# Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 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 Bryan McCauley

## 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-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."



# MONTH OF NOVEMBER WEEKLY COLLECTIONS & EXPENSES Ordinary Income 26,855.09 Extraordinary Income 3,424.00 Expenses 14,909.03 Total \$15,370.06

# WEEKLY EVENTS

GASPP-Monday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall

4 F B

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

Antonians—Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

OCIA Tracks I & II—Tuesday 6:30 p.m. in classrooms

Altar Society Lunch-Wednesday Fatty's in Slidell 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Advent Mission 9:00 a.m.

PSR-Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

Your Good Samaritan Ministry helps seniors without family to support them, with requests for help they are no longer able to perform. From putting together furniture, programming a thermostat, to clearing debris, our Homebound Ministry volunteers are there to help. Volunteers are limited to 4 hours per month and sign up for the tasks they are willing to do as part of a team. If this flexibility to do some real good sounds perfect for you, please fill out an application online <a href="https://saintlukeslidell.org/gsvolunteers">https://saintlukeslidell.org/gsvolunteers</a> or call the Good Samaritan Ministry at 985-641-6421.

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ford, Audrey Bonnet, May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, Mary Salzer Flear Our Brown, Elizabeth Kittel, Zachary Cresson, Patricia Cuccia, Ed Roszczynialski, Norris Ripp, Bunny Shriver, Mary Ware, Ryan Ware, Lily Jorns, Dalin Davis, Israel & Joyce Landry, Steve

Dunn, Joann Brewin, Joseph Decaro, 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, Cathy Stanford, Herbert Landry, John McKelvey, Jr., James White

# MASS INTENTIONS

# Monday, December 9

(Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38)

No Mass Scheduled

# Tuesday, December 10

(Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14)

8:00 a.m. H.T. S

H.T. Stottman†

# Wednesday, December 11

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

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

# Thursday, December 12

(Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 )

8:00 a.m. Jewel Bailey†

# Friday, December 13

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

8:00 a.m. Cole Meyers

# Saturday, December 14

(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†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Danny Ragusa, Sr.†, Lawrence Otillio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Fay Vogt†, Helen Story†, Audrey Bonnet†, David Harley†, Augie Paretti, Augie Guth

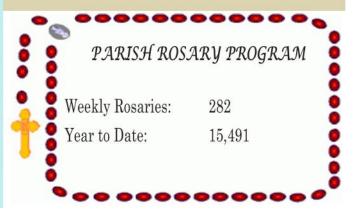
# Sunday, December 15

(Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18)

7:00 a.m. Dorothy & James Meyers†

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Glen Parker†, Earline Garitty†, Annette Gant Family, Ann Marie Wingerter, Tucker Campbell, Jewel Bailey†, Helen Story†, Lou Lou Battle†, Kenneth Guillot†, Wally Goodey

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish





# POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



# FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Due to the fact that the Immaculate Conception falls on December 8th, a Sunday, the feast day celebration has been moved to Monday, December 9th. The masses for this Holy Day are 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on December 9th.



#### TABERNACLE LAMP

This week, the Tabernacle Lamp in the Sanctuary burns for

† Lou Lou Battle †

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Look around most Catholic churches. and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth, and the other his death. There are only three nativities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John's birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke's Gospel of the angel's announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist's birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ's birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing.

—James Field

# COULD NACHOS BE BAD?

It seems the early Church had a different view of Advent than we do. Christmas was not even celebrated in the first two centuries after Christ. Easter was the original great feast of the Church. After the resurrection, Christians looked for Jesus to return in glory. They expected this return to happen soon, so we see references in Paul's letters to the "coming of the Lord Jesus" (1 Thess 3:13) or to the "day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6) So in a sense, the rest of their lives were a long Advent, a time of waiting for the Lord.

