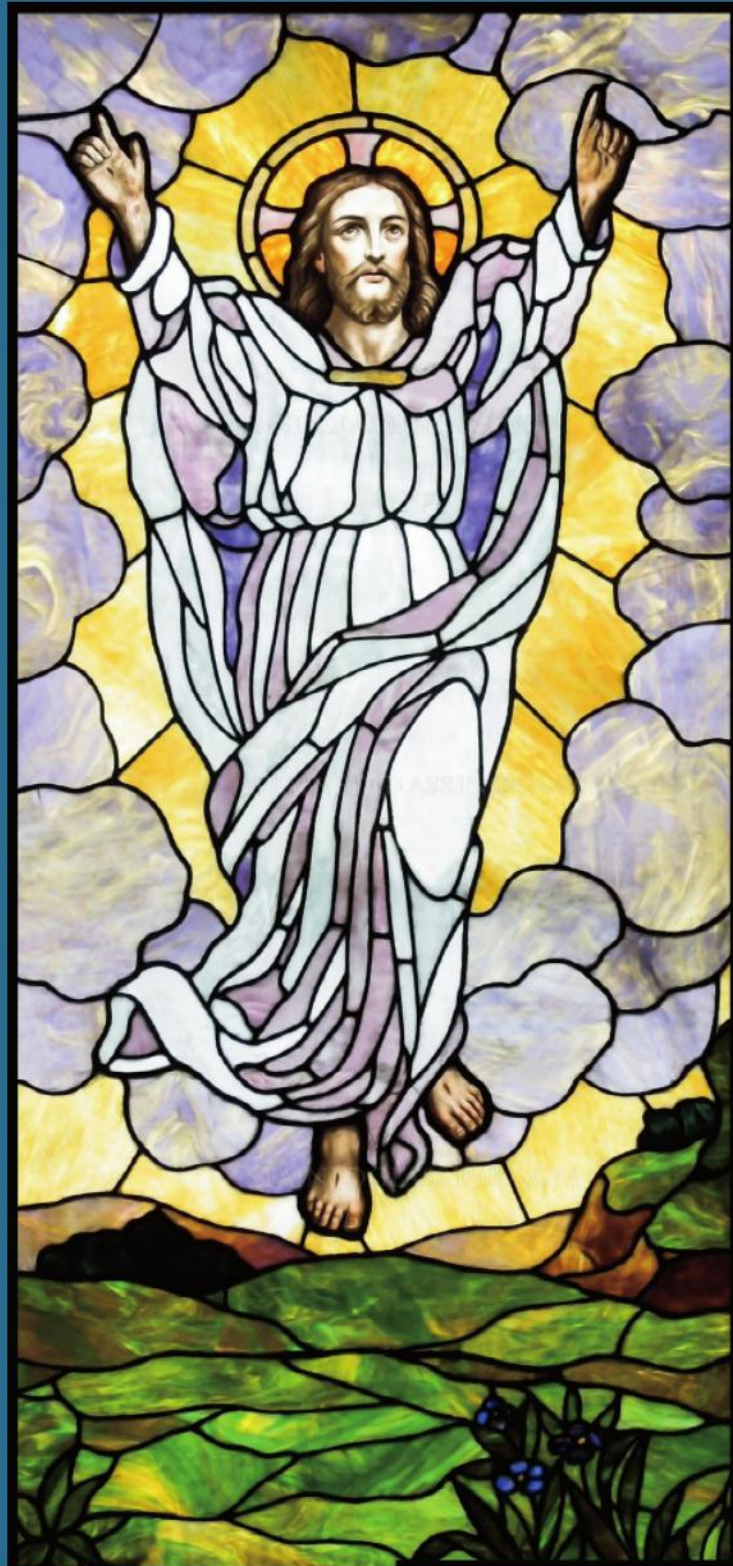


Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church



June 1, 2025

The Ascension of the Lord

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
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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."

AROUND THE PARISH



Movie Night—June 13th at 7:00 p.m. and August 9th at 6:30 p.m. the Parish Council will host a family movie night.



Blood Drive—June 29th from 7:40 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Please sign up in the back of church.



Sts. Peter & Paul Potluck in honor of our patron saints feast day will be held on June 28th after the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the Parish Hall.

