



# Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church



8968 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 † 504-394-0314 † Fax: 504-394-0376  
Web: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) † Email: [churchoffice@olphbc.org](mailto:churchoffice@olphbc.org)

**OFFICE HOURS**—Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Please call between these times for routine parish business.

## PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. Kyle V. Dave, Pastor**  
[kdave@arch-no.org](mailto:kdave@arch-no.org)  
**Rev. William F. Maestri,**  
*Ministry of Sacraments & Education*  
**George “Ed” Merritt, Jr., Deacon**  
[emerritt@arch-no.org](mailto:emerritt@arch-no.org)  
**Brittany Breaux, School Principal**  
[bbreaux@olphbcschool.org](mailto:bbreaux@olphbcschool.org)  
**Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant**  
**Suzette Perrin, Coordinator of Religious Education and Adult Formation**  
[cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org)  
**Angel Boyd, Receptionist**  
**Debbie Fagnano, Director of Music Ministry**  
**TJ Lejeune & Kenneth Pouwels,**  
*Maintenance Supervisors*

## OLPH SCHOOL

8970 Highway 23 † 504-394-0757

## PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

8968 Highway 23 † 504-394-0314

## K.C. HALL

9016 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday** 7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday** 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
**Monday** 7:30 a.m.  
**Tuesday** 7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 8:30 a.m. During the school year  
(7:30 a.m. when school is not  
in session)  
**Thursday** 7:30 a.m.  
**Friday** 7:30 a.m.  
**First Friday Adoration:** 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
**Holy Days:** Consult the bulletin.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Tuesday** 5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.  
**Saturday** 2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

## SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING)

By appointment only

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, are a living and growing Catholic community of faith, striving to follow and serve Christ. We are an evangelizing community, and we welcome others to fullness of life in Christ. With Mary we say “Yes” to God’s call to pray together, worship consciously, and serve joyfully.*

To visit our church website scan the QR code below:





## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to a very friendly and enthusiastic community. Please fill out the information in the Binder on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or register at the Church Office. A Census Form can also be found on our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

### Sacraments



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are usually celebrated on the fourth Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Due to demand, some months may be eliminated or another day or time may be chosen by the family if it is available on the church schedule of events." To begin the process, parents are encouraged to go to our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) to access the forms under Sacraments and return the forms by email or drop off at the Church Office. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The Baptismal Seminar is held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Day Chapel. If you need more information or have questions, call the Rectory at (504) 394-0314 or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION:** First Eucharist is celebrated the first Saturday of May for students in the 2nd grade or above. Children older than 2nd grade will be prepared on individual situations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to Communion.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. Candidates who attend Catholic high school or are enrolled in the High School of Religion program come together for Sacramental preparation. All candidates are asked to pre-register in their freshmen year and no later than December of their 10th grade year. Information and registration can be found on our website: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

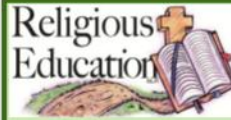
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).**



**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Inform the Church Office when someone is sick, shut-in or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass.

**FUNERALS:** Inform the Church Office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.



### Religious Education

The mission of OLPH's Religious Education program is to bring the "Good News" of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. Religious Education is available for children in Kindergarten through adults. We encourage parents to be parishioners of OLPH when registering students for Religious Education classes. Census forms can be obtained from the Parish Office during regular business hours, on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or you can register online. Call the Church Office at (504) 394-0314, or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org) for more information.

**SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 10:30 a.m. Mass to the Day Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for Children (September-May). A summary of the readings of the day is discussed on their level.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Our PSR program is divided in two parts. Family Faith Formation is the "academic" part with the textbook discussed at home as a family. Our Encountering Engaging Events are a chance to come together as a community to worship together, do crafts, or engage in traditional events like our Nativity Play and Living Way of the Cross.

**HIGH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Students in 9th through 12th grade not attending a Catholic High School are offered Faith Formation with academics at home, working at their own pace, but also some time to get together to discuss what they have learned with their peers about three times a year. It is intended to be an informal study with honest Catholic answers.

