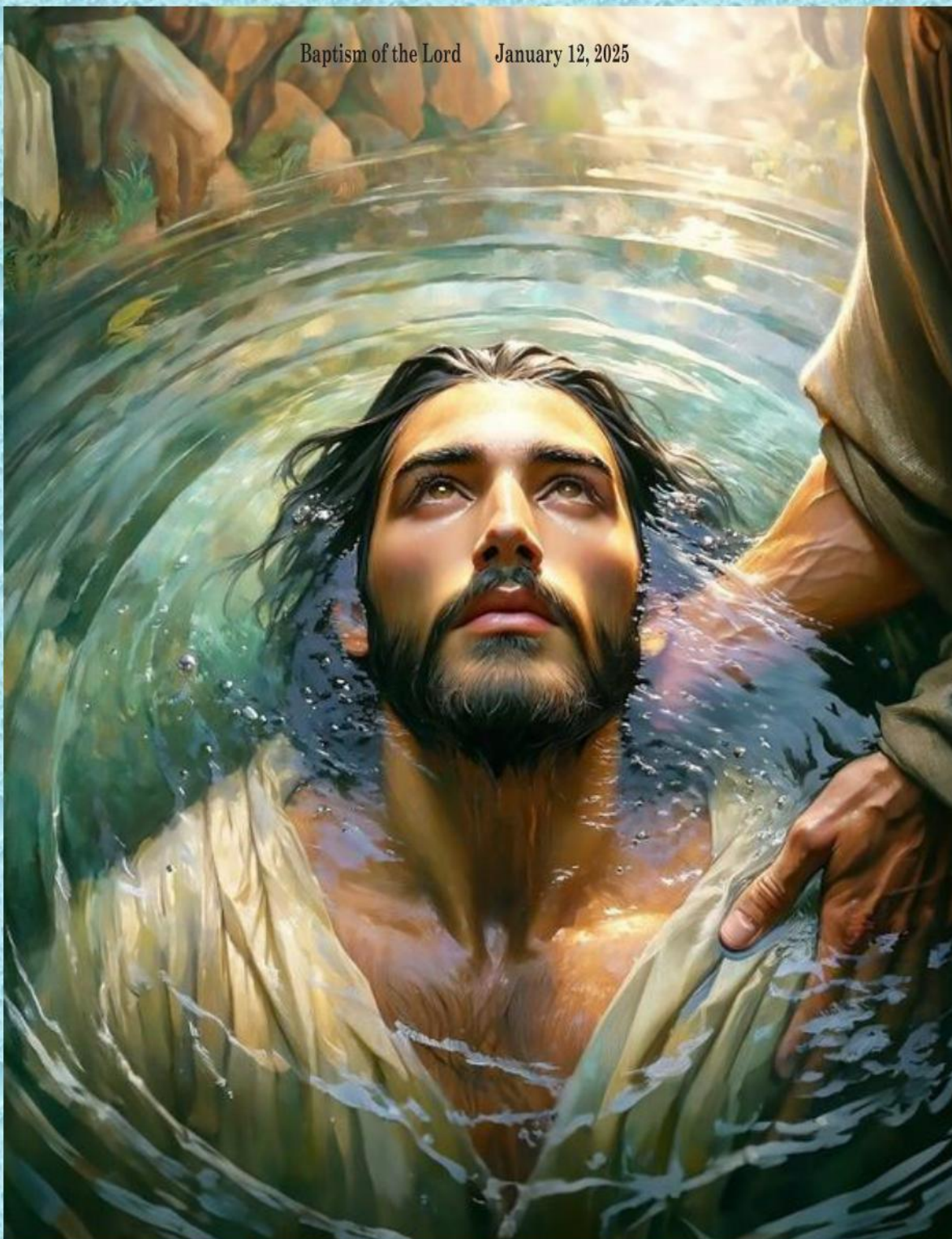


Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Baptism of the Lord January 12, 2025



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
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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."



The St. Joseph Altar Guild will begin preparations for the 2025 St. Joseph's Altar on Saturday, January 18th at 8:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to come help bake the delicious cookies that adorn the altar. Baking will take place every Saturday until the altar is ready.

