

March 19, 2023 — Fourth Sunday of Lent

St. Mary of the Angels



PHONE: 504-945-3186

3501 N. MIRO STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA 70117

FAX: 504-945-9115

MISSION STATEMENT

“We are a welcoming community of believers who worship God and serve others.”

OUR CORE VALUES

- We are Catholic. ■ We are caring Christians. ■ We give time, talent, treasure and witness.
- We share good news in word and deed. ■ We reach out to the local community.
- We serve through social ministry by works of charity and justice.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Parents are expected to call the parish office three months prior to the anticipated Baptism of the child. Baptisms are not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

CONFIRMATION: Classes are held for High School students grades 9th –11th following the guidelines of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. These classes are usually held on Wednesday nights.

VISITATION OF THE SICK: Please inform the parish office when someone is sick, shut-in, or in the hospital, and are unable to attend mass.

RECONCILIATION: Offered Saturday at 3:15 p.m. & Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

FUNERALS: Please inform the parish office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.

MARRIAGE: Engaged couples must call the parish office at least six months prior to the planned date of the wedding.

RCIA: Interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member, please call the parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Joseph Hund, OFM.....Pastor
Fr. Michael Haney, OFM.....Parochial Vicar
Br. Daniel Barrett, OFM.....Pastoral Associate
Br. Juniper Crouch, OFM.....in Residence
Sister Judy Zynda, O.P.....Prayer & Scripture Ministry
Vanessa Matthews.....Director of Religious Ed
Jeoffre Duplessis.....Director of Music Ministry
Paulette Duplessis.....Secretary
Lisa Alexander.....Financial Manager

PARISH COUNCIL

Peggy Williams.....Chairperson
Edwin Shorty.....Vice Chairperson
Gail Winsey.....Secretary
Gale Armant.....Finance
Eric Bennett.....Administration & Leadership
Darrin Duroncelet.....Community Life
Vaughn Valeary.....Evangelization
Marlene Robinson.....Justice & Charity
Embra Bridges.....Respect Life
Lynn Duroncelet.....Religious Education
Debra Theard.....Worship
Paula Arceneaux.....Stewardship
Lynn Evans.....Pastoral Care

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass.....4:00 p.m.
Sunday Gospel Mass.....10:00 a.m.

Community Center

504.945.3186

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

(Enter church through side entrance of Friars parking area)

Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri.....8:00 a.m.

Tues.....8:00 a.m.

St. Anthony Devotion...Follows Tuesday Morning Mass

SMA WEBSITE: smaneworleans.org

March 19, 2023
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When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. John 9:35-38

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

mycatholiclife.com

Stewardship
March 12, 2023

What we need each week.....	\$3,600.00
Envelopes & loose received.....	\$2,139.00
Online Giving.....	\$175.00
What we are <u>under</u> this week.....	\$1,286.00
Envelopes used.....	123
Weekend Mass attendance.....	119

Our Family Prayer

Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of war, disaster, epidemic and illness. We come to you, Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism.

We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence.

Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family.



March 19, 2023 – March 25, 2023

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Each Mass is offered for the intentions of all present and for the following:

Sunday.....	Parishioners of SMA
Monday.....	Olivia Messa Dana Daigre †
Tuesday.....	Ann Cheatham † Kate Messa
Wednesday.....	Special Intentions †
Thursday.....	Michael Carey Olivia Messa
Friday.....	Olivia Messa Cheryl Crooks
Saturday	Josephine Baptiste † Tara Cabrini Romain Smith †

PRAYER LINE

If you know any parishioners who may be sick or in the hospital, please notify the Church office at 945-3186. The name (s) will be published in the bulletin and at the Masses so that the congregation can pray for them.

Danielle Davis	Bonito J. Manego	Kay Vincent
Taylor Brown	Shirley Hawkins	Henry Butler
Beverly Bierria	Vertner Woods	Aline Robinson
Althea Augustine	Patricia Eugene	Dorothy Grant
Darril Frick	Geraldine Aguiard	Victor Jackson
Gary Medley	Ronald Cavalier	Gerald Cavalier
Patrick Maheia	Janice Nadler	Lorraine Jackson
Dana Roy	Mary Nadler	Kent Landry
Shirley Ellsworth	Helen Legier	Robin Jackson
Corey Lee	Lynn Evans	Willie Caliste
Leslie Duplessis	Jacquelyn Buggage	Thelma Hall
Deneen Schexneider	Audrey County	Albert Evans, Jr.
Claude Wiltz	Henry Butler	Patricia Parker
Jaden Coleman	Roxanne L'Herrise	
Bishop Fernand Cheri, OFM	Very Rev. Henry Davis, S.S.J., V.F.	