**RCIA:** Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or completing Sacraments? Please join our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have a Year-Round RCIA process that you can enter into whenever you are ready. This is for you if you have never been baptized, if you have been baptized into another denomination and now want to become Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic but have never been confirmed. Sessions will be held in person with day and time to be adjusted to personal schedules. For additional information and to register, contact the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Safe Environment—** Refer to the Web Site: <http://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment> for policies and procedures concerning safe environment and child protection.



## Scripture Readings & Events this Week

**Saturday, March 15, Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.  
 Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)  
 2nd Collection—Capital Campaign

**Sunday, March 16, Second Sunday of Lent; Gen 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1 or Phil 3:20-4:1; Lk 9:28b-36**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Children's Dismissal—10:30 a.m. Mass  
 2nd Collection—Capital Campaign

**Monday, March 17, Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, and 13; Lk 6:36-38**

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
 Cub Scout Pack 301 Meeting, Cafeteria—6:30 p.m.  
 Baptismal Seminar, Day Chapel—7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 18, Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mt 23:1-12**

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
 Confessions, Church—5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.  
 KC Meeting, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.  
 Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church—6:50 p.m.  
 Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

**Wednesday, March 19, Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary; 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a**

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
 Daily Mass, Church—8:30 a.m. (Fr. K)

**Thursday, March 20, Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 16:19-31**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
 Lenten Session, Cafeteria—7:00 p.m. (Fr. M)  
 Choir Rehearsal, Church—7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 21, Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46**

Daily Mass, Day Chapel—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Stations of the Cross, Church—8:30 a.m.  
 Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
 Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.  
 KC Lenten Fish Fry, Behind KC Hall—5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
 Daily Mass, Church—6:00 p.m.  
 Stations of the Cross, Church—6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 22, Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32**

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)  
 Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.  
 Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

**Sunday, March 23, Third Sunday of Lent; Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9**  
**Scrutiny Readings: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rm 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42**

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 10:30 a.m. (Fr. K)  
 Children's Dismissal—10:30 a.m. Mass  
 2nd Collection—Archdiocesan Seminarian Education

## Mass Intentions

**3/15, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— Jerry Pigniolo, Alexandra "Allie" Boteler, Sandra Longley, Oliver & Margaret Koch, Donna Pobrica, Jacqueline Cain, Irwin Cooper, III, Wade & Barbara Bolotte, Larry Avist, Sr., Trena Avist, Avist & Wilson Families, Rosemary Territa, John Caulking, Ferdinand Von Behren, Ruth & Robert Bostick, Mabel & Bernard Becnel, Florence "Flo" Gravolet, Marcella Flanagan, Nazimova Fleming, Barbara Guey, Hazel Gautreaux, Paul LeBoeuf, Margaret Laughlin

**3/16, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— For the Parishioners

**3/16, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**— Eva Vujnovich, Eugene D. Fagnano, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Rosemary (Schaubhut) Hebert, Pat & Dolly Stakelum, Blaze St. Marie, Nolan Terrebonne, Debbie Buras, Annabelle O'Brien, Patricia Hingle McCarty, Paul LeBoeuf, Maria Marroquin, Leonora Adames, Roy Wingard, George Lobrie, Jr.

**3/17, Monday, 7:30 a.m.**— Nazimova Fleming

**3/18, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.**— For the intentions of the Priest

**3/18, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**— Wheldon Boyd, Jr.

**3/19, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.**— Marcella Flanagan

**3/20, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.**— Barbara Guey

**3/21, Friday, 7:30 a.m.**— For the intentions of the Priest

**3/21, Friday, 6:00 p.m.**— Blaze St. Marie

**3/22, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**— For the intentions of the Priest

**3/22, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— For the Parishioners

**3/23, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— Sally Allan, Richard & Anne Fowler, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr.

