

SAINT RITA PARISH

WEEKLY BULLETIN

February 2, 2025 VOLUME 39 NUMBER 4

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: TBD

PRINCIPAL: Toni Ruiz SCHOOL: 194 Ravan Avenue

737-0744

stritahar@arch-no.org

CAFETERIA: 737-2773

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK $\ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ 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 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. every month in the Mary Room at the rectory. Parents must attend the baptism seminar before their child can be baptized.

SACRAMENT 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 a registration form in the binder at the front entrance of the church.

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday, February 2, 2025



Sat. Feb. 1, 4:00 pm Deborah Mula

Janet R. Held Claire & Stanley Robert

Eno & Lillian Plaisance Peter Vallelungo
Edwin L. Sternberger Jr. Gary Boihem
Nora Pezant Brandon Power

Terry Power James Hotard

Rebecca Wahl—Birthday

Joyce Landry St. Rita in Thanksgiving

Marie Elanie Latour Rose Normand

Sun. Feb. 2, 7:30 am Burke, Laudun, Marullo, Meyer Families

Jeannine Burgess

9:30 am John McCrossen

Eugene Daunis Bob & Betty Eble
Monica Flick Paul Wang, Sr.
Harold Flick Gloria Cooper

Betty Monistere JoAnn French-Intentions

Stephanie Barrette-Birthday Adele Milligan
Patricia Bowins Kimberly Kovesdi

Cesar Fonseca Chrystopher A. Yarbrough

Judith Provenzano

11:30 am Joseph Liem Vu

7:30 pm Parishioners

Mon. Feb. 3, 7:00 am Timmy Power – healing

8:30 am Donna Barrette-healing

Tues. Feb. 4, 7:00am Mary O'Neill

8:30 am Eugene Lassalle

Wed. Feb. 5, 7:00 am Margaret Sedita

8:30 am Pat Payton—intentions

Thurs. Feb. 6, 7:00 am Poor Souls

8:30 am Victor A. Marsiglia, Jr.

Fri Feb. 7, 7:00 am Donna Barrette—intentions

8:30 am Parents of all Dominicans

Sat. Feb. 8, 8:30 am Dr. Joan Hoffpauir

BEREAVEMENT MASS

The annual memorial Mass for parishioners who passed away in 2024, will be on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm. A reception in the Msgr. Champagne Community Room will follow Mass.

Thank you and God Bless St. Rita Bereavement Committee

Scripture Readings

Scripture Readings
For the Week of February 2, 2025

Sunday Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk

2:22-40 or Lk 2:22-32

Monday Heb 11:32-40, Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24; Mk 5:1-

20

Tuesday Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32;

Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a;

Mk 6:1-6

Thursday Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions,

Martyrs

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-

11; Mk 6:7-13

Friday Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mk

6:30-34

Sunday Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8; 1 Cor

15:1-11 or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11; Lk 5:1-11

Weekly Collection Totals

Jan. 26

Jan. 19

\$8,977.72

\$ 14,725.00

Weekly Parish Expenses

\$14,945.60

These Figures exclude extraordinary income & expenses



Presentation of the Lord

Sun. Feb. 2 9:30 am Children's Mass

10:30 am Coffee Social

10:30 am CCD

Mon. Feb. 3 First Holy Communion Parent

Meeting

Tues. Feb. 4 6:00 pm St. Vincent Wed. Feb. 5 7:00 pm Choir Practice Thur. Feb. 6 8:30 am School Mass Pk-7

