

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Uptown New Orleans

631 State Street • New Orleans, LA 70118

Office: 891-4479 • Fax: 891-4470

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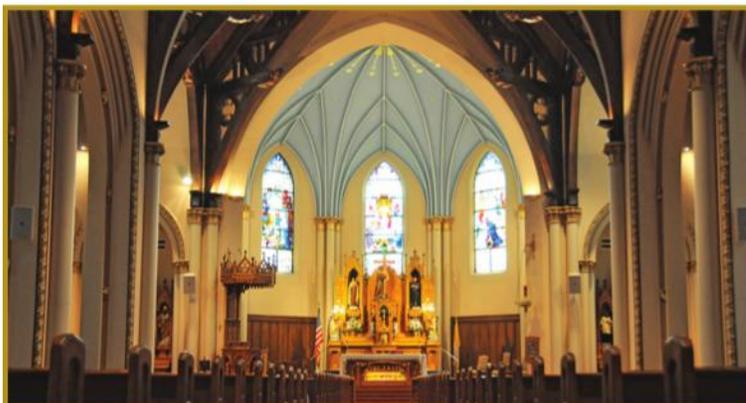
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PARISH PRAYER

Loving Father, You gather us together as a Roman Catholic family,
to thank and praise You in shared faith and lived love.

May we be drawn more completely into the life of Your Holy Spirit and hear Your
personal call for each of us, helping us to reveal Your presence in this world.
Inspired by Your love and moved by the example of our patron, St. Francis, let us be
instruments of peace, to sow love where there is hatred, pardon where injury, faith
where doubt, hope where despair, light where darkness, joy where sadness.
Knowing that it is only in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned, in
dying that we are born to eternal life, we make this prayer through Your Son,
our Lord, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming Christian community in New Orleans that is centered in the Eucharist. We are committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the dignity of human life. We are a family that strives to learn and share our faith by living the Beatitudes and by reconciling ourselves with God and one another.

PARISH STAFF

Pastor - Rev. Michael J. Schneller
Director of Religious Education - Christi Schott
Director of Family Life Ministries - Melisa Rey
Facilities Manager - Matthew Landry
Administrative Assistant - Teresa Miller
Director of Music/Organist - Thomas D. Wright
Cantor - Johnny Tolentino
Sacristan - Paul Vetter

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.
Sunday	9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Holy Days	To Be Announced
Monday	8:30 a.m.
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday	8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday	3:00 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday	5:30 p.m.

At other times by appointment

NOVENA

In honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Tuesday
following the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

ADORATION

Monday 8:30am-4:30pm - In the Parish Center

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

Second Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.
In the Parish Center

INFANT BAPTISMS

Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of each month after the
11:30 a.m. Mass excluding the season of Lent. First time
parents and godparents are expected to participate in
a Baptism preparation seminar which may take place
during pregnancy. Please contact the Parish Center for
more information.

MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS

The policy of the Archdiocese requires a minimum
six-month preparation period for marriage, during
which the couple meets with the priest or deacon and
participates in the Archdiocesan marriage preparation
program. Engaged couples should telephone the Parish
Center no less than six months prior to the anticipated
date of marriage for an appointment with the priest or
deacon.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

The parish priest is to be contacted before the family
makes any arrangements with the funeral director.
Family members are also asked to meet with the priest to
prepare for the Funeral liturgy.

Uptown Canticle by Father Michael

On March 8, 1967, fans started lining up at midnight to purchase the first NO Saints season tickets which went on sale at 8:00 a.m. My cousin, Calvin Long, a 20 year old baker from Poydras, LA was first in line.

Who doesn't want to be first? All of us generally like to be first. Thousands of people wanted to be at the head of the line forming to buy the new Apple iPhone. Children want to be the first served at the Thanksgiving dinner so they can get one of the two drumsticks. We want to be first on the short list of candidates for a good job.

Who doesn't want to be first? Being first implies getting more, being privileged, getting ahead of others. In today's gospel parable from Matthew Jesus reverses our expectation about the prerogatives of being first. He says the first will be last and the last will be first. This surely is a different way of looking at first and last and imposes a different perspective— a perspective appropriate and necessary for the kingdom of heaven to come.

Who are the *"last"* and the *"first"*? Those laborers are *"last"* who shift their focus from doing the work of the landowner to grumbling about the amount of wages others are receiving. Those are *"first"* who do not labor in the vineyard because of the amount of wages, but simply because they are privileged to share in the work of the landowner. Simply being called to the privilege of sharing in Jesus' work of salvation is its own recompense. The kingdom of heaven is revealed by those who choose this work. Do we choose it?

