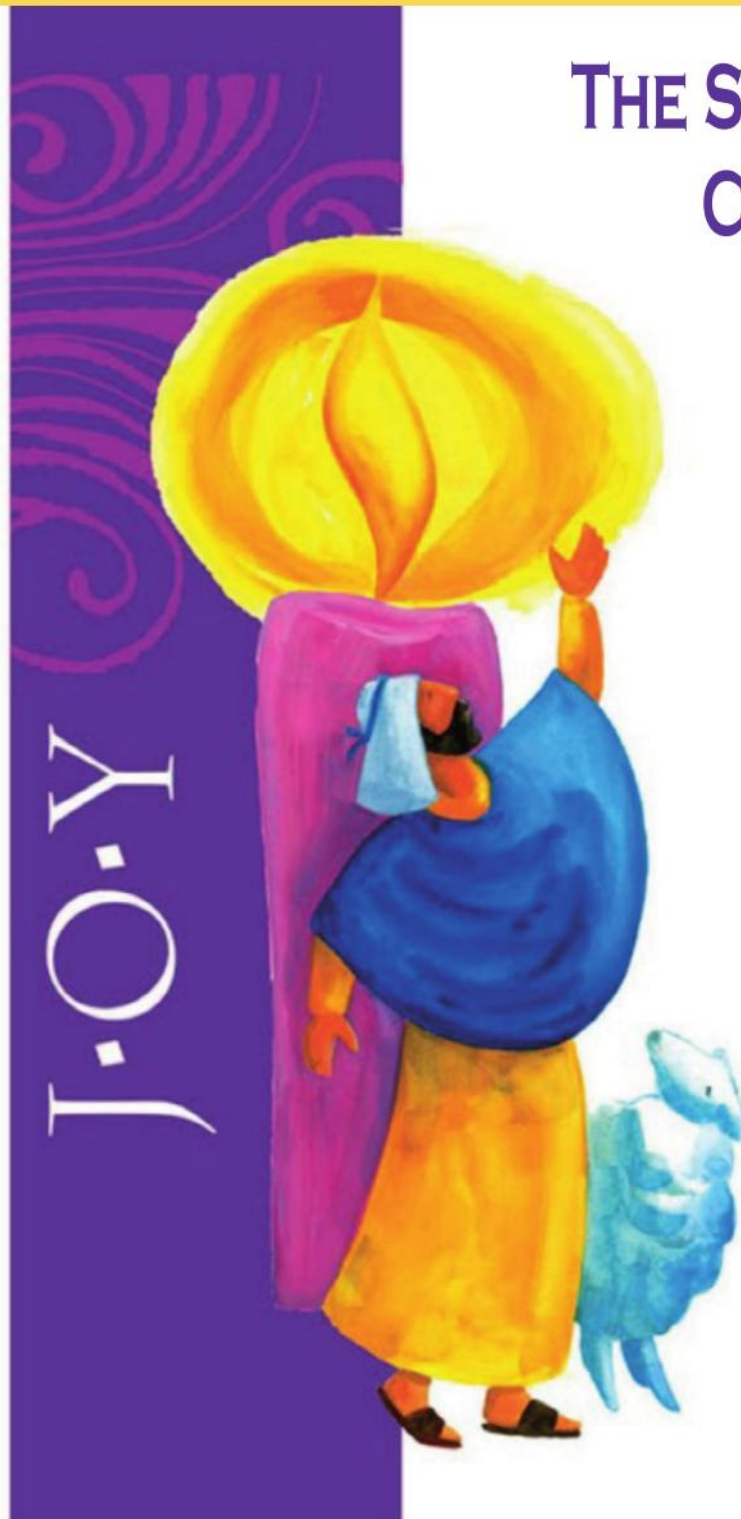


# Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

## THE SHEPHERD'S CANDLE

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent



66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana, 70452  
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# 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.