WEEKLY EVENTS

GASPP—Monday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall

Right-way Imaging Testing—Tuesday in Parish Hall

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

Legion of Mary—Thursday 2:30 p.m. Parish Hall

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

Altar Society Bake Sale—After all Saturday and Sunday masses

Bible Study—Sunday 12:00 p.m. Parish Hall

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, Judy Aleman, Isabella & Dylan Gornor, Vaughn Gay, Cathy Stanford, Herbert Landry, James White, Maria Kalcic, Dave Anderson, Lisa Wayne, Courtney Allen, Robert Lawtum, Bailey Battle

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, June 2

(Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33)

No Mass Scheduled

Tuesday, June 3

(Act 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a)

8:00 a.m. Lois Franzella†

Wednesday, June 4

(Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19)

6:30 p.m. Purgatorial Society

Thursday, June 5

(Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26)

8:00 a.m. Gustave & Viola Wahl†

Friday, June 6

(Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19)

8:00 a.m. Arnold Rodriguez†

Saturday, June 7

(Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25)

8:00 a.m. Fr. Chris DeLerno

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 Oillio†, Lee Ann Scogin†, Judy Woods†, Patti & Vaughn Gay, Roberto Selva†, Claude Yarborough†, Lester Coupel, Alfred Guillot†, Keith Noel†, Don Aleman†

Sunday, June 8

(Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26)

7:00 a.m. Margaret & Henry Jorns†

8:30 a.m. Deacon Pat Downey†, Elizabeth Mae Barrois†, Patrick & Tyler Brent, Dorothy Clouser†, Herbert J. Landry†, The Richard Family, Don Aleman†, Lopez Family, Champion Patrick

10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

PARISH ROSARY PROGRAM



Weekly Rosaries: 352

Year to Date: 6474

MEDITATION ON THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

Jesus' ascension into heaven is a wonderful topic to talk about and meditate on this month. First, in the City of Jerusalem there is a rock on display with what looks like footprints imbedded into it. It is not sedimentary rock which would have been sand and eventually became rock over time. It is the type of hard rock that would not normally be imprinted upon by someone stepping onto it. This kind of rock would have to be worked with hammer and chisel. So therefore, this is not a normal occurrence. This is reported to be the stone where Jesus was standing when he ascended into heaven in front of the disciples. Unfortunately, I have not seen it with my own eyes. I only say a picture of it. The stone has been removed from its original location and placed in a religious exhibit.

Today we can take the time to reflect and enter into the bible passages given for the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. I have given you the readings as they happened in time instead of how we hear them presented at Mass. First read the reading out loud and then meditate on the readings. After the readings, I have supplied ways to meditate and enter into this scene so as to get the most out of this wonderful scriptural passage. At the end of the explanation, I will give my own meditation on this reading.

Ascension of the Lord

GOSPEL

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs

FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

Now that you have read the scripture passages imagine how you can place yourself into this scene so that it will come alive for you. It is important to engage all five of your senses while entering into the scene. These examples that I am giving you are here to help you to enter as fully into the scene as possible. You do not have to use all of the information that I have given you, but I am sure that it will be helpful to ponder as you enter into this beautiful biblical event, so that you can get as much out of this meditation as possible. One main reason for meditations like this one is to draw you into a closer relationship with Jesus and the saints. It is meant to be an encounter with Jesus, our risen Lord, who loves us so much that He wants you to be with Him for all eternity. Remember, that we will be doing this very thing in the distant future, talking to Jesus and the saints personally, when we are with them in Heaven.

I myself love to ponder and meditate on what I will say to Jesus, Mary and the apostles when I meet them in heaven.

So this is what you can do. First, imagine what things you hear happening around this event. (Engage the sense of hearing) You would have first heard the discourse of Jesus as He was about to ascend. Are you amazed at what the two men in white, who were angels, said? What do you want to say to Jesus? Did any other apostle speak to you after? Was Mary there witnessing the event? Will you talk with her? Who else was there with Jesus? Did you talk to the apostles present?

Next imagine what you see (Engage the sense of sight). What was Jesus wearing as he ascended? Was it his customary white robe and stole, or did he have on a special garment for this event? In heaven I am sure that he is dressed in the most splendid of garments befitting His role as the King of the Universe. But he may not have had on such a splendid robe at this time. Maybe He was covered in dust or dirt from His many travels.

Did He ascend in a cloud? Was He wrapped in the cloud, or did it float underneath Him? Or was the cloud just what he went into? How big was the cloud?

What did the sky look like that day? Was it a clear sky or were there lots of clouds?

What do the men dressed in white, the angels, look like? Would you be amazed at seeing them appear as Jesus left? I know that I would be.

