

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

THE ANGEL'S CANDLE

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent



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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Cedric Konyaole
Web Site
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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

Christmas Day Mass—10:30 a.m.

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

RCIA Tracks I & II—No Class

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

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

PSR—No Class

Fourth Sunday

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23



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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 25

(Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14)

10:30 a.m. Father's Intentions

Tuesday, December 26

(Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22)

8:00 a.m. Donald Roszczynialski†

Wednesday, December 27

(1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a & 2-8)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, December 28

(1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18)

8:00 a.m. Lawrence Otilio†

Friday, December 29

(1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35)

8:00 a.m. Dan Jocks†

Saturday, December 30

(1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40)

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

Sunday, December 31

(Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3;; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40)

7:00 a.m. Landry/Dickerson Families

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, Altar Society Members, CJ Lightell†, Dan Jocks†, Corbin DeBoutte†, Claude Yarborough†, Earline Garity†, Mel Bussell†



We want to wish you a
very Merry and BLESSED
Christmas and a
Happy New Year!
Father Kevin & the staff



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.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Christmas can be disappointing. We remember the Christmases from our childhood, all the joy, the excitement, and the fun we had. When we grow up, we have to shop for gifts, write and mail the cards, put up the decorations, and do all the preparations that seem to stress us out. We may be sad that the day did not meet our expectations. Now that most of that is done, (unless you are reading this on a break from cleaning house before the grand-kids arrive) we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. Or to have the baby born in a stable miles from their home in Nazareth. The shepherds never expected to be awakened by angels. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had reasons for coming in this way.

The nativity scene looks so peaceful and beautiful, but the reality was not so romantic. The messiah came not to the sound of war horns, but the cry of a helpless infant. He was born in a stable because no one had room for him. The first to see him were the shepherds, the migrant workers of the time. The political leaders (Herod and friends) wanted to kill him.

Jesus was born in this way to show that he came not for the important and wealthy, but for the poor and outcast. As an adult, he would continue to surprise: he ate with sinners and tax collectors; he challenged the religious leaders of Israel. He was executed as a criminal.

So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, the sick, those in prison, the unborn infant, that we might find him where we least expect. Can we learn to see him in the unexpected, in our trials and difficulties, our own weaknesses? When we do, we will celebrate what Christmas is truly about.

Tom Schmidt



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



LET US
ADORE HIM
Christ the Lord



PASTOR'S CORNER

PASTORS CORNER FOR ADVENT (PART TWO)

WHAT ARE THE ADVENT SYMBOLS?

There are many symbols for Advent: the Advent calendar, Advent wreath with candles, the Jesse Tree, and the Crèche - with the Baby Jesus absent until Christmas Eve. Each of these can be the basis of a family tradition, especially to teach children how to prepare for Jesus' Birth.

WHY IS PURPLE USED IN ADVENT?

The liturgical year has different colors for the different seasons. Redemptionis Sacramentum (No. 121) says, "The purpose of using different colors is to express the specific character of the various mysteries. The use of the diverse colors is both pedagogical and symbolic of the various liturgical feasts and seasons." Violet or purple, a symbol of suffering and penitence, is therefore the liturgical color used in Advent and in Lent.

"Don't get hurried. There may be something that I have to leave undone, then let it be undone. Just don't lose the essence of this season so that you really are alive with Jesus in the Womb of His Mother. Hidden, growing, patient, waiting; waiting for the birth in our lives - that birth of Jesus that makes Him radiate through us, that makes our wills one." - Mother Angelica

WHAT DO THE FOUR CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH REPRESENT?

The candles indicate the different weeks of Advent. When you are in the first week of Advent, you light one purple candle, and for the second week, two purple candles. During the third week, you add the rose candle. Then for the final week, you light all four candles. These colors match the liturgical colors of the vestments for those weeks, with purple representing penance and rose representing rejoicing.

The Advent Wreath brings to mind the time before Jesus, when the world was in spiritual darkness. During Advent, we remember the Old Testament days as we anxiously anticipate His Birth at Christmas.