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

Altar Society Meeting—Thursday 9:00 a.m. Parish Hall

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

Widow's Group—Thursday 11:00 a.m. Italian Pie

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

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

SAINT HILARY (c. 315-367) January 13

Born in Poitiers, France, whose populace would later elect him bishop, Hilary, married and a father, was converted from paganism to Christianity through his reading of scripture. The focus of his prayerful study was the Prologue to the Gospel according to John, which portrays Jesus as the divine Logos, eternally begotten of the Father. As a result, Hilary became in the words of the biblical scholar Jerome, "the Latin Trumpet against the Arians," heretics who believed Jesus to be merely human, not divine. In defense of Christ's divinity, Hilary was not only eloquent in debate but utterly fearless in the face of relentless persecution and even exile. Thus by the witness of his own discipleship, Hilary taught that faith in Jesus as the divine Son of God has consequences. Reflecting on Jesus' challenge to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13), Hilary notes that, as salt both preserves from corruption and adds savor to food, so must the faithful disciple bear a witness that, by word and example, leads others to immortality and virtuous living.

—Peter Scagnelli

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 13

(Heb 1:1-6; Mk 1:14-20)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, January 14

(Heb 2:5-12; Mk 1:21-28)

8:00 a.m. Israel & Joyce Landry

Wednesday, January 15

(Heb 2:14-18; Mk 1:29-39)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, January 16

(Heb 3:7-14; Mk 1:40-45)

8:00 a.m. Pat Downey†

Friday, January 17

(Heb 4:1-5, 11; Mk 2:1-12)

8:00 a.m. Jewel Bailey†

Saturday, January 18

(Heb 4:12-16; Mk 2:13-17)

5:00 p.m. Joseph D'Antoni, Jr.†, Roszczynialski/Stottman Family, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Lee & Yvonne Tracey†, Ken & Adele Salzer†, Danny Ragsa, Sr.†, Lawrence Otillio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Judy Woods†, Patti & Vaughn Gay, Sylvester Franzella†, Leanna † & Lester Coupel

Sunday, January 19

(Is 62:1-5; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11)

7:00 a.m. Deacon Bryan & Natalie McCauley

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Yvonne Tracey†, Jonathan Laguaite, Doris Laguaite†

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM

Weekly Rosaries: 235

Year to Date: 235



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the use of new technologies. Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



TABERNACLE LAMP

This week, the Tabernacle Lamp in the Sanctuary burns for

† Our Deceased Loved Ones†



ALTAR FLOWERS

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

James Bailey, Jr.

WITH WATER AND FIRE

John tells us in today's Gospel that the long-awaited Christ would baptize not only with water but also with fire. Some of us may have been baptized as infants, some as adults, and while we have fresh, living water poured over us, no one talks about the fire that inevitably comes, testing our spirits and our faith.

"With you I am well pleased." What lovely words that our hearts long to hear, whether from parents, spouses, teachers or friends, our humanity craves affirmation, which often leads us to look for it in unreliable things. Some of us do find this affirmation in the places we search for it: money, successful careers, likes on social media, until we need so much that nothing will ever be enough. Like inching closer and closer to a cliff without ropes to catch us, a fall will come. A parent might pass away, a child could stop speaking to us, a friend could betray us, and the people we so often rely on for affirmation become the sparks of our trials by fire.

These flames of purification can seem unending, unbearable, and cause our hearts to question: how can this be the "love" Christ wants for my life? We see other Christians who pick and choose what they stand for, who only embrace their baptismal vows when it is most convenient and comfortable, and who never survive their personal trek through the desert.

However, for those who cling to Christ, through the fire, through the questions, through the struggles of detachment from worldly goods, and fulfill our baptismal vows, there is a life-saving and refreshing river, where Christ waits for us with words that only fulfill our hearts when they are spoken from His mouth: "You are my beloved...with you I am well pleased."

By Lily McKeough



AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Men's Conference 2025 – I Trust in You Join us for the 2025 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference; March 15, 2025 at St. Dominic Church in New Orleans. The Men's Conference is the largest gathering of Catholic Men in the Archdiocese. There will be dynamic speakers, inspiring music with the Vigil Project, time for adoration, dozens of priests to hear confessions, Mass with Archbishop Aymond, and breakfast and lunch besides! This year's Conference theme, "I Trust in You", focuses on building greater trust with God and one another in order to take our faith to the next level. Register today and help our parish win bragging rights with the Men's Conference Best Represented Parish award! Learn more at Nolacatholicmen.com. Call the office to register and take advantage of our group discount.



