

**APRIL 14, 2024 — THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER**

## *St. Mary of the Angels*



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FAX: 504-945-9115

WEBSITE: [smaneworleans.org](http://smaneworleans.org)

### 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.

#### PARISH STAFF

Fr. Francis Kamau, FMH.....Pastor  
Br. Daniel Barrett, OFM.....Pastoral Associate  
Br. Juniper Crouch, OFM.....in Residence  
Vanessa Matthews.....Director of Religious Ed  
Jeoffre Duplessis.....Director of Music Ministry  
Paulette Duplessis.....Secretary  
TBA.....Financial Manager  
Saundria Washington.....Housekeeper

#### 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  
TBA.....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 Rental

504.945.3186

#### 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.

#### 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

April 14, 2024  
Third Sunday of Easter



*"Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." Luke 24:38-39*

In the first reading of today's Mass, Saint Peter is recorded as doing this very thing. After healing a crippled man at the gate of the Temple, a crowd gathered in amazement and Peter preached to them about Jesus. He concluded His sermon by saying, "God has thus brought to fulfillment what he had announced beforehand through the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer. Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be wiped away."

Today, we are entrusted with the same mission given to our Lord's disciples, and we must preach with the same zeal, courage and conviction with which they preached. First, we must become as certain as they were about Jesus' triumph over sin and death. We must turn from all sin and believe that the fullness of life is found only in Christ Jesus. But then we must commit ourselves to the proclamation of this faith with every fiber of our being.

Begin by considering how deeply you believe in Jesus as the Savior of the World. Though it might be tempting to think that having Jesus appear to you in person would help deepen your faith in Him, the truth is that the first disciples were not primarily convinced because of the physical appearances of Jesus. Rather, this gift came primarily through the spiritual touching of their minds. After appearing to the disciples physically, we read that Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." This was what convinced them more than anything—the spiritual gift of understanding. And that gift is offered to you today, just as it was to the first followers of Jesus.

Saint Thomas Aquinas explains that the spiritual gift of understanding is a gift that reveals to us the very essence of God. He explains that it is a much deeper form of knowledge than that which is obtained through our five senses. Thus, simply seeing something with our eyes, touching it or hearing it is not nearly as convincing as the knowledge obtained through the spiritual gift of understanding. The gift of understanding enables us to "read inwardly" and to penetrate the very essence of something. For that reason, the physical appearance of Jesus might have been the first step toward believing, but it wasn't until these same disciples encountered our Lord within their souls, perceiving the very essence of His Resurrection inwardly, that they were forever changed. Only this form of knowledge could then convince them to go forth and proclaim the message of salvation.

[mycatholiclife.com](http://mycatholiclife.com)

Stewardship  
April 7, 2024

What we need each week.....	\$3,600.00
Envelopes & loose received .....	\$2,586.00
Maintenance.....	\$513.00
Online Giving.....	\$600.00
What we are <i>under</i> this week.....	\$414.00
Envelopes used .....	143
Weekend Masses attendance .....	110

[smaneworleans.org/give](http://smaneworleans.org/give)  
Thank you for your support

April 14, 2024 – April 20, 2024

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

*Each Mass is offered for the intentions of all present and for the following: "Deceased Parishioners" will be remembered on every date when a specified Mass intention is not requested.*

Sunday.....	Parishioners of SMA †
Monday.....	Deceased Parishioners †
Tuesday.....	Evelyn Johnson
Wednesday.....	Deceased Parishioners †
Thursday.....	Deceased Parishioners †
Friday.....	Deceased Parishioners †
Saturday .....	Michael Darby†



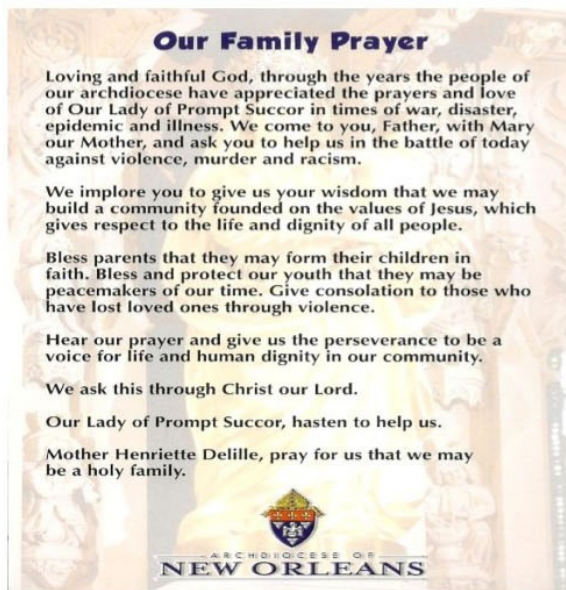
The **Sanctuary Lamp** light will burn daily during the month of *April* for the souls of **Clarence Baptiste** requested by Joanne Lewis; and **Kevin Landry** requested by Lynn Evans.

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.