In the second reading this week, we hear what Paul recommends for the people of Philippi as they wait for the Lord to return. He prays that their love will grow and mature, so that they will be able to "discern what is of value." (Phil 1:10) This may sound vague, but is very good advice, even for us today.

As we grow to be better Christians, we learn to love what is important. Remember when you were young and loved junk food? As you grew up, you learned to like healthier foods. That doesn't mean that some foods are bad, (how could nachos be bad?) just that there are better choices. So Paul encourages us to make better choices: friends we like, books we read, how we spend our free time, causes we donate to, and values we teach to our children. For example, it is good to teach our children to work hard and save money; it may be better to teach them to answer God's call and to be generous to the poor. A good way to relax might be reading a novel by our favorite author; a better way could be reading a good spiritual book.

With less than three weeks of Advent remaining, let us ask the Lord to help us "discern what is of value" in our lives. We also await His coming and we have the advantage of knowing that the Lord comes to us in Word and Sacrament. We don't have to wait for the end of time or even till Christmas, so why not try to be ready now?

Tom Schmidt

#### **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS**

As the birth of our Lord approaches, I reflect on the idea of why we celebrate Christmas. In the American culture, is it because of the gifts? Is it because of the flashy sales? No. It is about the humble beginnings of Christianity. Mary and Joseph were not rich, so when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she was to be the mother of God, it must have come as quite a shock. I would definitely freak out if I were in her position. Yet her answer to the angel was a very humble yes. Her faith and belief that God would provide, helped her to her fiat (her yes).

I was curious as to why Luke's account of the Annunciation was chosen for the Gospel on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I found that the Marian apparitions to a peasant in Mexico City, Juan Diego, could draw comparisons to the Annunciation. Juan Diego listened to Mary's request for a church to be built in her honor. Juan Diego went to the Archbishop who at first didn't believe him. Juan's faith persevered, and he met with Mary on different occasions until his uncle fell ill, so he went to take care of him, just like how Mary went to Elizabeth. Mary appeared to Juan Diego on his journey to tell him that his uncle was healed. She then performed a miracle to help convince the Archbishop to build a small chapel where the apparitions were. Just like the miracle of Jesus's birth initiated the building of Christianity.

With Christmas so close, Our Lady of Guadalupe calls us to reflect on the humble beginnings of the Church and how we should reflect on our own faith to be able to answer the call from God and say yes.

by Ben Hooper

# PASTORS CORNER SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



So now we begin the second week of Advent. Advent is truly a time of waiting on the coming of Jesus. As we have seen with the Advent mission, Advent is a time of anticipation or waiting with excitement for Jesus to come. It was John the Baptist who waited for and directed people to wait for Jesus' first coming. Today we can look forward with anticipation for the second coming of Jesus. That second coming at the end of time where Jesus Christ will come again in His Glory to judge the living and the dead. Now when will this happen? According to scriptures as Jesus Himself said to His disciples, even He does not know only the Father in Heaven knows. So this does not mean that we have to wear ourselves out waiting for something that is far off in the distance. His second coming in our life is PASTOR'S CORNER what we make of it. To begin with Jesus will come again for us when we die, because at that time we will be brought by our guardian angel before the thrown of the Most High in heaven. But well before that we should look forward to

His coming throughout our lives. Every day we can get up in the morning and say good morning Jesus. That is to say greet the day with Jesus name on our

Advent is a time of waiting for the birth of Jesus primarily, but it is also a time of waiting for His presence to me made anew in our hearts. In order to accomplish this waiting for His presence it would be good for us to think about bringing about bring Christmas Joy into the heart of all the people that we meet. We can do this by greeting people with a warm smile and a warm heart during all of advent. Just try spreading Christmas cheer this way. By doing this simple act many people will be touched by your greeting. Also you can allow Jesus and the Holy Spirit to minister through you as you spread this joy.

