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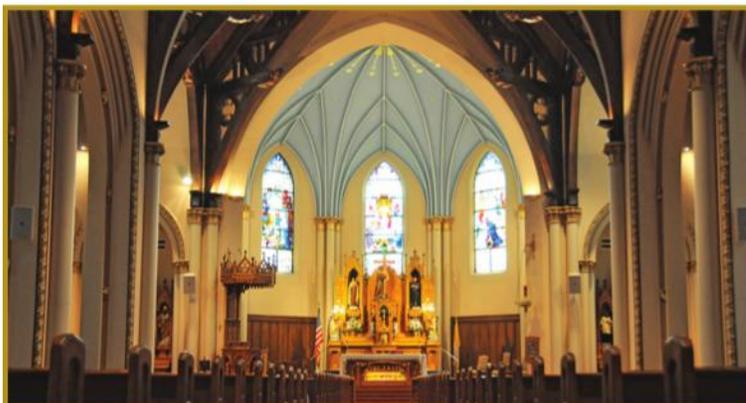
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PARISH PRAYER

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: Very Rev. Michael J. Schneller, V.F.
Coordinator of Religious Education - Shelly Chiappetta
Director of Family Life Ministries - Melisa Rey
Receptionist/Secretary - Caroline Toso
Administrative Assistant - Teresa Miller
Director of Music/Organist - Thomas D. Wright
Cantors - Julia Ernst, Jayne Edwards, Gregory Lambousy
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

Friday 9:00-10:00 am - In the Church

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

Robert Leroy Ripley was born in 1890 in Santa Rosa, CA. He began his famous cartoon series in 1919. Today there is a tremendous enterprise built on the *Believe It or Not* cartoon with museums all over the country. The one in New Orleans, “Aint dere no more.”

Here is an excerpt from *Ripley's Believe It or Not Special Edition*. “During the summer of 1947, it was so hot in Missouri that corn popped right off the stalks before it could be harvested.”

One way to describe today’s gospel is “*Believe It or Not*.” Many of Jesus’ disciples couldn’t “believe it” how anyone could take Jesus’ remarks seriously. In fact, they couldn’t believe, so they left, choosing the “or not” road.

Those that “broke away and would not remain in his company any longer” must have hurt Jesus. But notice two things Jesus did not do. One, he didn’t call them stupid and start a tug of war between “pro-Jesus” and “anti-Jesus” camps. Two, he didn’t change his teaching. He didn’t water it down and say, “Well, now, if that’s a little tough for you, I can change it a bit and give you some wiggle room.” He didn’t back off from the truth. He let them go, and he even left the door open for the Apostles to leave, if that’s what they wanted.

Companies drill for oil only when they know that it is relatively close to the earth’s surface. The deeper the oil, the more expensive it is to locate and bring to the surface. If you will pardon a mixed metaphor, oil companies go for the “low hanging fruit,” the easier and quicker returns on investment.

Let’s apply that strategy to our Believe It or Not faith in the gospel teachings of Jesus. The faith of an adult cannot be based simply on “low hanging fruit,” immediate rewards for accepting God’s standards and Gospel values.

Our faith must constantly go deeper because each day can bring challenges to yesterday’s faith. Most adults can fill in the sentence, “It was easier to believe in God before ‘X’ happened in my life.” Yes, it was. As we wrestle with various challenges to faith, our faith goes deeper and grows stronger.

The faith that Christ come to reveal to us is not a warm fluffy blanket to wrap ourselves up in nor is it a protective coating designed to ward off every form of sin and evil. Our faith is a light that illumines our journey through life’s challenges and obstacles. It is a lens through which we are able to see God’s grace at work even in the most trying and difficult times.

Jesus’ demand that his disciples must be forgiving and merciful runs counter to what human convention dictates. Gospel justice and compassion can make us very uncomfortable and uneasy.

Let’s look at one issue - equality- that is implied in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. This problematic passage from Paul has not had a happy history in the Church. Clearly it has been used to justify an unacceptable subservience of women in the family and in general. Ephesians is not basically a letter about men and women, or husbands and wives. This letter is about the *nature of the church*. So, we should not start from assuming that we know what Christian marriage means until we know what “Christian Church” means.

