



# SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Uptown New Orleans

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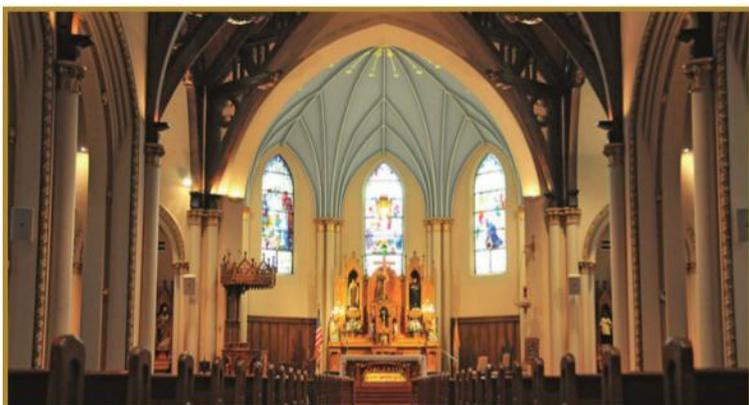
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### PARISH PRAYER

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

# LENT

As a focus for this season of Lent, I offer one of the works of painter William Zdinak. At a point in his life when he was caught up in the Rat Race we call success, he received a call from a woman to whom he promised five months earlier to do a painting for a religious art show. She asked him how much more time he needed. He had forgotten about the promise, so he lied. He had not finished, or... started the painting & needed at least one more day. He hoped this would get him off the hook. She persisted and asked the size of the painting and promised to leave space for it. The artist was trapped. And there was no money in it for him.

Accustomed to working all night to meet deadlines, he stretched the only piece of canvas in his studio. He decided on a simple abstract painting, but unable to formulate an idea & unwilling to resort to sentimentality, he was haunted by flashes of past failures in his adult life - his preoccupation with material things, turning his back on the spiritual life, get rich quick schemes & a near fatal accident which crippled his painting ability. Failure after failure came hurtling through his mind.

In utter desperation he cried, *“that’s what I get for lying, God. I’ll never lie again.”* At the moment he flung down his brushes, a flash of light filled the room and for a split second His face appeared on the canvas. And the painting displayed in this article was the result of his labor. William had gathered up pictures of people’s faces --- men women, children, anybody without rhyme or reason. After 15 hours he stepped back from the canvas for his first overall look. He was overwhelmed --- all he could exclaim was: *“My God, did I do that ---?”*



William Zdinak’s painting reminds me that Lent is a time for directing our eyes and our energies away from ourselves toward the person and mission of Jesus Christ and to find there the faces of all our sisters and brothers whose needs we are called to recognize and serve.

Right now, Satan, better called the Adversary, is doing his work. He’s tempting you just as he did Jesus about why he should forget the mission his Father called him to in his baptism. For lack of a better term, the first temptation is materialism. We look for solutions to our many problems not in prayer, trust & sharing faith with one another, but in the visible scientific & culturally approved remedies. When we or someone we know is in pain the first impulse is to take another pill or medication; when we have leisure time our first impulse is to fill it with a costly activity or go surfing the Internet. We use material substitutes.

The second temptation is a certain kind of cowardice. We avoid difficult but spiritually rewarding tasks. We tend to the comfortable, become spiritual couch potatoes, take the easy way. We don’t stick our necks out and witness to the gospel. We figure that it’s some one else’s job to deal with problems like racism, poverty and the taking of innocent life.

The third temptation, and the most serious we face is the temptation to despair. Thoreau claimed that “the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” This desperation leads to apathy, cynicism and resignation. Television, social media, and suburban sprawl have contributed greatly to the privatization and isolation of our lives. That is not the image we see portrayed in Zdinak’s painting. The gospel invites us to be spiritually courageous.

So, what is your excuse, your temptation. Lent is the time “TO DEAL WITH IT.”