**3/23, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.**— Eva Vujnovich, Eugene D. Fagnano, Lucille Bernard, Darlene Boudet, Blaze St. Marie, Jackie Cain, Donna Pobrica, Irwin Cooper, III, Debbie Buras, Paul LeBoeuf, Patricia Hingle McCarty, Margaret Laughlin, George Lobrie, Jr., Wade J. Bolotte



### Archdiocese-wide Confessions

will be available in all parishes from 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesdays during Lent: March 26, 2025\*, April 2, 2025 and April 9, 2025.

\*Due to PSR students having confessions on Wednesday, March 26th from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Archdiocese-wide Confessions at OLPH have been changed to 6:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for 2025

*March—For Families in Crisis*

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



# OLPH School News

Our students recently embarked on a *virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes*, experiencing the beauty and sacredness of this renowned Marian shrine. Through an interactive journey, they explored the Grotto of *Masabielle*, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette, and learned about the miraculous healings and deep faith that continue to draw millions of pilgrims to Lourdes each year. During the pilgrimage, students engaged in prayer, reflection, and storytelling, gaining a deeper understanding of St. Bernadette's encounters with Mary and the messages of penance, prayer, and trust in God. They also learned about the healing waters of Lourdes, reflecting on faith, miracles, and the power of intercession. Each student received a bottle of Lourdes Water which came from the spring of the Grotto in France.

ST. BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS



PRAY FOR US!



Our Cheerleaders represented OLPH proudly as they recently marched in the Krewe of Cuties Parade in Gretna.



## 2nd Sunday of Lent

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | K | B | F | Q | C | H | O | S | E | N |
| K | G | S | I | N | A | W | A | K | E | S |
| S | Y | Y | V | L | D | H | P | U | T | S |
| M | P | G | K | A | A | X | X | N | F | X |
| A | C | R | G | E | Z | I | E | P | B | G |
| S | V | F | A | S | Z | T | H | R | H | L |
| T | Z | H | E | Y | L | P | M | A | C | O |
| E | L | G | N | E | I | E | I | N | L | R |
| R | F | Z | S | X | N | Y | E | A | O | Y |
| Y | Z | M | D | B | G | V | J | P | U | R |
| L | S | I | L | E | N | T | Q | J | D | M |

- Pray
- Dazzling
- Glory
- Sleep
- Awake
- Master
- Tents
- Cloud
- Chosen
- Silent



SUNDAYKIDZ





**St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry**

We are in need of certain items for our food pantry. If you are able to donate, please place items in our bin in the back of Church. *Thank you for your help in feeding those in need.*

**Our pantry currently needs the following items:**

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Canned Fruit (any kind)    | Canned Soup (any kind) |
| Hormel Chili               | Cereal (any kind)      |
| Pork n Beans               | Grits (small boxes)    |
| Canned chicken             | Oatmeal (small boxes)  |
| Tuna Fish                  | Pancake Mix            |
| Vegetable Soup             | Pancake Syrup          |
| Peanut Butter (large size) |                        |


**ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED!!**




**2025 KC Council #6357 Lenten Fish Fry**

**When:** Fridays during Lent except Good Friday (March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4 & 11). Drive-through service only from 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Behind our KC Hall, 9016 Highway 23, Belle chasse (next to OLPH Church). We ask customers to enter on the concrete driveway on the south side of Church as done last year.



**The Catholic Faith. On Demand.**



**The best Catholic content. All in one place.**


It's EASY and FREE to register!

1. Visit [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email
4. Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

**Text App to 55321 to download our parish app**

- 1) Download **myParish App**
- 2) Select our Parish after opening



Available on the **App Store** and **Google play**

[myparishapp.com/appstore](http://myparishapp.com/appstore)

Made with ❤️ by Diocesan

**NOTE:** we recently added several new icons to the OLPH myParish App: Catholic Pilgrim (daily reflections); The Chosen (takes you directly to the site); Today's Saints; Bible in a Year; Catechism in a Year; Rosary in a Year; Rosary; Wilderness (daily reflections during Lent with Sr. Josephine Garrett); Stations of the Cross; Seven Sorrows of Mary (English & Spanish versions); Formed (takes you to website to sign up)

