



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Uptown New Orleans

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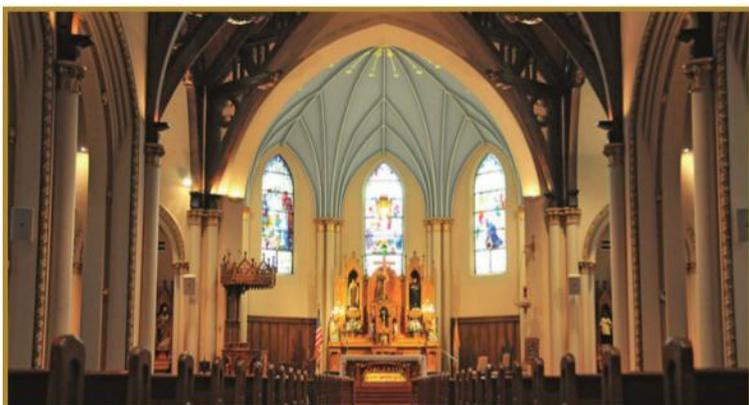
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PARISH PRAYER

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.

Deacon - 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

Violist - Benjamin Thacher

Cantors - Julia Ernst, Garrin Mesa, Emma Kay Staunton

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. First time parents and godparents are expected to participate in a bimonthly Baptism preparation seminar which may take place during pregnancy. Please contact the Parish Center for more information.

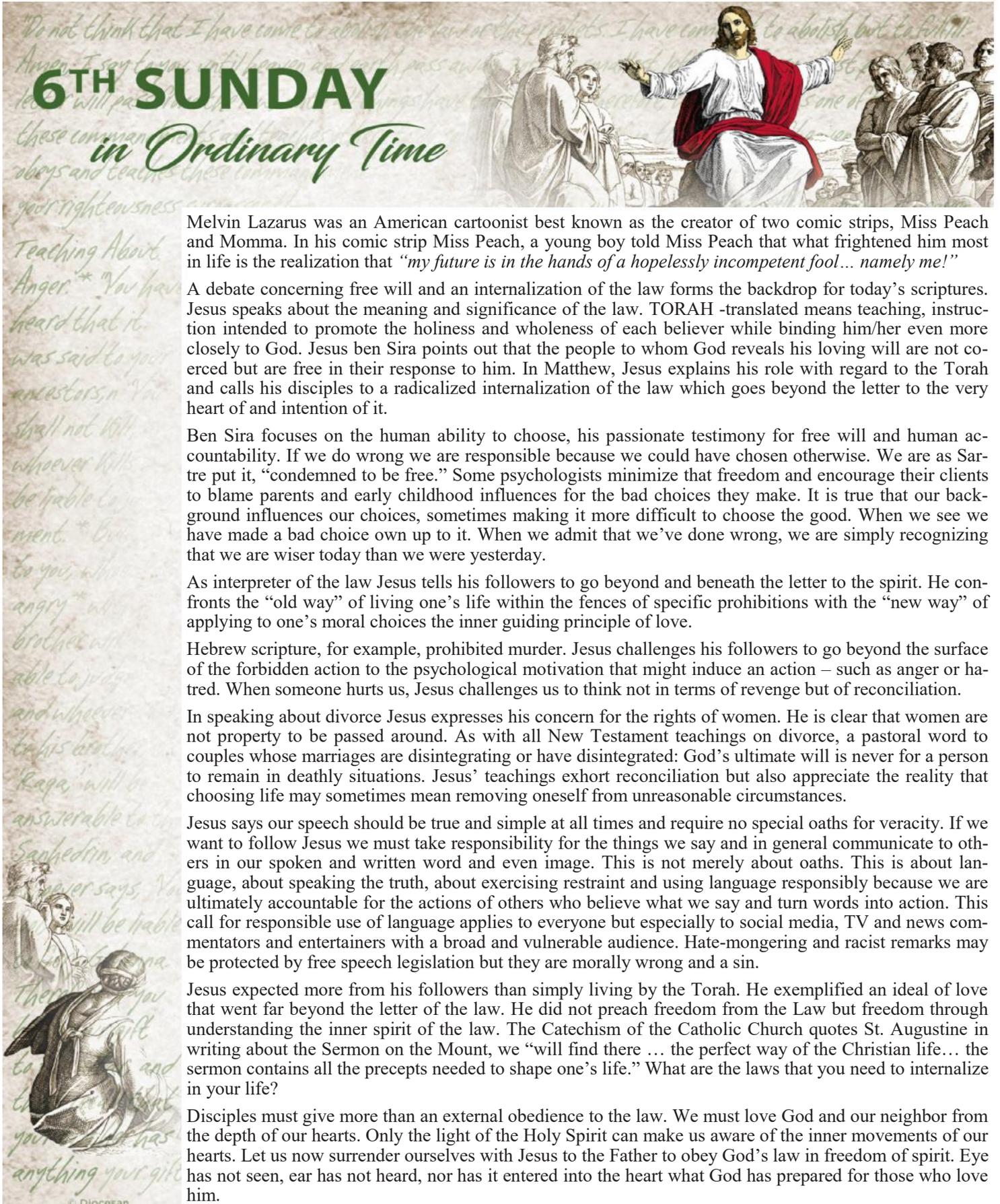
MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS

