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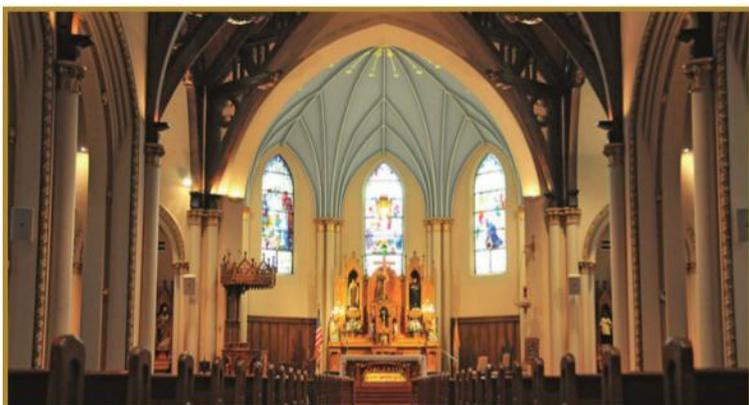
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PARISH PRAYER

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.
Diaconate Candidate - Dr. Tim Kettenring
Coordinator of Religious Education - Shelly Chiappetta
Director of Family Life Ministries - Melisa Rey
Administrative Assistant - Caroline Toso
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 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

One night a man was driving on a lonely Texas road when his engine sputtered to a stop. He popped the hood and stood staring at the engine. Suddenly he heard a voice say, "It's your fuel pump."

"Who said that?" he demanded. There were two horses standing in the fenced field alongside the road. "It's your fuel pump," one horse said. "Tap it with your flashlight, and try it again."

He tapped the fuel pump with his flashlight, turned the key and, sure enough, the engine roared to life. At the next town he found an open service station. Still dumbfounded, the man told the whole story to the mechanic. "A horse, you say? Was it by any chance a white horse?" he asked. The man said. "Yes, it was! Am I crazy?" "No, you ain't crazy. In fact, you're lucky," said the mechanic, "because that brown horse don't know beans about cars." In today's Gospel, when the people of Nazareth rejected Jesus, they didn't think he knew *beans* either. If they'd had flashlights then they might have tapped their heads and tried again.

Today's opening verse of the Gospel was the concluding verse from last Sunday. Last week Jesus offered his state of the union or inaugural address as he quoted from the prophet Isaiah. He not only proclaimed a powerful agenda but he also claimed it as his own. He identifies himself as the Servant when he says that he is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. And the people were amazed and excited --- at first.

But then they stopped and said to themselves: This guy's from here. We know his relatives. Who does he think he is? Jesus recognizes their challenge and in effect, points out that they really do NOT know who he is. As the expression goes "He's a horse of different color." And in their mistaken presumptions they reject him and actually try to kill him. Again, we could say: "How sad. How could they be so dumb?" But what would we have done?

How do we react if someone challenges our behavior? Or criticizes our behavior? Do we calmly and politely say "Thank you for setting me straight?" Do we immediately commit ourselves to change our behavior? Or do we lash out at them to question our integrity? Or truthfulness? Or reputation?

The word of God challenges us to face our response. Like the people of the Old and New Testament periods, we want the "word of God" to be comfortable, unchallenging and supporting. We want to come to church and be made to feel good. We want to be able to go home feeling totally justified in what we think and say and do. But we can't stop there. The truth is we need to be challenged no less than the folks who heard Jesus. Jesus' reference to the prophets Elijah and Elisha who ministered to non-Jews challenged their notions of inclusion. We need to hear that there is always room for growth and that complacency kills our spirits.

In just four weeks we will begin our observance of Lent. Now that might be a good time to begin deciding what we are going to repent of this Lent. Not what we are going to give up for 40 days and then go right back. But what attitude, action, behavior, or way of doing things are we going to ask God to help us permanently root out of our lives? Remember that God never asks of us anything that God is not willing to give us the strength to do.