**40 days of Lent**

*LENT: Repent and believe in the Gospel (Mark 1:15)*

Lent is a time of reflection and renewed faith as we focus on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lenten season (Wed., March 5, 2025 – Thurs., April 17, 2025) is a valuable time where each person can deepen their relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

**Prayer:** During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture, especially the Gospel Books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and Acts of the Apostles to read about the life of Christ. Other ways to seek the Lord include:

- Praying the Rosary each day (Please join us before Mass, Saturday @ 3:25 p.m., Sundays @ 7:25 a.m. & 10:15 a.m., and Tuesday @ 6:20 p.m.)
- Attending a Mass during the week (On Fridays, there's a 7:30 a.m. Mass and 6:00 p.m. Mass, both followed by Stations of the Cross)
- Checking the myParish App for (a) daily Lent Reflections and (b) Lent with Sr. Josephine Garrett, CSFN (Wilderness icon)
- Signing up for Matthew Kelly's "Best Lent Ever (Your Spiritual Pilgrimage to Divine Mercy)" email program at [www.bestlentever.com](http://www.bestlentever.com) to receive daily emails of short, inspirational videos of profound spiritual insight and intensely practical ways to apply the consecration to your life. The journey will inspire you to encounter God's mercy like never before.
- Search for Lenten content and daily reflections on Formed (see App information above).
- Watching Seasons 1-4 of "The Chosen" (for free on The Chosen App), about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Attend Fr. Maestri's Lenten Series on Thursdays during Lent, beginning March 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

**Fasting:** During Lent, we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition to giving up your favorite food, have you thought about fasting from TV or Social Media?

**Almsgiving:** During Lent, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money or goods to the poor, but through the sharing of our time and talents. The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. Some ideas include:

- Making or paying for dinner for someone you know.
- Think about helping your immediate and extended family.
- Find out which homeless shelter is nearest to you and make a donation; donate to our local St. Vincent DePaul food bank.
- Make designated care kits to offer anyone you encounter who is experiencing homelessness.

*Next Sunday is the Third Sunday of Lent*

**Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15.** This is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I am has sent me to you."

**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12.** All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

**Luke 13:1-9.** Unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.



*The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of: **Evelyn Mistich**, requested by Dolly Roy; **Wheldon Boyd, Jr.**, requested by The Boyd Family; **Nolan Terrebbonne**, requested by The Kennair Family; and **Anabelle O'Brien**, requested by Family.

*If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of a loved one, call the Church Office. The donation for the Sanctuary Light is \$10.*

**Sponsor of the Week:**

**SALVO'S SEAFOOD**  
Est. 1984  
Dine In or Take Out • Fresh & Boiled  
7742 Hwy 23 • 504-393-7303  
www.salvosseafood.com

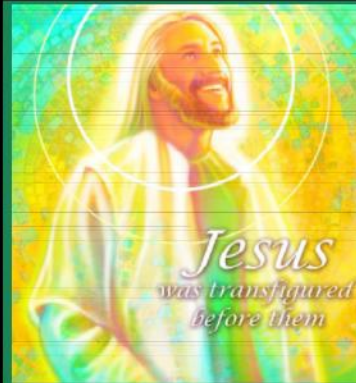
Look to the back now! Look and remember to support these businesses when you need a product or service. Also, tell them "thank you" for their interest in Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

**EASTER FLOWERS**



We are accepting donations toward Easter flowers used in Church. Donation envelopes are available on the information table. Please write clearly on the envelope so that the memorial may be published in the bulletin.

**The Powerful and Almighty**



In today's Gospel we encounter the powerful and mysterious event known as the Transfiguration of Jesus. This moment, where Jesus is revealed in his divine glory on the mountain, offers profound insights into His identity, the nature of His mission, and the relationship between God the Father and the Son. It is a moment of revelation not just for Peter, James, and John, but for all who seek to understand the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Passages such as this help us to remember that Jesus is not just an ordinary man preaching God's word, but is part of God Himself. He is given to us in hopes of giving us a better understanding of God's love and purpose for us during our time here on Earth.

