

# SAINT RITA PARISH

# **WEEKLY BULLETIN**

# December 24, 2023 VOLUME 38 NUMBER 52

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 & SHITTLINS

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 Online Giving page or make a one time donation



### **ADORATION CHAPEL**

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 23, 4:00 pm Pat Trahan—Birthday

Peggy Smith Edna Ortego
Peter Vallelungo Pat Geier

Julie Ann Calongne

Dorothy V. Calongne

J. Gayle Calongne

Robert Binney- Healing

Barbara Brehm Calongne

Geraldine C. Feugas

Sandra Caperino

Linda Bauer—Healing

Fr David Frank—Intentions

Sunday Dec. 24, 7:30 am Parishioners

9:30 am Charles Kessler

Bill & Violet Wadleigh Monica Flick

George Vulevich Victor Marsiglia

Bernice, Clarence, Jerry Foti, Tommy, Marc & Thomas Bittel

Rose Velez Larry Rousset

Lillian Duplantier Maurice Duplantier

Randy Blaise Paul Wang, Sr.

Louis Jung Jr. Clarisse Kuffner

11:30 am Sonny Landry & Marian Landry Henderson

Christmas Vigil 4:00 pm Dale St. John

Louis & Marie Crosby Leslie J. Murray

Raymond Gannuch Mary Ann McKearan

Leblanc, Pechon, Blaise, Rodrigue Families

James Cavalier Keron Mustafa
Deborah Nobles Eve Zimmerman
Father Lloyd Lorio, S.J. Dennis Estay

Diane Holzenthal Fr. Steve Bruno—Intentions

Carlynn Garder

Christmas Vigil 6:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. William Gallaher Sr.

7:30 pm NO MASS

Christmas Midnight Mrs. Valerie Wilson—Intentions

Christmas Mon. Dec. 25, 7:30 am Margaret Sedita & Rosalie LaFrance

Christmas 9:30 am Edgar John Abry

Jake & Virginia Carreca Dan & Johanna Peeler

Ted & Clarie Lajaunie Peter Vallelungo

Makofsly, VanHeuvel, Reisgen, Lasseigne, Perilloux Families

May, Jule, Ronald, Milton & Stella Guillot & Legendre & Guillot Families

Raymond Gannuch Randy Blaise
Claire & Stanley Robert Janet R. Held
Pat Geier Virginia Carreca

Sandra Caperino Henry, Myrtle & Earl Diebel

Christmas 11:30 am Parishioners
7:30 pm NO MASS

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tues. Dec. 26, 7:00am Buster Engert II

8:30 am Jim & Joan Lorio

Wed. Dec. 27, 7:00am Lt. Col. & Mrs. John B. O'Rourke

8:30 am Holly Payton

Thurs. Dec. 28, 7:00 am John McCrossen—Healing

8:30 am Audrey Wetta

Fri Dec.29, 7:00 am Fr. Patrick McKenna

8:30 am Judy Roman—Intentions

Sat. Dec. 30, 8:30 am



Sanctuary Lamp Giovenco Family Chapel Lamp

Dale St. John



Marilyn Mart

Fourth Sunday of Advent:

Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brought light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the

real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

# **Weekly Collection Totals**

Dec. 17 \$12,675.50 Dec. 10 \$9339.16

**Weekly Parish Expenses** 

\$14,945.60

These Figures exclude extraordinary income & expenses

# St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday December 24, 2023

# Bray for Them



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.