We humans are most concerned about meting out justice in a quid pro quo manner... a full day's wage for a full day's work, a half day's wage for a half day's work, and so on. This landowner, who symbolizes God, functions according to a different equation. In his question to the workers "Are you envious because I am generous?" his prodigal generous heart considers those hired later and last. What is more important, being fair or being generous? Who are they, the hired later and last?

Flannery O'Connor best described them in her short story called *"Revelation."* In it, she tells about a character named Ruby Turpin, a pious lady who was very proud of her virtuous life. But, while sitting in the waiting room of a doctor's office, she has a violent encounter with a young woman. In the process, Mrs. Turpin is confronted with her own smug and condescending manner in terms of the way she sees the world and all those around her. The story ends with her gazing up into the sky while working on her farm. There she sees a vision: a long line of people dancing into heaven. What shocks her is that this group is being led by people whom she always looked down upon as less worthy. Now she sees that the *last* appear to be *first!* This is her *"revelation."*

Like Ruby Turpin do we need to see things differently? There is another way of looking at things. And perhaps the best way to do that is to start looking from the perspective of being at the *"back of the line,"* instead of at the front.

From this vantage point of the *"back of the line"*, we begin to see something that we've been missing. When we're up front we are easily blinded by our own self-righteousness. From the *"back of the line"*, we get the opportunity to see the very best way to know how infinitely gracious our God is. Watching his generosity being poured out on others, especially the wretched of this world. Standing up front, we smugly think of ourselves as the ones who are owed, the ones who have earned the prize. But when we stand in the back, we can start to understand, as the Isaiah reading reminds us, that "your ways are not my ways, says the Lord."

Back to the parable and the workers. Which group do I identify with? *"Am I a 'cradle Catholic' who has been faithful all my life?"* "Wonderful," says the Lord, "come, enter, and receive your just reward." *"Am I someone who has been a bit off and on in the practice of my Christianity? Maybe a noontime Catholic?"* "Wonderful," says our generous God, "come, enter the kingdom of heaven." *"Maybe I am the Johnny-come-lately."* "Wonderful," says our compassionate God, "come and enjoy eternal happiness." No matter which group I'm with, can I be free of envy when I see some of the people who may also just squeeze into the kingdom?

Uptown Canticle - continued

The landowner in the story we heard today is confronting the workers, and each of us, with our own limited understanding of who God really is and how radical his love, generosity and mercy for each of us can be. Our *revelation* is that we begin to get a glimmer of what God's way is. The more he lavishly pours his generosity out on others, the more we slowly start to let go of envy. We begin to experience that process of replacing our smallness, stinginess and grumbling spirit with the gigantic spirit of God's radical grace! And it all starts with a simple question: "*Are you envious because I am generous?*"

For almost six months we have requested parishioners to make a reservation for a specific Sunday Mass. Of course, we want to accommodate everyone standing in line. We long for the day when we can sing "All Are Welcome." For most of us, if not all, that day cannot come soon enough. Until then continue to make a reservation for the mass you wish to attend.

This Sunday is Catechetical Sunday. The 2020 theme is *I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you*. Those who the Community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate ourselves to this mission as a community of faith.

You can reserve a seat either by calling Teresa, in the parish office or visiting our website: <https://www.stfrancisuptown.com/mass-rsvp>. In making a reservation for mass, please observe the guidelines in this bulletin and on our parish website. If you are not a registered parishioner, use this occasion to be among the members of the flock of St. Francis of Assisi. You can register on our website www.stfrancisuptown.com

For those parishioners we cannot accommodate in the church or who are fearful to gather with us, Archbishop Aymond has given permission to distribute Holy Communion after mass outdoors. He strongly suggested that we not give Holy Communion to people in vehicles. He recommends that we do so outside where people can form a communion line and observe social distancing. Therefore, after each mass, weather permitting, I will be available to distribute Holy Communion in the front lawn of the rectory. I suggest that as you approach me to receive the Body of Christ you pray the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father.

Please remember that Archbishop Aymond has dispensed the people of the Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If someone is vulnerable and not feeling well, we ask that you not celebrate Mass in church with other people. Baptisms, Weddings and funerals is limited to 100 worshippers. This number will increase gradually.

We will continue to live stream the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday from church. Daily mass in church. Monday, Wednesday through Friday 8:30 am and Tuesday at 6:00 pm. No reservation is necessary for daily mass. We will no longer live stream daily mass.