What other sights do you see? Since the scriptures do not tell us exactly where Jesus was when He ascended, we are free to imagine the scene around us. Did Jesus ascend from a field, a plain, or a mountain? Was He next to a lake? Were there any flowers around the field where Jesus ascended? If He ascended from a mountain, what was the view like? There are many beautiful mountains around Jerusalem. I have been to a few of them and you can see a far distance from them. So there is so much you can do to imagine the view and enter into the scene in a more beautiful way.

Since this event happened in spring, early or late, what are the things that you can smell? (Engage your sense of smell) the flowers, the water, the rocks, the soil, the sand, and trees. Was Jesus clothes freshly cleaned and did they have a scent to them, or was he sweaty from a long journey?

Before Jesus ascended did you touch his robe (Engage the sense of touch) in order feel what the material felt like? Or does Jesus allow you to hug Him before He ascends? What does that feel like? I would be experiencing tears of joy over being allowed to hug Jesus. Do you touch the flowers, the rocks of the mountain, the ground of the plain or field? All of these sensations lend depth to the meditation and allow you to enter more fully into the scene.

Sometimes you can get a taste for things around you. (Engage the sense of taste) For example, did you enjoy a meal with Jesus before he ascended? Did you sit and have a great conversation with Him and the other disciples as you sat with Him at this meal? What did you eat at this meal? Was it breakfast with eggs, or was it a lunch with fish and vegetables or some other food?

So, we have gone through all five senses and I hope that this allows you to enter more fully into the Gospel scene. Most importantly, have you had the time to speak with Jesus as the human being that He is? You are free to use this as one on one time. One of the most important aspects of our human nature is the ability to relate to other people. Just be human and allow Jesus in His humanity to touch your life. The whole reason that Jesus was born of a woman and lived the life as a human for 33 years is so that we human beings could relate to Him and so that He could die for our sins. What this does for us is that it allows us to know God in ways that we could not even hope to know the all-powerful transcendent God. Before Jesus took on flesh, only a handful of people like Moses and the prophets talked to God, and not face to face, but only in a mystical way. But when Jesus took on flesh, He talked to His apostles and disciples in the normal way of using his voice and conversing like all the rest of us humans do. So praying in this way allows us to get to know Him and to enjoy spending time with Him. But even better, unlike all other humans, He will never use us for His own selfish whims, but He will just enjoy being with us for who we are. His beloved disciples or Christians.

So as I have done before, here is my own personal meditation on this bible passage. Since I can relate most with the Apostle Thomas, I chose to be him in this meditation.

Hello my name is Thomas and I am one of the Apostles of Jesus Christ. I must tell you about one of the most wonderful events in my life. The day started out like an ordinary day. The eleven of us had breakfast and Jesus was there with us. We had eggs and bread. The eggs were cooked just the way that I like them and the bread was so crunchy that as I ate it I was lost in the moment. I enjoyed the whole meal.

As we ate, I also noticed the cool breeze that was blowing this morning. As it blew, I could smell the sweet smell of the olive blossoms on the olive trees. The feel of this cool breeze was so invigorating that I felt alive and full of energy.

While we ate, Jesus told us all about the ministry that we will enter into in the future and what heaven will be like. I can hardly wait!

As Jesus talked, Peter became so excited that he asked Jesus many questions about heaven.

Jesus answered all of his questions most patiently. We were all amazed at the answers He gave. As we talked, Jesus revealed to us that He was going to leave us today. At first, we were all distracted at the thought, but Jesus assured us that He must go and that when He left us, He would send us the Holy Spirit to guide us. After His explanation of what the Holy Spirit will do for us, I am looking forward to that experience. I can only imagine what that will be like.

As our breakfast ended, we broke camp. The dew was still all over the ground and the light glistened on the grass in the field. The smell of wet dirt was musty and reminded me of my youth camping with my father.

As we walked with Jesus, all eleven of us talked and conversed on many topics. Jesus led us to the top of a mountain and told us He had a special treat in store for us and to watch closely. The top of the mountain was windy and slightly cold, but the view took my breath away. I could see for miles and the valley below looked like a patchwork quilt with all of the colors of the crops in the fields I saw dark green fields, light green fields, light brown fields and dark brown fields, I saw a blue lake, and many other colors. I could see the city of Jerusalem in the distance What a beautiful and magnificent city it is!

As we were talking and looking around, Jesus told us that it was time. Time for what exactly, I asked. Concern was in my voice and Jesus knew what I was thinking, as usual, so He pulled me aside for a moment to tell me how much He loves me and that He will always be with me, even in the hardest moments of my life. He told me not to worry or be afraid. Because when I am most in need, He will give me strength, and the Holy Spirit will give me wisdom and guidance. I look forward to those moments.

