



SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Uptown New Orleans

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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.

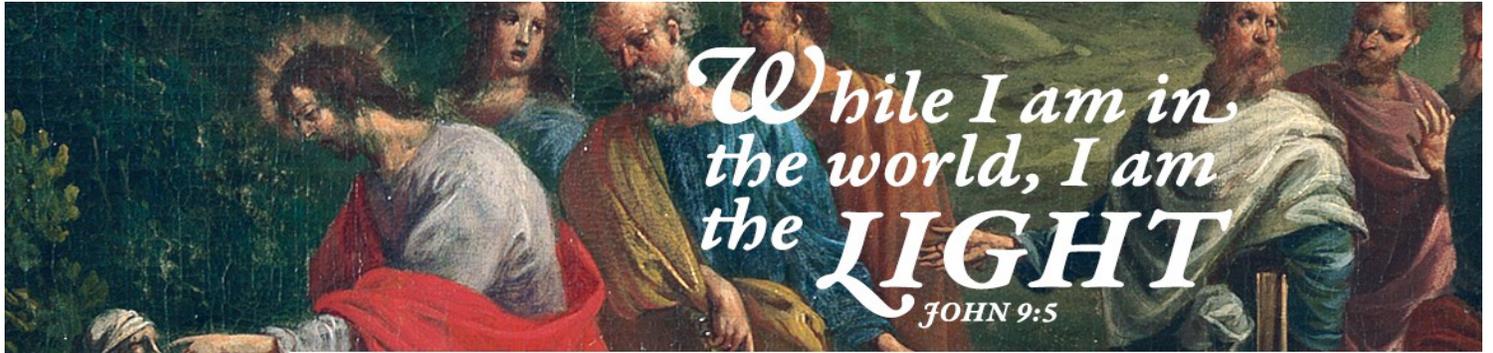
MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS

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



Last Sunday night I made it through the first two hours watching the ninety-fifth Academy Awards and then I was off to bed. This week my reflection travels back to the award-winning movie *THE MIRACLE WORKER*. Filmed in black and white over 40 years ago, it starred Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke.

The *Miracle Worker* is the story of Helen Keller played by Patty Duke. As you may recall, Helen was blind and deaf. Anne Bancroft played Helen's teacher, Anne Sullivan. She tries to teach her young and stubborn pupil by spelling words with her hands and associate them with different objects. Despite the interference of Helen's parents, Anne finally succeeds when at the climax of the movie Helen makes the connection. The connection between water flowing from a pump and the word Anne had taught her to spell with her hand gestures.

What made the difference between the hand language and the flowing water? What made the difference was *insight*. Insight is the ability to see connections and meanings that go beyond physical sight, to put things together in new ways so as to see reality at a deeper level. When a parent looks at the erratic behavior of their child, then sees that something is bothering him/her. Anne was able to see that Helen was capable of being different and knowing. We can hinder insight, however, when we are incapable or unwilling to see things differently, or beyond appearances.

In the First Book of Samuel, we read that Samuel thought he knew what a good candidate for a king would look like. He was fond of King Saul, but even though Saul appeared to have the characteristics of a good king, God had rejected him and had sent Samuel to anoint a new king. As Samuel looked at Jesse's elder sons, he noticed the physical qualities that would be appropriate for a king. But God rejected these men in favor of their youngest brother, David. Only by listening to God and coming to understand that God views people differently than we do, did Samuel gain insight into the kind of personal qualities God found appropriate for a king.

In the Gospel of John's story of the man born blind, the disciples, the Pharisees, the man's parents and others are like detectives at a crime scene. They immediately look for clues for the man's sight. They are unable to make the connection. They lack insight.

Meanwhile the cured man is growing in insight as he begins to understand more and more who Jesus is. First, he refers to him as "that man they call Jesus." Next, he attests to Jesus being a prophet and a man from God. Finally, he calls Jesus "Lord" and worships him.

Those who thought they saw the facts of the case and refused to allow Jesus to bring them to a deeper meaning remain blind, even though they have their physical sight. The "blind" man not only gains his physical sight, but also grows in insight into the identity of Jesus as God made flesh.

Lent is our opportunity to allow Jesus to bring us to a deeper insight into our baptismal life. During Lent we are to look at the facts of our life. Where do we need to grow in insight as to what clouds our vision. What things reflect our Christian identity and the things that do not: the false values of the world or the values that reflect the gospel and social teachings of the Church. What attitudes towards others and towards life that mark us as disciples and those that do not? Who are those "kept in the dark" in our families, neighborhoods, city, country, world? What particular light would change their darkness? What are the blind spots in your own life? If you were the person in the gospel story, what is the one area of your life in which you would want the light of Jesus to heal you?