Prayer  
Fasting  
Almsgiving

# LENT

# PRAY ✦ FAST ✦ GIVE

Deepen your prayer life this Lent with Hallow



### Daily Prayers

Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, Examen, or one of over 5,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.



### Family Content

Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, or guide your little ones with introductory prayer sessions for ages 3 and up as well as sacrament prep.



### Bible Stories & Sleep Content

Close your day with Christ with an Examen, Night Prayer, or a Rosary with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.

## Hallow

[hallow.com/holyday](https://hallow.com/holyday)



"I have prayed for a guide during Lent and I have found it! Thank you Hallow!"

Scan with your phone



## CHURCH SUPPORT

Due to our holiday schedule, the Church Support totals for the weekend of February 18-19 will be posted on the weekend of March 5th.

Your generosity in the area of Church support as always is greatly appreciated.

### Special Collections

The Second Collection this weekend is for **Catholic Charities** Archdiocese of New Orleans. This collection provides crucial funds that enable Catholic Charities to be a source of hope and help for the poor and needy in our archdiocese. Your support also provides emergency relief during times of unforeseen disaster.

## A Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel reading we listen to the confrontation between Jesus and the devil, who thought he might tempt Jesus to forget who he was and commit a grievous sin when he was most vulnerable. Jesus had just spent 40 days and nights out in the desert, alone, away from civilization. He was hungry, thirsty, and tired. If there ever was a time to tempt Jesus, that was it. Temptations to sin come at us every day, from many directions and in many forms. When the temptation to sin tries to overcome us, how do we react? Do we consciously remind ourselves that we are followers of Christ? Is there a time this week when you have needed to confront a temptation to sin? What lessons did you take away from the experience?



**Church Sanctuary Lamp**

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp  
burns this week for

**Earthquake Victims**



## Mass Intentions



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25** Henry Schorr, Jose Luis Escobar, Blake Whalen Encalarde, Rita T. Aucoin

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

**9:30am** Betsie Melancon, Rita T. Aucoin, Maria Celia Espinoza, Dr. Pedro Cazabon, The Intentions of Joe Benvenuto

**11:30am** Parishioners

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27** Henry Schorr

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28** All Souls Book of Remembrance

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1** Helen Martin

**THURSDAY, MARCH 2** Margaret Robert Favre

**FRIDAY, MARCH 3** Cynthia Gilmore

### WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Sunday** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or Rom 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11

**Monday** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

### Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, Savannah Becnel, Simone M. Becnel, Jennifer Siegreist 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.*



## Easter Mission

with Fr. Cedric Pisegna

*Mark your calendar!*

### Mission Schedule:

Weekend of April 15th/16th

Fr. Cedric will preach at all masses  
(4 pm, 9:30 am, 11:30 am)

Sunday - 7 pm Easter Mission

Monday - 7 pm Easter Mission with Sacrament  
of Reconciliation

Tuesday - 7 pm Easter Mission/Closing Mass  
(No 6pm mass on Tuesday)

**Fr. Cedric Pisegna, C.P.** Touched by the grace of God when he was 19 years old, Fr. Cedric surrendered his life to Jesus and had a life changing experience. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he desired to make a difference in people's lives. Fr. Cedric dedicated his life to God as a Passionist religious and Catholic priest. He now travels across the U.S. and Canada preaching, writing, and producing for television. His message is practical, inspirational, and orthodox.



We are focusing on serving pregnant & parenting moms in need during Lent.

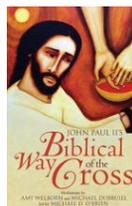
Please purchase a **Walmart/Target, Walgreens/ CVS, Shell/Chevron or Amazon** gift card in any amount, so women in need can purchase necessary items and supplies.

Plastic Easter eggs will be handed out after each of the masses as a visual reminder of how we are supporting new life during this Lenten Season.

*Gift Cards or Cash/Checks can be placed in the Matthew 25 box in the back of church.*



## Stations of the Cross Fridays 6:30 pm



Friday's during Lent the stations of the cross will be celebrated at 6:30 pm in the Church.

