

SAINT RITA PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 17, 2023 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 51

7100 Jefferson Highway Harahan, LA 70123-4928 737-2915

www.stritaharahan.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat. Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.

7:30 p.m.

Mon.-Fri.: 7:00, 8:30 a.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m. Sunday: 8:30-9:15 a.m. &

6:45-7:15 p.m.



PASTOR

Fr. Steven Bruno frbruno@arch-no.org

PAROCHIAL VICAR

Fr. David Frank dfrank@arch-no.org

DEACON: Daniel Flynn **DEACON:** Greg Flores **SECRETARY:** April Wahl

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Paige Mosley stritaharahan@arch-no.org CRE: Erin Maffe emaffe@arch-no.org

Youth Minister: Joseph Rivera jrivera@arch-no.org

PRINCIPAL: Toni Ruiz SCHOOL: 194 Ravan Avenue

> 737-0744 stritahar@arch-no.org

CAFETERIA: 737-2773

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK ${\cal E}$ SHUT-INS

Holy Communion will be brought to the home. Please call the church office when someone is ill and unable to come to church, or when someone is in a hospital. Prayers may be requested for the sick and elderly.

Sign up to make a recurring automatic donation by going to StRitaHarahan.com where you will find a link to our oline Giving page or make a one time donation



Our St. Joseph Perpetual Adoration Chapel is located on the first floor of the Msgr. Champagne Complex on the corner of Jefferson Hwy. and Ravan Ave. and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (For everyone's safety, only assigned adorers are allowed entry with a key code between the hours of 6:00 pm and 7:00 am) Prayerfully consider spending an hour a week with Our Divine Lord. If you cannot commit to a specific hour, why not consider being a substitute? If you are interested, please contact the church office at 737-2915.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The sacrament is administered upon request to those near death, gravely ill, permanently handicapped, very elderly and those undergoing major surgery.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

3rd Sunday of each month following the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

BAPTISM SEMINAR

Parents and Godparents are required to attend a baptism seminar held at 7:00 p.m. the first Thursday of the month in the Mary Room at the rectory. Parents must attend the baptism seminar before their child can be baptized.

SARAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Arrangements should be made 6-8 months in advance by the bride and groom in person. Call one of the parish priests before coming. Couples must attend one of the pre-marriage courses.

FUNERALS

The family of the deceased should consult one of the parish priests concerning the time and place of the funeral before making commitments with the funeral home.

NEWCOMERS

Welcome, we are happy to have you. Please fill out an application in the binder at the front entrance of the church.



Sat. Dec 16, 4:00 pm	Peter Vallelungo
Whitney E., Gertrude R., Leslie J., Gina M. Esthey	
Gary Boihem	Pat Geier
Julie Ann Calongne	Barbara Brehm Calongne
Dorothy V. Calongne	Geraldine C. Feugas
J. Gayle Calongne	Sandra Caperino
Louis Jung, Jr.	Robert Binney- Healing
Darlene Farber—In Thanksgiving	Carlyn Gardner– Healing
Joe Impastato—In Thanksgiving	Linda Bauer—Healing
John McCrossen—Healing	
Sunday Dec. 17, 7:30 am	Sandra & Gary Barrios
9:30 am	Victor Marsiglia
Victor Marsiglia	Paul Wang, Sr.
Monica Flick	Randy Blaise
Rose Velez	Robert Bernard—Intentions
Pam Johnson	Diane Holzenthal
Clarisse Kuffner	The Rafidi Family—Intentions
George Vulevich	
11:30 am	Phil Lorio
7:30 pm	Parishioners
Mon. Dec. 18, 7:00 am	Thank You to everyone that helped with the Eucharistic Procession
8:30 am	Payton Family
Tues. Dec. 19, 7:00am	Buster Engert II
8:30 am	Robert C. Yrle
Wed. Dec. 20, 7:00am	Linda Bauer–Healing
8:30 am	Debbie Yrle
Thurs. Dec. 21, 7:00 am	John McCrossen—Healing
8:30 am	Sue Frank
Fri Dec.22, 7:00 am	Josephine D. Parks
9.20 am	Dagger St. John Dinth day

Third Sunday of Advent:

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.