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



Melvin Lazarus was an American cartoonist best known as the creator of two comic strips, Miss Peach and Momma. In his comic strip Miss Peach, a young boy told Miss Peach that what frightened him most in life is the realization that *“my future is in the hands of a hopelessly incompetent fool... namely me!”*

A debate concerning free will and an internalization of the law forms the backdrop for today’s scriptures. Jesus speaks about the meaning and significance of the law. TORAH -translated means teaching, instruction intended to promote the holiness and wholeness of each believer while binding him/her even more closely to God. Jesus ben Sira points out that the people to whom God reveals his loving will are not coerced but are free in their response to him. In Matthew, Jesus explains his role with regard to the Torah and calls his disciples to a radicalized internalization of the law which goes beyond the letter to the very heart of and intention of it.

Ben Sira focuses on the human ability to choose, his passionate testimony for free will and human accountability. If we do wrong we are responsible because we could have chosen otherwise. We are as Sartre put it, “condemned to be free.” Some psychologists minimize that freedom and encourage their clients to blame parents and early childhood influences for the bad choices they make. It is true that our background influences our choices, sometimes making it more difficult to choose the good. When we see we have made a bad choice own up to it. When we admit that we’ve done wrong, we are simply recognizing that we are wiser today than we were yesterday.

As interpreter of the law Jesus tells his followers to go beyond and beneath the letter to the spirit. He confronts the “old way” of living one’s life within the fences of specific prohibitions with the “new way” of applying to one’s moral choices the inner guiding principle of love.

Hebrew scripture, for example, prohibited murder. Jesus challenges his followers to go beyond the surface of the forbidden action to the psychological motivation that might induce an action – such as anger or hatred. When someone hurts us, Jesus challenges us to think not in terms of revenge but of reconciliation.

In speaking about divorce Jesus expresses his concern for the rights of women. He is clear that women are not property to be passed around. As with all New Testament teachings on divorce, a pastoral word to couples whose marriages are disintegrating or have disintegrated: God’s ultimate will is never for a person to remain in deadly situations. Jesus’ teachings exhort reconciliation but also appreciate the reality that choosing life may sometimes mean removing oneself from unreasonable circumstances.

Jesus says our speech should be true and simple at all times and require no special oaths for veracity. If we want to follow Jesus we must take responsibility for the things we say and in general communicate to others in our spoken and written word and even image. This is not merely about oaths. This is about language, about speaking the truth, about exercising restraint and using language responsibly because we are ultimately accountable for the actions of others who believe what we say and turn words into action. This call for responsible use of language applies to everyone but especially to social media, TV and news commentators and entertainers with a broad and vulnerable audience. Hate-mongering and racist remarks may be protected by free speech legislation but they are morally wrong and a sin.

Jesus expected more from his followers than simply living by the Torah. He exemplified an ideal of love that went far beyond the letter of the law. He did not preach freedom from the Law but freedom through understanding the inner spirit of the law. The Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes St. Augustine in writing about the Sermon on the Mount, we “will find there ... the perfect way of the Christian life... the sermon contains all the precepts needed to shape one’s life.” What are the laws that you need to internalize in your life?

Disciples must give more than an external obedience to the law. We must love God and our neighbor from the depth of our hearts. Only the light of the Holy Spirit can make us aware of the inner movements of our hearts. Let us now surrender ourselves with Jesus to the Father to obey God’s law in freedom of spirit. Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it entered into the heart what God has prepared for those who love him.

Walking with
Moms in Need

| Pray for Moms



INTERCEDE



May Catholic parish communities strive to provide compassionate, tangible support to expectant moms needing assistance.

PRAY

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECT

In *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*, Pope John Paul II applauds the daily heroism of mothers who selflessly devote themselves to their children. This modern-day saint also highlights the unfortunate reality that “these heroic women do not always find support in the world around them.” He goes on to say, “On the contrary, the cultural models frequently promoted and broadcast by the media do not encourage motherhood. In the name of progress and modernity the values of fidelity, chastity, sacrifice, to which a host of Christian wives and mothers have borne and continue to bear outstanding witness, are presented as obsolete” (EV 86).