## Order of St. Louis Medallion

The Order of St. Louis Medallion is awarded to Catholic men and women for their many unselfish contributions of time and talent to the life of the parish. At this time, St. Francis of Assisi is accepting nominations of parishioners who should be considered for this honor. If you would like to nominate anyone please contact the parish center at 891-4479 or [sfa@stfrancisuptown.com](mailto:sfa@stfrancisuptown.com). Deadline for nominations is March 1st.



## Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church, Metairie. This prayer service will honor couples celebrating or have recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. It is open to couples married in 1973 or before. (To register, contact your parish office before Tuesday, March 7, 2023). Note: The Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration is a prayer service, not a Mass & will not fulfill the couple's Sunday obligation. Couples should plan to attend Mass at their home parishes.



**AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie**

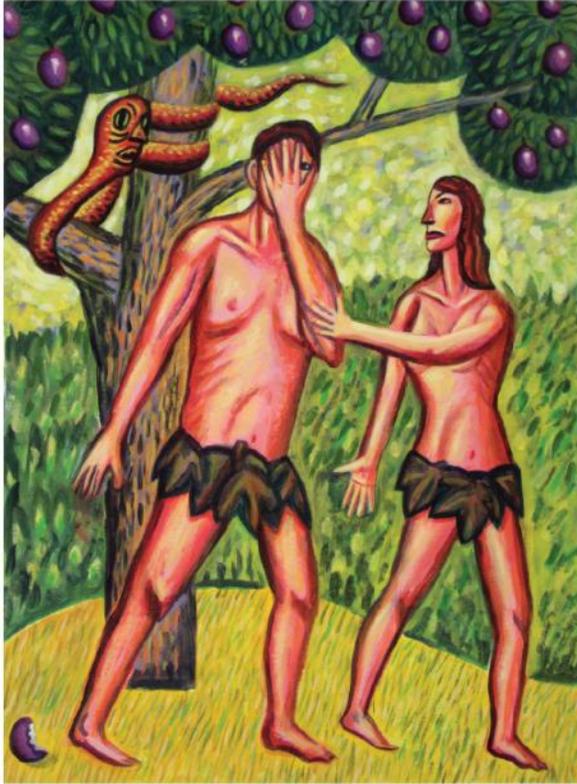
**"As Christ Loved The Church"**  
**2023 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference**

**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>

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



## The Lord Alone

Faithful God,  
from the very beginning  
you have called your people  
to worship you  
with single-minded focus.  
You are the one true God,  
source of all goodness and mercy.  
Grant us the strength  
to resist earthly temptations,  
the will to turn from distractions,  
and the desire to orient our lives  
toward loving you first.  
We ask for your patience  
as we seek to grow in holiness  
this Lent  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, February 26, 2023

