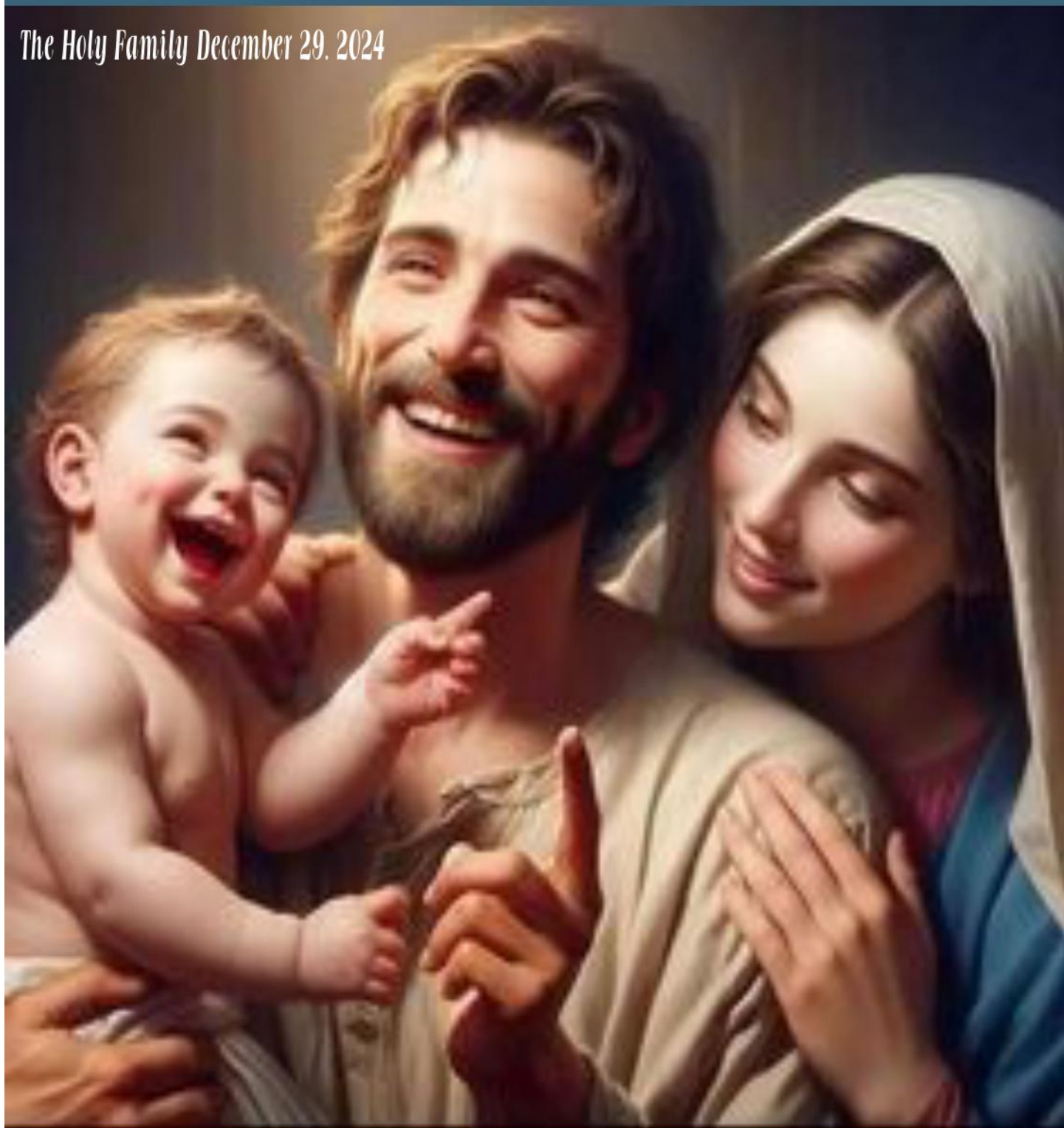


# Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

*The Holy Family December 29, 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

Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary: 6:00 p.m.

Mass for Solemnity of Mary: 8:00 a.m. and 6:60 p.m.

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

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday begins with 8:00 a.m. Mass and ends at 5:00 p.m. with Benediction

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Mass with Confession and the Rosary

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple, conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still, everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings, and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus: parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been an appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage—the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure that no one gets left behind!

—James Field

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday, December 30**

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

No Mass Scheduled

**Tuesday, December 31**

(1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18)

8:00 a.m. Jewel Bailey†

**Wednesday, January 1**

(Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

**Thursday, January 2**

(1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28)

8:00 a.m. Josephine Rodriguez†

**Friday, January 3**

(1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34)

8:00 a.m. Gustave & Viola Wahl†

**Saturday, January 4**

(1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42)

8:00 a.m. Josephine Rodriguez†

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†, Vaughn Gay

**Sunday, January 5**

(Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12)

7:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Glen Parker†, Michael Bourgeois†, Tammy Gilbert†, Lou Lou Battle†, Jonathan Laguaite, Doris Laguaite†

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

## 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, 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

## PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Weekly Rosaries: 290

Year to Date: 16,122





### 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

† George Dickerson †

## 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 grandkids 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 illegal alien, 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



## WHY?

"But they did not understand what he said to them."

