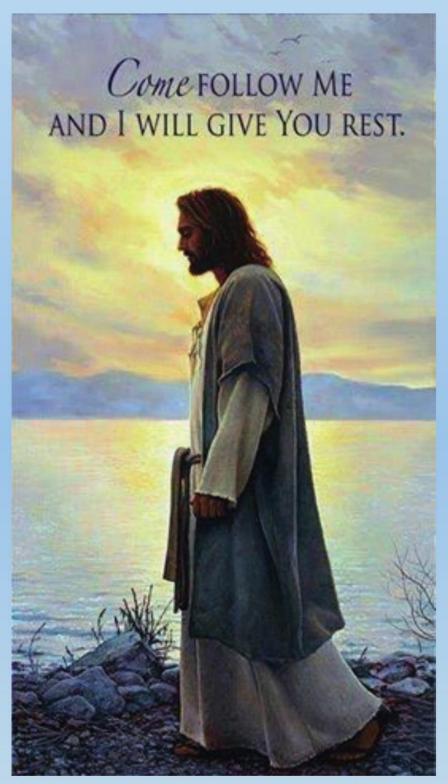
Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



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 Bryan McCauley

YOUR STAFF

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Cedric Konyaole Web Site ckonyaole@sppcprla.com

Jerry Broussard Facility Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 1:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday 8:00-3:00

> **CONTACT US** Main Office 985-863-7935

> > Fax 985-863-5431

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.

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."





TEND THE FLOCK

In today's first reading from Jeremiah we hear the Lord in agony over the shepherds he has called to tend to his flock. Jeremiah shares God's words: "You (Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18) have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds."

It could be easy to look at this and think about the faults of priests and bishops over the centuries, but I read this and hear Jeremiah talking to me and to all of us. Vatican II was very clear that as lay people we are all called to preach the Good News, to engage the culture, to help bring people into the Wednesday, July 24 Church, and to show love to all we meet. Pope Paul VI stated: "As sharers in the role of Christ as priest, prophet, and king, the laity have their work cut out for them in the life and activity of the Church. Their activity is so necessary within the Church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastors is often unable to achieve its full effectiveness." (Apostolicam Actuositatem, section 10)

Let's reflect on that for a second. The pope said that if we do not evangelize 8:00 a.m. and fulfill our offices of priest, prophet, king, then pastors cannot be truly effective. See how the words from Jeremiah start to apply to us today? I think there is an ideology that has crept into the Church that as long as we are nice and treat others well then people will somehow make the connection that we are Christian and we don't need to explicitly evangelize.

Of course, this doesn't work. Any number of people can be nice and caring (Jer 7:1-11a; Mt 13:24-30) without being Christian. Christ makes it clear in the Gospels: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

In order for us to respond to the call of Christ we have to ask for the McInerneyt, Charlotte Stottmant, Debby Landry, courage to be explicit about our faith. Living a good life is not enough. Everyone has different strengths and spiritual gifts, so maybe you are not personally called to go into the streets and talk to people about Jesus or to give a public talk at a youth group, but there is something specific that God is calling you to do. Maybe it is talking with a coworker or someone at the gym who has Sunday, July questions or maybe even someone on staff at the parish who needs some help.

Let's pray today that we might realize how God is calling each of us to evangelize in our own way. Jesus has chosen us to be instruments of his love, peace, and mercy. Let's answer the call and preach the Gospel to all those we 8:30 a.m. meet.

From all of us here at Diocesan, God bless! By Tommy Shultz

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Audrey Bonnet, May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, Mary Salzer 10:30 a.m. 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, Israel & Joyce 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 & Eydie Richmond, Ed & Carol Wallace, Frederick Songy, Sue Miller, Molly Hymel, Lucy Reese, Brenda Dehm, Landon Jeffrey, Glenn Bunting, Lucy D' Antoni, Don & Judy Aleman, Dylan Gornor, Vaughn Gay

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 22

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, July 23

(Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Mt 12:46-50)

Debra Goodev† 8:00 a.m.

