

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

*Whatever
you do, do all to
the glory of God*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2024

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

Office Closed—Monday-Wednesday

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

RCIA Tracks I & II—NO CLASS

Ashes—Wednesday 8:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Altar Society Lenten Breakfast—Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Lenten Healing—Saturday 1-2 p.m. Parish Hall

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass



Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite's "Lenten Announcement" sounds surprising: "Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!" Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!

—Peter Scagnelli

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 Leonard, Donald Paul & Larry Dickerson, Shirley Matthews, Jim Richmond, Catherine Lambert, Ed & Carol Wallace, Frederick Songy, Sue Miller, Molly Hymel, Lucy Reese, Wilma Walley, Brenda Dehm, Andriana Richard, Landon Jeffrey

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 12

(Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, February 13

(Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21)

8:00 a.m. Patti Gay

Wednesday, February 14

(Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, February 15

(Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25)

8:00 a.m. Debra Goodey†

Friday, February 16

(Is 58:1-9a; 18-19; Mt 9:14-15)

8:00 a.m. Brenda Dehm

Saturday, February 17

(Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32)

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

Sunday, February 18

(Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22, Mt 4:4b; Mk 1:12-15)

7:00 a.m. Gabriel & Karen Dickerson

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Glen Parker†, Ruth Murphy, Roseann Zollo†, Bonnie Aguilar†, James Snead†, Brenda Dehm, The Richard Family

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Weekly Rosaries: 340

Year to Date: 1577

NOTHING FRIGHTENS JESUS AWAY

Two words in this Gospel are almost terrifying: Jesus “touched him.”

We are so far removed from what leprosy signified in biblical times, that this image of Jesus stretching out his hand to touch a person whose body was consumed by the disease has no effect on us.

Lepers were the walking dead who were banished to live outside towns in caves, tents, or garbage dumps. Even breathing the same air as a leper was thought to be dangerous, since leprosy was considered highly contagious. Leprosy consumed a person's body, leaving stumps where fingers, hands, feet, or noses had once been. The laws dictated that lepers were to maintain a twelve-step distance from others, cover their mouths with a cloth, and cry out “unclean, unclean” to announce their presence.

Most of us still have lingering memories of the fear we experienced with COVID-19, when being within six feet of another or breathing the same air conjured up the possibility of a painful death. We learned to stay away from others to protect ourselves and those we love.

Jesus, instead, “touched” the leper. He stepped over the imaginary line, entering into the danger zone of closeness with the leper. He got close enough to this man to smell the putrid odor of his decaying flesh. He could feel the man's foul breath on his face. He got closer still in order to touch the body of the leper, putting his fingers into the wounds of his oozing sores. He conveyed to this man that he wanted to heal him so much that he himself was willing to risk his life, to give his life. He was close enough to look directly into the eyes of a person whose face was horrifically disfigured and perhaps even unrecognizable. And Jesus touched him.

Sometimes we may feel that we have become disfigured, unrecognizable, because of the wounds we have received in our lives and the brokenness of our own sin. And Jesus touches us. We may consider certain people in our lives “lepers” in the sense that they think, speak, or act in ways that threaten us or walk outside the path of discipleship with the Lord Jesus. And Jesus touches them.

There is no leprosy that frightens Jesus away, no disfigurement that makes him draw back. One day, when thinking of certain people in my life, wondering how they could be at peace with what they were doing, I heard God say to me this: “I know. Only I know.” Jesus touches each of us in the places of our leprosy. Each of us is known intimately and lovingly by a God unafraid to enter into our misery and walk with us on our journey to the Kingdom.

I invite you to ask yourself in a moment of prayer today: “Jesus, what does this say about you and about me?”

By Sr. Kathryn James Hermes



AROUND THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

LENTEN MISSIONS

Archbishop Alfred Hughes will host a Lenten Mission on February 19-21 at 6:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend.



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

PAUL THE PEOPLE PLEASER?

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a used car salesman, who has just the right deal for any buyer. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (1 Cor 11:1)

Remember when Paul was still Saul, the Jew who persecuted Christians? When he was struck by lightning he heard, not thunder, but the voice of Jesus, who asked why Saul was persecuting him. Paul later began to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. If we want people to see Christ in us, we don't dress like him, or grow a beard. We have to do things as Jesus would: Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them. Pray with people who have difficulty talking to God.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in pleasing God by spreading the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong.

Tom Schmidt.

PILGRIMAGE DAY 8 ROME (BASILICA OF ST JOHN LATERAN)



PASTOR'S CORNER

After we visited St Mary Major we visited the Basilica of St. John Lateran, once the residence of popes. It is here that St. Francis of Assisi persuaded Pope Innocent III to permit him to begin the Franciscan Order. The Basilica of St. John in Lateran (San Giovanni in Laterano) is the oldest of the four main basilicas of the Eternal City. It is the cathedral church of Rome and the official ecclesiastical seat of the Bishop, the Pope.