8:30 am Peggy St. John—Birthday

Sat. Dec. 23, 8:30 am Raymond Twickler—Birthday

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Third Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings For the Week of December 17, 2023

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54; 1

Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk

1:5-25

Wednesday Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-

21; Lk 1:39-45

Friday 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-

56

Saturday Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Lk

1:57-66

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 2

9; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



Sanctuary Lamp Mildred Perez Chapel Lamp

Jim & Elizabeth Giovenco

Weekly Collection Totals

Dec. 3 \$9,936.50 Dec. 10 \$9339.16

Weekly Parish Expenses

\$14,945.60

These Figures exclude extraordinary income & expenses

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday December 17, 2023



Sun. Dec 17 10:30 am CCD

1:30 pm Regia

6:00 pm CYO Christmas Party

Mon. Dec. 18

Tues. Dec. 19 8:30 am School Mass PK-7

Church Office Closes at 11:00 am

6:00 pm St. Vincent 6:00 pm Holy Hour

Wed. Dec. 20

7:00 Choir Practice

Thur. Dec. 21 10:00 am Legion of Mary

6:00 pm Holy Hour

Fri. Dec. 22 Sat. Dec. 23

Church office Hours * Lunch 12:00 pm— 12:30 pm Hours: 9:00 am—4:00 pm



OUR LADY OF EXPECTATION December 18

Devotion to Mary under this title is observed in Spain, Portugal, Poland, Italy, and elsewhere one week before Christmas. The Blessed Virgin, about to give birth, awaits with joy the arrival of her divine Son, the Prince of Peace.

THANK YOU, FOLKS YOU CAN STILL OWN A PIECE OF ST. RITA HISTORY BY BUYING ONE OF OUR EXISTING PEWS

NEW UP DATE:

We now have reservations for all of our small 7' pews and are still receiving reservations for large pews as well. If a large pew is too big, you can order an altered pew to make it 8 1/2' or simply place your name on the waiting list for a small pew in case someone backs out.

Pew details are listed below:

Here are the specs: the pews are 22.5" wide (from back to the front of the seat) and 33" tall. The length varies.... We have 34 of the small pews located on the side walls that are 7' long at \$275 a piece. (At the present time we are taking names for a wait list for the small pews.) We have 49 of the large pews in the two middle sections that are 17' long. We are requesting \$350 a piece. However, once the 34 small pews are reserved, we will gladly alter the 17' large pews to make smaller 8 ½' pews at your request. These special requested pews will be \$300 a piece.



John, Earl Deibel, Mary Ann Schmitt, Catherine Kives, Willie "Bill" Wolverton, John Paris, , Doris Portera, Mary Dal Daigle, Virginia Stansbury, Fr. Randy Roux, Dc. Nolen LeBlanc, Joyce Harris, Pat Trahan, Dale Fishel, Jo Maraist, Mark Crawford, Lisanne Lightfoot, Randy Smith, Gloria Krieger, Andrea Thomas, Diane Smith, Phil Crowson, Mary Morvant O'Neill, Edwyna Combe, Letty Loomas, Harold Bartchy, Lena Sparacio, Deborah Mula, Steve Bonnecaze, Deacon Gary Borne, Patricia Whetleman, Bobbie Ann Bergeron, Caiden Reid, Jack Serigne, Josephine Piazza, Lindsey Collier, Charles Slocum, September Wang, Vincent Palestina, Judy Ewens Hof, Lois Dupuy, Andrea Glandt, Suzanne Unger, Linda Mayer, Robert Petty, Cynthia B. Farrara, Barbara Dziubla, Dora Higgins, Amanda Livaudais, Mr. Tim Smith Sr. & Family, Mr. Tim Smith Jr. & Family, Worley Parks, John Bel, Henry S. Tuminello, Rebecca Gandy, Joyce Benoit, Bridget Celestin, Robert Vallejo, Alicia Walker– Cole, Alvin M. Castay, Sr., Hilda Orgeron, James McCilwain, Bob Velez, Beau & Trudy Barrett, Joseph McAdam, Leslie and Al Mendoza, Barbara Guidry, Louise Chapman, Tim Walker, Nellie Barsoza, Francis Parks, , Joel Stansbury, Yvonne Rousset, Donald Geier, Dan Peeler, Rebecca Wahl, Betty Oneill, Paige Brock, Randy Sroeba, Kathy Livaudais, Charlotte Evola, Janet Wild, Fred Grilletta, John Johnson, Louella Lange, Laura Knipper, Gerard Tonglet, Elizabeth Bonnette, , August V. Cristina , Claude Barsoza, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ward, Theresa Arroyo, Rodney Este, Sr., Philip Godbold, Gabriella Ogg & Baby Dominic, Tommy Woods, Bruce Perry, The Picou Family, Shelley Vathy, Melissa Korn, Tomalyn Disalvo, Marilyn Pankratz, Lee Belgarge, Stephen Parks, Angie Kimbell, Jolene Salito, Frances Kemp, George & Grea Fay, Eric Rousselle, Lynne Podany, Steve Culotta, Linda Bauer, John McCrossen, Marie Compagno, Norma Gogreve

Name will remain on the list for 6 weeks. If at the end of 6 weeks you wish for them to remain on the sick list for 6 more weeks you must call the office. This request must be made by the individual or an immediate family member.

