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PRESERVING THE LEGACY CATHOLIC FAITH



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Fifth Sunday in Lent March 17, 2024

Pastor: Rev. William 'Bill' Gearheard Office Email: staugustine1803@gmail.com Office Phone Number: 318.379.2521

Father's Email: frwgearheard@diocesealex.org Deacon: Dr. Harlan Mark Guidry 409.656.4651 Deacon's Email: dcnmguidry@diocesealex.org

Website: staugustinecaneriver.com Office Hours: Wed-Fri 8:00 am-1 pm Parish Manager: Elizabeth Metoyer

#### **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

St. Augustine... ..Saturday, 5:00 pm ....Sunday, 10:30 am

Mission: St. Anne:.... ....Sunday, 8:15 am 3659 Old River Road, Natchitoches, LA 71457

\*Holy Day's of Obligations & All Special Celebrations

will be at 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses: 1st Saturday 9:00 am Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00 pm Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

Confessions 30 minutes before Mass 1st Friday, Holy Hour after Mass For an Emergency Call: 318.581.1612

When we renew our baptismal promises on Easter, we are asked to renounce sin, 'so as to live in the freedom of the children of God". Sin binds us to our mortal bodies whereas the Holy Spirit dwelling in us frees us from our mortal bodies. Sin leaves us entombed, alone and disconnected. The Holy Spirit transcends our self-centered lives, allowing us to live for others. In baptism we receive the power to break the burial bands that prevented the risen Lazarus from freely walking away from the tomb.

We are called to break not only our burial bonds, but also the bonds of others. After calling Lazarus forth from the tomb, Jesus commanded the entire crowd, "Untie him and let him go". Lazarus could not physically loosen the burial bands himself; he needed others to do so. We are those others now. We can help loosen or break the bonds that hold others captive, bringing the possibility of new life to them. They still need to make the choice themselves to embrace life and reject their old bonds, but we can provide the opportunity for those struggling with the bonds of addiction, poverty, or hopelessness.

Jesus did not weep on the cross. In fact, in John's version of the Passion, which we hear on Good Friday, he doesn't even cry out to his Father. But today we see him weep. It begins, John says, when he sees Mary, whom he loved, and her friends and family weeping. It is in this scene that we witness his full humanity. He knows that he is the resurrection and the life; he had just told Martha this. But seeing the pain in his dear friend's eyes, he "became perturbed and deeply troubled". Death affected him emotionally because of the way it affected his lived ones. Similarly, we may become overcome with grief when a loved one dies, or the loved one of a good friend, even while trusting that our Lord is the resurrection and the life. May we find comfort in the knowledge that our Lord has felt the same way, even as he calls us out to new life.

How can I help loosen the bonds that keep someone else prevented from pursuing new life? Can I see myself taking the initiative to do this?

Mass Schedule

Mar 16 Saturday 5:00 pm +Joe Raggio, Armstrong & Roland Families (Living & Deceased), Bridget

Roque, Ruth Conant, Brenda Balthazar and Joan Kreider

Mar 17 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin, +Agnes C. Mitcham and +Larry E. Bayonne

Mar 17 Sunday 10:30 am

The People of the Parish

Mar 18 Monday No Mass

Readings: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30,33-62 or 13:41c-62;Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Mar 19 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Fr. Edward O'Brien, +Nolan Jones Sr., +Annv Yvonne Jones, & +Chad Jones

**Readings:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 18-21; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Mar 20 Wednesday 6:00 pm +Todd Roque

**Readings:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Mar 21 Thursday 8:00 am +Vicky Villemarette **Readings:** Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

Mar 22 Friday 8:00 am + Marjorie Sylvia 6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

**Readings:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Mar 23 Saturday 5:00 pm +Agnes C. Mitcham, +Wesley & Ora Lee Conant, +Joan Edwards, +Jimmy

Llorence, +Fr. Paul Deutsch, +Joe Severin, +Joe Raggio, +Joseph Del-

phin, Jr., Peyton Cunningham and Berchman LaCour

**Readings:** Ez 37:21-28; (Ps) Jer 31:10-13; Jn 11:45-56

Mar 24 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin

Mar 24 Sunday 10:30 am

The People of the Parish

Week's Offering:	March 10, 2024 St. Augustine	St. Anne				
Weekly	\$ 4,839.00	\$ 298.00				
Building Fund	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.00				
CRS	\$ 1,218.00	\$ 93.00				
Online 3/4-3/10	\$ 730.75 Building \$5.00	St. Anne \$50.00				
Thank you for your generosity!						

