



ST. MARY OF THE PINES CATHOLIC CHURCH

February 5, 2023

1050 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop
Shreveport, LA 71118
Office 687-5121 • Rectory 687-1818
www.StMaryShreveport.org
Email: smopoffice@stmaryshreveport.org

Very Rev. Mark Watson, V.F.
Pastor

Rev. Raney Johnson
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Bill Roche

Kim Long, Director of Religious Education
Carol Garceau, Secretary
Debora Mammarelli, Accountant
Tom Ticich, Music Coordinator
Reynaldo Moreno, Organist
German & Andrea Velazquez, High School
Youth Directors

MASSES: Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri.: 8:30 a.m.
Saturday (Vigil): 4 p.m.
Sunday Mass: English: 8:30 a.m. & Spanish: 12:30 p.m.

CONFESSION: Saturday 3:00—3:45 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.—11:15 a.m.; or by appointment.

BAPTISM: Call the office to schedule a preparation class after which a Baptism date can be scheduled.

ADORATION: Following 8:30 a.m. Mass on Tuesday until Holy Hour which is 3 p.m. Benediction at 4 p.m.

GIFT SHOP: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE: Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. & Friday 8:30 a.m. until 12 noon.



We the people of St. Mary of the Pines are unified by our Baptism to fulfill the mission of the Catholic Church: to proclaim the works of God and to live as Jesus taught.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will improve our lives by continuing to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church, sharing with the poor, providing support for our young people, the sick and the lonely, worshipping with reverence and enthusiasm, providing stewardship for the gifts God has committed to our care, and celebrating together as a Christian family.

Scan the QR code below with your cell phone's camera to go to our "Get Involved" page on our website to learn about all the ministries and organizations we have in our Parish!



New Horizons: You are Salt and Light

In the first reading, Isaiah begins by speaking to the people about fasting. The prophet proclaims that Yahweh desires that his people's fasting lead them to care for the poor.

In their fasting, the Israelites are willing to afflict themselves but they neglect the afflicted and needy in their midst. The prophet states that those who fast should be reminded of the plight of the hungry and to see God as the source of life and nourishment. If the people remove oppression, false accusation, and malicious speech from their midst and if they bestow their bread on the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted, then God will make their **light break forth like the dawn, heal their wound and God will set them free.**

SALT OF THE EARTH

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his disciples to be salt of the earth. In Jesus' time salt was a **precious** and **expensive commodity**. It was one of the most important necessities of life. It was used for everything from seasoning and preserving food to making covenants.

Salt is only valuable if it is mixed with food. We are called to be salt of the earth. Just as salt is used with food in order to give food flavor, so we are to use our gifts and talents in the world to give it **flavor and value**. As when we use salt on food, the use of our values and gifts in the world will bring out the best in our world. As Jesus called his disciples "salt," they must have understood that - they season and purify the world with God's love and good news.

Our message and lives change the world for the better. We bring Jesus Christ to the world. We also bring others closer to Christ and closer to God. In this way our faith helps to make our world a holier place.

Disciples are the salt of the earth but they can lose their flavor. We might ask, what would cause disciples to lose their flavor? We lose our flavor when we allow fear to keep us from living our faith, when we have so much that we decide to not focus on following Christ or when we lack trust that God will truly support our witness. If we don't witness our faith we do become like salt without flavor.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus tells his disciples that they are the light of the world. In other words, they have a value for the entire world.

It is inconceivable that a city set on a hill could be hidden. As followers of Jesus, we are to let our faith shine forth through our words and actions. In allowing our faith to shine forth we have great value for the entire world. Jesus tells us that we must allow our light to be seen by others so that they will see the good works that we do and give glory to their heavenly Father.

Jesus is saying that if we are not "salt of the earth" and "light of the world" we are not living up to our purpose. If we live the values of the first reading and of the Beatitudes we become a source of new hope for the world. As salt of the earth and light of the world we are called to use our gifts and values to transform the world. May our witness bring others closer to God and in so doing make the world holy.