*"You are my
beloved Son;
with you I am
well pleased."*

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trek conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John's Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life-giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since "today there is a blessing on the water." At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time.

—James Field

PASTORS CORNER BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This feast marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of ordinary time. As I have given the details of the birth of Jesus and visitation of the Wise Men, I decided to give Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich's Vision of the baptism of Jesus. I hope that you will make time to read this account and meditate on this most sacred event. What do is either use this telling of Anne's vision like I would the Bible and either use *Lectio Divina* to meditate on it or to use my active imagination and put myself into the event and think about what I would have done when I saw this event happen and what John or Jesus would have said to me if I were there. Maybe you could have yourself be one of those coming to John for baptism.

To begin with Anne sees John the Baptist set up a special place for the baptism of Jesus, since he had been awaiting Jesus' coming all of his life. Anne explained that the place where the baptism was to take place had been the spot where over a thousand years before the Ark of the Covenant had stopped as the Israelites crossed over the Jordan and the water was held up miraculously in one mass, just as it had been in the crossing of the Red Sea. (See Joshua 3:7-13) I find this very beautiful since God had John baptize Jesus at a place where the Ark of the Old Covenant had been. Also Joshua commanded the Israelite priests to set up large stones drawn from the Jordan to mark this location. Anne describes these stones in her vision and tells how she had been shown the event happen when Joshua originally set up the stones and the Ark Cross over. So the Old Covenant and Jesus who is the New Covenant met at this location, making it a very special place where Jesus was baptized and showing God's Hand in this whole event.

So here follows Anne's vision of Jesus baptism.

It was morning twilight when, Jesus caught up with a crowd of people who were also going to the baptism of John, and he walked with them. They did not know Him, but they could not keep their eyes off Him, for there was something about Him very remarkable. When they reached the end of their journey, it was morning. A crowd more numerous than usual was assembled to whom John was with great animation preaching of the nearness of the Messiah and of penance, proclaiming at the same time the moment was approaching for him to retire from his office of teacher. Although Jesus was standing in a throng of listeners, John felt His presence. He saw Him also, and that fired him with zeal and filled his heart with joy. But he did not on that account interrupt his discourse, and when he had finished he began to baptize.

He had already baptized very many and it was drawing on ten o'clock, when Jesus in His turn came down among the aspirants to the pool of baptism. John bowed low before Him, saying: "I ought to be baptized by you, and You come to me?" Jesus answered: "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." He also said: "You shall receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and of blood." Then John begged Him to follow him to the special place he had prepared. Jesus replied that He would do so, provided that some of the water with which all were baptized should be poured into the basin, that all present should be baptized at the same place with Himself, and that the tree by which He was to support Himself should be transplanted to the ordinary place of baptism, that all might share the same conveniences.

After disrobing Jesus descended into the well, and stood in the water up to His breast. His left arm encircled the tree, His right hand was laid on His breast, and the loosened ends of His white garment floated in the water. On the southern side of the well stood John, holding in his hand a shell with a perforated margin through which the water flowed in three streams. He stooped, filled the shell, and then poured the water in three streams over the head of the Lord, one on the back of the head, one in the middle, and the third over the forepart of the head and on the face.

When Anne Catherine recalled this event she could not remember exactly the words that John said as he poured the baptism water over Jesus, so she just gives best what she could remember, words that expressed the blessing over his mind, body and soul. "May Yahweh through the ministry of His cherubim and seraphim, pour out His blessing over you with wisdom, understanding, and strength."

While Jesus ascended from the depths of the baptismal well, Andrew and Saturnin, disciples of John, where were standing to the right of the Baptist around the triangular stone, threw about Him a large linen cloth with which he dried His person. They then put on Him a long white baptismal robe. After this Jesus stepped on a red triangular stone which lay to the right of the descent into the well, Andrew and Saturnin each laid one hand upon His shoulder, while John rested his upon His head.