(Uptown Canticle Continued on Next Page...)

(...Uptown Canticle continued)

Name the ways that your blindness has been healed, the ways that you have changed because of meeting Christ along the way? Like Samuel and the blind man we must allow the Lord to lead us to new insights. This is not always easy and it may take time, but it is important that we let go of our way of seeing things and let God show us his way. The Lord looks beyond appearances into our hearts. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we look beyond the appearance of bread and wine and see the Body and Blood of Jesus. May he help us to see our hearts as he does and may we let the Lord lead us into new insights as disciples of the Savior of the world.

Congratulations

to *Altar Server of the Year*
Award Winner

Carmela Juan



Carmela was awarded the Altar Server of the Year award by Archbishop Gregory Aymond along with altar servers from other parishes. Thank you Carmela for your faithful dedication!

Fr. Cedric Pisegna, C. P.
Live With Passion!
www.frcedric.org As Seen on EWTN

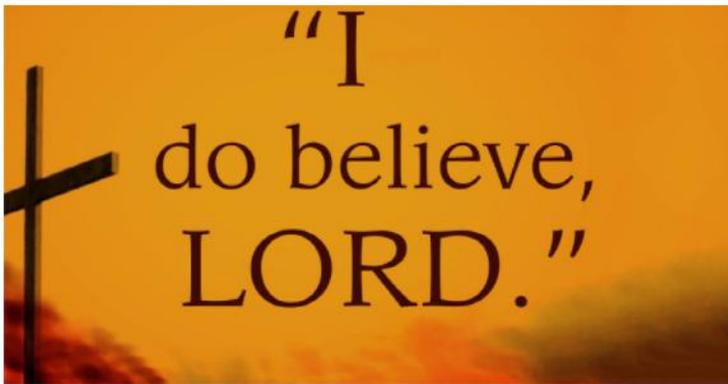
✦FR. CEDRIC ON TV:
EWTN: Sun 5:30 am | Trinity Broadcast Network (TBN): Sun 6 am | Daystar TV: Sun noon

Easter Mission

Sun. Mon. Tue. • April 16-18

Sun: Word Service, Mon: Reconciliation,
Tues: Mass (All times 7 pm)

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All Are Welcome



LENT

Scan with your phone

Free for the entire parish until Easter

PRAY • FAST • GIVE

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



St. Francis' annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the lawn in front of the rectory on

Easter Sunday, April 9th
after the 9:30am Mass.

CHURCH SUPPORT

“YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS THE SOURCE OF OUR GROWTH”

MARCH 11 - 12, 2023

Envelopes (28)	\$ 943.00
Loose (27)	\$ 2,076.00
E-Giving (38)	\$ 1,703.00
TOTAL	\$4,722.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT

Special Collection

Our second collection today is to raise funds to offset costs of educating seminarians at Notre Dame & St. Joseph Seminary College. All funds collected go directly to supporting the education & formation of 22 men currently studying to be priests in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Please give generously to this very important fund that will provide monetary support to those men who will minister to the people of God in New Orleans for years to come. Envelopes are in the pews.

A Stewardship Moment

Saint Paul gives us a wakeup call. As stewards of the light of Christ, we are to reflect that light with the help of the Holy Spirit. If Christ’s work has transformed and illuminated our lives, there should be a change. The light of Christ’s active presence should be at work in us. And as the light shines within us, we take on the properties of that light and we shine too. We are used by God to shine the light of Christ in the lives of others. A challenging Lenten reflection: Is the light of Christ shining in our hearts? Is the light of Christ reflecting out from us to others?



Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp
burns this week for

Betsie Melancon



Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, March 18 - 4:00pm - Henry Schorr, Rita T. Aucoin, The Intentions of Miss Elsie Cabacungan, In Honor of St. Joseph

SUNDAY, March 19 - 9:30am - Parishioners
11:30am - Jose Luis Escobar, Betsie Melancon, Rita T. Aucoin, Maria Celia Espinoza, In Thanksgiving, In Honor of St. Joseph

MONDAY, March 20 - In Honor of St. Joseph

TUESDAY, March 21 - Mr. Gil Cabacungan

WEDNESDAY, March 22 - Henry Schorr

THURSDAY, March 23 - All Souls Book of Remembrance

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

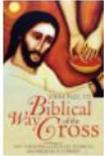
- Sunday** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41
- Monday** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Tuesday** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Jn 5:31-47
- Friday** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday** Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Claire Adams, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, 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, 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.