This weekend at all masses we will remember one of our former pastors, Father Desmond Crotty, aka Father Des. January 30 would have been his fiftieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Father Des and I were classmates during our priestly formation at Notre Dame Seminary. I was ordained five months later. Archbishop Philip Hannan ordained him in his homeland of Ireland. Father Des collapsed at the altar while celebrating mass on Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008 and died the following day at Ochsner Hospital. Fr. Des' legacy include the restoration of St. Francis of Assisi Church celebrated on January 14, 2004 and the establishment of our Matthew 25 Ministry to the Poor. Those of us who knew him have many stories we could tell. Like Jesus Christ in this weekend's Gospel, Fr. Des knew the cost of being outspoken.

Message from Haiti

Message from Fr. Gary regarding the 5.3 & 5.1 earthquakes that occurred an hour apart on Monday in Anse-a-Veau, which is very near Giles where St. Francois Xavier is located.

“There are small cracks in the parish church and other buildings in the area suffered more severe damage. We have 12 families who currently lost their homes.”

We will keep you updated as information becomes available. Please keep the community in your prayers.



2022 Archdiocesan Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration



Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 3:00pm
St. Philip Neri
Metairie, LA

Each couple will receive a certificate and picture with Archbishop Aymond. The event is for couples married 50 years or more (1972 and earlier). Please register by contacting our parish office no later than Friday, March 11th.

Please note: This celebration will not be a Mass, but a prayer service.



If you are homebound due to illness or surgery, short or long term, and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office (504) 891-4479.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday Mornings
9:00 - 10:00am



In Church following 8:30am Mass

Magnificat, Metairie Chapter is sponsoring a Day of Reflection and Prayer entitled, “Mary, Teach Us Wisdom and Love”, presented by Noel Delery, spiritual director and retreat speaker at Our Lady of Divine Providence Church, 8617 W. Metairie Ave., on Friday, February 4, 2022 beginning with Mass at 9 am and ending at 3 pm.

To register, please mail \$30 check (includes lunch) with email address & phone number to Magnificat Metairie, 306 Ormond Meadows Dr., Destrehan, 70047 before January 28th.

For more information, call (504) 884-6152.

The Life Changing Event is Back!

The 2022 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie. All men of our parish are invited to attend! The day will include em-

powering speakers, prayer, Mass, and reconciliation to help men reflect on what it means to be “Sons of the Father.” Don’t miss this great opportunity to bring a new energy to your faith, your family, and our parish community.

Tickets are \$45. Light breakfast, lunch, and t-shirt are included.

To register and learn more about the 2022 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men’s Conference, visit NolaCatholicMen.org.



CHURCH SUPPORT

YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH

January 22 - 23, 2022

1st Collection: \$11,807.00
(includes envelopes, loose, and e-giving)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT



Many Gifts, One Nation
A Day of Giving to Catholic Schools

Our **Second Collection** this week will be for the Catholic Schools Fund. The money collected will support the Champions of Catholic Education Fund, which gives tuition assistance to families who want to send their children to Catholic schools.

A Stewardship Moment

In today's second reading we find one of the most beautiful and familiar passages in the Bible; a recitation of fifteen characteristics of Christian love typically read at weddings and anniversary celebrations. Of course, this was not what Saint Paul had in mind when he was chastising the Christian community at Corinth for its lack of love. He admonished the members of the community to exercise better stewardship of Christian love. The practice of patience, humility, joy, truth, peace, affirmation, and hope are ways good stewards put love into action. Might there be one or two of these attributes we can work on in our love for God and others?

Our **Prayer Intentions** list is for anyone who needs prayers especially due to illness. If you would like to add anyone to our list, or if you wish to remove anyone from the list, please contact the parish office (504) 891-4479.

