

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Blessed are
you who are
poor, for
yours is the
KINGDOM
of **GOD.**
Blessed
are you
who hunger now, for you will be
Satisfied. Blessed are you who
weep now, for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when men hate you,
when they exclude you and
reject your name as evil, because of
the **SON**
of **MAN.**
Rejoice in
that day
and leap for
joy, because
great is your
reward in
HEAVEN.
For that is how
their fathers
treated the
prophets. ©
♥♥♥♥ **LUKE 6:20-23**
(NIV)

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."



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—Thursday 9:00 a.m. Parish Hall

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

Widows Group—Thursday 11:00 a.m.

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

PSR—Sunday begins with 8:30 a.m. Mass

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Valentine's Day approaches, and its immediate impact may be heard in the rectory, as the newly engaged come forward to "set a date." We owe this scenario to reforms made by the emperor Charlemagne late in the eighth century. He required that nobles and commoners alike have public weddings, and also required that marrying couples be examined for factors that would block a marriage, such as previous marriages or close kinship. The pope was more conservative, however, and resisted the emperor's creativity. It was enough for the pope that the couples exchange consent.

That tradition is passed on to this day, to some couples' surprise. In 866, Pope Nicholas ruled that a marriage was legal and binding even without a liturgy or public celebration. After that, it was the consent of the couple, not the blessing of parents or priest, that made a marriage "count." If consent was lacking, such as through abduction or fear, then the marriage could not "take." Charlemagne got a great deal done, but he was a political flash in the pan, and the empire had virtually collapsed by the year 1000. Europe broke into a checkerboard of princedoms and languages, and at last all marriages came under the church, the glue holding the known world together.

—Rev. James Field

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 17

(Gen 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, February 18

(Gen 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21)

8:00 a.m. Leanna Coupel†

Wednesday, February 19

(Gen 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, February 20

(Gen 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33)

8:00 a.m. Patti Gay

Friday, February 21

(Gen 11:1-9; Mk 8:34 - 9:)

8:00 a.m. Betty Showalter†

Saturday, February 22

(1 Pet 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19)

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 Otilio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Judy Woods†, Patti & Vaughn Gay, Catherine Tracy†, Robert Jenevein†, Joseph Jenevein†

Sunday, February 23

(1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38)

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

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, J.C. Spiers†, Debra Goodey†, C.J. Lightell†, Lloyd Vieages†, Cathy Downey

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, 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: 410

Year to Date: 1804



POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

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.

WOE IS ME?

In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, he has only four blessings and he adds four woes. These woes correspond to the blessings: 1. the poor and the rich, 2. the hungry and the filled, 3. those who weep and those who laugh, and 4. the hated and the well-treated. Did you notice that all the things that we work forty or more hours a week to give to our family are considered "woes"? So is Jesus saying we should not have savings for the future, food for the kids, a happy, safe environment, or a good reputation?

I suspect that the disciples and the others listening to Jesus wondered the same thing. Jesus may have been exaggerating a little but he had a point. The values of this world are not necessarily the values of God's Kingdom. For example, self-reliance, usually considered a virtue, can be taken to an extreme of not relying on God for our needs, or for justifying the belief that poverty is the fault of the poor. Jesus himself is the extreme example of reversing worldly values: His death was not a tragic ending, but the saving action that brought us forgiveness and new life in the Resurrection.

So how do we experience the blessings of the poor, the hungry, the mourning, or the unpopular? Do we have the faith to let go of self-reliance and to trust in Jesus? How much money does it take to meet the needs of our family? How much do we really need and how much is just extra? Are we really helping our children if we give them anything they want? We teach them to do their best in school and sports. Do we also teach them to give to the poor or to help other children struggling with schoolwork? We buy them nice clothing; do we teach them to see Jesus in others? How can we say this is all too idealistic, and still claim to believe in the Resurrection?

I don't expect everyone to go around saying "woe is me." Some of the happiest people are those who live simple lives of faith and trust in God. When we learn to trust the Lord and love one another, we not only can see Jesus in the poor or the lonely, he can also be seen in us.

