

SAINT RITA PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 7, 2024 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

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 ${\mathcal E}$ SHITLINS

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. Jan. 6, 4:00 pm Peter Vallelungo

President Donald Trump Claire & Stanley Robert

Dale St. John, Sr. Edwin L. Sternberger, Jr.

Julie Ann Calongne Barbara Brehm Calongne

Dorothy V. Calongne Geraldine C. Feugas

J. Gayle Calongne Sandra Caperino

Earl Pezant, Sr. Cathleen Clewis

Mary Hillery—Intentions Joseph Long—Intentions

Peggy & Heather Suschi Hernandez

Sunday Jan. 7,7:30 am All Deceased Domicans

9:30 am Intentions of Andree MacDonald

Monica Flick Randy Blaise
Pat Geier Clarisse Kuffner

George Vulevich

Alden Ross –Intentions

Carol Bartel—Intentions

Carlynn Gardner

Rebecca Wahl—Healing

Paul Wang, Sr.

Virginia Stansbury

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ward—healing Donnie Campo

11:30 am S.T. Cristina7:30 pm Parishioners

Mon. Jan. 8, 7:00 am Andrea Chamberlain

8:30 am Victor Marsiglia

Tues. Jan. 9, 7:00am Natividad R. Quiembaov

8:30 am Annie Melancon

Wed. Jan. 10, 7:00am Fernando J. Ticman

8:30 am Edward L. Laizer

Thurs. Jan 11, 7:00 am Martha Reynaud

8:30 am Sandy Prevost

Fri Jan. 12, 7:00 am Dr. Mark Daunis—Intentions

8:30 am | Judith Daunis—Intentions

Sat. Jan. 13, 8:30 am Wendel Fink, Jr.



Carlynn Gardner Virginia Stansbury



Sanctuary Lamp
Jake & Virginia Carreca
Chapel Lamp
Edna Ortego

The Epiphany of the Lord

Scripture Readings

For the Week of January 7, 2024

Sunday The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-

3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Monday Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd,

5-6 Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mk 1:21-

28

Wednesday 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; PS 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10;

Mk 1:29-39

Thursday 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-

45

Friday 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-17, 18-19; Mk 2:1-

12

Saturday Memorial of Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the

Church

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mk

2:13-17

Sunday Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Cor

6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Have a Blessed New Year on behalf of the staff, Deacons and Clergy of St. Rita

Weekly Collection Totals

Dec. 31

Dec. 24

\$13,352.50

\$12,111.35

Weekly Parish Expenses

\$14,945.60

These Figures exclude extraordinary income & expenses

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana

Sun. Jan. 7 9:30 am Childrens Mass 10:30 am Coffee Social 10:30 am CCD

Mon. Jan. 8,

7:00 pm Parent Meeting Tues. Jan. 9 **First Communion**

6:00 pm St. Vincent

Wed. Jan. 10 9:30 am Altar Society Meeting

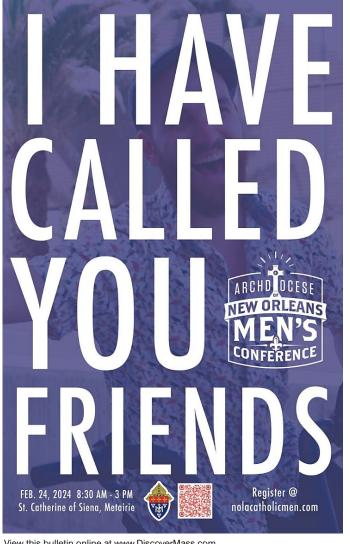
7:00 pm KC Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thur. Jan. 11 8:30 am School Mass PK-7 10:00 am Legion of Mary

Fri. Jan. 12 7:00 pm Dads' Club meeting

Sat. Jan. 13

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



Sunday January 7, 2024

Pray for Them

John, Earl Deibel, Mary Ann Schmitt, Catherine Kives, Willie "Bill" Wolverton, John Paris, Doris Portera, Mary Dal Daigle, Fr. Randy Roux, Dc. Nolen LeBlanc, Joyce Harris , Pat Trahan, Dale Fishel, Jo Maraist, Mark Crawford, Lisanne Liahtfoot, 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 Seriane, 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 & Greg Fay, Eric Rousselle, Lynne Podany, Steve Culotta, Linda Bauer, John McCrossen, Marie Compagno, Norma Gogreve, Joe Miceli

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.

Should I be a St. Rita Altar Society Member? "One of the

best decisions I ever made" says one member Join us:

For yourself Your Parish Your God

Meetings 2nd Wednesday in the Community Room Following 8:30 am Mass

The Epiphany of the Lord

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR January 8

Mary is patroness of the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana under this title. The statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor was brought to New Orleans in 1810 by a French Ursuline sister, Mother St. Michel Gensoul, in thanksgiving for receiving permission to join the Ursulines there. "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us."