Church Sanctuary Lamp
Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of
Poor Souls in Purgatory



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, January 29 - Nancy Clair McCann, Margaret "Butsy" Ross, Henry Schorr, Jack Hartley, Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock, Rita T. Aucoin, Michael Rapier, Earl & Julia Pansano, Dorothy Readdy Seaver

SUNDAY, January 30 - 9:30am - Parishioners
11:30am - Merique Ellinghausen, Gilda M. Casey, Betsie Melancon, Jim Caire, Boris Bosch, Gail Lavis, Rita T. Aucoin, Special Intention for Bill O'Brien

MONDAY, January 31 - Jacob Baehr

TUESDAY, February 1 - All Souls Book of Remembrance

WEDNESDAY, February 2 - Myrna Cicero LeBlanc

THURSDAY, February 3 - Joyce M. Causey

FRIDAY, February 4 - John D. Becker

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 30th - February 5th

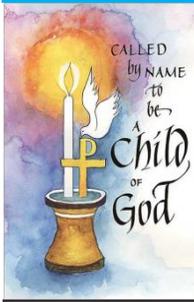
- Sunday** Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19/ Ps 71: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17/ 1 Cor 12: 31-13: 13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13/ Lk 4: 21- 30
- Monday** 2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16:5-13/ Ps 3:2, 4-5, 6-7/ Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/ Ps 86: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday** Mal 3:1-4/ Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/ Heb 2:14-18/ Lk 2:22-40
- Thursday** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/ 1 Chr 29:10, 11 ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/ Mk 6:7-13
- Friday** Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 & 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday** 1 Kgs 3:4-13/ Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13,14/ Mk 6:30-34

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, Jennifer Siegest Bondio, 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, Jeff Mitchener, Joy Morton, Jay Occhipinti, 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.

Baptisms



St. Francis of Assisi
Welcomes
Peyton Louis Straight
Silas Geary Carbine
Sylvie Amelie Shaffer
into the family of the Catholic Church

First Reconciliation



Congratulations to the second graders who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time at St. Francis on Saturday, January 22.

Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist this May.

NEW OPPORTUNITY—NFP INSTRUCTION

With professional instruction, Natural Family Planning has proven itself to be safe, effective, and a moral way for couples to plan their families. It is a method which respects the meaning of human sexuality as God created it and thus marital love is enhanced & strengthened.

In this class series the Office of Marriage and Family Life is offering in the SymptoPro™ Method of Natural Family Planning will be conducted by Kelly Donahue of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This series will be virtual by using Zoom. The dates of the class series are February 11, February 25, March 11 and April 8, 2022. The Zoom class hours are 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$105.00 and includes all classes and materials. Preregistration is required.

Register online <https://nolacatholicfla.regfox.com/sympto-thermal-nfp->



Archdiocese of New Orleans

Office of the Archbishop

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January 2022

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In the last week of January, we join the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Our schools work continuously to remain institutions of academic excellence, deeply rooted in Christ's teachings. However, in order to remain successful, Catholic schools depend on financial resources.

Like most things in today's world, there are significant costs associated with maintaining successful operations. Teachers must be paid a just wage, facilities must be kept up to date, and faculty and staff must work hard to be innovative in their educational practices. This year has been particularly difficult with schools facing additional financial challenges presented by the pandemic and Hurricane Ida. Despite these difficulties, it is our responsibility to make Catholic education more affordable.

By offering financial support to the mission and ministry of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, you are affording a child an opportunity that is otherwise out of reach. Catholic schools help form disciples who live out our Christian faith, and it is the responsibility of every Catholic to assist in these efforts. As a result, every parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will take up a second collection on January 29th – 30th. Thank you for your consideration in offering a gift.

The funds collected through the second collection will support the Champions of Catholic Education tuition assistance fund. This fund will aid families that cannot afford the full cost of Catholic school tuition, and those experiencing financial difficulties due to Hurricane Ida and COVID-19. Our Catholic schools and families need your support.

Wishing you God's blessings in 2022 and with gratitude for your generosity, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Please print in bulletin or make this available in a way you deem appropriate.

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SCRIPTURE AND WINE IN
A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

DREAMS & DESSERTS
FEBRUARY 16, 2022
6:30 - 8:00 PM

SAMPLE A VARIETY OF WINES AS WE REFLECT ON HOW THROUGHOUT SALVATION HISTORY, GOD NEVER GAVE UP ON HIS PEOPLE. JOIN US FOR THE OLD TESTAMENT STORY OF JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS AS WE EXPLORE DREAMS AND DESSERTS.



Register today at
neworleansretreats.com

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