



Visitation of Our Lady School is Accepting Applications for 2025-2026

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are currently being accepted for new students. School tours can be scheduled for prospective families at your convenience. Families will be able to visit classrooms as well as receive necessary information regarding registration. Please visit our school's website at school.vol.org for more information, to schedule a tour, and to complete an online application. If you have any questions, please call Jessica Doherty at 504-347-3377.

SPECIAL APPRECIATION!

Fr. Jude wishes to congratulate and express his profound gratitude and appreciation to all parishioners especially those who contributed immensely towards the successful hosting of our archbishop, the blessing of our completed renovated Church and rectory and also for his installation and reception. Special thanks go to the members of the Knight of Columbus (KC) and the Ladies Altar Society, our florist – Mrs. Lenora and individuals who brought food for the reception. Thank you so very much for all that you do in service to parish community.

Presentation of the Lord — February 2nd

We wish to remind all parishioners that next Sunday is the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** – Candles will be blessed before mass. However, at the 9am mass, there will be a **candle procession from outside into the Church**. Please,

Please, be reminded that there will not be Tuesday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week since Fr. Jude will be away on his retreat.



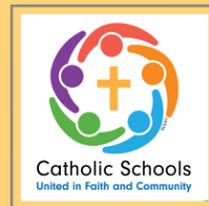
Meanwhile, Fr. Jude will be proceeding on his annual priest retreat from Monday, January 27 – Friday, January 31, 2025.

MASS SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- Tuesday, January 28th - 8:00 a.m.
 - Fr. Raymond Igbogidi
- Wednesday, January 29th - 8:00a.m.
 - Fr. Raymond Igbogidi
- Thursday, January 30th - 8a.m.
 - Fr. Raymond Igbogidi
- Friday, January 31st - 8a.m.
 - Fr. Raymond Igbogidi

Mass Intention Envelopes are located for your convenience at the entrance of the church. The cost is **\$5 per mass intention**.

Simply drop the envelope in the collection basket, mailbox or the office



The Second Collection for this weekend will be for **Catholic Schools**.

Please let's be reminded.

Offering Envelopes



We wish to remind all parishioners that the 2025 Offertory envelopes are available. Please check at the the entrance of the church to collect your envelopes and sign the sheet to check out your envelopes.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As a Catholic Church Family, we respond to Christ's call, evangelize, and welcome all generations to the Holy Eucharist

MASS SCHEDULE

- Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m
- Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday Masses: 9:00a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- First Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tuesdays in St. Anthony Church Chapel following Mass and the rosary @ 8:00 a.m.

RCIA: Parish Hall - Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.

Confessions:

30 minutes before each of the Sunday Weekend Masses (Sat. 4pm Vigil, Sun. 9am and 11am) or by appointment.

Baptism:

Second Sunday of the month. The Seminar is the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Please contact the rectory for forms prior to seminar.

Marriage:

Please contact Fr. Jude six months prior to desired ceremony date.

Funeral:

Please contact Fr. Jude before final arrangements of funeral.

Anointing of the Sick:

Call the rectory in case of emergency.

C.C.D. Classes:

Grades K - 11 Tuesdays at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Parish Hall.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In:

Parishioners unable to attend mass and receive communion, please call the rectory.

St. Anthony Catholic Church

St. Anthony, 2653 Jean Lafitte Blvd., Lafitte, LA 70067

Phone: 504-689-4101 Fax: 504-689-4102

Email: stanthony@arch-no.org Website: stanthonylafitte.org

Pastor: Rev. Jude Emunemu **Deacon:** Edward Cain

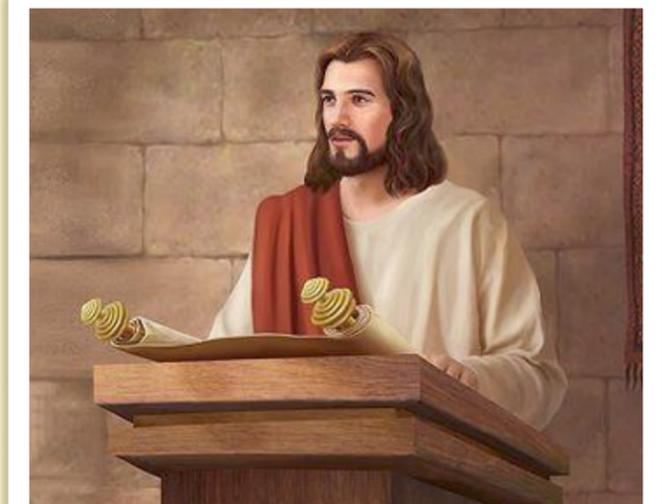
Office Staff: Laura Melancon - Bulletin **CCD Director:** Jenea Hatty

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Scripture Outline & Reflection

- Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10;*
- Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15;*
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-30;*
- Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21*

Ezra proclaims the word of the Lord (1) which gives spirit and life (Ps). Jesus proclaims himself the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets (3). In him we have become one body with many members (2).



Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.

- Psalm 19

Reflection for 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

“...REJOICING IN THE LORD MUST BE YOUR STRENGTH”

Today’s readings emphasize the centrality of the word of God in our lives. In the first reading from the Book of Nehemiah, we saw how Ezra the priest gathered the people together to celebrate their return from exile in Babylon by proclaiming the word of God to the people – the word of life that promises hope. The most fascinating thing about this narrative was that the people were hungry for the word of God and welcomed it into their hearts. They accorded the word of God with utmost reverence that is due it. When Ezra raised his hands, blessing God for his word, we were told all the people who were gathered chorused “Amen.” They not only affirmed God’s word by saying “let it be so” but ultimately joined in thanksgiving to God for the privilege and opportunity of hearing his word. Afterwards, “they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground.” This demonstrates reverence for the sacred word of God. Thereafter, Nehemiah, Ezra, the priest-scribe and the Levites started instructing the people saying: “Today is holy to the Lord Your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep.” They assured and comforted them in their state of brokenness: “Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength.”