Interested in Joining A Ministry?

Altar Servers

Altar servers are students from grades 3rd to 12th and have made their First Holy Communion. For more information on the Altar Servers, please call the church office: 504.945.3186.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion help distribute the Sacred Body and Blood during the masses celebrated in the church and also take communion to persons who are either hospitalized or homebound. The ministers must attend a workshop provided by the Archdioceses of New Orleans in order to be certified as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. For more information, please call the church office: 504.945.3186.

Ministers of Hospitality (Ushers)

There are ministers who help welcome and assist those attending all liturgical function of the parish, especially during the different masses celebrated. The ministers of hospitality are directed by Mr. Gale Armant, for more information, please contact him at the church office: 504.945.3186.

Ministers of the Word (Lectors)

The Ministers of the Word proclaim the Holy Scripture readings during the different liturgical celebrations of the church. The ministers must attend a workshop provided by the Archdioceses of New Orleans in order to be certified as Ministers of the Word (Lectors). For more information, please call the church office: 504.945.3186.

Ministers of Music and Worship (Choir)

The Ministers of Music and Worship help lead the congregation in song for the liturgy. They are committed to the values of spirituality, evangelistic leadership, fellowship and liturgical awareness for the SMA community.

Catechesis and Religious Education for Children (CCD)

Catechesis and Religious education: 504.945.3186.

Altar Society

works for the benefit of the church such as: maintain the priest vestments, upkeep of altar vessels and altar linens in preparing for Mass. Mrs. Debra Theard - contact the parish 504.945.3186

Bereavement

provides care for individuals and families especially when losing a loved one. Ms. Deirdre Landry, Chairperson - contact the parish 504.945.3186

Mighty Men's Ministry

faithful leaders working together to fill the gap where things are needed in the church: role models for the youth and support other ministries when needed. Mr. Vaughn Valeary, President - contact the parish 504.945.3186

Advocate for Persons with Disabilities

welcomes persons with disabilities into full participation in the life of the parish and offer them practical assistance, promotes awareness of the existence, concerns and gifts of parishioners and potential parishioners with disabilities. Contact Linda Minor and Vera Landry 504.945.3186

Grief Ministry Support Group

Grief comes in all forms and everyone of us handle it differently. If you have lost a loved one, a child, a spouse, a parent, a sibling or a friend, please join us. Contact Embra Bridges or Beverly Bierria. 504.945.3186

Catholic Charities

St. Mary of the Angels Head Start Program.....504.227.3470
Catholic Charities Care Line.....866.891.2210

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Pray for Vocations" to Religious Life and the Priesthood and encourage our youth to think and pray about such a "vocation of life."

Franciscan Friars: sibvocations@franciscan.org;
website: www.franciscan.org

Archdiocese of New Orleans: vocations@archdiocese-no.org;
nolapriest.com

Adrian Dominican: vocations@adriandominicans.org

Frank Richard, Saturday, March 18, 4:00 pm Vigil Mass.

In honor of St. Joseph Feast Day there will be a St. Joseph Altar on March 18-19. See Derek Rankins for more information.

Check the Parish Bulletin Board for further information and announcements.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- April 2 — Passion/Palm Sunday; 10:00 AM Outside Procession
- April 6 — 6:00 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
(Office closes at noon until Tuesday, April 11)
- April 7 — 3:00 PM Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- April 7 — Special Collection for the Holy Land
- April 8 — 8:00 PM Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
- April 9 — 10:00 AM Easter Sunday Mass of the Lord's Resurrection
- April 10 — Parish Office will be Closed

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Fridays of Lent: 5:30 PM Adoration and Benediction; 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross on March 18, March 25, April 1 and April 8.
Confessions...Wednesday, March 15, March 22, and March 29, 5:00-6:30 PM.