"In Advent, Christians relive a dual impulse of the spirit: on the one hand, they raise their eyes towards the final destination of their pilgrimage through history, which is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus; on the other, remembering with emotion His birth in Bethlehem, they kneel before the Crib." - Pope Benedict XVI

WHAT SPECIAL PRAYERS AND PRACTICES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH ADVENT?

The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary should help you focus more on Jesus' Incarnation. Also, the Christmas Anticipation Novena is often said throughout Advent.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF GAUDETE SUNDAY?

The Latin word "Gaudete" (rejoice) is the first word in the Entrance Antiphon of the Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent. It directs us to rejoice for the Lord's coming is at hand. On that day, the priest wears rose instead of purple vestments.

WHAT IS THE CHRISTMAS NOVENA?

This novena is a unique prayer for the last nine days of Advent, beginning on December 16th and ending on Christmas Eve. It will help you to prepare your heart for the Nativity of the Lord. The prayer is:

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers and grant my desires. (mention request here) Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother.

AMEN.



“LET OUR ADORATION NEVER CEASE!”

I can remember cherished moments as a child turning the living room lights low on Christmas eve and sitting with a cup of hot chocolate before the nativity scene. I loved singing Christmas carols on that blessed evening, uniting myself in spirit to the angels who announced the birth of Christ to the shepherds over 2000 years ago. It was a magical moment for a child.

Over fifty years later, magical moments of singing carols at our family's creche at Christmas have been replaced with the deeply meaningful and mystical times spent in stillness before the burning presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There is no nativity display that once a year captivates our hearts and reminds us of the birth of Christ. In the Blessed Sacrament Jesus is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity. Jesus is real. Jesus is here. Right now. Today. A statue of the infant Jesus in a manger reminds us of something that happened 2000 years ago. The Eucharist lets us enter into that reality with our entire being right now, and participate in the salvation Jesus is bringing about on this earth today.

In today's Gospel, we learn three very important lessons from the Annunciation to the Virgin that model for us how to receive and adore Jesus in the Eucharist.

God is living and real. God loves you. God speaks to you. God has something to say to you. God cares about what is happening to you and has a plan for your healing and salvation. Each of us has our own unique role to play in the mystery of salvation.

The Father has sent his Son as Savior of the world. The Eternal Word leapt down from heaven and he whom the whole world could not contain enclosed himself in the womb of his Virgin Mother so that we might know God's love and that he might make us “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pt 1:4.)

Mary models for us how to be still and silent before the presence of God. “Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’” I often think of the moment right after the angel left Mary. It was the first instant of Jesus' life within her womb, how she must have quietly loved him and adored him and what faith it must have required of her. She knew better than most the utter reality of God's presence.

Mary was the first tabernacle of God. She adored him in her womb for nine months before his birth, a secret prayer of loving worship. May the Virgin Mother of the Savior teach us how to become tabernacles of God. After receiving Jesus in Communion may we, as did Mary, carry him into the world. In the words of Saint John Paul II, “Let our adoration never cease.”

By Sister Kathryn James



PRAY BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Have you ever been told to “think before you speak”? Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the LORD. He was being respectful to his king, and it sounded like a good idea. But later that night the Lord gave him a message for David: the LORD did not need anyone to build him a house; God would make David's house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever.

As a prophet Nathan was expected to speak for the LORD. When he finally listened to the LORD, he got the message right. And that can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger—or selfishness, fear, any strong feeling—that we wished we could take back? If we just think before we speak, we might just rationalize what we wanted to say in the first place. But if we take a little more time to bring our feelings to God, ask for guidance and listen for what God would have us say, things might turn out a lot better.

God can also surprise us if given the chance. The kingdom (“house”) God was promising was not a political one, but a universal one. Jesus fulfills this promise as the Son of God who came to proclaim the Kingdom of God. Jesus himself prayed to the Father often in his life.

We can do the same. We pray before meals; why not pray before going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house/car/HD-TV, etc. When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God wants our friend to hear. When we are sorry for hurting someone, we can pray for forgiveness and even listen to God to learn what we might do to make it up to them. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let's take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

Tom Schmidt



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