Lest there be any confusion about being “head” of the Church, we have the example of Jesus’ action when he established the Eucharistic sacrament. In secular terms we think of the head as “the Boss.” But at the Last Supper, before he blesses the bread and wine he consciously rejects any notion of “the Boss” – he washes the feet of his disciples, taking on the role of servant, not master.

Uptown Canticle - continued

The wife is to be obedient to her husband in so far as he acts as Christ acts toward his followers. He does not act as “Boss” but as friend. Husbands are enjoined to serve, to be the friend. The wife obeys by imitating the husband when he acts as Christ, by being servant and friend. When it comes to “obedience” both husband and wife are under the rule of obedience, obedience to the example of the one who could have been Boss, but chooses to be servant and friend.

We cannot live on yesterday’s faith. Each day has challenges of its own and Jesus leads us through territory where only he can guide us. Family, friends, neighbors, coworkers and yes, even the Church, we are always being stretched by someone, by some situation we never expected we would be facing. What is hardest to understand, to even believe when it comes to our Catholic faith? Are moral questions more difficult or are there doctrinal issues that continue to confuse you?

So, we come to the end of the Bread of Life Discourse in the Gospel of John. All who follow Jesus must grow as disciples. Jesus left us the Eucharist to nourish our growth and to console us when we are tempted to think that God is asking too much of us. To be worthy of the name of Christ demands the constant, focused and honest faith articulated by Simon Peter: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

St. Francis of Assisi Parish School of Religion

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 by celebrating in parish activities and liturgies offered throughout the year.

K-8th Grades Starts August 29, 2021

The first day of Religion Classes for K-8th Grade non-Catholic school students is Sunday, August 29, 2021, 10:30 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. in the Pastoral Center. A parent meeting will be held on the same date and time in the Lycée Francais Cafeteria.

Confirmation Preparation Classes Start October 10, 2021

9th and 10th graders attending non-Catholic schools and preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation in their 11th grade year, should register now for classes which begin October 10, 2021.

REGISTRATION

ATTENTION 1ST GRADERS!

The Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist require two years of formation with the sacraments being received the Spring of 2nd Grade year. Please register your 1st Grade non-Catholic School students this year. Classes begin August 29, 2021.

To register for K-10th grade classes, go to www.stfrancisuptown.com and click on “Registration Form” under the Religious Education tab at the top.

For information contact Coordinator of Religious Education, Shelly E. Chiappetta at schiappetta@stfrancisuptown.com

CHURCH SUPPORT

YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH

AUGUST 14-15, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,811.00
Loose	\$2,512.00
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TOTAL	\$6,352.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT



RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Interested in becoming Catholic
or know someone who is?

Information Session

Tuesday, August 24th - 7:00-8:00pm
St. Francis Parish Center (611 State St.)

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.

For information, contact Shelly Chiappetta at
(504) 891-4479 or schiappetta@stfrancisuptown.com.

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, we hear that a number of Jesus' followers left him because his message was too difficult for them to accept. In essence, they did not believe in him. He then asked the Twelve if they wished to leave as well. Peter responds by making a profound profession of faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Twelve made a choice and stood by their choice, remaining loyal to their commitment to Jesus. A good question for our reflection might be this: How satisfied are we with the stewardship we exercise over our baptismal commitment? Do we just "along for the ride?" How do we keep Christ in front of us as we make decisions about our daily activities, our relationships, our parish, issues in the workplace, issues such as peace and justice? What is the quality of our stewardship?



Church Sanctuary Lamp
Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns
this week in memory of
Hurricane Victims



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, August 21 - Lucille Mire McCann, Henry Schorr, Margaret "Butsy" Ross, Michael Rapier, Julia Pansano, Earl Pansano, Gregory Juan, Robert McIntyre, John "Junior" Morreale, Jr.