It also gives us a glimpse of a visual manifestation of his divine glory, which had been veiled in his humanity. For the disciples, witnessing this change must have been awe-inspiring, confirming that there was something far beyond the ordinary in the person of Jesus. It also shows us how wonderful and beyond human comprehension life after death will be with the Lord.

As you reflect on the incredible occurrence that Peter, James, John witnessed that day, remember that is this type of wonder that we are all striving to experience when Jesus comes again. By Heather Orłowski

As you reflect on the incredible occurrence that Peter, James, John witnessed that day, remember that is this type of wonder that we are all striving to experience when Jesus comes again. By Heather Orłowski

**Stewardship**  
*All things are possible with God.*

Devote Time    Share Talent  
Give Treasure    A way of life

**Church Financials**

**Year to Date through January 31, 2025**

|                                      | Operating          | Maintenance        | Cap. Campaign      | Total               |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Income before Fair, Maint. & Capital | 310,391            |                    |                    | 310,391             |
| Fair Proceeds                        | 91,000             |                    |                    | 91,000              |
| Maintenance Monthly Collections      |                    | 36,213             |                    | 36,213              |
| Capital Campaign Collections         |                    |                    | 11,131             | 11,131              |
| Expenses                             | (420,770)          | (94,246)           | (86,116)           | (601,132)           |
| <b>Total YTD Actuals</b>             | <b>\$ (19,379)</b> | <b>\$ (58,033)</b> | <b>\$ (74,985)</b> | <b>\$ (152,397)</b> |

*Thank you to our parish family members who faithfully support our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!*



**Online Giving Is Available on Our Website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org)** (click on Give Online), or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You can easily create your donation account online and make changes at any time.





**Straight Talk**  
by: **Father William Maestri**  
**Innocent Suffering**

Each time we assemble to remember the Lord until he comes again in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we are invited into the mystery of suffering; especially INNOCENT SUFFERING (1Cor 11:26).

There is a quantifiable and qualifiable difference between pain and suffering. Much like fear (“I’m afraid of the dog.”), pain is object specific (“My arm hurts from throwing the ball.”). However, with suffering, as with anxiety,

they tend to be “free floating”; lacking a specific object or cause: (“I feel generally uneasy. I don’t know why.” And, “I feel an inner restlessness, a conflict, and I can’t explain it.”).

When speaking of suffering, the word agony (Gr. *agonia*) is more appropriate. We feel a profound inner conflict or struggle between opposing forces - good v. evil; light v. darkness; hope v. despair. Often the most intense “soul-within-struggle” arises with the clash of wills - the will of God opposed to the will of the Imperial Self.

The prime example of innocent suffering and inner turmoil is Jesus’ AGONY in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Lk 22:39-46). The agony Jesus experiences, according to St. Thomas Aquinas, is three-fold: Jesus’ agony was physical, “...his sweat became drops of blood”. It was mental, “my soul is exceedingly troubled even unto death”. (Jn 12:28). His agony was spiritual. Gethsemane points to Calvary/Cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Ps. 22:2; Mk 15:34). The weight of human sin and guilt cause separation (alienation) from God and weighs on Jesus’ soul.

The mystery of human suffering, especially innocent suffering, is not a problem to be solved by rational powers, or by powerful “search engines”. Our limited understanding comes as GIFT, received through our surrendering to the mystery of the CRUCIFIED JESUS. The words of Jesus from the Cross provide the light for understanding as supreme trust: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Lk 23:46).

St. Thomas offers us three ways into the mystery of the Father not sparing His Beloved Son from his passion and crucifixion.

First, suffering, like love, CANNOT be forced. It is a free act of the will. Sacrificial love, when not sought but accepted for a deeper good, can serve as an example which inspires others. Jesus declares, “No one takes it [his life] from me, but I lay it down of my own free will...to take it up again.” (Jn 10:18).