The Catholic Church teaches us that three things are necessary to draw people closer to Jesus, service, faith based friendship, and prayer. So in order to follow these principals we can do what the Blessed Virgin Mary did when she was waiting for the birth of Jesus. She went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and served her in her time of need. We can do this same thing for other by finding was to serve them. We can be of help by opening doors for those who are in need like a person with a walker or crutches or who has their hands full. We can help out distributing food like the Antoninans do with their food baskets. We can assist an elderly neighbor with their needs. There are so many ways we can help others that we can always be on the lookout for ways to help. Allow the Holy Spirit to inspire you here.

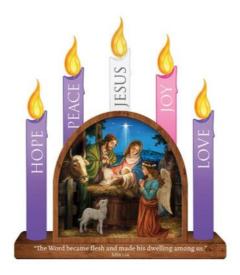
We can also be on the lookout for faith based friendships by getting involved with ministries in our church like the bible study, or the Legion of Mary, the Tuesday morning rosary prayer group, or the Antoninas. Just to name a few. In these ministries we will meet people who are alike minded and prayerful who we share common faith with and talk and relate and possibly start up a friendship with.

Lastly we can work on our prayer life by not only praying for our own needs and to grow closer to Jesus but we can always pray for the needs of others.

One last thing we can thing about during this time is to give up a few things like we do in Lent so we can make more time to spend in prayer and reflecting on what Christmas is all about. I am doing this very thing this year so that I can make more time to acknowledge Jesus in prayer and to grow in my anticipation for Jesus birth on Christmas day.

Let me end this brief reflection with a prayer.

May Jesus bless us all with an abundance of His love and mercy during this Advent Season. May He spread His joy in all of our hearts. May this love penetrate deep into our soul so that we will be filled with Hs love and may others see His love through our witness. I pray that the Holy Spirit will deepen our understanding of the great miracle of Jesus birth and that anticipating His birth this year will give us a new infilling with joy and peace. May God's love grow so deep in our hearts that we will be filled with an abundance of joy an peace that will radiate to everyone we meet this this Christmas season. Amen.



# PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Typically, December 8 is the day in the Liturgical calendar when we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation with a very special place in my heart. Besides the obvious spiritual reasons, it is also my eldest son's birthday.

He was born two months premature, and in pure denial that the early labor would actually lead to his birth, I remember discussing (oh so calmly) with the labor and delivery nurse how I couldn't have the baby yet, as it was a holy day. I hadn't yet been to Mass. She chuckled, clearly aware of my delusional state, and told me, "It is ok, dear; I believe God will understand this time!" Wisdom prevailed, I remained in my hospital bed, and my son, weighing a whopping 5 lbs, came into the world just hours later. Gratefully, he has grown over the last 29 years to nearly 6 feet and, although very slight, is considerably more than his original birth weight!

However, that celebration has been moved this year to tomorrow, as the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence. The first reading is from Baruch, probably one of the lesser-known books of the Bible. Baruch was the prophet Jeremiah's assistant, and today's selection comes from his Poem of Consolation addressed to Jerusalem. The final verse reminds us that God is always leading us into great joy, even in dire circumstances; joy always awaits!

"The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company" (Baruch 5:9).

The readings continue with St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, one of my favorites due to all the reminders it gives us not to give in to our anxiety and to hold on to the joy we have in Jesus. Remember that if you are still breathing, God has a plan for your life. His Will for you is always perfect and good, trustworthy and hope-filled:

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

This Sunday of peace, preparing us for next week's Gaudete Sunday, concludes with John the Baptist traveling through the whole Jordan region proclaiming repentance to prepare the way of the Lord. During this Advent season, we are preparing a way for the Lord to become an even more integral part of our lives. The Nativity of Our Lord is a time of great celebration because at the heart of this special season is the greatest gift ever bestowed — God's only begotten Son made incarnate to redeem the world!