General Guidelines for Mass Attendance:

Entering & Leaving: Church pews are marked and roped off. When Mass has ended, please do not gather in groups outside of church or in the parking lot. Continue to social distance

During Mass: **Wear a mask during Mass aside from receiving Communion.** Be mindful of social distancing and maintain 6 feet from others at all times. For weekend Masses, a worship aid will be available at the entrances. You may place your regular offering for support and other collections in the baskets in the center aisle and side doors. The Offertory procession is omitted. We can express the sign of peace by means of a smile and/or nod of the head.

Reception of Holy Communion: Bring hand sanitizer to use before receiving Communion. During the distribution of Holy Communion, form a single line and observe the social distancing blue lines on the floor of the aisles. We ask everyone to receive Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue. You will receive the Body of Christ in the form of bread only. When approaching the priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, place your hand flatly atop the other and fully extend your arm toward the priest or minister who will place the Host on your hand in a manner to avoid any contact with your hand.

CHURCH SUPPORT

September 12-13 2020

“YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH”

Envelopes	\$1,633.00
Loose	\$1,107.00
E-Giving	\$647.00
TOTAL	\$3,387.00
Second Collections	
Matthew 25 Ministry	\$442.00
Building and Maintenance	\$606.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Catholic Communications Campaign

This weekend our **Special Collection** is for **The Catholic Communications Campaign** in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This collection supports the evangelizing work of the church throughout the world by supporting media: newspapers, television, radio and digital or online media. Fifty percent of the funds collected in the Archdiocese of New Orleans remain here to support Catholic news media efforts and the Clarion Herald.

A Stewardship Moment

From an early age, we tend to distort the concept of “fairness”: I am good. I deserve good things. I am not receiving good things. Something must be wrong. Who’s going to fix it?” We also know the age-old expression: “Who ever said life was fair?” Jesus knew this expression when he offered his parable in today’s Gospel reading. Christian stewards acknowledge, with humility, that they receive good things from the Lord in abundance; even if these gifts are not the ones they think they need when they need them. Consider which servants you identify with most in the Gospel reading, the ones who demand “fairness”, or that final servant who, seemingly, deserves the least.

During this hurricane season, let us implore the Intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor to hasten to help us and our patron St. Francis of Assisi to make us instruments of the Lord’s peace.



Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns
this week in memory of
Lucille Mire McCann



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, September 19 - 4:00pm - Lucille Mire McCann, Robert McIntyre, Margaret “Butsy” Ross, Julia Pansano, Henry Schorr

SUNDAY, September 20- 9:30am - Parishioners

11:30am - Betsie Melancon

MONDAY, September 21- Special Intention Meredith Landry

TUESDAY, September 22 - Margaret Fanning

WEDNESDAY, September 23 - All Souls Book of Remembrance

THURSDAY, September 24 - Marion Morris

FRIDAY, September 25 - Lillian Sparo April

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

September 20th - September 26th

Sunday	Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a
Monday	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-3, 4-5; Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday	Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday	Eccl 11:9—12:8; Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17; Lk 9:43b-45

Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, Glenn Becnel, Simone M. Becnel, Christopher Brewster, Ben Capshaw, Antoinette Clark, Marvete Clark, Cathy Dermady, Rosita Duplantier, Mildred Flynn, James Ira Ford, Jr., Evelyn Francioni, Tamberly Gray, Ryan Hartley, Sherry Heller, Pat Jones, Leona Labat, Meredith Landry, William Robert Little, Robert Maddox, Cheryl Ann McDonald, Craig Melancon, Darnell Menasco, Lynn Middleton, Jeff Mitchener, John “Junior” Morreale, Joy Morton, Angelle Pecoraro, Paige Peterson, Melissa Phelps, Steven Philburn, Nedine Rende, Betty Richburg, Nell Ricker, Fred Riggle, Patricia Riggle, Justin Roy, Emma Ryan, Robert Schwab, Ainsley, Antoine and Andre Saleun, Louis Scott, Sr., Samantha Smith, Sara Surgi, Deacon Wil Toups, Nancy Williams, Residents of Hainkel, Covenant and Poydras Homes and Lambeth House.

O heavenly Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. We pray that You heal Your servants from our parish family, friends, and relatives of every spiritual and bodily ill which afflicts them. Amen.