(Jer 1:1, 4-10; Mt 13:1-9)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, July 25

(2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28)

Clarence Gares†

Friday, July 26

(Jer 3:14-17; Mt 13:18-23)

8:00 a.m. Eirich Family

Saturday, July 27

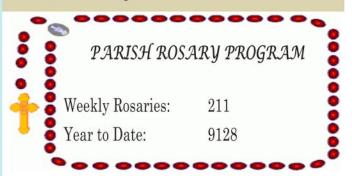
5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/ Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Traceyt, Ken & Adele Salzert, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, Lawrence Otillio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Richard James Bailey, Sr.†, Earline Garitty†, Altar Society Members, Antonians & Benefactors, Vaughn & Patti Gay, Anne McInerney†

(2 Kgs 4:42-44; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15)

7:00 a.m. Bernadette Landry†

Deacon Pat Downey†. Glen Parker†. CJ Lightell[†], JC Spiers[†], Richard/Kittel Family, Julia & Emily Richard, Veronica Wingerter, Catherine Lambert[†], Courtney Siemssen†, Jackie Ross, John Ross, Jr., John Ross, Sr., Grace Ross

People of the Parish



July, 2023 4 Vol. XXXIX, No.



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR JULY

We pray that the sacrament of the Annointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

The beautiful flower arrangements adorning the altar this weekend were donated in memory of

Matthew DeCarlo

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

First Reading - Jeremiah 23:1-6

In today's first reading, Jeremiah warns about evil rulers who mislead the people. Today the same is true. Christian stewards need to educate themselves on significant political issues to be good citizens who faithfully follow Catholic teaching.

Psalm 23:1-6

Good stewardship parishes warmly welcome all who come, regardless of circumstances or position.

As Christian stewards, do we offer a warm welcome to guests in our homes and are we generous in sharing our blessings with them?

Second Reading - Ephesians 2:13-18

Are we practicing good Christian stewardship by praying for Christ's gift of peaceto reconcile and heal any divisions in our lives, in our families, in the workplace, in our community and parish?

Gospel - Mark 6:30-34

In our hectic world, do we, as Christian stewards, allow for quiet time in our lives to refresh our spirits and draw closer to Christ by listening to His teachings?

Stewardship Thought

In today's Gospel, Jesus had planned to slip away from the crowds for a few moments of peace and a little rest. When He saw the people gathered, however, He put His needs aside to meet the needs of others. As good stewards, we are called to do the same (Our Sunday Visitor, *ibid.*, page 20).

JESUS, OUR PEACE

You probably know that the Jews in the first century did not particularly like the Gentiles. Some of them who became Christians still looked down on the non-Jewish Christians. In the epistle today, Paul addresses this problem by reminding them that Jesus died for all people, Jew and Gentile. And just as Jesus rose from the dead to a new life, the converts to Christianity were given a new life also. That new life of baptism joined them all to Christ, who lives in them, forgives them, and brings them peace. So why was that unity so hard to accept?

One reason is that as much as we complain about laws and regulations, many people like to live by them. We even make our own rules: "I always eat breakfast at 7:15," or "I have to read the newspaper every morning." Even though our rules may not be bad in themselves, if we get angry at anyone who interrupts our routine, those rules lead us to sin. But some of the Hebrew Christians thought that they still had to keep the laws and regulations of the old covenant. There is nothing wrong with keeping the Ten Commandments: They are simply examples of Jesus' command to love God with all your being and to love your neighbor as yourself. So why not just do that?

The problem with only keeping commandments is that we can avoid doing evil things, but still not love God or my neighbor. For example, we can avoid using God's name in vain and kick back and relax on the Sabbath, but still not really love God. We can keep from killing, robbing, or lying to our neighbor, without loving anyone. Fortunately for us, God loves us first; we need only respond to that love. And if we make the decision to love God and our neighbors, and base all our other actions on that love, we will not break any commandments, or even worry about breaking them. We will have the peace that Paul mentions in our reading, the peace that makes us all one in Christ.

