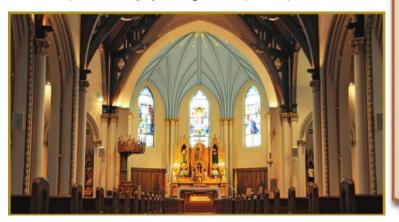


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PARISH PRAYER

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.
Diaconate Candidate - Dr. Tim Kettenring
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
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

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 sixmonth 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Uptown Canticle by Father Michael

The famous and well-known Trappist monk Thomas Merton once wrote about being invited to contribute to a book on how to become success. Humorously - yet quite seriously – Merton recalled the incident: "I replied indignantly that I was not able to consider myself a success in any terms that had a meaning to me. I swore I had spent my life strenuously avoiding success... If I had a message to my contemporaries, I said, it was surely this: Be anything you like, be madmen, drunks, and bastards (rascals) of every shape and form, but at all costs avoid one thing: success."

Merton certainly did have success in terms of fame and influence in certain circles at least. But Merton's point was that worldly success, success equated with celebrity, success that can be measured in terms of wealth or power, fame or influence, was ultimately of no lasting significance. The only success worth having in Merton's terms is to become the person God created you to be and to do the work God created you to do. And there's no guarantee that living this sort of life will coincide with what society considers successful - quite the contrary.

Much the same message is found in the opening verses from Luke's Gospel for this Second Sunday of Advent. Luke is the most historically minded of the four evangelists. This list of various political and religious officials of the day, the opening words of the main body of the Gospel, function simply as a way of setting the Jesus story in the context of contemporary events.

But these figures do something even more important. They point out that while the movers and shakers, the "successful" leaders of their time, are ruling in Rome and Judea and Galilee and Trachonitis (wherever that may be), the word of God comes not to any of them in their palaces, but to John son of Zechariah in the desert. The Word comes to an insignificant "nobody" living in a place so obscure it doesn't even have a name.

Of course, God can speak wherever and to whomever he wishes. But his typical selection of the poor and lowly suggests at least a couple of important points: that people who are not likely to be full of their own importance and preoccupied with the busyness around them are able to be more attentive to the divine word, and that those who listen to such messengers will be less inclined to focus on the messenger instead of on the message.

What exactly does all this have to do with Advent? As we anticipate celebration the historical birth of Jesus, his story is not a paradigm for success. The birth of Jesus is a model of self-emptying, servanthood. The Word of God becomes flesh not among the influential and powerful but as a member of the poor and despised common people. His parents cannot even secure a decent room as a place for his birth. His birth is revealed only to "certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay," working people who themselves spend their nights in the open air without shelter. Thus, the story of John in the desert not only looks forward to Jesus' own journey into the wilderness, but back to his human origins. It is a reminder to seek the Christ above all in unexpected places, far from the glare of publicity. It is a reminder that from beginning to end, Jesus' life is not a success according to the usual criteria of success, that in fact it challenges the very basis of such criteria.

Another reason for hearing this gospel as we look forward to Christmas is that the word that comes to John is a word addressed to ourselves as well. St. Paul expresses the hope that the Philippians will "learn to value the things that really matter." Although John the Baptist didn't use that phrase, "to value the things that really matter," he was essentially telling people the same thing proclaiming a baptism of repentance that led to the forgiveness of sins.

The prophet Baruch proclaims that one of those virtues we are to value is that of *justice*. *Justice* is not one of God's ways, it is all of God's ways. No one expects to receive a reward for breathing – and justice is as necessary as breathing. All of us are strangers in a world that is becoming exceedingly un-Christian, unjust and lacking in mercy. *Justice* should be a lens through which we see all of reality, for *justice* means fidelity to all of our relationships.

Uptown Canticle - continued

Advent is precisely the time when we are to "prepare the way of the Lord." This is what really matters – getting our life straightened out. It is a time for examining what obstacles, what mountains, have we placed in the way of Our Lord's entering our lives with his summons to follow him? What are the rough ways beneath the surface of our lives that make it more difficult for us to recognize his advent, his imminent arrival? Have our paths have turned toward a goal of success, of power or prestige or comfort or social acceptability, which may be incompatible with the gospel. What are the things that really matter to you?

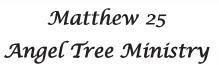
Mother Teresa and so many of the Lord's friends have repeatedly said that we are not called to be successful but to be faithful. For the past five years my Administrative Assistant, Teresa Miller, has been one of those faithful people. She has served our parish way beyond the expectations of her position description. She has fulfilled her responsibilities beyond what she is really worth in terms of monetary remuneration. The Advent of her last days here at St. Francis of Assisi will arrive in early January 2022. Because Teresa assumed many of the tasks of our former Facilities Manager after his resignation, I am also searching for a part-time facilities manager. I have begun the search for her successor and a new facilities manager. You can read the advertisement in this bulletin, if you know someone who might be interested in not being a success in the eyes of this world, but wants to serve the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.