This part of the ceremony over, they were just about mounting the steps when the Voice of God came over Jesus, who was standing alone and in prayer upon the stone. There came from Heaven a great, rushing wind like thunder. All trembled and looked up. A cloud of white light descended, and I saw over Jesus a winged figure of light as if flowing over Him like a stream. The heavens opened, I beheld an apparition of the Heavenly Father in the figure in which He is usually depicted and, in a voice of thunder, I heard the words: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus looked perfectly transparent, entirely penetrated by light; one could scarcely look at Him. I saw angels around Him.

The sacred baptismal well sparkled showing it to look like a pool of living light. One could see the four stones that had once supported the Ark of the Covenant shining beneath the waters as if in exultation; and on the twelve stones around the well, those upon which the Levites had stood, appeared angels bending in adoration, for the Spirit of God had before all mankind rendered testimony to the living Foundation, to the precious, chosen Cornerstone of the Church around whom we as so many living stones, must build up a spiritual edifice, a holy priesthood, that thereby we may offer an acceptable, spiritual sacrifice to God through His beloved son in whom He is well pleased.

Jesus then ascended the steps and entered the tent near the baptismal well. Saturnin brought the garment which Lazarus had been holding and Jesus put them on. When clothed, He left the tent and surrounded by His disciples, took His stand on the open space near the central tree. John in joyous tones addressed the crowd and bore witness to Jesus that He was the Son of God and the promised Messiah. He cited the Prophecies of the Patriarchs and prophets now fulfilled, recounted what he had seen, reminded them of the voice of God which they had heard, and informed them that when Jesus returned he himself would retire. John referred also to the sacred memories that embalmed the spot upon which they were standing on account of the Ark of the Covenant's having rested here when Israel was journeying to the Land of Promise. Now, he continued, had they seen the Realization of the Covenant witnessed to by His Father, the Almighty God Himself. John referred all to Jesus, and called this day that had beheld the fulfilment of the desire of Israel blessed.

After this John began to baptize all who were coming at the special spot where Jesus was baptized.

In conclusion I find that it is beautiful that Anne Catherine was shown in her vision of the baptism of Jesus events happening in spiritual realm that were not seen by those present. She was privy to supernatural events happening that showed how important this event was. In the Bible we hear about the Holy Spirit being seen as a dove, and how God's voice is heard from Heaven, but she saw God the Father in her vision and an angel instead of a dove. I am sure that if Andrew the Apostle, who was present, since he was a disciple of both John and Jesus, would have given an account of what he had seen. But if he had seen an angel revealed to those present he would have been shaken by the event instead of recounted it with amazement and Joy. As I have noted in previous pastors corners that whenever a person saw an angel they were frightened by the event. So all who were present were not able to see everything that transpired. But we are given a special privilege through the eyes of Blessed Anne of hearing of how God Himself appeared and as well as how many angels were there at one of the most special events in history.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD FEAR NOT

Did the first reading from Isaiah sound familiar? We also hear it on the first Sunday of Advent every few years. I suppose it could be a reminder that John the Baptist appears at the beginning of the Advent/Christmas season and at the end. In Advent we were preparing for Jesus' coming at Christmas. Now we are preparing for his coming at any time.

The reading from Isaiah talks about the Lord coming in mercy to the people whose "guilt is expiated" (Isaiah 40:2). The mountains and hills will be leveled, symbolic of making an easy way to the Lord. In other words, the Lord is approachable. With our sins forgiven we need not fear asking God for help: "Fear not to cry out" (Isaiah 40:9). The Lord comes in power, not to strike sinners down but to shepherd them and lead them.

In the second reading, St. Paul has a similar theme. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross so that we could be free from sin and able to reject evil desires. We are free to give ourselves in love as he did. And he does this, not because we did anything to deserve it, but from his own love and mercy for us. Think about that. No matter how bad I was in the past, the Lord loves me enough to forgive it all, and even better, to give the Spirit to help me stay close to God.

How do we prepare for this? We can start by hearing the words of the readings today, letting them sink into our hearts and minds. Read them again at home, and remind yourself that you have been forgiven, that you can live as a person "eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:14). Ask the Spirit to help you see what things are keeping you from being like Jesus and to give you the strength to say no to them. And look for ways you can be more loving with your family, then with your friends, and eventually with anyone who needs your help. When we let that Spirit guide us, we become like Jesus in that we can listen for God to say, "You are my beloved child; with you I am well pleased" (see Luke 3:22).

Tom Schmidt



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

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EUCCHARISTIC 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

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

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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

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

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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.

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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