

# Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Louisiana, 70452  
[www.sppcprla.com](http://www.sppcprla.com) email: [info@sppcprla.com](mailto: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."





## WEEKLY EVENTS

Christmas Eve Masses: Tuesday 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Mass: Wednesday 10:30 a.m.

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

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

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

There is a Christmas song that says of Bethlehem: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light." Bethlehem is a suburb of Jerusalem. Its main tourist attraction in the time of Jesus was that it was the birthplace of David. Though today it has many modern homes and buildings, you can still see that it is part of "the hill country...of Judah." (Lk 1:39) It is not too far from En Kerem, where John the Baptist was born, and apparently where today's Gospel takes place.

We see in the Gospel reading today how Elizabeth and her unborn child rejoiced at the news of Jesus' coming birth. The story implies that Mary went to see Elizabeth as soon as the angel told her about Jesus. Maybe it was easier to tell her cousin, who was also with child, than her fiancé. I would think that talking about it made this miracle more real. I know that talking about my faith makes it more real to me.

Jesus is the "everlasting Light" mentioned in the song. That light shines today, not just in Bethlehem, but everywhere that his followers bring it. When we console someone who is mourning, that light shines. When we offer to help someone in need, it shines brighter. When we forgive someone who hurt us, the light is burning. When we offer to sponsor a candidate in the RCIA, the light grows. When we teach a child how to pray, it shines even brighter.

Our dark streets need the everlasting Light today as much as they did 2000 years ago. Today we remember how Mary and Elizabeth shared their faith in God. They did so much like we do today. Mary could not see her unborn son yet, but helped Elizabeth to believe by her words. Jesus, who seems to be invisible today, is seen in the shared faith of those who bring him into the world by their words and actions.

Tom Schmidt

## PRAY FOR THE SICK



May Caballero, Diana Bradshaw, Mary Salzer 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 23

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

No Mass Scheduled

### Tuesday, December 24

(2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79)

5:00 p.m. Patricia & Christian DeLerno, Sr.†

12:00 a.m. Imogene & Thomas Brennan†

Manuel & Betty DeLerno†

### Wednesday, December 25

(Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25)

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14)

10:30 a.m. Purgatorial Society

### Thursday, December 26

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

8:00 a.m. Donald Roszczynialski†

### Friday, December 27

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

8:00 a.m. Jewel Bailey†

### Saturday, December 28

(1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18)

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†, Terry Brown†, Altar Society Members, Antonians and Benefactors, Louis Miller, Jewel Bailey†, Helen Story†, Widows and widowers, Audrey Bonnet†, Vaughn Gay

### Sunday, December 29

(Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52)

7:00 a.m. Landry & Dickerson Families

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Glen Parker†, C.J. Lightell†, C.J. Spiers†, Earline Garitty†, Jewel Bailey†, Helen Story†, Lou Lou Battle†, 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.



### TABERNACLE LAMP

This week, the Tabernacle Lamp in the Sanctuary burns for

† Jewel & Wallace Bailey, Jr.†

## PICKING UP ON GOD'S HINTS

Most of us would like it if God would make it super clear to us what He wanted us to do. Even Mary at the Annunciation clearly knew what God was asking of her through the angel Gabriel's message.

However, when Mary traveled to see her cousin Elizabeth directly after the Annunciation during the first days of her pregnancy, she went on a hint. She was a fifteen-year-old girl going to assist an elderly cousin and perhaps seek her advice simply because the angel Gabriel mentioned that Elizabeth, her cousin, was pregnant and was in her sixth month. There was nothing about Elizabeth being the mother of the forerunner of the Messiah. There was no clear-cut, can't-be-missed declaration that it was God's will that Mary go and visit her. There was just a mention. In the English translation, the mention is just about 20 words out of the 200 words she heard that morning.

Such an announcement would have left most of us wondering and worrying and scurrying about in concern for ourselves. Mary instead went in haste, putting her cousin first. Mary dropped everything and left, not because she was commanded to, but because she got the hint.

There are certain times when we make formal discernments as we seek the will of God in our lives. I've learned that most of the time, however, we discover God's call to us by picking up on the hints He is dropping all around us.

Mary "got the hint" when she heard the *mention* of Elizabeth being with child, because she was ever seeking to please the Lord, attuned to the way God works in the world, and because her heart was full of compassion and kindness for others, putting their needs before her own. As we prepare for Christmas we are immersed in all three of these qualities of Mary's heart: seeking, waiting and loving; being attuned to both God and others; putting others' needs before our own.

In these remaining days of Advent and through the Christmas season, keep your eyes and ears and heart open to pick up on all the hints God is dropping. These hints are the way He indicates what He desires of you. If you do so, then your Christmas celebration will truly be joyous.

By Sr. Kathryn Hermes



## THE SIGNS OF GOD

Midnight Christmas Mass was always my favorite as a kid. We would get all dressed up and enter the beautiful Church with all the decorations and the nativity scene. It's like I can still smell the pine trees and see the glow of the Christmas lights. I think we probably all have memories that bring us back to the Christmas season. Whether it is the smell of freshly baked cookies or the Christmas ham roasting for hours, these physical signs point us back to memories and experiences that we have enjoyed.

The Gospel from the Christmas Mass during the Night proclaims, "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you." This has me thinking about the importance of physical signs. Wedding rings are exchanged as a sign of commitment. Gifts are exchanged as a sign of love or friendship. In today's Gospel we have the signs of the manger and the swaddling clothes that are communicating to us that God has become flesh. Signs are important for us.