Third Sunday of Advent

MATTHEW 3:II

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit



SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY **CELEBRATION**

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is pleased to announce that the annual Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans. This prayer service will honor couples who are celebrating or have recently celebrated their twentyfifth wedding anniversary. The celebration is open to couples married between 1994 - 1999. To register, please contact your parish office before Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Please Note: The Silver Wedding Anniversary celebration is a prayer service, not a Mass and will not fulfill the couple's Sunday obligation. Couples should plan to attend Mass at their home parishes.

Third Sunday of Advent Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always? Who can do that?" It sounds absurd, but the next two lines give it context: If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Whatever happens is the will of God for us. Even the bad things, things we don't like, can be allowed by God, so that God can bring good out of them. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

The next two sayings may be a little obscure. When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit, he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17) we won't be so distracted by the things of this world that we cannot hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit in us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them.

How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? The next phrase helps with that: Test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. And most of all trust God to help with all this because God wants us to be holy. God will make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

Tom Schmidt

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday December 17, 2023

Reflection of An Adorer

9/12/23

My dear daughter, I love you very much. My children are lost, like sheep who have gone astray. They are looking for greener pastures in a world with all its distractions, and this will lead them to lose focus on the one thing that will lead them home. Just like sheep you are distracted by the lure of greener pastures, but do not see the evil that is lurking around you that can destroy the body and soul. I am your good shepherd. Follow me, my dear ones. Keep your hearts and eyes fixed upon me, your Lord, your God. For I am your great green pasture of light, hope, and love. You will feast upon my radiance, my compassion, and my mercy. You will find a safe home in my Sacred Heart where I wish you to be. Stay focused on me, my dear children. My love for you is never ending. You are my precious ones. You will follow me in this light that I pour forth upon you. You will follow me in the path of love. I will bring you to my heavenly father, who desires all his children. I am your good Shepherd and my sheep follow me, for they know who I am, they hear my voice! My love and peace are with you!

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

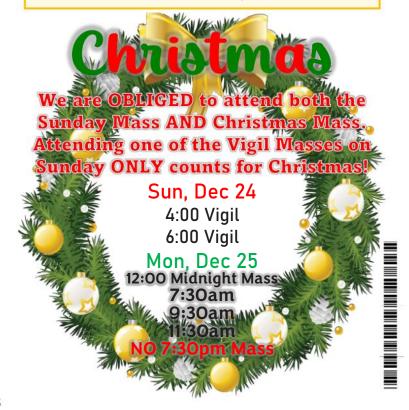
HAPPENINGS ELSEWHERE

2024 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference: "I Have Called You Friends"

Registration is now open for the Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference, Saturday, February 24, 2024 at St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie. This year's conference theme is "I Have Called You Friends". Recent studies indicate that the percentage of adult men with at least 6 close friends has been cut in half since 1990 and as many as 20% of men report having no close friendships at all. It is growing a problem not only for the life of the Church, but one which is gaining attention and causing concern even within secular society. Our Catholic faith is rooted in friendship. Even as the Apostles were sent out into the whole world to proclaim the good news, it was their friendship with Christ and with one another that held them together in the unity of faith. That same friendship holds us together today. Our men need friends to live up to their calling as men of God and as men of the Church. Please help us call all the men of our local Church of New Orleans to this important event! The conference will be held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Please be on the lookout for a mailing from the Office of Marriage and Family Life to the parishes containing more information and promotional materials. Register and learn about Group Discounts at nolacatholicmen.org. For more information, contact 504-861-6243 or mfl@arch-no.org. Find us on Facebook/ Instagram @nolacatholicmen!

MASS INTENTIONS

Our Mass Intentions book currently has openings available. Mass intentions can be made for the deceased, special favors granted, the sick, as a gift, birthday, wedding, thank you, or any occasion. A card will be sent on your behalf to the address provided by you. The donation is \$5 per Mass request. Please call the office at 504-737–2915 for more information or to have a Mass said or your behalf.





Joshua Bryant, DPT, OCS

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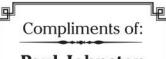


Mon-Sat: 9am-6:30pm, Sun: Closed 1301 Hickory Ave. Ste. B, Harahan, LA



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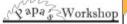
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