**\*parishioner.**

Danielle Davis*	Bonito J. Manego	Claude Wiltz*
Taylor Brown	Henry Butler*	Beverly Bierria*
Vertner Woods*	Aline Robinson*	Crystal Valeary*
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*	Robin Jackson	Percy Alexander
Corey Lee	Lynn Evans*	Jaden Coleman
Leslie Duplessis*	Jacquelyn Buggage*	Thelma Hall*
Audrey County*	Albert Evans, Jr.*	Patricia Parker
Yvonne Dukes*	Shirleen Polite	Anna Cavalier*
Rudolph McCormick*	Henry Scott*	Herreast Harrison*
Very Rev. Henry Davis, S.S.J., V.F.		Fr. Robert Seay, OFM



## 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.



## The Merton Prayer

By Thomas Merton

My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end,  
nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that  
desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

# CHRIST YESTERDAY & TODAY

### Catholic Charities

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

"Pray for Vocations" is Religious Life and the Priesthood and

Franciscan Friars: [sibvocations@franciscan.org](mailto:sibvocations@franciscan.org);  
website: [www.franciscan.org](http://www.franciscan.org)

Archdiocese of New Orleans: [vocations@archdiocese-no.org](mailto:vocations@archdiocese-no.org);  
[notapriest.com](http://notapriest.com)

Adrian Dominican: [vocations@adriandominicans.org](mailto:vocations@adriandominicans.org)

In order to provide pastoral care for the people of God in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archbishop Aymond has made the following appointments, which are effective July 1, 2024: **Reverend Francis Kamau, F.M.H. as Pastor of merged parishes: Our Lady Star of the Sea, New Orleans / St. Mary of the Angels, New Orleans.**

**St. Mary of the Angels/Our Lady Star of the Sea merger** meeting with both Pastoral Councils and Finance Councils at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00pm.

**Second Collection...**April 20-21, 2024 for Diocesan Priest Retirement.

**The National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor,"** premiering on April 15 at 9 p.m. on WYES-TV, traces the history of devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, a Marian title that was formally granted by a papal decree of Canonical Coronation in 1894 by Pope Leo XIII.

**CRS Rice Bowl...**we are asking you to bring your Lenten Rice Bowl donations. Thank you for your generosity.

### Benefit Planning for Children and Adults with Special Needs

The Archdiocesan Commission for People with Disabilities is hosting a workshop on enrolling and protecting financial benefits for people with disabilities. The workshop will provide information by Carole Cuckell Neff on legal planning for adults and children with special needs. The workshop will be held at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Metairie on Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30-11:30.



### SMA Food Pantry

In order to feed the poor who knock at our door, we need your help in restocking our non-perishable food supplies in the church's food pantry.

*Thank you for your support and concern.*



### PRAY FOR OUR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Quentin Green	Kenneth Cuneo
Edjunique Francois	Christina Valeary
Michael Anthony McCormick, II	Tyler J. McCormick

## BIRTHDAYS

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

Darril Frick, 30	Michael Blazio, 15
Helen Thomas, 11	Jolynn Ruffin, 29
Dianne Clippis, 29	Vanessa Matthews, 3
Rosalie Armant, 16	Valencia Hawkins, 4
Lynn Scott, 10	Crystal Valeary, 12
Gerard Labostrie, 27	Felicia El-Mansura, 19
Terrence L'Herisse, 4	Alexandria Howard, 21
Imani Polete, 15	Ariane Morgan, 5
Bruce El-Mansura, 30	Jeremiah Johnson, 25

## PARISH CALENDAR

Religious Education Class, contact *Vanessa Matthews*

Choir Rehearsal, Tuesdays, 6:00 pm.

Senior Bingo/Luncheon, **Thursday, April 18**, 11:00am-1:00pm

Food for Seniors, **Tuesday, May 28**, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Emmaus Ministry, **Wednesday, April 24**, 2024, 11:30 am at the Munch Factory Restaurant, 6514 Congress Dr.

Rosary & Adoration, 2nd Friday of every month at 12:00 noon

## REFLECTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK'S READINGS - APRIL 21, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of EASTER

### THE FIRST READING

**ACTS 4:8-12**

*In his name this man stands before you, healed.*

Only one name could  
make the cripple  
walk.

Father in heaven,  
give us that same courage  
you gave to Peter—to speak out,  
tell about the one rejected  
who became our  
corner-  
stone.

In Jesus' name  
we ask food for the hungry,  
care for all immigrants  
and suffering children,  
healing for our planet,  
love that ends divisions.

### THE SECOND READING

**1 JOHN 3:1-2**

*We may be called children of God.*

We are all  
his  
children  
now.

God does not become  
Our Father  
tomorrow  
or next week,  
but now,  
today.  
This minute.

No matter  
what.

Abba.

### THE GOSPEL

**JOHN 10:11-18**

*I am the good Shepherd.*

The Good Shepherd knows his sheep  
and calls them each by name.  
They listen, they wait for  
the sound of his  
voice.

We are  
so like them.  
O Jesus, Shepherd,  
we harken to hear you call us.

Hold us in your arms awhile.

Then help us take your unconditional love  
—the lay-down-your-life kind of love  
that you got from your Father—  
and wrap it around us  
and into the lives  
of all people every where.

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

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The Gospel today concludes, "*Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures...*" This was not something that happened once and was then done; it is a process they were going through; it was their journey to belief in the Resurrection.

'Opening our minds' is not something that happens quickly or easily. To have 'an open mind' takes time and effort and struggle and many setbacks. So, it was for Peter and the others in the locked room. Through fear, doubt, disbelief, anxiety and uncertainty they gradually came to the amazing conclusion that Jesus was "...*the Messiah; (that he) suffered, and (that he) rose from the dead on the third day.*"

They were the first "*witnesses to these things...*" and once their minds were opened and they realized that they were part of the eternal love story between God and creation, they never once looked back.

Every one of them spent the rest of their lives preaching and living the Gospel. They travelled to many lands and overcame many obstacles, always... always... witnessing to the Resurrection. In the end almost all of those in that locked room died for the Gospel they preached. They died because of the narrow, selfish, intolerant, closed minds of those with power and wealth.

We are today's witnesses to the Resurrection. Peter and the others call out to us over two thousand years; the risen Jesus calls out to us over two thousand years; "*Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.*"

So..... why are we troubled? Why do doubts rise in our minds? Can't we hear the risen Jesus say to us, "It is I myself! Touch me and see."?

Many thanks,

**Brian Maher**, OMI  
Oblates.ie