SUNDAY, August 22 - 9:30am - Betsie Melancon, Mr. Connolly, Ann Dupuy, Gerrie Bremermann
11:30am - Parishioners

MONDAY, August 23 - All Souls Book of Remembrance

TUESDAY, August 24 - Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock

WEDNESDAY, August 25 - Earl Pansano

THURSDAY, August 26 - Dr. José A. Bernal

FRIDAY, August 27 - Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

August 22nd - August 28th

Sunday	Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23; Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32; Jn 6:60-69
Monday	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday	Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
Wednesday	1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday	1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17; Mt 24:42-51
Friday	1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday	1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt 25:14-30

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, Walker Beery, Christopher Brewster, Ben Capshaw, Antoinette Clark, Marvete Clark, Cathy Dermady, Guella Dragon, Rosita Duplantier, Mildred Flynn, James Ira Ford, Jr., Cynthia Gilmore, Tamberly Gray, Ryan Hartley, Sherry Heller, Pat Jones, Leona Labat, Meredith Landry, William Robert Little, Robert Maddox, Cheryl Ann McDonald, Craig Melancon, Darnell Menasco, Veronica Merritt, Lynn Middleton, Jeff Mitchener, Joy Morton, Johnny Parker, Angelle Pecoraro, Paige Peterson, Melissa Phelps, Steven Philburn, Nedine Rende, Betty Richburg, Nell Ricker, Fred Riggle, Patricia Riggle, Justin Roy, Emma Ryan, Robert Schwab, Louis Scott, Sr., Samantha Smith, Harriet Suarez, Sara Surgi, Deacon Wil Toups, Nancy Williams, Residents of Hainkel, Covenant & Poydras Homes & 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.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dear Parishioners,

On Saturday morning, August 14, a 7.2 mag earthquake struck very near our sister parish, St Francois Xavier, in Gilles, Haiti. While initial reports have been favorable regarding the parish chapel and rectory, many residents and parishioners in the immediate area have suffered damages. We are in contact with Father Gary Ocgénor , the Pastor. He has informed us that the homes of 71 parishioners have been damaged. Tropical storm Grace has only complicated the recovery. And the death toll is rising. We are continuing to monitor the situation.

Please consider a donation to our Outreach to Haiti Committee fund in a special collection this weekend, August 21 & 22, 2021. 100% of funds collected will be sent directly to our sister parish for legitimate early recovery and assistance needs, as they arise. You can also send your donation to the Parish Office. Make your check payable to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, including Haiti in the memo.

On behalf of our Outreach to Haiti committee thank you for your generosity toward our brothers and sisters in Christ as they struggle to rebuild their lives.

Let us pray that through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, the Lord may protect us and our brothers and sisters in Haiti from further damage during this hurricane season. St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis Xavier, pray for us.

Grace and Peace,
Father Michael J. Schneller, Pastor



**Hope and Possibility:
How We Can Rise to the Challenge of the
Drug Crisis in our Community**

St. Philip Neri Parish invites you to come hear **Dr. Dan Schneider, Dr. Gerry Cvitanovich and Mrs. Brandy Klingman**, at a Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m. They will help us to recognize symptoms of drug abuse and impart critical advice to aid us in preventing family members and friends from falling prey to this deadly practice.

The presentation will be in the St. Philip Neri Parishioners' Center, 6500 Kawanee Avenue, Metairie.

Gerry Cvitanovich, coroner of Jefferson Parish and an impassioned advocate for drug prevention.

Dan Schneider known as The Pharmacist for his award winning documentary series on NetFlix where he was relentless in pursuing the drug dealer who killed his son. Dan has built a nationwide movement, Tunnel of Hope, to end the Opioid pandemic that killed nearly a million since the death of his son in 1999.

Brandy Klingman is a licensed and skilled psychotherapist and the CEO of St. Christopher Addiction and Wellness Center and Legacy Behavioral Health Clinic. She started the first adolescent freestanding Mental Health and Substance Abuse Program in Louisiana. Brandy is a coveted speaker in high schools and has worked avidly at the national and state level on policy reform.



*St. Francis Of Assisi
Married Couples DATE NIGHT*

Supper & Substance

Saturday, September 11th @ 6:00

Enjoy a catered dinner with your spouse, meet other couples & receive the gifts God has to offer for your marriage. Beer & Wine will be served.

We are hoping to provide childcare; If you need childcare, let us know ASAP!

Featured Speaker: Jason Angelette

"The Eucharist: Source & Summit of Marriage."

Jason is the Co-Director of the Faith & Marriage Apostolate of the Willwoods Community. He received a Masters Degree in Theological Studies from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage & Family at the Catholic University of America.

All married couples are invited to attend but space is limited.

Singles are invited to help support marriages by helping to plan, set up, serve, clean up or provide childcare during Supper & Substance.

For more information or to volunteer familylife@stfrancisuoftown.com 504.227.3766

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(formerly the Rebuild Center)

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