Tom Schmidt

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" must have been chosen for this summer season by a committee eager for a vacation. For the apostles, the promise of rest was foiled by the needs of the people who discovered their hideaway and pressed them into ministry. Some people do indeed use their vacation for ministry and mission, giving an intensity of service otherwise not possible. For most of us, vacation is a time when we can grow more aware of God's plan, and can renew the bonds of love with family and friends in times of play and leisure.

The disciples learn today that there is no place so out of the way that the life of worship and ministry is disengaged. Giving yourself to summer worship will enrich you, delight you, and give you a sense of the word of God's progress in your heart. In today's world, summer is the time when we are most acutely aware of the beauty of the world. Gratitude and wonder are fertile soils for God's word to take root and prosper. Welcome the visitor today, and resolve that when you travel, you will be faithful to Sunday worship.

-Rev. James Field

ITALY PILGRIMAGE DAY NINE ST PETER'S BASILICA



Well here we are, my final article on the Italy Pilgrimage. What Pilgrimage to Rome would be complete without visiting St Peter's Basilica? It is not until you walk inside of the Basilica that you get the feeling of how truly immense a structure this is. I felt dwarfed by some of the larger than life size statues inside of this beautiful basilica. One picture I took shows you how the interior of the church dwarfs you and helps you to realize just how big it is inside. St Peter's has some incredibly beautiful artwork on the walls and ceilings. There is a painting of Jesus being baptized by John in the Jordan. The entire interior of St. Peter's is lavishly decorated with marble, reliefs, architectural sculpture, and gilding. The basilica contains a large number of tombs of popes and other notable people, many PASTOR'S CORNER of which are considered outstanding artworks. There are also a number of sculptures in niches and chapels, including Michelangelo's Pietà. The central feature is a baldachin, or canopy over the Papal Altar, designed by Gian Lo-