After this talk of encouragement that I really needed, He turned to the rest of the apostles and said that it is time. At that statement, He stood on the very edge of the mountain. My first thought was, what if He were to fall off! My heart raced and I think that it skipped a beat. But he gave me a reassuring look that helped so much as He floated upward! My mind was reeling, what is happening? He is not falling, but actually raising upward into the sky. All of us were amazed at what we were seeing. He just keeps getting smaller and smaller as He goes farther away. The next thing that I knew a cloud covers Jesus and then He disappeared from our sight.

All of us were so amazed by what just happened! But just when things could not get any more amazing, two men appeared, who must have been seven feet tall and covered in robes so dazzlingly white. Were my eyes deceiving me? Then I realized these must be angels. They tell us "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." At those words the two men just vanish from our sights. What just happened? Where did they go? Where did they even come from to begin with?

At this I am overcome with tears of joy. Jesus told us at breakfast that He would leave. But I had no idea that I would see this. After this, as we were about to leave, the last thing that I noticed is that on the spot of the cliff where Jesus had stood there was left behind footprints embedded into the rock that Jesus was standing on. I do not know what to say, other than Jesus must have done this when he began to float upwards and that He must have left this as a reminder of this event for all of time.



COMING OR GOING?

One way of looking at the Ascension is that Jesus can do much more for us in his glory than he could while on earth. How does this work? It happens in two steps. First, he sends the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Second, the disciples become his witnesses to all the nations. So let's look at the first step.

The Gospel of John that is read on the Vigil of Pentecost says that "there was . . . no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified" (John 7:39). Obviously the Spirit is co-eternal with the Father and the Son, so John is trying to get our attention. He means that we could not experience the gifts of the Spirit until Jesus had died and risen from the dead. While Jesus walked the earth, he chose to be limited in time and space, so that a few people could get to know and love him. But after his resurrection, he could be more effective by sending his Spirit to all believers. Because he is ascended into glory, he can live in all of us. Just as the power of the Holy Spirit caused Mary to be the mother of Jesus, so that same power enables Jesus to live in us. And that leads to the second step.

Before his death, Jesus began to collect a group of followers. Some got to know him more deeply and became disciples. The rest of the followers were merely curious or attracted by stories of miracles he had performed. They did not have the faith and courage to bring others to Jesus; some only stayed with him a short time. But after his ascension the disciples began to experience Jesus in each other. They could not help but be excited about that and spread that excitement to others. From the time of Jesus' ascension to our own time, people have boldly proclaimed the gospel. So Jesus' ascension actually makes him present to more people, not fewer. May we all experience that presence in the Spirit, seeing Jesus in ourselves and others.

Tom Schmidt

ST. CHARLES LWANGA



St. Charles Lwanga was born in 1860 in the Kingdom of Buganda in the southern part of modern Uganda. He served as a page and later as a major-domo in the court of King Mwanga II. As part of the King's effort to resist foreign colonization, he had begun to insist that Christian converts abandon their new faith, and executed many Anglicans and Catholics between 1855 and 1887. Many of those that were executed were officials in his Royal Court or otherwise very close to him. Among those executed was Charles Lwanga, and the Catholic Church recognizes him as a Ugandan Catholic Catechist martyred for his faith. His feast day is June 3rd, and he is venerated on the Liturgical calendar.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The paschal candle, blessed at the Easter Vigil, carried in procession into the darkened church, and aflame with the light of Christ to be passed hand to hand to renew our baptism, burns for the fifty days of Easter whenever we gather as Christ's risen body. In the last fifty years, we have grown to see this candle as the sign of Christ's enduring presence with us. Before then, it was often seen more as a kind of signpost pointing backwards to events in Christ's life. Therefore, in some places, on the fortieth day after Easter, in order to portray the disappearance of Jesus at the Ascension, the candle was hidden.

Now we see the paschal candle as a sign of the great baptismal season of grace and it remains in a prominent place throughout the entire fifty days. We do know of some churches that did not hide the candle after the Ascension. In England before the Reformation, the candle was left in place for fifty days, since on Pentecost Eve there was a vigil, and the candle was used to consecrate the waters of the font. In Salisbury cathedral, the candle was thirty-six feet high, and in Westminster Abbey weighed over three hundred pounds. On Pentecost, the candles were melted to make tapers for the funerals of the poor.

—James Field

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-OCIA

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

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LEGION OF MARY

Paula Hilton 985-707-4539

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)

Laurnyn 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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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
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HOW TO DONATE:

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Please check the meeting times and dates with ministry
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