Reflections on Stewardship

The Church is very strategic in its placement of the readings throughout the year. Today's second reading is a perfect example of this when Paul talks about stewardship. It's no surprise that we hear about this on the Feast of the Epiphany when we commemorate the magi finding the baby Jesus and bringing him gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. I always thought this was funny because these seem like terrible gifts for a little baby, but maybe this whole story is meant to show us more about what to do with gifts as opposed to what the actual gifts are.

I want to take a moment today to reflect on Adam's roles in the garden of priest, prophet, and king and how these relate to stewardship today. First, in Genesis 1:26 we hear that Adam has dominion over the things in the garden. Just like a king, he is meant to care for the things that are given to him. I am reminded of that scene from *The Lion King* where Mufasa tells Simba that everything the light touches belongs to him. But it is not his to rule over as a tyrant, but rather to care for as a faithful servant. It is the same for us today. We have all been given things that we are meant to care for and treasure.

Second, in Genesis 2:15 Adam is told to work and to guard in the garden. These two words ("work" and "guard") only occur together in the rest of the Old Testament in relation to the priestly roles in Leviticus. It is clear that Adam is given a priestly role here, but what is the primary role of a priest? Quite simply, it is to make the commonplace holy. That is what a priest does at Mass when simple bread and wine transform into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus. So too, our role on earth is to bring the light of Christ to all corners of the globe, using our gifts to light the world with God's love.

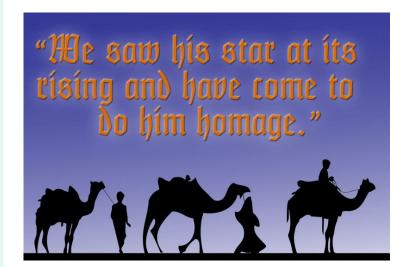
Third, in Genesis 2:19-20 we hear God giving authority to Adam to name the animals. In other words, God is giving power to Adam's words that whatever he calls the animals, that shall be their name. A prophet is one who speaks with authority. We have been given authority to use our gifts to proclaim the Good News. Through our baptism, we are called as priest, prophet, and king, to enter into the world and offer our gifts and lives as a living sacrifice.

This is a lot to think and pray about, but maybe on this Feast of the Epiphany we can just reflect on two main points: Am I being a good steward of the gifts God has given me? And, when I offer these gifts back to God, is he pleased with them?

By Tommy Shultz

Pardon the Duse

Sorry for the scaffolding and mess.... we are finally getting repairs done for damage due to Hurricane Ida. Hopefully this work will be completed by the end of January and we can continue with the floor repairs to make way for our NEW PEWS!!!!! They are scheduled to arrive and be installed Feb 19 (IF everything goes well with repairs). We may have to spend a couple of weekends in the gym, but it will be well worth the sacrifice. Perhaps we can chalk it up to doing our Lenten penance as a community!



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 January 7, 2024

Reflection of An Adorer

11/14/23

My dear daughter I love you very much. My dear children, I wish that our hearts beat as one. I want your ears to listen to the rhythm of my heartbeat. It is beating for you, my precious ones. It is overflowing with love for you. Avail yourselves of this never ending source of love flowing from my Sacred Heart. If you listen quietly, you will hear the words I put in your own heart. These words you hear will fill your souls with a light so bright, that you will be compelled to pass it on to your neighbor. If you truly take time and connect to me in prayer, it will be as though you had a heart transplant that was ignited with an infusion of my divine love for you. Be one with me, my dear children, for I am the life giving source of love and mercy. I will bring you peace. My dear children, pray for peace and be a light in your world. All my love, Jesus.

The Epiphany of the Lord Little Drummer Boy

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? The Bible never says their number or their names. The gifts tell us about the givers. And these special gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—tell us much.

When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. So the first gift of the wise men tells us they recognized Jesus as King. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. So this gift shows the wise men paying homage to Jesus' divinity. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. It reminds us of Jesus suffering and death on the cross.

So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. Each day we can promise to live our vocation as best we can, to love those around us, and forgive those who hurt us.

A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. Some people are able to attend daily Mass, others spend time in adoration before the Eucharist, or even a few minutes of their lunch break to say the rosary.

As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day. When we accept suffering in our lives, especially that caused by our sins, we give ourselves to Jesus as he gave himself for us on the cross.

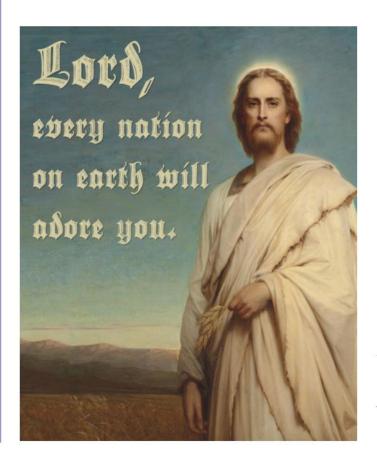
The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive. Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

Epiphany of the Lord:



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, where the Magi find the newborn king and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In the spirit of the Magi, please put your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box so that comfort and peace can once again be given to a newborn child.





Joshua Bryant, DPT, OCS

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