# This Week at a Glance

Tues 6 pm
Wed 6 pm Mass - St. Aug
Thurs Mass 8 am
Fri 8 am Mass
6 pm Stations of the Cross

# Parish Service Schedule:

		LECTORS	USHERS	Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
	Sat Mar 16	Dianne Riley	James Conant David McGraw	Jackie Metoyer
	Sun Mar 17 10:30 am	Marissa Dean	Patrick Jones II John Scott	Tina LaCour Rebecca Jones
	Sat Mar 23 5:00 pm	1st & 2nd Reading— Jackie Metoyer Narrator—Anita Evans Voice-Jackie Metoyer	Farrell Christophe John Coutee	David McGraw
	Sun Mar 24 10:30 am	1st & 2nd Reading— Ted Duggan Narrator—Jerry Jones Voice-Ted Duggan	Barry Antee Jacob Bellow	Catherine Rachal Henry Rachal

## St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

#### **On-Line Giving**

To give online through our new platform, visit our giving page on our website <a href="https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/staugustinecaneriver">https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/staugustinecaneriver</a> You can also give through text message by sending "Give" to 318-217-8833 or just scan the QR code. Please register with the Parish by calling 318.379.2521 during office hours.



# Men's Prayer Group meets every Sunday @ 9:30 am

March 19, Feast of St. Joseph Potluck Pot Luck Supper immediately following Mass

Easter Egg Hunt immediately following 10:30 am Mass on Easter Sunday

Holy Week Schedule Holy Thursday - 6 p.m.

Good Friday - 6 pm (Holy Day of Obligation and Day of Abstinence & Fasting)
Easter - Saturday - 8 pm

Easter Sunday - St. Anne 8:30 am & St. Augustine 10:30 am



**PARISH CARE MINISTRY** - We ask for your prayers for: Nick Jackson, Andrew Balthazar, Carroll Poche, Donald Gallion, Henry Llorence, Jr., Cynthia LaCour, Lizzie Metoyer, Vanue Lacour, Sister Stephanie Langston and Theresa Roque.

To add others to the list, contact Dcn. Mark @ 409.656.4651 or anyone in the ministry group (Henry Rachal, Catherine Rachal, Dianne Moran, Sylvia Lacour, Deloris Jones, Roosevelt Washington, Pat Jones, Angela Jones, PJ Jones, Dominick Metoyer, Joy McGraw and Tiffany Roque).

**Easter Flower envelopes** are available on the table near the entrance of church. Funds will be used to help decorate the church for the Easter season. You may contribute in honor/memory of someone living or deceased. Your intentions will be remembered at all masses celebrated from the Easter vigil through Pentecost.

Protocol for Handicap Parishioners Receiving the Eucharist at St. Augustine
Handicap Parishioners will receive the Eucharist before the congregation. We ask that handicap parishioners or their love ones identify themselves (by standing or raising their hand). The Choir will receive the Eucharist after the congregation.

Fr. Bill

# 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal - In Pew Weekend

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

Today is our parish's 2024 Annual Diocesan Appeal in-pew weekend. In the past weeks you might have received a letter from Bishop Marshall asking for your support to the annual appeal. After the homily parishioners who have not yet pledged to the ADA will have an opportunity to join with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Alexandria to support the diocesan church.

### March 22-24 Seminary Come and See Weekend

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College is scheduled to have its Spring "Come and See" weekend from March 22-24. This is a great opportunity for any male 16 years old or older to come and see the seminary campus and what seminary life is like. For more information, please contact the Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur at <a href="mailto:rrlafleur@diocesealex.org">rrlafleur@diocesealex.org</a>.

April 13 @ 7pm St. Augustine Catholic Church presents: SONGS OF A PEOPLE - Music and Poetry of the African-American Experience featuring Ivan Griffin, Bass-Baritone; Wilfred Delphin, Piano; and Michael Boucee, Narrator. Reception will begin at 6pm. Featuring the music of H. Leslie Adams, R. Nathaniel Dett, Roy Belfield, Glenn Burleigh, Moses Hogan, Dan Shore, and more... Poetry by Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Paul Laurence Dunbar

#### May 10, 2024 Scholarship Deadline

High School Seniors interested in applying for the **St. Joseph Scholarship** must have their applications in by **May 10, 2024**. The \$1000.00 scholarship is open to students attending four year institutions. Contact Chris Sylvia at 318.554.9237 or <a href="mailto:csylvie@att.net.">csylvie@att.net.</a>