The beautiful thing about the signs we have in the Catholic Church is that they go beyond mere symbols. Today we commemorate not just a sign of God's love in clothes and a structure, but we commemorate God literally taking on flesh to be a physical and effective sign of his love. Not just a sign in the sense of symbolic representation, but a sign that is so real and so effective that it literally becomes what it signifies.

We see this played out in every Mass. We start with the Liturgy of the Word where we read from Scripture. But that Word, throughout the course of the Mass, becomes so living, so real, so physical, so effective, that the Word of God literally becomes flesh for us on the altar. This is the very thing we celebrate this Christmas season. We can think back to all the great symbols that plunge us deeply into beautiful memories of family life, but let's set aside some special time today to focus on the fact that God transcends all earthly signs and literally becomes one of us. He wants to be one with you and with me. If there is nothing else we take out of our celebrations today, I think it would do us well to focus on that reality. God loves you enough that he was born in a manger to have a relationship with you and one day be with you forever in paradise.

By Tommy Shultz

From all of us here at Diocesan, Merry Christmas and God bless!

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas than with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most.—James Field



## PASTORS CORNER FOR THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT.



### PASTOR'S CORNER

Today we begin the final week of Advent and we have lit the fourth and last candle.

This week as we look forward to Christmas and since there are only a few days left it would be good for us to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord. We do this by reading the first and second chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke which together tell us about the infancy narrative. You can omit the reading of the lineage of Joseph since it just tells the line that Joseph came from and does not give help you to reflect on the birth of Jesus. If you are more sight oriented you could also spend time looking at a nativity scene like the one we have outside of church. After reading or gazing then you can spend time contemplating Jesus birth. This contemplation helps us to focus our minds to the glorious beauty of this occasion and it also helps us to come to peace. This interior peace helps us to prepare a place for Jesus in our hearts, you can call this an interior manger, because you have made a place inside for the child Jesus to come in and rest, just like He did in the manger in Bethlehem. This interior manger can be seen as a beginning place for us to have a personal relationship with the Jesus Christ as a Child. We open ourselves up to Jesus so that he can be an important part of our lives. Think about how beautiful of an experience this will be. Allowing Jesus to come into our hearts is a stepping stone to having a personal relationship with Jesus. I am sure you have heard me talk about how important it is to have a personal relationship with Jesus. Several times a year I invite everyone to pray a prayer with me inviting Jesus into your hearts, usually during Christmas masses or Easter masses. This is important because when we pass away and go before the Pearly Gates of Heaven and enter into that place where Jesus himself dwells and has made available to us. I look forward to that time because I know that He will be waiting with open arms to meet me since I already have a personal relationship with Him.

I pray that this meditation on the birth of Jesus will be very special for you. Let me lead you through a prayer that you can pray to ask Jesus into your heart in a special way as you contemplate His birth.

Oh my lord Jesus I desire to love you so much more that I already do, I desire to meet you as a baby as I meditate on your nativity. Please touch my heart in a special way as I meditate with the scriptures. Please allow me to enter into the scene of your birth as if I were present for this most special event in history. Allow mother Mary to hand you to me and allow me to hold you in my arms and gently rock you back and forth. In my mind's eye may I feel the warmth of your touch and may tears of joy run down my face as I behold you beauty and love. May this meditation bring me to an ever closer relationship with you. Touch my heart in a new way so that I can feel your ever deepening love in my life. May your infinite love well up more and more inside of me. Amen.





### Feast of the Holy Family

X	H	C	A	R	A	V	A	N	E	T
B	R	E	L	A	T	I	V	E	S	B
W	I	S	D	O	M	M	F	A	C	F
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T	N	Z	V	T	Z	F	S	S	P	E
W	I	K	S	V	N	T	W	E	Y	G
E	S	U	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	H
L	C	X	K	C	V	R	M	K	H	O
V	J	P	I	F	A	V	O	R	S	N
E	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	H	D
O	B	E	D	I	E	N	T	R	D	Z

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# ADVENT

C	L	K	D	L	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	I	X	O	S	E	A
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
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O	J	L	B	B	O	E	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
N	L	A	S	U	R	R	K	R	M	V	T	F	F	O	C
E	U	P	D	L	R	F	S	U	W	A	S	G	C	E	S
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S	B	J	C	R	E	S	A	M	A	R	Y	U	Y	M	L
A	N	G	E	L	P	N	M	Y	A	V	H	R	E	I	Q
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J	E	S	U	S	I	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	D	R	G

## WORDSEARCH

MARY  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
ADVENT

CANDLE  
REJOICE  
SAVIOUR

EMMANUEL  
GOODNEWS  
ISRAEL

JOSEPH  
PURPLE  
WREATH  
BELIEVE

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## 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 9:00 am

### ANTONIANS

Howard Hebert 985-863-5319

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

### BIBLE STUDY

Deacon Bryan McCauley

985-863-7935

### ELIJAH HELPERS

Karen Dickerson 985-863-7935

### 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

Patti Gay 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

Paula Hilton 985-707-4539

Meet on Thursdays at 10:00 am

### MINISTER OF EUCHARIST SUNDAYS

Roger Ruiz 601-799-4527

[rogruiz@gmail.com](mailto:rogruiz@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

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)

Lauryn Jeffrey 985-259-9604

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

Office: 985-863-7935 or

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

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The office requires information no later than  
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For current Parish happenings (funeral information, changes in mass times, etc.),  
check the bulletin boards at the entrances to church and [www.sppcprla.com](http://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  
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### HOW TO DONATE:

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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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