1:30 pm Silver Trotters Board Meeting

7:00 pm Baptism Seminar

Fri. Feb. 7 9:00 am Holy Hour

10:00 am Legion of Mary

7:00 pm Dads' Club

Sat. Feb. 8

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

Pray for Them

John, Earl Deibel, Mary Ann Schmitt, Catherine Kives, Willie "Bill" Wolverton, John Paris, Doris Portera, Fr. Randy Roux, Dc. Nolen LeBlanc, Pat Trahan, Dale Fishel, Jo Maraist, Mark Crawford, Lisanne Lightfoot, Randy Smith, Gloria Krieger, Andrea Thomas, Diane Smith, Phil Crowson, Edwyna Combe, Letty Loomas, Harold Bartchy, Lena Sparacio, Deacon Gary Borne, Bobbie Ann Bergeron, Jack Serigne, Suzanne Unger, Linda Mayer, Cynthia B. Farrara, Dora Higgins, Amanda Livaudais, Mr. Tim Smith Sr. & Family, Mr. Tim Smith Jr. & Family, Worley Parks, John Bel, Henry S. Tuminello, Joyce Benoit, Bridget Celestin, Robert Vallejo, Alicia Walker-Cole, Alvin M. Castay, Sr., James McCilwain, 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, 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, Joe Miceli, Lynn Andoillna, Sylvia Belile, Fredrick Jones, Ronald Waguespack, Mary Giovenco, Robert Kemp, Danny & Emily Barre, Linda Bauer, Carl Dolly, Esther Coy, Patrick Lonergan, Charlotte Thibodeaux, Sandra LeBlanc, Glenda Melton, Serio Morris, Donna Theroit

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.

Unwavering Fidelity to God's Will

In the old tradition of the Church, the Christmas season was celebrated up until this day, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This allowed for 40 days of bringing to mind the glorious day of Christ's birth on earth, similar to the 40 days we celebrate from Easter Sunday until the Feast of the Ascension. While current calendars have us taking down our trees at the Baptism of the Lord, just three short Sundays after the Nativity, today's Feast still holds great significance.

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, was born into a humble Jewish family. His parents were faithful to God's will, whether it be agreeing to a supernatural conception, following instructions given in dreams or fleeing to a foreign land. On this day, they were called to carry out a religious custom. 40 days after birth, the family was to bring their child to the temple to dedicate him to the Lord. A sacrifice was brought for the ritual offering, normally a lamb, but since Mary and Joseph were of humble means, they brought either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

But perhaps the most surprising element of this event is the fact that the Holy Family falls into the background. They are not the main characters in this story, but rather two elderly individuals who seemingly come out of the woodwork when the Christ Child is brought into the temple. Simeon and Anna, two righteous and devout people who were awaiting the redemption of Israel, were chosen as some of the first people whose eyes lit up upon seeing our Savior! In fact, Simeon even got to hold Him in his arms!

And that is why some still call this day "Candlemas" as well. They bless candles that symbolize Jesus as the Light of the World. Simeon and Anna experienced first hand the splendor of the Lord and went on to give thanks to God and speak about the child to all who would listen. The light that shone forth from the tiny Babe, went on to shine forth through them, for Jesus illuminates all the nations.

As we gaze upon the unwavering fidelity of Simeon and Anna, Mary and Joseph, what will our response be? Let us ask for the intercession of these saints to imitate their prayerful faithfulness. May we always be ready to follow God's will in our lives and present all that we are to Him in love.

Tami Urcia



Judith Provenzano Cesar Fonseca

St. Rita Harahan, Louisiana Sunday, February 2, 2025

75 TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. RITA PILGRIMAGE

OCTOBER 6-16, 2025

Join Fr. Steven Bruno on this special pilgrimage to

St. Rita's homeland and throughout Italy

Day 1 Oct 6 (Mon) Board the plane for Italy Day 2 Oct 7 (Tues) Arrive in Rome, Italy

Day 3 Oct 8 (Wed) Rome
Day 4 Oct 9 (Thurs) Rome

Day 5 Oct 10 (Fri) Rome – Pietrelcina – San Giovanni Rotondo

Day 6 Oct 11 (Sat) Monte Sant'Angelo

Day 7 Oct 12 (Sun) San Giovanni Rotondo – Lanciano - Loreto – Assisi

Day 8 Oct 13 (Mon) Assisi

Day 9 Oct 14 (Tues) Roccaporena and Cascia

Day 10 Oct 15 (Wed) Assisi – Rome

Day 11 Oct 16 (Thurs) Depart Rome and return Home

MEDJUGORJE OPTIONAL EXTENSION

OCTOBER 16-19, 2025

Day 1 Oct 16 Depart Rome, to Medjugorje

Day 2 Oct 17 Medjugorje

Day 3 Oct. 18 Medjugorje- Dubrovnik, Croatia

Day 4 Oct. 19 Depart Dubrovnik, Croatia

For more information or to reserve a space: Mary Perricone: (504) 512-4021 mperricone54@gmail.com

Rescheduled meeting

We'd like to invite all who may be interested in possibly coming with us on our St Rita of Cascia Pilgrimage to a meeting Thursday Feb. 6 at 4:00 pm In the community room. The meeting will be streamed and recorded if you are unable to attend.