May we be the salt of the earth and light of the world through living a life of love, generosity and faith especially through assisting those most in need. Ultimately we are salt of the earth and light of the world when we imitate the life of Jesus. Through witnessing our faith in this way, we will truly inspire others to live holy lives.



Nuevos horizontes: Eres Sal y Luz

En la primera lectura, Isaías comienza hablando a la gente sobre el ayuno. El profeta proclama que Yahvé desea que el ayuno de su pueblo lo lleve a cuidar de los pobres.

En su ayuno, los israelitas están dispuestos a afligirse a sí mismos, pero descuidan a los afligidos y necesitados en medio de ellos. El profeta afirma que aquellos que ayunan deben recordar la difícil situación de los hambrientos y ver a Dios como la fuente de vida y alimento. Si el pueblo quita la opresión, la falsa acusación y el discurso malicioso de entre ellos y si otorgan su pan a los hambrientos y satisfacen a los afligidos, entonces Dios hará que su **luz brote como el amanecer, sanará su herida y Dios los liberará.**

SAL DE LA TIERRA

En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús llama a sus discípulos a ser sal de la tierra. En el tiempo de Jesús, la sal era un bien **precioso y caro**. Era una de las necesidades más importantes de la vida. Se usaba para todo, desde condimentar y conservar alimentos hasta hacer convenios.

La sal solo es valiosa si se mezcla con alimentos. Estamos llamados a ser sal de la tierra. Así como la sal se usa con los alimentos para darle sabor a los alimentos, así debemos usar nuestros dones y talentos en el mundo, para darle **sabor y valor**. Al igual que cuando usamos sal en los alimentos, el uso de nuestros valores y dones en el mundo sacará lo mejor de nuestro mundo. Como Jesús llamó a sus discípulos "sal", deben haber entendido eso: sazonan y purifican el mundo con el amor y las buenas nuevas de Dios.

Nuestro mensaje y nuestras vidas cambian el mundo para mejor. Traemos a Jesucristo al mundo. También acercamos a otros a Cristo y más cerca de Dios. De esta manera, nuestra fe ayuda a hacer de nuestro mundo un lugar más santo. Los discípulos son la sal de la tierra, pero pueden perder su sabor. Podríamos preguntarnos, ¿qué haría que los discípulos perdieran su sabor? Perdemos nuestro sabor cuando permitimos que el miedo nos impida vivir nuestra fe, cuando tenemos tanto que decidimos no enfocarnos en seguir a Cristo o cuando carecemos de confianza en que Dios realmente apoyará nuestro testimonio. Si no somos testigos de nuestra fe, nos volvemos como sal sin sabor.

LUZ DEL MUNDO

Jesús les dice a sus discípulos que ellos son la luz del mundo. En otras palabras, tienen un valor para el mundo entero.

Es inconcebible que una ciudad situada en una colina pueda estar oculta. Como seguidores de Jesús, debemos dejar que nuestra fe brille a través de nuestras palabras y acciones. Al permitir que nuestra fe brille, tenemos un gran valor para el mundo entero. Jesús nos dice que debemos permitir que nuestra luz sea vista por otros para que vean las buenas obras que hacemos y den gloria a su Padre celestial.

Jesús está diciendo que si no somos "sal de la tierra" y "luz del mundo" no estamos viviendo a la altura de nuestro propósito. Si vivimos los valores de la primera lectura y de las Bienaventuranzas, nos convertimos en una fuente de nueva esperanza para el mundo. Como sal de la tierra y luz del mundo, estamos llamados a usar nuestros dones y valores para transformar el mundo. Que nuestro testimonio acerque a otros a Dios y, al hacerlo, haga que el mundo sea santo.