Second Grade Catechist (Teacher) Needed

St. Francis' Parish School of Religion is in immediate need of a second grade catechist. Classes meet each Sunday on Zoom from 10:40-11:20am. Training and materials are provided. Please consider if God is calling you to this rewarding ministry! All volunteers must complete a Safe Environment training and background check. For more information, contact Christi Schott at cschott@stfrancisuptown.com or 227-3765.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish School of Religion (CCD)

Registration now open for
the 2020-2021 school year.

St. Francis' PSR program offers a variety of opportunities for children to learn and grow in their faith and provides religious instruction to children not currently enrolled in Catholic school and to those preparing for the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation. We invite you and your child to be a part of our School of Religion family!

Registration is available online at:

<https://stfrancisuptown.com/registration-form>

Elementary/Middle School PSR

Open for children in **Kindergarten—8th grade** who are currently not attending Catholic schools. **Classes began Sunday, September 13.**

High School PSR

Open to students in **9th grade or higher** who do not attend Catholic school and wish to be confirmed. Classes are held twice per month on Sunday evenings. For the Fall 2020 semester classes will meet virtually via Zoom.com. **A parent meeting will be held online this Sunday, September 20 from 6:00-7:00pm.**

Please register your child as soon as possible to help us plan for the upcoming year. Catholic school students preparing for first Eucharist (2nd grade) and Confirmation (10th grade) are also able to register at this time. **The Archdiocese requires one year prior of religious education or Catholic school before first Eucharist (beginning in 1st grade).**

For more information, please contact Christi Schott at (504)227-3765 or cschott@stfrancisuptown.com.



RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

"My heart is restless until it rests in you O God."

St. Augustine



Interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is?

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the process for initiation into the Catholic Church and an opportunity for those interested in becoming Catholic to explore the life and teachings of Christ through prayer, study, reflection, and community.

Sessions began September 8 and meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm online via Zoom. All are welcome! For the sign in link and more information please contact Christi Schott at (504) 891-4479 or cschott@stfrancisuptown.com.

Confirmation Retreat

Please pray for St. Francis' 11th and 12th grade Confirmation candidates as they go on Retreat Sunday, September 20 as part of their final preparation for the sacrament. Confirmation will take place Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00pm with Archbishop Alfred Hughes.



Archdiocese of New Orleans

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Office of the Archbishop

September 20, 2020

To: Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Today, throughout the Catholic Church, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday with the theme of "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you."

This is a special observance in each parish as we pray for and ask God's blessings upon all those who share in the important work of catechesis and Christian formation. Those who share in this ministry are our catechists in the Parish School of Religion, the administrators and teachers in our Catholic Schools, youth ministers and those who are involved in the ministry of RCIA. Please join me in thanking them for not only giving of themselves in a generous way to provide religious education and formation for our youth and adults, but also pray that God will continue to bless them and inspire them in their ministry. They give of themselves in a generous way to help others open their hearts to Christ. Furthermore, their example of faith is one that can be a source of inspiration to us.

Join me in praying for students, parents and families on this Catechetical Sunday. We are reminded that parents are the primary teachers of their children in faith and we pray for them that they will joyfully fulfill this vocation. I invite parents involved to continue this involvement in the education and Christian formation of their children. Parents, they need you, your support, and they need your example of living out your faith. You are a powerful witness to your child.

Please know of my deep appreciation and prayer of thanksgiving to all of you who share in this important ministry of catechesis and Christian formation.

Wishing you God's blessings, and with the assurance of my prayers, I am

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Breaking Open the Readings

First Reading

Second Reading



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:6-9

Trust in God's Wisdom

It is hard to figure God out. Looking around creation we see beautiful places but also areas of devastation. We meet charitable people but also others who are unkind. We see homes of the rich and the streets of the homeless. One family prospers. Another suffers multiple tragedies. What was God thinking by creating such inequality?

Our own lives are also filled with blessing and sorrow. Momentary incidents have forever shaped us. Friends have rescued us. Death stalks us. It is hard to figure out what God has in mind.

God spoke to Isaiah, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways." You can say that again. As hard as it is to read the mind of God, God does not choose to act the way we think a divine, loving Being should.

Through the prophet, God does not apologize for the way things are. Instead, God simply tells us we will never quite figure it out. The best we can do is turn to God for mercy.

To accept the wisdom of God requires faith and humble admission of our own inability to fully probe God's plan. It also takes trust that God will ultimately bring about the good that awaits all creation.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A
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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Matter of Life and Death

When death threatens to overtake us, we fight for life. We love the life we have received from God. We treasure it. We make every effort to preserve it. As Christians, we do not fear death. We believe it leads to peace. But we do not advance death either.