Remember to support our
Outreach Food Pantry
by placing your food items in
the little red wagon.
Thank You



PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Quentin Green	Kenneth Cuneo
Edjunique Francois	Christina Valeary
Tyler J. McCormick	

St. Alphonsus Liguori's
Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

BIRTHDAYS

We wish to congratulate all of our brothers and sisters who are celebrating birthdays or an anniversary in **March**:

Vera Landry, 26	Hearrest Harrison, 16	Edwin Shorty, 27
Clovis Simmons, 31	Linda Minor, 18	Gail Winsey, 28
Quentin Gaines, 13	Caitlyn Heisser, 22	Jovan White, 18
Ya'Sheena Johnson, 30	Stephen Washington, 5	Amari Marshall, 16
Sylvénie Carrière Jones, 13	Bella Tatum, 13	

PARISH CALENDAR

Religious Education Class, contact *Vanessa Matthews*

Choir Rehearsal, Tuesdays, 6:00 pm.

Bible Study, Mondays, **Cancelled until further notice.**

Senior Bingo/Luncheon, Thursday, April 20, 11:00 - 1:00 pm

Food for Seniors, **Tuesday**, March 28, 10:00am until 12:00 noon

Grief Ministry Group, Wednesday, March 29, 10:00 am.

Rosary & Adoration, Friday, April 8, 2023, 12:00 noon

The Sanctuary Lamp light will continue to burn throughout the month of **March** for the soul of *Josephine C. Baptiste* requested by *Joanne Lewis*.

And for *Walter County, Jr.* requested by his mother *Audrey County*.

REFLECTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S READINGS - MARCH 26, 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

THE FIRST READING

EZEKIEL 37:12-14

I will put my spirit in you that you may live. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.

O Christ,
open up our graves.
Breathe Spirit into our dry bones.

You promised that
we will come
to life in
you.

THE SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:8-11

You are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Spirit of God,
what would it have been without you?
Days without sunlight,
kites with no wind.

Shine on our flesh and breathe in our souls.

Be the beginning and ending
of all that we are and do.

Humbly we ask that you
give your life
to our weary, mortal souls.

<http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

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THE GOSPEL

JOHN 11:1-45

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

He had cried "Lazarus,
come out of there!"

Lazarus did.

"Death, now where is your sting?"

Christ weep with us, and for us,
trapped in burial cloths with our hands tied,
when we are trafficked,
seized at borders, homeless.

Your passion says, "Untie them.
Let them go free."

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:



Today March 19th is the feast of St. Joseph and many churches in and around New Orleans will be making St. Joseph Altars honoring and thanking St. Joseph for prayers answered. According to legend, the St. Joseph Altar originated in Sicily many centuries ago during a period of drought and famine. After the drought, to show their gratitude, they prepared an altar with special assortment of foods they had harvested and distributed the food to the less fortunate.

The St. Joseph Altar devotion was brought to New Orleans and now throughout southern Louisiana by Italian immigrants and continues today as an offering of love and sacrifice in honor of St. Joseph. In his honor, they erected a lovely altar with three levels to represent the Holy Trinity and the statue of St. Joseph on the top level. They draped it simply and beautifully in white, adorned it with flowers, the finest grain, fruits, vegetables, seafood and wine. The poor were invited to share in their prayer and festivity.

Reasons for having the altars vary – to fulfill a promise, to give thanks for a favor granted, such as the safe return of a loved one from war, for healing the sick, for a happy family, for success in studies or business, for the gift of a child. It is also an opportunity for the prosperous to share with those less fortunate.

There are many traditions associated with a St. Joseph Altar. One is the traditional dried, roasted and blessed fava bean. It has been known as the very popular "lucky bean." St. Joseph reportedly sent the rains, which nourished the fava beans, which in turn fed the famished Sicilians. Legend has it that you will never be broke as long as you carry a "lucky bean." The custom is to carry a fava bean in your wallet or handbag for luck. At most altars, visitors are given a lucky bean to take home with them, so please feel free to take one. We are starting out very slow and small. We hope to grow this tradition, introducing something new every year. The Altar will be in church Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Mrs. Sandra Scalise Juneau a New Orleanian of Sicilian heritage expresses well the spiritual meaning of St. Joseph Altar. "This is the beauty of the St. Joseph Altar tradition. It's not about the food, which is wonderful and has a lot of symbolism and history, but St. Joseph brings people together in the most amazing way. I am constantly astounded by it. That, to me, is the whole miracle behind the St. Joseph Altar tradition."

St. Mary of the Angels and St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us,

Friar Joe Hund, ofm