Mary and Joseph have just experienced every parent's worst nightmare: their son was missing for THREE DAYS, as they searched and asked and retraced the steps of their journey. Imagine their relief when they returned to the Temple and saw him at last. Surely they ran to him with joy and exasperation, only to hear his answer, "Why were you looking for me?" Why? WHY?!

Of course they did not understand what he said to them. Their hearts had gone through the wringer of fear and anxiety, their imaginations had probably thought of worse case scenarios, their minds could not understand why he would separate himself from the ones who loved him and had supplied his every need in every moment of his life up until then. And he seems to give a dismissive answer, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Like a sword to the hearts of Joseph and Mary, his response does not seem to take their anxieties into account.

This is hard to understand, so hard that Mary must store it away to ponder later, as we are told she "kept all these things in her heart." But he returns to their home in Nazareth, and is obedient to them.

This Holy Family did not have a schedule given to them from Heaven. Yes, they were holy; yes, Jesus was the Incarnate Son of God; yes, Mary was sinless; yes, Joseph was a just man. They were good Jews, subject to the Jewish Law and open to the will of the Father. But they did not know where the will of the Father would take them. It took them to Bethlehem when they should have been preparing at home for the birth of Jesus. It took them to Egypt for several years to flee the murderous rage of Herod when they wanted to return home with their infant. It took them back to Nazareth at last, where they raised a child they knew to be the Messiah. And it took them over a painful journey of three days to find him in the Temple.

What did this require of them? The same thing that it requires of us: loving trust. They are the model for us of a life of love and trust, obedience and patience, great faith and hope and humility, knowing the will of the Father is always for our good, even when it is difficult.

Let us pray for the grace to continue to submit ourselves to the will of the Father, especially when it is hard to understand, when it seems something else would be better, when it costs us. It is then that our trust is deepened and our love grows.

By Kathryn Mulderink



## PASTORS CORNER ON THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Have you ever wished you could have been present to see the birth of our Lord and Savior?

Well you can go there in your mind's eye if you want to. Today I will give you the account of Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich's vision of the birth of our Savior. If you do not know Anne was given extraordinary visions of the life of Jesus Christ. As she explains it was as if she was present for the events not as if she was just seeing them from afar. Major parts of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of Christ* came from her writings. So let me give you the account of the birth of Christ.

To begin with the place that Mary and Joseph stayed at was a cave system with several inner rooms. It was used from time to time by shepherds with their sheep. The cave entrance was very narrow. The walls were stuffed with all kinds of coarse straw, like rushes, over which hung brown mats. Back in the vaulted part of the cave were some air holes in the roof, but everything in the cave was out of order. So after arriving at the cave Joseph did all that he could to make the little side cave that Jesus would be born in as livable as possible by cleaning up the ground tiding up the place and making it as presentable as possible. They had brought with them a few things that they could use like blankets and rugs and he was able to go to town and purchase a few things to make it a bit more livable. Joseph also made a couch for Mary out of rush with a cloth cover. Joseph also made a fire to warm the cave so that it would not be too cold. Joseph had bought a few lamps to give light to the cave and hung them around several places in what Anne called the Crib Cave.

Following is a direct account of the events of Our Savior's Birth.

After the cave was made as livable as possible, Mary and Joseph prayed together for some time, and then Joseph told Mary he would help her in any way that he could, Mary replied that she would not need his assistance but when Mary told Joseph that her time was drawing near and that he should now spend time in prayer, so he turned to his sleeping place to do her bidding. As he sat down he looked back once towards that part of the cave where Mary knelt upon a small couch in prayer, her back was to him, her face towards the east. He saw the cave filled with light that streamed from Mary, for she was entirely enveloped as if by flames. It was as if he were, like Moses, looking into the burning bush. Joseph sank prostrate to the ground in prayer, and did not look back again. The glory around Mary became brighter and brighter, the lamps that Joseph had lit were no longer to be seen. The light was so bright. Mary knelt, her flowing white robe spread before her. At the twelfth hour, her prayer became ecstatic, and I saw her raised so far above the ground that one could see it beneath her. Her hands were crossed upon her breast, and the light around her grew even more resplendent. I no longer saw the roof of the cave. Above Mary stretched a pathway of light up to Heaven, in which it seemed as if one figure dissolved into another, and from these different spheres of light other heavenly figures issued. Mary continued in prayer, her eyes bent low upon the ground. At that moment she gave birth to the infant Jesus. I saw Him like a tiny, shining Child, lying on the rug at her knees, and brighter far than all the other brilliancy. He seemed to grow before my eyes. Even the rocky floor and the walls of the cave were glimmering and sparkling, as if with life.