Second, acceptance of the Cross is freely done in loving obedience to the Father. The Father sent the Son as an act of LOVE (Jn 3:16), - the love of the Father for creation, and Jesus’ love for the Father (Jn 10:17). And in accepting the Cross, Jesus shows his love for us.

Third, the Father allowed Jesus to undergo his ignominious death as the REVELATION of the Father as both WITH US (Mt 1:23) and FOR US. It is by Jesus’ stripes we are healed (Isa 53:5). The Cross manifests the power of Love, conquering the love of power; LIFE over death. (Jn 6:40).

If we freely enter into the mystery of Jesus’ suffering sacrifice, our crosses can become crowns, our burdens lifted to blessings, and our daily dying to self is transformed into communion with the Lord who is Life Eternal (Jn. 14:6).

**MADERE & SONS TOWING**  
**DEEP SOUTH COMPANIES**

**504-392-0554**

**PLAQUEMINES MEDICAL CENTER**

PHONE: (504) 564-3344  
FAX: (504) 564-0174  
27136 HIGHWAY 23, PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083

**Mothe Funeral Homes, LLC**  
*Six Generations of Our Family Serving Your Family Since 1895*  
**Planning TODAY to Help Your Family TOMORROW...**  
For more information call (504) 366-4343.  
www.mothefunerals.com

**EWTN.COM/RADIO**

**EWTN** Global Catholic Radio  
**TUNE IN**

**Knights of Columbus**  
FATHER PETER P. BOERDING COUNCIL No. 6357  
For Membership Call Rodney Schaubhut, Sr., GK  
RodSchaubhut@gmail.com • 504-376-3080  
Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. Each Month 7:00 pm  
Council Home

**1 Get this bulletin emailed to you every week.**

Simply go to [www.DM.CHURCH/5049](http://www.DM.CHURCH/5049) ...or scan

DISCOVERMASS

**Bayou Title Inc.**  
Brent & Kathy Laliberte, Owners  
1700 Belle Chasse Hwy., Ste. A #200 393-0315

**ROBERTSON ROOFING AND SIDING, INC.**  
Gerard Robertson, Jr., Estimator  
900 Woodland Hwy. • 504-394-7200  
gerardjr@robertsonroofinginc.com

**WEST SERVICES**  
PLUMBING + MECHANICAL + CONSTRUCTION  
Greg West 504-382-0973

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
Promote your Business AND support your Parish.  
Ray Kelly - 504-338-3058  
rkelly@diocesan.com



**RUSSO'S PHARMACY** Sean & Jenny Surrency Owners  
*Fast Friendly Service* & Gifts  
 M-F 8am-6pm  
 Sat. 9am-2pm  
 7902 Hwy. 23  
**394-4444** www.mygnp.com/russospharmacy

**GOURMET BUTCHER BLOCK**  
**DEBONED CHICKEN & TURKEY & PRESEASONED MEATS**  
*A Cajun Meat Market*  
 Turducken • Deboned Stuffed Chicken  
 Deboned Stuffed Turkey  
 Homemade Boudin • Stuffed Pork Chops  
 Stuffed Duck • Stuffed Quail  
 Stuffed Rabbit • Shish Kabobs  
 Stuffed Pork Roast • Stuffed Beef Roast  
 Stuffed Boneless Pork Loin • Stuffed Brisket  
**Glenn & Leah Mistich, Owners**  
**392-5700**  
 2144 Belle Chasse Hwy., Gretna

**PIVACH**  
 — attorneys at law —  
 BELLE CHASSE COVINGTON  
 504-394-1870  
 www.pivachlaw.com

**BELLE CHASSE VETERINARY CLINIC, INC.**  
 Dr. C. Duplechain  
 Dr. A. Page  
**394-4516**  
 8566 HWY. 23

**Salvo's SEAFOOD** Est. 1984  
*Open on Sundays during crawfish season*  
 Dine In or Take Out • Fresh & Boiled  
 7742 Hwy 23 • 504-393-7303  
 www.salvosseafood.com  
**Belle Chasse Cabinet Works**  
 Custom Cabinetry & Design  
 www.bccw.net  
**394-4870**  
 1500 WOODLAND HWY.