## 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.**

## 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

Altar Society Meeting—Thursday 9:00 a.m. Parish Hall

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

Widow's Group—Thursday 11:00 a.m. Vera's Seafood

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

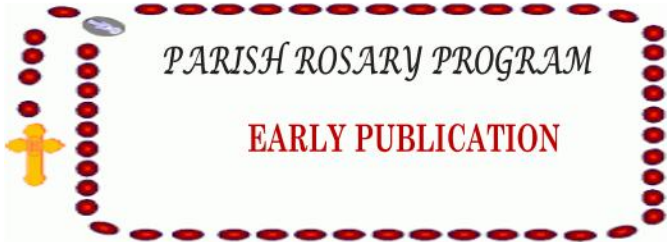
Sunday( Christmas Eve)—CHRISTMAS MASS: 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

PSR—NO PSR—Christmas Break

Christmas Day—Mass 10:30 a.m.

## PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM

### EARLY PUBLICATION



## 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 18

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

No Mass Scheduled

### Tuesday, December 19

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

8:00 a.m. Lucas Tracey†

### Wednesday, December 20

(Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38 )

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

### Thursday, December 21

(Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45 )

8:00 a.m. Lawrence† & Beverly Otillo

### Friday, December 22

(1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56 )

8:00 a.m. Lawrence† & Beverly Otillo

### Saturday, December 23

(Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66 )

5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Tracey†, Cpt. Pete Vogt†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Debra Goodey†, Robert Jenevein†, Lawrence Otillo†, Gail & Ramon Garay, Sr.†, Bennie Garay†, Ramon Garay, Jr., Glenn Bunting, Dan Jocks†, Sarah Stokes, Eleanore Strickland

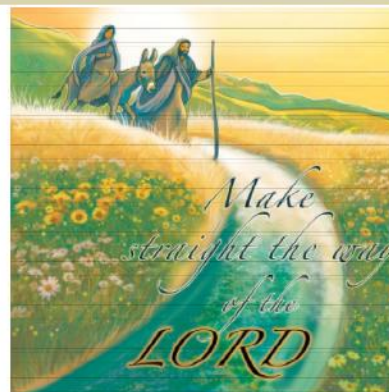
### Sunday, December 24

(2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38 )

7:00 a.m. George Dickerson†

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, J.C. Spiers†, Glen Parker†, Dan Jocks†, Claude Yarbrough†, Erline Garity†, Mel Bussell†, Cathy Downey

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish







### 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.



### GAUDETE SUNDAY

Rejoicing is the theme of today's readings on this Gaudete Sunday. We are filled with joy, because the Lord is coming and is almost here! "God is the joy of my soul," the prophet Isaiah says in the first reading. He truly is my joy, my God, my all.

I have joy because I know what is to come. My Savior, Jesus Christ, will soon be born again. Joy beams in the broad smile that instantly bursts onto my face when I see a friend or family member. I feel joy hearing a child giggle or an adult unexpectedly laugh out loud. I rejoice knowing that the love of the Lord is really present in my life and in the world.

Being human, there are many times that I forget that joy. The words proclaimed in the first reading remind me to make my ways straight, to prepare for His presence in the world and most importantly, in my life. I need to be intimately aware of this Companion on my journey during the highs and lows and turns and twists of life, the gift of Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The "O Antiphons", which begin annually on the 17th of December, are seven ancient refrains that proclaim titles of the Messiah going back to the 4th century. They are sung or prayed during evening prayer before the Magnificat during the days leading up to Christmas Eve. Each speaks about the coming of the Messiah from prophets of the Old Testament.

"O Wisdom" is today's refrain before the Gospel. "O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!" I have joy in the wisdom and knowledge of what is to come: my Savior, Jesus Christ. I am aware of the joy of anticipation of a birth or new beginning. It is the gift of metanoia, a change of heart to begin anew with the graces given to me through His humble birth to Mary.

May my soul rejoice in my Lord and Savior! May I be granted a metanoia of heart and spirit to grow in wisdom and knowledge that leads me closer to the glory and wonder of God. Amen!

By Beth Price



## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS



### 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

*Third Sunday*

Behold, I am sending  
my messenger ahead of  
you; he will prepare  
your way before you.

Matthew 11:10







## PASTORS CORNER FOR ADVENT (PART 1)

Since we have now entered into the Season of Advent, I will put my account of the Italy trip on hold to talk about this season. Advent, what a beautiful and somber season in our Catholic Church's calendar year. It is beautiful because we get to look forward to the birth of our Savior, to see the changes of the chill air, as well as, the excitement of the Season leading up to Christmas as well as the Christmas season itself.