Presentation of the Lord

In the Gospel today, Jesus show us that we are called to place gospel values before any other values and to be willing to put our lives on the line for them.

Taking care of God's poor is indeed living

gospel values.

Is God is calling you to join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?



St. Rita Knights of Columbus 375 Oak Avenue Harahan, LA 70123



Saturday February 22, 2025 at 6PM KC Hall - 375 Oak Ave

\$ 20 per person \$ 40 per couple

For additional information contact:



Russell Rebstock 504-256-5290 Tommy Flick 504-628-1992

<u>Saint of the Week</u>

SAINT AGATHA (died 251) February 5

"Of noble birth and great beauty," so the ancient accounts describe Saint Agatha, martyred during an early persecution for refusing a powerful Roman's offer of marriage, since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ. An early preacher, Saint Methodius, reflects instead on her name, noting that, in Greek, Agatha means "good," goodness being something we can all strive for, nobly born or common, blessed with beauty—or not! So brutal were the tortures that violated her youthful innocence, Agatha, like Agnes and several other women martyrs, was honored from time immemorial by having her name inscribed in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). Long invoked as protector against earthquakes—Mount Etna erupted as she was being tortured—recent attention has focused on the particularly cruel torture decreed for Agatha, the cutting off of her breasts. This has inspired cancer survivors to promote Saint Agatha as patron and intercessor for women courageously facing breast cancer, for their families and the multitude of supporters who participate in fund-raising marches and races, and, of course, for the dedicated researchers who seek a cure.

—Peter Scagnelli

Presentation of the Lord

From the desk of: Fr. David

Dear family,

Wow. Who would have thought that Harahan would start 2025 with that much snow? I don't know about you, but for me, there was so much to reflect on with the snow: how isolated we become when we can't access our personal circles of family and friends, even when they're just the next town over; or how good it is when we reconnect with our own community where we live, when we are forced to be less busy and get to take a walk around the neighborhood and build true community with our own neighbors around a snowman or fire pit or with some makeshift sleds; or just the hard-hitting visual reminder of what it means when God says He will take our sins away and make us white as snow. Lots to reflect upon. Sadly, we also started our year with many horrific occurrences practically in our backyard: the New Year's Day attack in New Orleans and the tragic murders in River Ridge, not to mention any other personal trials that 2025 may have brought into your own life already. As a priest, part of my role is to stand before God on behalf of the people entrusted to me, and intercede and offer sacrifice on your behalf. I'm feeling the weight of that especially this month, and I'm diving in as best I can, to be the priestly intercessor that our parish family needs me to be.

One thing that hopefully will help me be a better priest in this regard is a program that I'm undertaking for the first time, called Exodus 90. You may have heard of it; it is for Catholic men who want to find greater freedom from whatever is holding them back, in order to go deeper in their relationship with God. "Oh yeah, Father, I think I've heard of Exodus 90that's the one where the men only take cold showers for 90 days?" Yes, that just might be the most wellknown aspect of it—what kind of crazy person does that!?—but I think before long we discover that there are other disciplines much more difficult than giving up warm showers. If you are a Catholic adult male who wants greater freedom in your life to be more present to your family and to God, it's not too late to jump into Exodus 90! Just download the app and sign up for the free trial to learn what it's all about... and come talk to me if you want to start (or have started) but you need a group of men to join... or get a group of men together and start your own! dfrank@archno.org

One of the disciplines of Exodus 90 is to exercise three times a week, and with that in mind I will be resuming my weekly Saturday morning 7:00 AM half-hour Rosary walk/run on the levee, starting at the levee end of Imperial Woods Drive, for the entire month of February. Whatever your speed, walking or running, feel free to join me out there any Saturday in February around 6:55 AM, as we motivate each other to give our bodies and souls a good start to the day. Maybe you can use it to get ready for the Born to Run 5K fundraiser this coming spring, and walk or run with your fellow St. Rita Trotters for Life!

Whatever trials or blessings are in store for you in 2025, this new year can be the year that God brings your relationship with Him to a new depth that you never imagined was possible. Let's go!!!!

Fr. David



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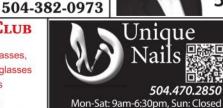
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