One of the first things that catch your eye on top of the front of this basilica is a twenty one foot high statue of Christ that stands out against the sky triumphantly showing the Cross of the Redemption. It is flanked by saints and doctors of the Church. Here is the cradle of our religious heritage. The basilica has five doors in the narthex, one for each nave, punctuated by massive columns supporting monumental arches. The central bronze doors are Roman originals from the Curia (Senate) in the Imperial Forums. The rightmost door is the Holy Door which is open only during the Holy Year (once every 25 years). In front of the left wall of the narthex, there is the statue of the Emperor Constantine, who built the basilica in the 4th century AD.

There are twelve enormous niches that Francesco Borromini created in the columns of the central nave that enclose majestic larger than life marble statues of the twelve Apostles and Evangelists, in place of Judas there is a statue of St Paul. What is most interesting to the statues is that each apostle has some important aspect of their life, what they were known for, or a few of them have the means of their martyrdom. For example, St. Peter has the keys to the kingdom of heaven and a book. Since he is the first pope, he held the means of salvation, keys, and he wrote the letters in the bible of first and second Peter. When you see St Paul he holds a book and there is a double edge sword next to him. It has been said that the reason for the double edged sword that St Paul holds is twofold: one is that his words in his epistles were like a sword that cuts you to the quick and helps you see your faults, and he was martyred by a double edge sword that took his head. St. Matthew holds a book, since he wrote the Gospel of Matthew, and he is standing on a bag of coins, showing his triumph over wealth and earthly things. St. Simon holds a saw, since tradition says he was sawed in half. St. Bartholomew holds a knife and cloth holding what is obviously his skin. You can see a face like shape in the skin. He was skinned alive with a knife and killed after. St. John is holding a quill pen and a book with an eagle at his feet to the left. He wrote the Gospel of John and as one of the evangelists, he was known for his gospel soaring above the rest because of his theology being much more advanced than the other three, and the eagle is his symbol as an evangelist. St. James the less holds a book and a staff. He wrote the letter of James and he used the staff along his journeys. St. Andrew is standing in front of an x shaped cross and he is holding and embracing it. This symbolizes his embrace of suffering and he was crucified on x shaped cross. St. James the greater holds a staff as he looks forward. He was known for his journeys that he took all over Europe. If you ever heard of the Camino of St. James in Spain, these are traditionally the places where he walked in his missionary journey. St. Thomas holds a framing Square and is standing in front of a tomb stone with an image of a cross with a dove above it. Sadly, I do not know what is the significance of the framing square, but he would have been inspired by the Holy Spirit and the cross of Christ. St. Jude is standing holding a spear. He was martyred with a spear. Lastly, St. Phillip is shown holding a cross and standing with his foot on top of some kind of monster, so it symbolizes that by the cross he conquered the devil.

The magnificent floor of the basilica is in the Cosmatesque style with circle patterns. There were chairs laid out so I could not get a good picture of the floor. Now, I was able to get a picture of the gilded wooden ceiling, which was made by Giacomo della Porta based on a design by his patron, Michelangelo. This ceiling is much fancier than the one at St. Mary Major. There is more decoration and more to see. One decoration of note is the coat of arms for one of the popes who was a Medici, one of the wealthy and powerful families of Italy. It is in the shape of a shield with six balls in the middle with a papal tiara, the triple crown and symbol of the pope's office, as well as, the keys of St. Peter. That is only one of the many intricate designs that are on the ceiling. You will just have to check out the photo, because there is too much to see.

There are countless paintings of images of the saints and Jesus and scenes from their lives throughout the basilica. There is a fancy wooden confessional with carvings of the papal tiara and metal inlays of the life of Jesus.

The main altar was under renovation, so I could not get a good view of it. However, over the altar is an elaborate tower with a pointed roof. This high altar made in the 14th-century Gothic ciborium houses the relic of the original wooden altar used by Saint Peter. Above the ciborium are statues of Sts. Peter and Paul. Inside of these metal statues are the skulls of both St. Peter and St. Paul. So, it houses a major relic of two important saints for our church and a third one used by our first pope. The papal cathedra, the presence of which renders the archbasilica the cathedral of Rome, is located in its apse. The decorations are in cosmatesque style. (I had to go online to find out some of this information.)

Lastly, there of note is a gold covered carving of the last supper way up high on the wall that contains the table from the Last Supper. It was hard to see and most people could only see the carving. It was not until I zoomed into the picture with my camera that I could see the outline of a wooden object. It is the top of a table that is from the last supper. How wonderful is that?

Next, we headed to the holy stairs, called the Scala Sancta.



LEFT: CONFESSIONAL

RIGHT: TABLE FROM A DISTANCE



LEFT: MAIN ALTAR

RIGHT: CEILING



LEFT: PAPAL CHAIR

RIGHT: TABLE FROM THE LAST SUPPER



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LEGION OF MARY

Laurie Howell 985-290-6983

Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

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Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527

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Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917

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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

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Eydie Richmond

Every Tuesday after 8:00 am Mass

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Laurn Jeffrey 985-259-9604



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