God First

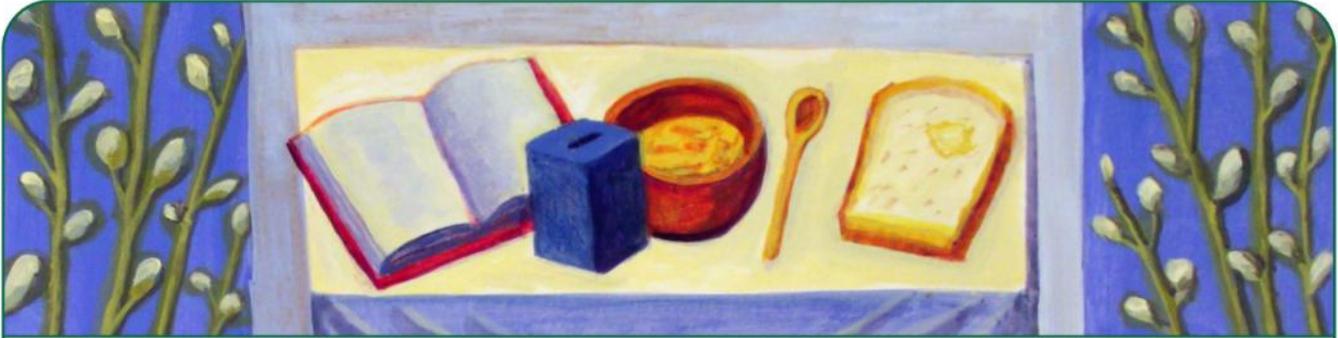


*Today's readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11.* Jesus gets the last word when the devil tries to lure him with earthly temptations. He quotes the Shema from Deuteronomy, chapter 6: "Hear O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength" (6:4-5). This most fundamental expression of faith orients our spiritual focus for the season of Lent. It is a clear invitation from the Scriptures to turn our hearts toward God.

A simple pie chart of how the majority of our time is spent during any week will reveal the priorities around

which our lives are ordered and what or whom we worship. Do we seek the accumulation of possessions or power; do we worship celebrities or ideologies; do we serve egocentric goals or addictions? Lent offers us the opportunity for *metanoia*, the profound transformation of mind and heart. Now is the time to take a self-inventory and make deliberate choices that place God first in our heart and mind. These choices are expressed in the activities and gestures of our daily living. Sketch out your pie chart and take an honest look at it. Then write a love letter back to God, telling him your plan for how you intend to place God at the center of your life this Lent.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, February 27

#### Mercy Works

How shall we grow in holiness this Lent? We don't have to guess. Today's Scriptures lay out the blueprint. The instructions from Leviticus give clear direction for avoiding sin. Equally important, the Gospel passage from Matthew calls us to active engagement in the corporal works of mercy. We have six weeks before Easter. Pick one work of mercy to focus on each week of Lent; resolve to try the works of mercy you find most challenging first. *Today's readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31-46.*

### Tuesday, February 28

#### Our Father

Each Lent we are invited to deepen our prayer life. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us exactly how to do just that through giving us the words of the Lord's Prayer. How can we magnify our prayer life? A possible start could be by praying the Lord's Prayer more intentionally. Write or type the prayer line by line on a sheet of white paper. Cut into strips. Reflect on each line of the prayer. Make the practice part of your daily prayer routine this Lent. *Today's readings: Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Matthew 6:7-15.*

### Wednesday, March 1

#### Create in Me A Clean Heart

Responsorial Psalm 51 is prayed repeatedly through the season of Lent because it expresses the humble stance we are called to assume: "A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn." Catholics celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation each Lent as an essential step of spiritual preparation for Easter. Seek reconciliation early in Lent as a way to turn over the soil of your heart and make room for the new seeds of faith to grow in the coming weeks. *Today's readings: Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Luke 11:29-32.*

### Thursday, March 2

#### Ask, Seek, Knock

Today's Scriptures are deeply reassuring. The psalmist glorifies God, "on the day I asked for help, you answered me." Jesus promises, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." What do you need to ask God for today? Write a letter to God and lay out all the burdens you carry. Ask for what you need with confidence in God's faithfulness. *Today's readings: Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Matthew 7:7-12.*

### Friday, March 3

#### Time to Heal

Jesus reminds the disciples, and us, of how broken relationships harm the soul. Lent is the time for reconciliation with God and with the people in our lives. Do you have an estranged relationship? What steps can you take toward healing? For starters, name a relationship that seems to hold you in bondage. Ask God to guide you in seeking freedom from anger, judgment, frustration, and resentment. Attend to the ways God provides opportunities to take repairing steps in the coming days. *Today's readings: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Matthew 5:20-26.*

### Saturday, March 4

#### Lifting Up a Relationship

The call to pay attention to difficult relationships in our lives continues in today's Scripture readings. Jesus tells us the first steps toward healing: pray for that person daily as part of your Lenten sacrifice. This can be challenging. Praying for those who cause us distress requires humility. Heed the advice of our Lord and take note of the movement of your heart as you do so in the coming weeks. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Matthew 5:43-48.*



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