Que seamos la sal de la tierra y la luz del mundo viviendo una vida de amor, generosidad y fe, especialmente ayudando a los más necesitados. En última instancia, somos sal de la tierra y luz del mundo cuando imitamos la vida de Jesús. Al testificar nuestra fe de esta manera, verdaderamente inspiraremos a otros a vivir vidas santas.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday 2-4	4:00 P.M.	+	Jennifer Osherowitz
		+	Sestilia Poli
		+	Tom Ebarb
Sunday 2-5	8:30 A.M.		Parishioners of St. Mary's and Sacred Heart Church
	12:30 P.M.	+	Spanish Mass
Monday	8:30 A.M.	+	Joseph Olah
		+	Geraldine Lacobee
Tuesday	8:30 A.M.	+	Coleen Calvit
Wednesday	No Mass		
Thursday	8:30 A.M.	+	Natividad & Avelino Flores
		+	Deceased DeBusk Family members
Friday	8:30 A.M.	+	Roger Dowdall
Saturday 2-11	4:00 P.M.	+	Gerardo Zambrano
		+	Clynda Gail Boren
		+	James Garcia
Sunday 2-12	8:30 A.M.	+	Arthur Nicolas
		+	Conrad Bacud
		+	James M. Garcia
		+	Josephine McGowan
	12:30 P.M.	+	Miguel Haro



Scripture Readings For the Week of February 5, 2023

Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Monday: Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 & 12, 24 & 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20-2:4a; Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



Today, we announce the beginning of the **2023 Catholic Service Appeal**. Everyone is asked to consider the work of ministries supported by the Appeal and pray for those who receive assistance through the ministries. In some way, we are all touched by the good the Appeal

provides. This week, every household will receive an appeal packet in the mail. All families in our parish are asked to review the materials and begin discerning a gift or pledge. Next weekend, our parish will conduct an in-pew commitment weekend to provide every family the opportunity to participate. Please prayerfully consider a pledge based on your means, circumstances, and how God has blessed you.

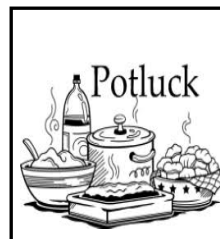
Mass Attendance Jan. 28 @ 4 p.m.—102
Jan. 29 @ 8:30 a.m.—165 & 12:30 p.m.—128

COLLECTIONS

Fiscal Year July 2022—June 2023

Jan. 28 & Jan. 29, 2023

Tithe	\$ 4,275.53
Capital Improvements	25.00
SVDP	80.00
Trauma/Charity	25.00
Church in Latin America	36.00
Catholic Schools in Diocese	597.00



Monthly Potluck Family Meal Wednesday, February 8 5:30 p.m. in Vandegaer Hall

If your last name begins with
A-I: bring a salad,
J-R: bring vegetables,
S-Z: bring a dessert.

Let's gather as a Church Community and share a meal together!



Dust off your old palms as we prepare for our Lenten Journey. Please bring your palms and place them in the basket in front of the Holy Water Font in the vestibule of Church. They will be burned and used on Ash Wednesday.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OF THE LISTED & FOR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS.

If you know someone who needs to be on this list, please let us know.