**PASTOR'S CORNER** It is a somber time because we recall the events that led up to Jesus' birth that was fraught with challenges. Mary was challenged with giving birth to a child that was conceived in a unique way, by the power of the Holy Spirit without a man, in a time and place where she could be killed for giving birth outside of wedlock, especially if it were thought that she was pregnant due to adultery. Joseph was challenged with protecting her and saying yes to the supreme task of saying yes to God to protect His only Son and the His mother from dangers. This task is exactly why he almost fled into the night, but was held to task by the Archangel Gabriel.

The following are some great ideas on Advent from the EWTN Website.

As we begin this season a good question we can ask is, "What is Advent?"

The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and continuing until December 24.

In 2023, Advent begins on December 3 and ends on December 24 (Christmas Eve), as the Mass of the Lord's Nativity begins. Christmas Day is December 25.

### WHY DO WE CELEBRATE ADVENT?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (paragraph 524) says,

When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."

### WHY IS ADVENT IMPORTANT TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

This is a period of preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation at Christmas. As Christmas seems to arrive commercially ever earlier each year, the faithful should try to turn our hearts more toward the Lord. Mother Angelica, the foundress of EWTN, once said, Let's not let the season pass without a depth of spirituality in our hearts that lets us ponder. Ponder the mystery of how, and why, this Omnipotent God, before Whom angels tremble, would come down and live nine months in the most pure and holy woman that ever lived, and ever will live. He was confined in a womb with that Infinite Intelligence, Infinite Power, and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

### HOW DO YOU PREPARE YOURSELF DURING ADVENT?

First, it is a good idea to pray more, possibly including the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Franciscan Crown, and the Christmas Novena (see below), all of which call to mind the mysteries associated with the Lord coming into the world.

It is also important to read Sacred Scripture, especially the Infancy Narratives of Matthew and Luke. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, chapters 2 and 3 of the Second Part on the Creed, expresses the Church's Faith in the Incarnation and Nativity of the Lord.

Finally, to truly prepare, it is important to go to Confession at least once during the season, and maybe go to daily Mass and do Eucharistic Adoration when you are able.

### WHICH CANDLE DO YOU LIGHT FIRST ON ADVENT?

First Week: A purple candle

Second Week: A second purple candle, in addition to the first week's candle

Third Week: The first two week's candles and the rose or pink candle

Fourth Week: All four candles

### HOW DO YOU OBSERVE ADVENT?

Advent is considered the Little Lent, as it begins by recalling that Christ will come at the end of the world as Judge, a reminder of the holiness with which we should be prepared to greet the Lord. Thus, although not strictly a penitential season, the faithful should turn their hearts toward Jesus in prayer, almsgiving, and sacrifice.

In the last part of Advent, we look forward with anticipation and joy to His First Coming, in Bethlehem. One way to do this is to meditate on the O Antiphons used in the Mass, each of which represents a messianic title of Christ from the Old Testament.

## *O Antiphons*

December 17, 2023

**O Wisdom of our God Most High,** guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

December 18, 2023

**O Leader of the House of Israel,** giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!

December 19, 2023

**O Root of Jesse's stem,** sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!

December 20, 2023

**O Key of David,** opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21, 2023

**O Radiant Dawn,** splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22, 2023

**O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:** come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

December 23, 2023

**O Emmanuel,** our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!





## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

### ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

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

### ALTAR SOCIETY

Susan Mercier 985-690-6617

3rd Thursday each month 9:15 am

### ANTONIANS

Steve Fecke 985-863-7646

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month 7:00 pm

### APOLOGETICS

Peter Dakin 985-781-4789

[peter@peter313.org](mailto:peter@peter313.org)

### ELIJAH HELPERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

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

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Ellie Ross 985-960-1613

1<sup>st</sup> 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:rogrus1@gmail.com)

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917

[cynthiaripoll@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:howardhebert@bellsouth.net)

### WIDOWS GROUP

Sandra Bailey 985-250-9013

Stella Jenevein 504-884-0106

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month 12:00 pm

### YOUTH GROUP (CYO)

Laurny Jeffrey 985-259-9604



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