Stations of the Cross Fridays 6:30 pm



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



Respect Life
Every Life is a Gift, From Conception until Natural Death

Please consider helping moms in need for your Lenten Almsgiving.



You can purchase **Walmart/Target, Walgreens/ CVS, Shell/Chevron** or **Amazon** gift cards in any amount, so we can help pregnant & parenting moms in need to purchase necessary baby items & supplies.

Plastic Easter eggs will be handed out after masses as a visual reminder of how we are supporting new life during this Lenten Season. Inside you'll find instructions on how you can help.

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



St. Joseph's Day Altars..

An old tradition from Sicily. The island was suffering from drought & the people prayed for the intercession of St. Joseph. When the rain came, the people rejoiced. In gratitude, they prepared a table with a special assortment of foods to pay homage to St. Joseph. Leftovers were given to the less fortunate. *The Solemnity of St. Joseph is March 19, but this year, because it falls on the 4th Sunday of Lent, the celebration is transferred to Monday, March 20. For a listing of local Altars, visit: <https://nolacatholic.org/stjosephaltars>*



Confessions

will be available in all parishes from 5 PM — 6:30 PM on the following Wednesdays during Lent:



NEWS FROM: **O.W.L.S.**
YOU'RE INVITED!

PASSING ON THE FAITH..

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Monday, March 20th

Lunch @ 12:30 p.m. ~ Speakers @ 1 p.m.

Parish Center - 611 State St.

Parking will be available in our lot behind the church



Hunter LaRocca



Bairon Guerrero-Reyes

Hunter & Bairon have been teaching Confirmation classes at St. Francis of Assisi and we're excited to welcome them as our Lenten Speakers.

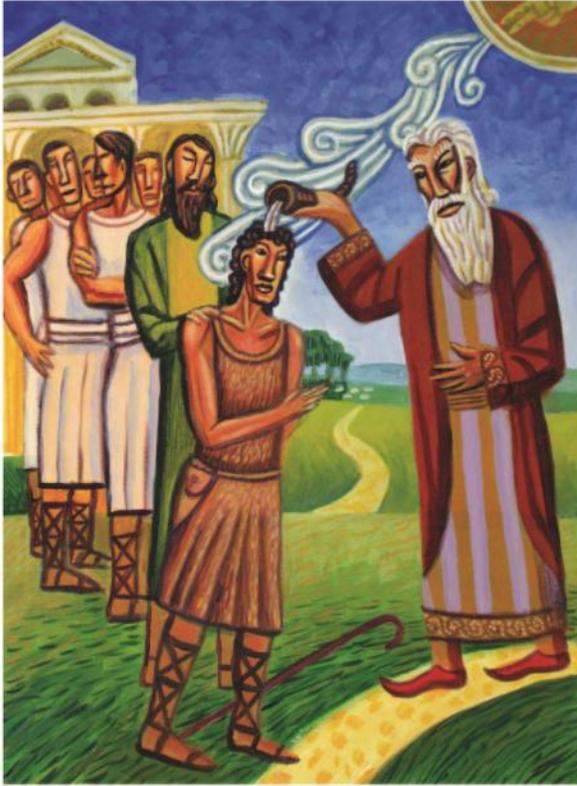
Our most recent outing to **Ursuline Convent & The Historic New Orleans Collection** was a big hit & a walk down memory lane for **Louis and Lois Keifer** who were married 64 years ago at St. Mary's Italian Church (now a chapel.) Congratulations!



Parish Mission Chamber Concert
"Prepare the Way of the Lord"
 March 28th, 2023 | 7:00PM
 Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church
 3368 Esplanade Ave.
 New Orleans, LA
 Preached by Rev. John Brown, S.J.
 Music Curated by James Rosenbloom
 For registration and event information, visit sl9art.com
 THE ST. LOUIS IX ART SOCIETY




FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Help Us See

Good and gracious God,
you see our inner life,
and bring light to the darkness.
Thank you for shining your loving
kindness
on our desire to know your Son.
Lift our hearts with joy today.
Help us inhale the signs of spring hope
coming to life around us.
Cast your holy light on the shadows
of our lives
and heal our spiritual wounds.
Gift us with the desire to see the world
with the eyes of faith
through Christ the Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Spiritual Sight

Today's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a; Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6, 6 (1); Ephesians 5:8–14; John 9:1–41. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday, a name inspired by the entrance antiphon, “Rejoice, O Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:10). Today, we momentarily pause from some of the penitential observances of Lent. With joy, our eyes turn toward Easter. This spirit of rejoicing is reflected in our liturgies, which differ from the other Sundays of Lent. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary. The priest may wear rose-colored vestments, ordinarily worn only on one other day of the liturgical year, the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday.