Jennifer Booras, Cheryl Hopkins, Curtis Leroy McInnis, Charlotte Dimes-Carter, Karen LeBlon, Josh Stewart, Mike Stewart, Theresa Varghese, Cindy Hockenberry, Hazel & Dale Ebarb, Ann Parker, Glenda Ebarb, Mary Velasco, Lynne Caldwell, Clay Moock, Adam Purland, Melissa Lanigan, Jean Neucere, Tom Howard, Irene Fontenot, Peggy Pernici, Virginia Mayeux, Meredith Garcia, Julie Drabek, Jarrod DeBusk, Craig Pate, Steve Tingle, Denise Arthur, Mike Howard, Johnny Beaudoin, Janine Laenger, Sam Marsala, Theresa Metoyer, Mattie Garcia, Luke Rinaudo, Michael Gallion, Mary Glenda Hall, Marianne Jones, Karen Cordell, Jean Wilson Crisp, Arlene Herbert, Dave Buckley, Dennis Payne, Emoretta Hinton, Sharon Williams, Jimmy Green, Loretta Toleda, Debra Friar, Jean Vance, Judy Maranto, Charlie Guillory, Janie Dalton, Marie Beaudoin, Bernadine Miller, Jennifer Mayeux, Jean Crisp, Stanley Bohere, Anthony & Brenda Ebarb, Dennis Akins, Sydney Moss, Danny Walsworth, Harold & Martha Flanagan, Sharon Koch, Kenneth Smith, Linda Jean Walters, Bryan Beard, June Brabham, Butch Coleman, Scott Brown, Marrie Beaudion, Donald & Sherry Ebarb, Bobby Joe Parie, Jr., Reba Meshell, Rita Connor, Bertha Pettigrew, Sharon Mayeux, Scott Porter, Janice Lafitte, Polly Burnes, Tony Fernandis, Michael Paul Meshell, Jason Danny Meshell, Jerry Futch, Jill Fulco, Melissa Shaw, Elmira Trammell, Ronnie Fong, Cathy Smith D'Angelo, Martin Roque, Dr. Randy Davis, Bonnie Chance, Dr. Ramon Romero, Brody Cook, Estrellita Yu, Margaret Long, Ashley Long, Sterling Robertson, Mary A. Breedlove, John McNeil, Letitia Miles.

REFLECTION BY BRIAN SCHMISEK

You are invited to attend a reflection by Brian Schmisek, former Director of the Greco Institute. The reflection will take place in Vandegaer Hall of St. Mary of the Pines on Saturday, **March 4** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Brian has written a book entitled, **Signs, Superstitions, and God's Plan**. The presentation will help one to deepen their experience of God by reflecting on the meaning of God's plan for one's life and the world, providence, destiny and superstition. This book is both engaging and thought provoking. Since lunch is included, please RSVP by calling the St. Mary of the Pines office at (318) 687-5121.



St. Mary of the Pines **50th Anniversary t-shirt** sale has been a **great success!** If you would like to pre-order, please give your name, size & phone number to Carol in the church office (318-687-5121) or Grace (318-751-7413). The cost is **\$17** SM to XL and **\$20** for 2XL to 5XL

The Black Catholic Committee members will be selling **50th Anniversary Bags** after Masses beginning Saturday, February 4. The price of each bag is \$5.00. Be sure to stop by the table after mass and get your bag!



Camp Little Flower

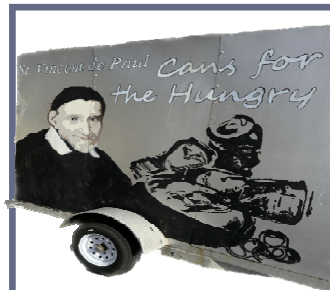
Please join us this summer for the first session of **Camp Little Flower**. The dates for the camp will be **Monday, July 24 - Friday, July 28, at Camp Bethany in Bethany, LA**. The camp is for youth ages 8-13. Registration is online at: www.dioshpt.org/camp-little-flower. The camp is open to all parishes. Please join us for a week of faith and fun. For more information, send an email to camplittlefdioshpt.org

or Fr. Raney Johnson at rjohnson@stmaryshreveport.org. Scan the QR Code to register online.

This year we will conduct our annual collection benefiting the **retired priests of our diocese on Ash Wednesday, February 22**. Feel free to use your parish envelope or the Retired Clergy Collection yellow envelopes that will be provided for you in the pews. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of diocesan clergy.



If you need a statement of your 2022 contributions, please call the Parish Office (687-5121), and we will be happy to mail or email it to you.



St. Vincent de Paul is in need of your **aluminum cans!** Steve Cadwell takes the empty aluminum cans to a recycling center approximately twice a year & the proceeds from the sale of these cans usually amounts to just over \$700. This goes directly to St.

Vincent de Paul to help those in need in our community. We just need your **aluminum cans!** The drop off point is the trailer pictured above (in front of Ed's Place). An extra shout-out of appreciation to Steve Cadwell for being in charge of this important service & keeping the trailer in top condition (tires, maintenance, etc.).