Mary's ecstasy lasted some moments longer. Then I saw her spread a cover over the Child, but she did not yet take It up, nor even touch It. After a long time, I saw the Child stirring and heard It crying, and then only did Mary seem to recover full consciousness. She lifted the Child, along with the cover that she had thrown over It, to her breast and sat veiled, herself and Child quite enveloped. I think that she was suckling It. I saw angels around her in human form prostrate on their faces. It may, perhaps, have been an hour after the birth when Mary called St. Joseph, who still lay prostrate in prayer. When he approached, he fell on his knees, his face to the ground, in a transport of Joy devotion, and humility. Mary again urged him to look upon the Sacred Gift from Heaven, and only then did Joseph take the Child into his arms. And now the Blessed Virgin swathed the Child in red and that in a white veil up as far as under the little arms, and the upper part of the body from the armpits to the head, she wrapped up in another piece of linen. She had only four swaddling clothes with her. She laid the Child in the crib, which had been filled with rushes and fine moss over which was spread a cover that hung down at the sides. The crib stood over the stone trough, and at this spot the ground stretched straight and level as far as the passage, where it made a broader turn toward the south. The floor of this part of the cave lay somewhat deeper than where the Child was born, and down to it steps had been formed in the earth. When Mary laid the Child in the crib, both she and Joseph stood by It in tears, singing the praises of God.

As this was happening Anne was shown a group of shepherds roused the wonders of the night, standing together before their huts, gazing around and pointing out the magnificent light that shown over the crib. Shepherds at the distant tower were also in full movement. They had climbed up the tower and were looking toward the crib over which they, too, saw the light. I saw something like a cloud of glory descend upon the three shepherds. I saw in it figures moving to and fro, and heard the approach of sweet, clear voices singing softly. At first, the shepherds were frightened. Soon there stood before them five or seven lovely, radiant figures holding in their hands a long strip like a scroll upon which were written words in letters a hands in length. The angels were singing, "Gloria." The angels appeared also to the shepherds on the tower. They began at once to reflect on the gifts that they should take to the newborn Savior and get them together as soon as possible. The three shepherds went to the crib early the next morning.

In the early dawn after the birth of Jesus, the three oldest of the shepherds came to the crib cave with the gifts they had gathered together. These consisted of little animals bearing some resemblance to deer. They were very lightly built and nimble, had long necks and clear, beautiful eyes. They followed or ran alongside the shepherds who led them with fine, guiding cords. They also came with some birds.



They told Joseph at the entrance of the cave what the angel had announced to them, and that they had come to do homage to the Child of Promise, and to offer Him gifts. Joseph accepted their presents and allowed them to lead the animals into the space that formed kind of cellar near the side entrance of the cave. Then he conducted them to the Blessed Virgin, who was sitting on the ground near the crib, a rug under her, the infant Jesus on her lap. The shepherds their staves resting on their arms, fell on their knees and wept with joy. They knelt long, tasting great interior sweetens, and then intoned the angelic canticle of praise, and a Psalm. When they were about to take leave, Mary placed the Child in their arms.

Some of the other shepherds came in the evening, accompanied by women and children, and bringing gifts. They sang most sweetly before the crib the Gloria, some psalms, and short refrains, "O Child, blooming as a rose art though! As a herald Though comest forth." They brought gifts of birds, eggs, honey, woven stuffs of various colors, bundles of raw silk, and ears of corn, also several bundles of corn with heavy grains growing on a stalk with large leaves like those of rushes.

So here you have the vision of Anne Catherine Emmerich. This beautiful account of the birth of Jesus and the visit of the shepherds warmed my heart the first time that I read it. It gave me new insight as to what happened at the birth of our savior. I hope that you can take time to meditate on this account of the birth of our savior. And to just imagine being there and witnessing what Anne saw. I was amazed at the account of Mary levitating as she gave birth to Jesus and how she was glowing at this most glorious moment in the incarnation of God in the flesh as He entered His creation for the first time as a man.

Next week I will give the account of the visit of the wise men.



## January 2025

### Devoted to: Holy Name of Jesus



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<div>19</div> <div>7-8:30-10:30 Mass Bake Sale after all masses PSR begins with 8:30 Mass</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Martin Luther King, Jr.</div>	<div>21</div> <div>8 am Mass with St. Jude Novena 8:45 Rosary Group OCIA II &amp; II 6:30 pm Parish Hall</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Confession 6:00-6:15 pm 6:30 pm Mass</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10 am Legion of Mary 6:30 pm Patriotic Rosary 8 am Mass with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8 am Mass</div>	<div>25</div> <div>4-4:45 Confessions 5 pm Mass</div>																																																																																				
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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)

### PREGNANCY HELP CENTER

550 Gause Blvd., Ste. 2  
Slidell, Louisiana

Hours M T W F  
10am-2pm

985-643-4357

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### GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

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