Solemnity of the
Immaculate Conception
of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule Tuesday, December 7th Vigil ~ 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 8th 8:30am & 6:00pm



We kindly ask you to make sure all gifts are wrapped, marked

with the number from the ornament, and returned to Church or Parish Center by the weekend of December 11 & 12.

Gifts and Food Baskets will be distributed on the morning of December 18th. Thank you for helping make the Christmas season brighter for the needy in our area.



Archdiocese of New Orleans

Office of the Archbishop

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December 1, 2021

To: Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Pope Francis often highlights the role older adults play in conveying faith from one generation to the next. Recently, he noted that "there is no retirement age from the work of proclaiming the Gospel." As we approach the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection—an appeal that benefits some 26,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests—I am reminded that senior religious never retire from their vows.

Instead, the prayer and ministry of older religious are an ongoing witness to the Gospel. In their younger years, they laid the foundation for Catholic schools, hospitals, and works of mercy. Today, many serve in volunteer ministry. Others are frail and need assistance. Yet all remain wholly committed to their vocations, accepting the limitations of aging and embracing the opportunity to spend more time praying for our Church and world.

Most senior religious worked for little pay, and now their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious offers support that helps religious communities provide loving care for older members while ensuring younger ones can continue the good works of their elders.

I recognize you may be experiencing your own financial difficulties. I ask only that you give what you can. Most importantly, please join me in praying for God's continued blessing on our nation's elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

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

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond Archbishop of New Orleans

Pope Francis, Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, July 25, 2021 (https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20210531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html).

CHURCH SUPPORT

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\$1,135.00
\$5,307.71

Special Collections

Catholic Campaign \$2,669.00

NOVEMBER 27-28, 2021

Envelopes	\$1,832.00
Loose	\$1,346.26
E-Giving	\$2,037.00
TOTAL	\$5,215.26

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Our Second Collection next weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Elderly religious need your help. Thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes - often for little to no pay. Now, many religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide medications, nursing care, and more.

A Stewardship Moment

In the letter to the Philippians St. Paul prays with joy and confidence for his friends in the Christian community there. He is encouraged that the community has partnered with him to proclaim the Gospel. He sees Christ's active presence and plan of salvation at work in the community. God's overarching plan is unclear to us. But when we see evidence of God working through others, doesn't it give us reason to hope that Christ is alive among us? How does the witness of others help our own prayer lives? How does it inspire us to be partners with others in promoting the Gospel? Food for thought in this second week of Advent.



Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of

Betsie Melancon



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, December 4 - Nancy Clair McCann, Henry Schorr, Margaret "Butsy" Ross, Michael Rapier, Julia Pansano, Earl Pansano, Gregory Juan, Joe & Beverly Castle, Jack Hartley, Genevieve Young, Peggy Young Condon, Bernard Scully, H.L. Hawthorne

SUNDAY, December 5 - 9:30am - Parishioners **11:30am -** Betsie Melancon, Clay Milling, John P. Laborde, Merique Ellinghausen, Tom Porteous, Giulio Pigoncelli

MONDAY, December 6 – Special Intention Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Robinson

TUESDAY, December 7 - Juanita T. Odendahl WEDNESDAY, December 8 - Blanche M. Burrow 6:00pm - Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock THURSDAY, December 9 - All Souls Book of Remembrance

FRIDAY, December 10 - Merique Ellinghausen

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

December 5th - December 11th

Sunday Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6;

Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Monday Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12,

13-14; Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac,

11-12, 13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Thursday Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11,

12-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Mt 11:16-19

Saturday Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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, Marvette Clark, Cathy Dermady, David Doll, Sr., 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, Emma Miller, 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, 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.

St. Francis of Assisi Church Seeks Pastoral Staff Positions

Administrative Assistant

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church in Uptown New Orleans is searching for an Administrative Assistant who is a practicing Catholic and familiar with Church teachings. The skill set needed include secretarial ability, communication and pastoral sensitivity, computer skills, filing and collaboration with other members of the Pastoral Staff. Knowledge of ParishSOFT System. Confidentiality and relational skills are highly valued and necessary.

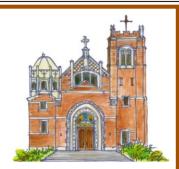
Facilities Manager - Part-time

Under the supervision of the pastor and his Administrative Assistant, the Facilities Manager oversees, organizes and controls the utilization, safety, security, and appearance of all buildings, grounds, utilities and operating facilities for the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Campus.

Candidates with management or facilities maintenance experience will be highly valued. The role may involve more hands-on maintenance and custodial duties. Candidates should also have strong communication skills to interact with vendors, contractors, churchgoers and anyone making a facilities-related request. Of course, individuals will typically need to have skills in building maintenance, repair, and some knowledge of the various systems that affect a building's day-to-day operations.