Are you ready to stand alongside John the Baptist as, "A voice of one crying out in the desert"? "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths" (Luke 3:4).

by Allison Gingras

## I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD

Adam and Eve were created without any sin. This means that they were not burdened by selfishness or fear or unmet needs. God created the whole universe and placed them in the beautiful Garden and walked with them in the cool of the evening. He entrusted the whole created world to them, and they in turn, knowing clearly where they came from and where they were going (they came from God and were returning to God and God was taking care of everything every step of the way), entrusted themselves completely to their loving Father. They obeyed because they trusted.

The initial Covenant between God and man (like every relationship) was built on a foundation of TRUST.

The serpent tricks Eve into doubting God's goodness and love for her. He convinces her that God is holding something back, and that if she is going to be completely happy and fulfilled, she is going to need to do the one thing she was told not to do. And she did it: she reached for what was not meant to be hers (at least not yet), ate the forbidden fruit, gave some to Adam, and everything fell apart.

They let trust in the Father's love for them shrivel in their hearts and decided to move on without Him; and so they disobeyed, disrupting the integrity of their relationship with God, with their true selves, and with each other. And now we have to struggle to obey and work to support ourselves and eventually die and leave our mess to others. Because TRUST has been broken and disobedience has become a possibility.

Since that moment, God has been on a rescue mission to rebuild that trust so that we can know true joy and peace. Since the Original Sin, the whole of Salvation History is a plan to recover man's trust in God's goodness and mercy, so that we might live an abundant life.

Mary trusted. She was also born without Original Sin (because the Son of God would require an absolutely pure vessel for His first tabernacle, the Ark of the New Covenant, the new Eve, who is the Mother of all the living), and her trust is evident in her answer to the impossible proposition the Angel brings to her. "Fiat mihi," is her queenly answer. This young girl, so beautiful and full of grace, submits in trusting obedience, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Obedience, since the first sin, costs something. Mary knew this, and yet she never drew back from her yes, all the way to the Cross and beyond. Let us ask Mary, the sinless one who trusted wholly, to intercede for us before the Throne of Grace, that through the merits of her Immaculate Conception, we too might grow in trust and show our love for God by our obedience. By Kathryn Mulderink

## MINISTRY DIRECTORY

#### ALTAR SERVERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

kdickerson@sppcprla.com

#### ALTAR SOCIETY

Susan Mercier 985-690-6617

3rd Thursday each month 9:00 am

#### **ANTONIANS**

Howard Hebert 985-863-5319

1st Tuesday each month 7:00 pm

#### BIBLE STUDY

Deacon Bryan McCauley

985-863-7935

#### **ELIJAH HELPERS**

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Ellie Ross 985-960-1613

1st Friday each month 8:00 am

#### FAITH FORMATION-RCIA

Elizabeth Brent 985-640-6938

#### FINANCE

Patti Gay 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

Paula Hilton 985-707-4539

Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

#### MINISTER OF EUCHARIST SUNDAYS

Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527

rogrusl@gmail.com

#### MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cynthia Ripoll 985-774-9917

Braden Eymard 5:00 pm

Mike & Cynthia Ripoll 8:30 am

Harold & Shelia Loyacano 10:30 am

#### PATRIOTIC ROSARY

Ellie Ross & Dana Bunting 985-960-1613

Every Thursday in Church 6:30 pm

#### PRAYER CHAIN

Barbara Laughlin 985-290-9482

#### SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

Andrea Leonard 985-640-7412

#### ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

Tony Colombo 985-863-7309

#### TUESDAY ROSARY

Evdie 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)

Lauryn Jeffrey 985-259-9604

address or new phone number. Office: 985-863-7935 or Email: kdickerson@sppcprla.com Altar Society

In order to keep our data base current and accurate, please contact the office if you have moved and have a new

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and more.

The office requires information no later 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

#### **HOW TO DONATE:**

You can support our mission to make our community a wonderful place to live for every family! You may donate by going to the site below:

https://saintlukeslidell.org/donategoodsams

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





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