A culture that fails to truly value motherhood naturally becomes hostile to the gift of new life. When the Church compassionately serves mothers, it witnesses to the beauty of human life. There is a great need for real, tangible assistance for expectant mothers. Christ calls us to serve those most alone and in need. In a world that often turns it back on mothers who sacrifice so much of themselves, may we, the Church’s members, rise to help mothers in need of assistance and support.

ACT *(choose one)*

- Do you regularly enjoy a meal out during the week? Or do you typically stop to get a cup of coffee each morning? Give up one of these small pleasures this week. Use the money you saved to make a donation to a local pregnancy center, food pantry, or charity that provides assistance to mothers in need.
- Pray the “Prayer for Pregnant Mothers” (walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers) throughout the next month. Consider adding it to your morning or evening prayers each day.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for the featured intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

Join the Church’s effort to serve pregnant and parenting women in need called, *Walking with Moms in Need*. Take the pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community: www.walkingwithmoms.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Holy Father was thrilled to hear about the effort to support women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies through *Walking with Moms in Need*. Read more about Pope Francis’ response to this exciting initiative at walkingwithmoms.com/national-vigil-homily.

For additional prayers, resources, and ideas on supporting mothers in your local area:

www.WalkingWithMoms.com

CHURCH SUPPORT

February 4-5, 2023

Envelopes (34)	\$ 2,707.00
Loose (25)	\$22,546.00
E-Giving (39)	\$ 2,858.00
TOTAL	\$28,111.00

Special Collection

Improvement & Maintenance	\$ 1,192.00
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Special Collections



February 25-26 Catholic Charities, Arch NO

A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel, part of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus does not speak of replacing the law of the Old Testament. He goes beyond it. He obliges his followers to work at being holier than even the strictest of Pharisees. But the work is not accomplished by following a religious "law," it requires growing in love for other human beings. Followers of Jesus know they are required to be good stewards of others. In what way will you exercise good stewardship over other people this week?



Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp
burns this week for

Persecuted Christians



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11 Henry Schorr, Denise Para Bostic, Rita T. Aucoin, Elia Bittini, Cynthia Gilmore

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12 9:30am Jose Luis Escobar, Betsie Melancon, Rita T. Aucoin, Carmen Thompson Cox, Maria Ayste

11:30am Parishioners

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 David D'Antoni

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 All Souls Book of Remembrance

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 Claire Baehr Serpas

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37

Monday Gn 4:1-15,25;Ps 50:1 & 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a & 2; 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk 8:41-21

Wednesday Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26

Thursday Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23;Mk 8:27-33

Friday Gn 11:1-9;Ps 33:10-11, 12-13; 14-15; Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13

Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, Glenn Becnel, Savannah Becnel, Simone M. Becnel, Jennifer Siegrest Bondio, Christopher Brewster, Ben Capshaw, Mary Chamberland, Antoinette Clark, Marvette Clark, Cathy Dermady, David Doll, Sr., Guella Dragon, Rosita Duplantier, Mildred Flynn, 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, Jeff Mitchener, Joy Morton, Jay Occhipinti, Johnny Parker, Paige Peterson, Melissa Phelps, Steven Philburn, Wayne Pietri, 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 Audubon Retirement Village (Hainkel), Covenant & Poydras Homes & Lambeth House and patients of Children's Hospital.

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.

ECHO
RETREATS

ENGAGED COUPLES

FEB. 24-26, 2023
MARYHILL RENEWAL CENTER
PINEVILLE, LA

Since 2010, thousands of lives have been changed – and now ECHO for Engaged Couples is here! This weekend gives engaged couples the chance to grow in relationship with God and each other in an environment of freedom and love. Inspired by the life and teachings of St. John Paul II, couples prepare meaningfully to enter into a sacramental marriage in the context of authentic community with other couples and mentors. Dynamic talks, activities, discussions, prayer, sacraments, live music, art, and quality time with your fiancé...this is a weekend like no other!

Details and registration:
ECHORETREATS.COM

*If you are a mentor couple, you may attend with the engaged couple that you are mentoring!

AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH

Saturday, March 4, 2023
St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie

"As Christ Loved The Church"
2023 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference

March 4, 2023 | 8:30 - 3:00
St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie

Register below:
<https://nolacatholicfla.regfox.com/2023-ano-mens-conference-as-christ-loved-the-church>



“Let your ‘YES’ mean ‘YES,’ and your ‘NO’ mean ‘NO.’”

Hallow

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Register today by scanning this QR code or selecting our parish here:
Hallow.com/holyday

LIVE THE LOVE Luncheon

Are you widowed or divorced? The Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center invites you to enjoy a Valentine's Lunch on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 following their noon Mass. Space is limited, so please register today at neworleansretreats.com or by calling 504-267-9604.

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