Everything that happened in the above narrative is exactly what we do during the celebration of the *liturgy of the Word* at every mass. At the end of both the first and second reading, we too, like the people in the first reading respond to the word we have heard by saying: “Thanks be to God” after the lector announces: “The Word of the Lord.” But the question is: Are we really thankful to be privileged to hear the word of God? Following the first and second reading is the Gospel, in which Christ himself speaks directly to us. The gospel is preceded by the *alleluia verse* – a moment when we stand up as resurrection people acclaiming and welcoming Jesus into the community of his people where he announces the *good news* to us. What follows the gospel is the homily – where the word of God we have listened to is broken down for us and explained in order to deepen our understanding of what Christ is teaching us and the promises contained therein. Just like Ezra the priest, who read from the scroll in today’s first reading, Jesus in today’s gospel reading was also handed a scroll from where he read his mission statement from the prophet Isaiah – a mission statement that was so very clear and direct. It was a mission-fulfilled. So, right here, we see a typology in which Ezra the Old Testament priest prefigured Jesus our true High priest who brings to fulfilment God’s promises in the New Testament. The people who listened to Ezra were wounded and broken – they were weeping and saddened by the many vicissitudes that surrounded their lives – but the word of God brought them comfort, hope and reassurance. Like Ezra, the mission statement of Jesus was directed to the brokenhearted – “...to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Every Word is a promise that God keeps. And Jesus, the Word of God is the fulfilment of God’s promises because he is the word of life. After handing back the scroll to the attendant, we were told Jesus sat down and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. And what did he say? Just like Ezra the priest-scribe, Nehemiah and the Levites in today’s first reading who told the people: “Today is holy to the Lord. Do not be sad and do not weep”, Jesus also said to the people: “Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.” In other words, the time of waiting is now over. The messianic jubilee announced by Isaiah is now being fulfilled. And as St. Paul says: “Behold, now is the acceptable time” (2 Cor. 6:2). In fact, here and later in his ministry, Jesus will emphasize that God’s blessings are available “today” and the fulfillment takes place literally in their ears by simply hearing *him* speak to them directly who is the *word of God*.

On this Third Sunday which had been declared by Pope Francis as *Sunday of the Word of God*, here are a few questions we need to ask ourselves today: How open are we to the word of God? Do we recognize the centrality and power of the word of God in our lives and the life it gives to us? How much devotion do we give to the Word of God? The word of God must be the springboard of everything that we do because it is what gives us life, hope, peace, joy, strength, healing, comfort and reassurance of God’s presence in our lives. In the word, God’s promises in our lives are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Jesus the word of God is the one who takes away our pains, our sorrows and our sadness. The Psalmist this morning affirms: “Your words, Lord are Spirit and life.” We must always rejoice in the *word of the Lord* because in it, we draw strength to face the daily challenges of life that confront us. The word of God must always be a lamp to our feet and a light to guide our paths. We never walk alone. Jesus the word of God walks by our side. He is our joy, our hope, our peace, our comfort and our strength. Let us therefore always make accommodation for the word of God in lives; so that God’s promises may come through in our lives. Amen.

Reflection by:
Rev. Fr. Jude Ochuko Emunemu



STEWARDSHIP

We gratefully acknowledge all that God has given to us. In gratitude, we have returned to Him.

Collections for January 18th & 19th, will be reported in next weeks bulletin, due to a belated Christmas gift - snow!

1st Collection	2nd Collection
\$	\$
Online Giving \$	
Children’s Collection \$	

Total Weekly Offering \$
MASS ATTENDANCE

4:00pm	9:00am	11:00am
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<u>ST. ANTHONY</u>	<u>ST. PIUS X</u>
Electric Bill ()	Electric Bill ()
\$	\$

We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence. The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God’s saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

-Pope Francis, Hope Does Not Disappoint, 7

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Parishioners and Father John Ryan, Caleb Favaloro, Simon Hingle, Belvina Kuhn Bundy, Roy Rogers, Arthur Matherne, Clavin Wade, Jr., Marie Sevin, Shirley Prestenbach, Eddie Sapia, Jr., Bobby Hale, Jr., Madeline Rojas, Theresa Wiseman, Raymond Griffin, Sr., Shelby Deselle, Joseph Rogers, Jr., Allyn Rogers, Evan Whipple, Nick Dinet, Jerry Lynch, Keith “Ike” Madison, Judith Ann Verdin, Dwight Rudolph, Faye Rae Guidry, Dale Boudreaux McWhorter, Edward Cantrelle, Sr. Lloyd Kraemer, Sr. Rosebud Kraemer, Gareth Ross Leblanc, Sr., Earline Perrin, and Martha Pizani.

MASS INTENTIONS

4:00 p.m.	Chris Dufrene, Jr. Tommy Robeaux, Jr. Teddy Johanson, Jr. Ulrick Johanson Louis Guillotte III Alvin & Ester Adam Garett Leblanc, Sr. Conversion of Family and Friends
9:00 a.m.	All Parishioners
11:00 a.m.	Tommy Ory, Jr. Joyce Bruce Betty Ortego Florence Knuppel Theresa Comardelle Yvonne Creppel Repose of Souls of Unborn Babies



Sanctuary Lamps are in memory of

Yvonne Creppel



Welcome to the Catholic Faith!

Talia Marie Otero