To request a more detailed job description for either position and to schedule an interview, please contact Fr. Michael Schneller at 504-227-3764 or email frmichael@stfrancisuptown.com.

Celebrate With Us Saturday, December 18, 2021 4:00 p.m. Vigil



Centennial Eucharist on the occasion of The One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church With Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond

Outdoor Reception immediately following

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A Highway for Our God

Father, from the beginning, you have revealed yourself. You have called us to walk in your ways. We wait for you to bring to fulfillment the work you are doing

from the creation of the earth to today. We wait in hope. Help us to do our small part to make a path for you, a highway for our God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, December 5, 2021 All Flesh Shall See the Salvation of God



Today's readings: Baruch 5:1–9; Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6; Philemon 1:4–6, 8–11; Luke 3:1–6. John the Baptist and Mary, the mother of our Lord, are our examples for how to live during Advent. Both waited, watched, and prepared. They did then what we hope to do now.

Today, we hear John proclaim that "all flesh shall see the salvation of God." As John preaches, teaches, and baptizes in the wilderness, he focuses on what God is doing: God is saving. John performs his task. He makes straight a path. He clears the way.

John is called by God within the prophetic tradition of the people of Israel. We hear it when he quotes Isaiah and in the echo of those words in the prophet Baruch. Rooted in the people of Israel and in Scripture, John has practice listening to God's voice. In the wilderness, he hears that God is doing something new. God is bringing all flesh into the plan of salvation, as foretold in the prophets of old.

God was inaugurating the promised kingdom of justice and peace, creating a new heaven and a new earth. John called the people to turn away from the ways that had fallen short of God's vision for them, and people flocked to him because they saw the world's brokenness and knew that God had promised something different. Something new.

We wait in hope for the fullness of this same kingdom. Like John, we are called to prepare its way. How has God invited you to make straight his paths?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, December 6 St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century who was known for his generosity, one sign of which was leaving coins in the shoes of people who left them out for him. He is also said to have secretly given money to a family to provide funds so the daughters could marry. Nicholas suffered under persecution and defended the Church teaching about the Trinity at a time when it was disputed. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children. To honor him today, you might choose to do an act of kindness secretly, just as he did. Today's readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 85:9ab, 10, 11–12, 13–14; Luke 5:17–26.

Tuesday, December 7 St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose was the bishop of Milan in the fourth century and a doctor of the Church. He wrote music that is used in the Liturgy of the Hours during Advent even today. Regarding care for the poor, St. Ambrose said it was not charity but a debt to those who were in need. Celebrate St. Ambrose's feast day by contributing to an agency that serves the poor in your community. Today's readings: Isaiah 40:1–11; Psalm 96:1–2, 3, 10ac, 11–12, 13; Matthew 18:12–14.

Wednesday, December 8 Immaculate Conception

God prepared Mary for her unique role in salvation history from the moment she was conceived. The special grace she received even before she was born helped give her the courage to say, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary's yes changed the world. Each one of us has the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in the world every single day. How can you respond with the same whole-hearted yes as the Mother of God? Today's readings: Genesis 3:9–15, 20; Psalm 98:1, 2–3ab, 3cd–4; Ephesians 1:3–6, 11–12; Luke 1:26–38.

Thursday, December 9 St. Juan Diego

Today the Church celebrates St. Juan Diego, the patron saint of indigenous peoples. The Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego near Mexico City in the sixteenth century, a time when people of his culture were treated as less than those who had come from Europe. Mary's apparition and its miraculous image on Juan Diego's tilma embodied many elements of indigenous culture. This event was the beginning of something new for the peoples of the Americas. God is imaged in all people and all cultures. By listening to the stories of people who are different from us, we can participate in what God is doing in the world. Today's readings: Isaiah 41:13–20; Psalm 145:1, 9, 10–11, 12–13ab; Matthew 11:11–15.

Friday, December 10 Peace

In Isaiah we hear about the possibility of peace flowing like a river. Life is full of conflict and misunderstanding. Relationships that seemed unbreakable can be torn apart by simple difficulties. When we consider the kingdom of God, of participating in God's peace forever, it fills us with hope. While at Mass, focus on what it must mean for Christ's peace to be with you. Today's readings: Isaiah 48:17–19; Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4, 6; Matthew 11:16–19.

Saturday, December 11 Our Only Hope

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus predicts his passion. It is an interesting thing to consider the cross during the season of Advent, when we await the Lord's coming. Yet the shadow of the cross is always present in the life of Jesus. In this season of hope, we look at the cross, our only hope, and see in it the resurrection and the possibility it contains: God filling the earth as water covers the sea. *Today's readings:* Sirach 48:1–4, 9–11; Psalm 80:2ac and 3b, 15–16, 18–19; Matthew 17:9a, 10–13.



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