People who have no fear of death are awesome figures. At their best, they risk their lives for their family, their faith, or their country. But simpler heroes choose not to fight the approach of death, whether it comes by stealth of disease or by the onslaught of an enemy's hand.

It is riveting to hear the opening of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians: "For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. . . . I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit."

Death or life—Paul could take either one. His life helped people who needed his example and preaching. But his death would bring him to Christ. Given the choice, Paul preferred living in Christ. After all, his work had brought more than its share of torment and torture. Glorious peace awaited him. But he had work to do, and he accepted it.

We fight to preserve our lives, but in faith we accept what awaits us in death. Life is Christ. Death is gain.

Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year A
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For more information on how to pray with scripture and ways to incorporate the daily scripture readings into your life, please visit <https://bible.usccb.org/> (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).



By Angie Thomas (Part 2)
 Associate Director, Louisiana Right to Life
Are you ready for an abortion-free Louisiana?
Why do we need this pro-life constitutional amendment?

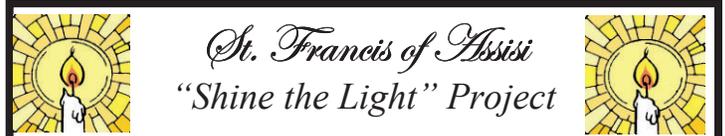
First, let us tell you about why we need this constitutional amendment. The quick answer is: This is the most expedient path to ending abortion in a post-Roe country. The longer answer lies in the history of our pro-life laws and in patterns we are seeing across the nation.

In 2006, Louisiana passed a pro-life “trigger” law. You may be asking yourself... “What’s a trigger law?” When Roe v. Wade is overturned at the Supreme Court & the question of the legality of abortion goes back to the states, then this law will be activated, & abortion will be immediately illegal in Louisiana. The law is triggered by the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

Many great pro-life Louisiana laws have been passed since then as well. In 2010, the fetal pain act that outlawed abortion after 20 weeks was passed. Then, the famous admitting privileges law in 2014. This law was recently taken all the way to the United States Supreme Court. Oral arguments were heard last month. In 2016, this great state passed the Unborn Protection Dismemberment Act, which closed the gap even more by outlawing abortion after 12-14 weeks. This law is currently being fought against in federal court. And finally, last year, Louisiana passed the Heartbeat bill, a law protecting unborn babies after a heartbeat can be detected, which is around the six-week mark. This law will not take effect until a similar Mississippi law goes through the federal court system.

Do we see a pattern here? When the people of Louisiana speak up about their values & elect legislators to represent their values, the result is consistent: We are a pro-life state! *But* almost every time pro-life legislation is passed, the abortion advocates bring it to federal court so that a handful of judges can undo what Louisiana citizens clearly want. As it is right now, five unelected justices act as our nation’s abortion control board.

These important laws have been dependent on federal judges & the Supreme Court. This is why the make-up of the Supreme Court has been top-of-mind in recent decades. The judiciary has overstepped its powers by legislating from the bench regarding abortion. We are hopeful the current make-up of the U.S. Supreme Court will be the one to right the wrong of Roe v. Wade.



IF YOU HAVEN'T TURNED IN YOUR VIDEO, PLEASE DO SO NOW
LAST CHANCE!!!

Please submit a 2-5 second video of your family answering the question: “What makes St. Francis of Assisi special?” Videos & pictures will be used in a video in conjunction with our St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day Celebration & could be highlighted on social media.

By submitting your videos and or pictures, you are consenting to its use on social media.

Submit to familylife@stfrancisuptownt.com or call 504.227.3766

Election 2020

The Orleans Parish Board of Elections is looking for registered voters to serve on Election Day as election commissioners. It’s easy! Only two easy steps:

1. Take class & test (about 2 ½ hours)
2. Attend pre-election class (about 1 hour)

Pay is \$200.00 (\$14.28 an hour) Contact Betsy Stoner bosoeofop@gmail.com for an application.

Lord, Teach Me To Pray

Are you interested in a deeper relationship with God; do you want to improve your prayer life? St. Francis of Assisi will offer Groups for Women.



Thursday’s beginning September 24th
Parish Center - 611 State Street

9:30am - Part 1
“Praying Christian Virtues”

For Lord, Teach Me To Pray at St. Francis of Assisi, contact Missy Duncan at (504) 430-7268.

For more information and to register, go to:
www.lordteachmetoprav.com

Questions or need additional information :
 Contact Mrs. Carol Weiler at (504) 439-5933
 or Fr. Martin Gleeson, O.P. at (504) 717-8770.

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