Tom Schmidt

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Years ago my sister was very bold in witnessing about her faith in God. I remember thinking she was really out there – had crossed an invisible line – and it was not good. My other siblings and I criticized her for going too far. At the time, I was Catholic in name only, not practicing my faith and lacking any substantive relationship with God. Still, I admired her courage in sharing her faith when those around her rejected it, and her.

Today I am different. I have returned to the faith of my childhood and God has showered down graces in abundance. Several of my other sisters and I have crossed the invisible line and boldly share our faith. Reading the Beatitudes reminds me that those who speak freely about God will face rejection, just like my sister did. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!"

Rejection is not something we seek or desire naturally—quite the opposite. We want acceptance. We want to fit in. But Jesus tells us that we will be blessed in our rejection if it is caused by our relationship with Him. Rejection is a blessing in disguise. The world sees it as a curse, only capable of seeing it from a secular worldview. We Christians are called to adopt a supernatural worldview where troubles are blessings.

How can we see troubles as blessings? Here are four ways:

By knowing that we are carrying out God's will. If God calls me to speak a word of truth to a friend, I am blessed because God chose me to speak that particular word. He could have chosen anyone but He chose me. I am blessed.

By realizing we are acting as Christ in the world. When I am rejected, they are rejecting Christ in me, which means they SEE Christ in me. That is a blessing. I must be doing something right.

By uniting our suffering with Christ, who was also rejected. We are better able to relate to His rejection. Jesus chose to come in human form, to be rejected and murdered for our salvation. The love He showed for us is beyond imagining, so how can we not leap for joy when we are rejected like Him?

By allowing our rejection to spur intercessory prayer. Surely my sister who boldly shared her faith all those years ago prayed often for me and the rest of the family. We needed an intercessor to offer prayers for our conversion of heart. And her prayers were effective. Her rejection became a blessing to us and to her.

I have joined my sister and crossed the line to boldly speak God's truth in the world. Sometimes I am rejected. It saddens me because I want to share God's love, but I remember the words of Jesus and know that my rejection is a blessing in disguise.

By Colleen Orchanian



PASTORS CORNER ON WHY WE NEED AN INDULGENCE

The week before last I mentioned the Holy Year and the gift of Indulgences. This week I will explain why we need an indulgence.

First of all we are all sinners and sins have consequences, the biggest consequence is that sin separates us from God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says ...sin has a double consequence. Grave sin deprives us of communion with God and therefore makes us incapable of eternal life, the privation of which is called “eternal punishment” of sin. (This is otherwise known as hell.) On the other hand every sin, even venial, entails an unhealthy attachment to created things, which must be purified either here on earth, or after death in a state called Purgatory. This purification frees one from what is called the “temporal punishment” of sin. These two punishments must not be conceived as a kind of vengeance inflicted by God from without, but following from the very nature of sin. (CCC 1472) So therefore when we sin, we of our own accord, separate ourselves from God. So in other words we do this to ourselves. And due to our sins we need to make reparation for our sins. The first thing we have to do is go to confession and ask for forgiveness and then when we are given penance we have to carry out our penance with due diligence. While going to confession we receive forgiveness but we still have to make amends and this is why we spend time in purgatory, because purgatory is a place of cleansing where we are purified from our sins.

Now to explain purgatory it is a state of final purification after death and before entrance into heaven for those who died in God's friendship, but were only imperfectly purified; a final cleaning of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven. Since we have sinned we cannot go into God's holy presence without being cleansed of our sins and set right in His eyes. Remember that sin is separation from God so we must be made right so that we can be united to him in heavenly glory.

HERE IS WHAT THE CATECHISM SAYS ABOUT PURGATORY.