Norma Gogreve



Sun. Dec 24 4:00 pm Christmas Vigil

6;00 pm Christmas Vigil

Mon. Dec. 25 Midnight Christmas Mass

7:30 am Christmas Mass 9:30 am Christmas Mass 11:30 am Christmas Mass

Tues, Dec. 26 Church Office Closed

6:00 pm St. Vincent

Wed. Dec. 27 7:00 Choir Practice

Thur. Dec. 28 10:00 am Legion of Mary

Fri. Dec. 29 Sat. Dec. 30

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

Scripture Readings

For the Week of December 24, 2023

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;

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

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Monday

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts

13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass During the night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,

13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3: 4

-7; Lk 2: 15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-

6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr Tuesday

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc &

17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5----- 2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr Friday

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

> Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4 -5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

ay Mass AND Christ ding one of the Vigil I **ONLY** counts for Ch Sun, Dec 24 4:00 Vigil 6:00 Vigil Mon. Dec 25 2:00 Midnight Mas

# Fourth Sunday of Advent





C L K D L L S R L S B V R E F X E I K J U V C C X A E U E J V S B F W K T F A B G V L R J O B Q E P P K I J N V F I I X O S E A G K M S G A D Y L O E G I E N Z O Y V B A V L K U U V L C P Q M O J L B B O E E S R E C E H M E D G B I E S E E M A C D F J N R N L A S U R R K R M V T F F O C E U P D L R F S U W A S G C E S W A K U V S I C K L W N F K A A S B J C R E S A M A R Y U Y M L A N G E L P N M Y A V H R E I Q I L L E Y L L T B P N F T L L P S N Q H L Y F E B X K D P J D L J E S U S I W R E A T H R D R G



# WORDSEARCH

MARY ANGEL JESUS ADVENT CANDLE

JOSEPH PURPLE WREATH BELIEVE REJOICE SAVIOUR EMMANUEL GOODNEWS ISRAEL



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# 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 twenty-fifth 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.

# 

# St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday December 24, 2023

# Reflection of An Adorer

9/19/23

My dear daughter, I love you very much. Look up at the cross, my dear children, and see the love of the Father through the sufferings of my beloved Son, whom I offered to you for your redemption. See the Father's heart which flows over the Son with divine love and divine mercy. See the blood and water flowing from my Son's stricken heart, bringing you complete love and mercy. This tremendous love you feel as you look to the cross is never ending. My precious children, how can you look upon my son on the cross and deny the love of the Father. embrace you with my love. My Son's arms who are open wide as they nailed him, are my arms reaching out to show you how much your Lord loves you. Feel my embrace. Return your love by being a light in your world of darkness. May you embrace others with this love and comfort them, for many need to feel the love of the Father through your prayers, words, actions, and good deeds. My precious ones, love one another as I love you! Go in peace, and spread love and joy to each other. Be one with Me!

# Reflections

# SAINT STEPHEN (first century)

### December 26

"A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church's first martyr, Stephen's life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, "the faithful witness" (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen's face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus', is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father's hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen's killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all.

—Peter Scagnelli

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Pray Before You Speak

Have you ever been told to "think before you speak"? Nathan seems to have spoken too soon when he told David to do whatever he wanted about building a house for the Lord. But later that night the God gave him a message for David: the Lord did not need anyone to build him a house; God would make David's house (in the sense of family or descendants) last forever. That can be a lesson to us. Instead of just thinking before we speak, it could be a good idea to pray before we speak.

How many times have we said something in anger (or selfishness, fear, any strong feeling) that we wished we could take back? If we just think before we speak, we might just rationalize what we wanted to say in the first place. But if you take a little more time to bring our feelings to God, ask for guidance and listen for what God would have us say, things might turn out a lot better. We pray before meals; why not pray be fore going to work? We can pray before making decisions about our family, getting engaged, taking a new job, buying a new house/car/HD-TV, etc. When a friend or relative needs someone to talk to, we can pray that we listen well and say what God wants our friend to hear. If we have enough faith to let God guide our lives, let's take the time in prayer to listen for that guidance.

Tom Schmidt

# The Nativity of the Lord 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, we can reflect on how the first Christmas upset all expectations.

I'm sure Joseph never expected to have a child so soon. And those Jews who looked forward to the coming of a Messiah never expected him to come as a baby. Yet God had his reasons for coming in this way. Jesus 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. So today he continues to come to us in the homeless, the undocumented immigrant, 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



Joshua Bryant, DPT, OCS

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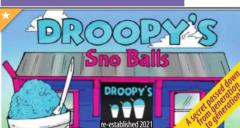


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