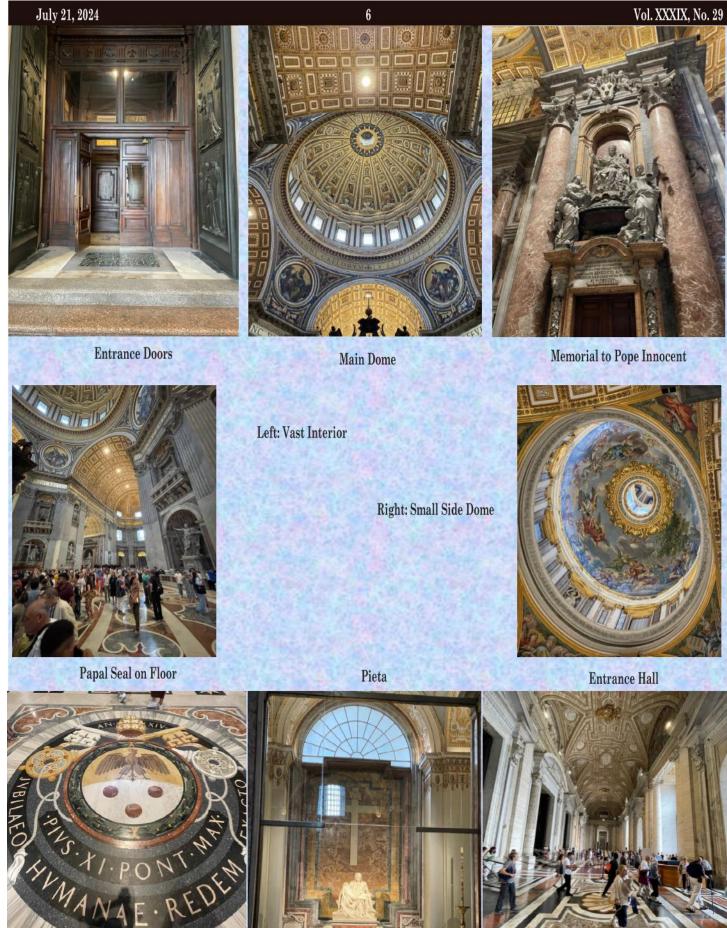
renzo Bernini. It is a piece of artwork in itself. Behind the baldachin is the famous image of the Holy Spirit that is framed by several Saints and Doctors of the Church, Having been to many Charismatic events I have seen the duplicates of the Holy Spirit dove, but this was my first time seeing the original artwork. The apse culminates in a sculptural ensemble, also by Bernini, and containing the symbolic Chair of Saint Peter. Everything in this basilica is decorated in beautiful artwork, even the floors. There are many statues of the saints in niches and marble representations of angels carved into the arches in the church. Even the doors are impressive, bronze artwork with angels The basilica is cruciform in shape, with an elongated nave in the Latin cross form but the early designs were for a centrally planned structure and this is still in evidence in the architecture. The central space is dominated both externally and internally by one of the largest domes in the world. The entrance is through a narthex, or entrance hall, which stretches across the building. One of the decorated bronze doors leading from the narthex is the Holy Door, only opened during jubilees. St. Peter's Basilica was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. With an exterior area of 21,095 square meters (227,060 sq. ft.), an interior area of 15,160 square meters (163,200 sq. ft.), St. Peter's Basilica is the largest Christian church building in the world by the two latter metrics and the second largest by the first as of 2016. The top of its dome, at 448.1 feet (136.6 m), also places it as the second tallest building in Rome as of 2016. The dome's soaring height placed it among the tallest buildings of the Old World, and it continues to hold the title of tallest dome in the world. Though the largest dome in the world by diameter at the time of its completion, it no longer holds this distinction. Here is an interesting fact to think about, St Peter's Basilica is taller than the Statue of Liberty which is only 304 feet from the bottom of the pedestal to the top of the torch. So hearing about how tall this church is, you can understand why I felt a little small and overwhelmed. Catholic tradition holds that the basilica is the burial site of Saint Peter, chief among Jesus's apostles and also the first Bishop of Rome (Pope). Saint Peter's tomb is directly below the high altar of the basilica, also known as the Altar of the Confession. For this reason, many popes, cardinals, and bishops have been interred at St. Peter's since the Early Christian period. I have to say that being able to see St Peter's Basilica in person was really great. Unfortunately, we did not have time to see the tombs of the popes. I would have liked to have visited the tombs of St Peter and Pope John Paul II. Maybe I will get to go back some time in the future. Also, unfortunately, we did not have the time to go to St Paul's Basilica. I really wanted to go to both churches and ask for the intercession of both saints that our church is dedicated to. However, I did go to St John Latring which has the sculls of both St Peter and St Paul. I prayed for their intercession while I was there. But, visiting the church dedicated to both would have been wonderful as well. Oh well, maybe next time I go to Rome. Over all this was a great pilgrimage. I am glad to have had the opportunity to go. Many people have asked me when I am going on my next pilgrimage. I will look into something next year.

Baldachin side view





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Stella Jenevein 504-884-0106

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Lauryn Jeffrey 985-259-9604

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The office requires information <u>no later</u> than Monday, two (2) weeks before publication.

For current Parish happenings (funeral information, changes in mass times, etc.), check the bulletin boards at the entrances to church and www.sppcprla.com.

GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Good Sams Ministry is open Monday (12:30-3:30 pm), Tuesday-Friday (9:30 am-3:30 pm). Please call ahead for appointment, 985-641-6421 We do not accept clothing or furniture donations. Bring these to Community Christian Concern at 2515 Carey St., Slidell

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Please check the meeting times and dates with ministry leaders, the Church Office, website or inside the Parish bulletin.

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