The Scripture readings also highlight reasons to rejoice. Jesus proclaims to his disciples, to a blind man on

the side of the road, and ultimately to all of us, “I am the light of the world” (John 9:5). Perceiving the deepest needs of the man’s heart, Jesus performs a miraculous healing. He restores the man’s physical sight to offer him spiritual sight. Through his subsequent encounters with Jesus, the healed man comes to see, believe, and follow him.

Today we are invited to wake up from our blindness. Jesus looks into our hearts and desires to illuminate our intrinsic goodness. He offers us the gift of spiritual sight to see God’s essence radiating through all human reality. Shall we follow the blind man’s lead and joyfully look at the world and all those we meet with the eyes of faith?





THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 20

St. Joseph

Today we lift up Jesus' earthly father, St. Joseph, who embodied virtue as a father, dedicated worker, compassionate husband, and faithful listener. In fact, our sacred Scriptures recount his choices but never his words. Four times Joseph listens to the angel sent by God to guide his choices, and each time he courageously answers with quiet, trusting obedience. Make time today to emulate his prayer stance by quieting your heart and listening. *Today's readings:* 2 Samuel 7:4–5a, 12–14a, 16; Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16–18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18–21, 24a or Luke 2:41–51a.

Tuesday, March 21

Holistic Healing

The healing power of Jesus is on full display in the Gospel story about the man who had been sick for thirty-eight years. As with most healing stories attributed to Jesus, being “made well” is twofold. Jesus restores both physical health and implores those who are healed to seek spiritual health by avoiding sin. Lent offers us the path to wholeness. Healing comes in a variety of forms. Where do you need Jesus' healing touch today? *Today's readings:* Ezekiel 47:1–9, 12; Psalm 46:2–3, 5–6, 8–9; John 5:1–16.

Wednesday, March 22

The Lord is Near

The responsorial psalm today gets right to the hopeful theme of Lent: God desires to be close to us. The descriptions of the Lord as kind, merciful, slow to anger, gracious, kind, compassionate, faithful, attentive, just, and holy lead to the acclamation that “the LORD is near to all who call upon him” (Psalm 145:18). Place Psalm 145 on your bathroom mirror or over your kitchen sink where you will be reminded throughout each day of God's enduring desire to be in relationship

with us. *Today's readings:* Isaiah 49:8–15; Psalm 145:8–9, 13cd–14, 17–18; John 5:17–30.

Thursday, March 23

Sent by God

Jesus makes a bold claim to the Jewish community: “the Father has sent me.” As he says this, Jesus implores them to heed his voice and trace his living presence to the promises made to Moses. They respond with blind resistance. We have the gift of a much longer view on this interchange between Jesus and the community. Do we respond with faith or skepticism? *Today's readings:* Exodus 32:7–14; Psalm 106:19–20, 21–22, 23; John 5:31–47.

Friday, March 24

Close to the Brokenhearted

Our responsorial psalm tenderly proclaims the promise that the Lord is “close to the brokenhearted” (Psalm 34:19). Part of the human condition is the experience of loss, disappointment, rejection, grief, and depression. Our faith offers us confident consolation that the Lord saves “those who are crushed in spirit” (34:19). Remember that we are never alone in our despair; the Lord never forgets us but especially leans in to be close when we are low. *Today's readings:* Wisdom 2:1a, 12–22; Psalm 34:17–18, 19–20, 21 and 23; John 7:1–2, 10, 25–30.

Saturday, March 25

Annunciation of the Lord

The word *annunciation* means “announcement.” In our faith story, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary changes the course of history. Lent reminds us that God is announcing good news to us in a variety of forms and through the most unexpected messengers. Attend to the angels in our midst, sent by God to inspire, encourage, challenge, and affirm us. The week began with Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday. Today's feast bookends our week of rejoicing. What good news is God offering us today? *Today's readings:* Isaiah 7:10–14; 8:10; Psalm 40:7–8a, 8b–9, 10, 11; Hebrews 10:4–10; Luke 1:26–38.



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