All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. (CCC 1030) The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on purgatory at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture speaks of a cleansing fire. (See both 1 Corinthians 3:15 and 1 Peter 1:7) (CCC 1031) This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, mentioned in Sacred Scripture: “Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead that they might be delivered from their sin.” (2 Maccabees 12:46) From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead. (CCC 1032)

So all of this might be a bit confusing to you so let me break it down in a simple way. Say little Jimmy is playing baseball in the street in his neighborhood with some friends. He hits the ball really hard for a homerun, and what should be a momentous occasion for him turns real quick into a nightmare when as the ball flies far and hard and it hits a neighbor's window shattering it. Now he has a decision to make, he can drop the bat and run away. Since all of his friends upon hearing the unmistakable crash of glass scatter. Or he can face the consequences and go to his neighbor, Mr. Mike's house, and confess the whole thing and ask for forgiveness like he should. So he decides to face the consequences and goes to Mr. Mike's house. Mr. Mike turns out to be a really nice guy and forgives him, since he had done something like that years before when he was a kid. However there is still a problem, while he is forgiven from his mistake, the window is still broken and needs to be fixed since he broke it. So now Jimmy has to go home and ask his dad for a forward on his allowance so he can pay for fixing the window. Now he is forgiven and he has made restitution for his mistake.

Now for the explanation. Jimmy is us when we sin, Mr. Mike is God the Father. Our sins are forgiven when we go to a priest and ask God the Father for forgiveness through the priest acting as Jesus, but although our sins are forgiven by absolution, the consequences of sin are still not cleared up, until we are either purified in purgatory or given a grace by God known as an indulgence. The Church also commends almsgiving, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead, as well as masses said on their behalf. So this year being Holy Year we have more opportunities to grab up all kinds of indulgences and graces than we normally would. And I don't know about you but any way that I can find to spend less time in purgatory sounds like a good thing for me.

ANTONIANS SUMMARY OF SERVICES/SUPPORT-2024

SPP's Antonian's Ministry mission is to provide immediate financial assistance using a structured methodology to support those within our parish's geographical footprint. Along with our vibrant partner, Good Sam's Ministry(St. Luke's Catholic Church, Slidell), in 2024, we provided financial stipends to 56 clients totaling about \$21,454. These services were primarily to pay for client's utilities and rent. Other in-kind services, such as gas vouchers, food and dental care were also provided.

SPP's parishioners' generous monetary gifts through our St. Anthony's Poor Box, donations, and annual St. Joseph Altar allows us to offer personal assistance in fulfilling our mission. We are grateful and blessed for your financial support and most importantly your trust and prayers.

The Story of St. Valentine



Happy Valentines! Or good riddance to Valentines?! Valentine's Day may be one of the most controversial mainstream holidays we have. One person plans an over-the-top romantic trip to Paris while another yells "boo" at their co-workers for smiling. It routinely lands in the top 4 holidays for candy sales and greeting cards, but what is this day really about? Where did it come from? Let me set the scene.

It is around 265A.D. and the Roman Emperor Claudius has made it a law that young men are not to marry. He believes that they will fight with more abandon in war if they don't have a wife and family to worry about. This results in a culture that becomes more and more vile. Polygamy runs rampant. What is a young Christian person who wants to "tie the knot" supposed to do? This is where the true history behind St. Valentine comes from.

St. Valentine secretly married and ministered to couples in discrete locations so the Roman soldiers would not find out. He put his life on the line to help unite men and women in marriage and keep them away from sinful lifestyles. He did this for years, all hidden from the eye of Emperor Claudius. Unfortunately, he was found out. Claudius demanded that he recant his beliefs and become a loyal Roman citizen, but Valentine stood strong and because of that was put to death.

Before he died, he sent letters out to his friends, many of which he had the chance to secretly marry, and asked them to pray for him and all the Christians in Rome. He urged them to keep their marriages sacred and focused on Christ. He closed each letter with these words, "Remember your Valentine." He was killed on the 14th of February in 270A.D. This is why we celebrate each year on that day.

Valentine stood for something much bigger than him. He put his life on the line to marry people, tell them about Christ, and help them win against sin. As servants in God's ministry, we are doing the same thing, but it's not only our lives that are on the line. It is the lives of each person we get to work with. Although we may not be administering their weddings, we do get the incredible opportunity to tell them about Christ and help them win against sin.

Thanks for being a part of this incredible mission, and I challenge you to tell your those around you, your kids, and grandkids the story of St. Valentine this year. And then give them those little chalky boxed hearts.

Remembering Valentine,
Peter Baye



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

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

Mike & Cynthia Ripoll

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

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

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

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BULLETIN DEADLINE:

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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