**R.R.T. Oilfield Rentals & Service**  
 Locations in Belle Chasse & Lafayette  
 Telephone: **800-500-6670**

**C&C Machine**  
**504-362-7205**  
 www.ccmachineshop.com

**CLEAN FLEET AUTO BODY WEST**  
*Metro New Orleans most recommended shop is now in Belle Chasse*  
 Formerly JP's Auto Body, JP and Susan finally retired, however the rest of the team is still the same.  
 7248 Highway 23  
 Belle Chasse LA 70037 **504-394-6767**

**#ThankYouForYourPriesthood**

**Chevron Guilbeau's Convenience Store & Deli**  
 Port Sulphur, LA

**Mississippi River**  
 Division of Merchants & Marine Bank  
**504-392-1111**

**EMILY LACOUR, DDS**  
**(504) 433-2092**  
 27136 Highway 23, Suite 414  
 Port Sulphur, LA 70083  
 OFFICE HOURS:  
 Monday and Friday 8am-5pm  
 Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8am-3pm

**Fremin's Food Market**  
 Mon-Sat: 7AM to 7PM  
 Sun: 8AM to 12PM  
 26277 Hwy 23  
 Port Sulphur, LA

**Riverbend Nursing & Rehabilitation Center**  
 Quality Care - Close to Home  
 13735 Hwy. 23 **656-0068**

**BP&P BOWES, PETKOVICH & PALMER, LLC**  
 504-368-2700  
 BPP-LAW.COM

**THE HIVE**  
 PLAY. CARE. EVENTS.  
 1510 Woodland Hwy.  
 After School Care & Birthday Parties!  
 504-410-5013  
 thehiveonwoodland.com

**Belle Chasse OPTICAL**  
 Specializing in Eye Examinations, Eyeglasses & Contact Lens  
 102 Woodland Hwy., #10 **504-393-0002**  
 Mon-Fri 10am to 5:30pm

**State Oil Fuel Center**  
**FAMILY-OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1997**  
 We served you through hurricanes, fuel shortage, fires, & holidays.  
 We Are Here For You 24 hours a day. 365 days a year.  
**Plaquemines Owned Plaquemines Proud**

**COLDWELL BANKER TEC**  
**THE BONNIE BURAS TEAM**  
 Bonnie Buras & Emily B. Hoskin  
 504.392.0022  
 BonnieBurasTeam@gmail.com  
*Each Office Independently Owned & Operated. Licensed in LA.*

**Edward Jones**  
**JEFF WOOTON, FINANCIAL ADVISOR**  
 7614 Hwy. 23, Ste. A  
 Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
 Bus. 504-392-3977 • TF 844-258-7762  
 Cell 504-289-3271 • Fax 855-379-5740  
 edwardjones.com/jeff-wooton  
 jeff.wooton@edwardjones.com

**Holiday Inn Express**  
 AN IHG® HOTEL  
 2433 Manhattan Blvd. • Harvey, LA

**RIVERSIDE HOTEL**  
 www.RiversideBelleChasse.com  
 8280 Hwy. 23 **391-0133**

**Adams Catfish House**  
 LUNCH MON-FRI 11-2 & DINNER THURS-SAT 5-9  
 8523 Hwy. 23 **392-0541**

**catholicmatch Louisiana**  
 CatholicMatch.com/goLA

**INSTEP CREDIT UNION**  
 Guiding our communities to bold new financial horizons since 1948  
**504-394-5574**  
 instepmembers.com

**BBC BALLAY, BRAUD & COLON, PLC**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
 EST. 1980  
 504.394.9841  
 8114 Hwy. 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037

**ROUBION'S TIRE & AUTO CENTER, INC.**  
 Front End Alignment • AC Repair  
 Oil Change & Brake Tags  
**BRIDGESTONE MICHELIN GOODYEAR**  
 7566 Hwy. 23 **392-8861**

DIOCESAN To Advertise 1-800-653-1122 Online at Diocesan.com/Business VISA 5049