

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

1110 Old Spanish Trail, Scott, LA 70583

stspeterandpaulscott.org

337-235-2433

Pastor:

Fr. Mark Derise

Associate Pastor:

Fr. Jose Cherian

Office Hours: Mon - Thurs: 9 AM-12 PM, 1 PM-3 PM / Friday: 9 AM-12

Deacons:

Cliff Tanner &

Jake Prejean



“
Now the people
were filled with
expectation, and
all were asking in
their hearts
whether John
might be the
Christ.
”

December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 12:10 PM

Wednesday & Friday 6:30 AM

Saturday: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, & 10:00 AM

Rosary Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 11:30 AM

Wednesday & Friday 5:55 AM

Saturday: 3:15 PM

Sunday: 5:55 AM, 7:15 AM, & 9:15 AM

Confession:

Saturdays: 3:00-3:45 PM or By appointment

Adoration

Mon: 8AM-5PM Wed: 7AM-7PM Fri: 7AM-5PM

Mailing Address:

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Sts. Peter & Paul Staff

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Secretary: Mary Beth Ardizone & Ursula Gouner

Bulletin Editor: Anne-Claire Viator

Trustees: Abby Aucoin & Brian Schlesinger

Music Coordinator: Jacqueline Savoie

School Principal: Danielle Babineaux

Religious Education: Bethany Duplechin,

Janet Hebert, James Franke

Mass Intentions	
Weekly Readings	<u>Saturday, December 14th-</u> 4:00 PM- Mary Ann Dugas (D) / Michel Dugas Jr. (D) / Larry Paul Comeaux (D) / The Catholic Daughters / David L. Prejean / Sheila Resweber (D) / Kenny Beagh (D) / Dupre & Teresa Hebert (D) / Forest P Duhon (D) / M/M Adley Scrantz (D) / Lila Davis (L) / Louis Dupuy / Alberie & Inez Barras (D) / Lee & Ida Bergeron (D) / Fr. Dan Schexnayder (D) / Dudley Landry, Sr.fly (D) / Cleveland Arnould & fly (D) / Ignace Domingue & fly (D) / M/M William Stutes & fly (D) / M/M Perjice Boudreaux, Sr. (D) / Cindy Labbe (D) / Helen & Chester Duhon (D) / Curley/Mim Guidry (D) / Ronald Hebert (D) / Dustin Mayon (D) / Anita Davidson (D) / Jody Vaccarella (D) / Louanne St. Julien (D) / Lila Davis (L) / David/Marleen Arnaud (D) /Ray & Mable Brasseaux (D) / Mike Matthieu (D) / Kenneth Wayne Gary (D)(ANN) / Ky Nguyen (D) / Ronald L. Baudoin (D) / Mable Hebert (D)(HBD) / Nick & Noelle Provost (D)(ANN) / Felix "Lee" Begnaud (D) / Jana Prejean (D)
Sunday: First Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6 Second Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7 Alleluia: Isaiah 61: 1 Gospel: Luke 3: 10-18 Monday: First Reading: Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 Alleluia: Psalms 85: 8 Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-27 Tuesday: First Reading: Genesis 49: 2, 8-10 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-17 Wednesday: First Reading: Jeremiah 23: 5-8 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25 Thursday: First Reading: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 Gospel: Luke 1: 5-25 Friday: First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14 Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38 Saturday: First Reading: Songs 2: 8-14 or Zephaniah 3: 14-18a Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Gospel: Luke 1: 39-45	<u>Sunday, December 15th-</u> 6:30 AM- For the People 8:00 AM- Nick Provost, Peter Peltier (ANN) / Lorena "Ti-Moon" Guillot (D) / Gerald & Louella Savoy (D) / Dustin Wiltz/Ryan Guidry (D) / Joan Firmin (D) / Spiritual Healing (D) 10:00 AM- Michael O'Neil Mouton (D) / Rayford Domingue (D) / Deanna Sonnier (D) / Armond Guilbeau Jr. (D)(ANN) / John B. Sonnier Family / Rosamaria Reyes-Silva (D) / Pierre Roger (D)(ANN) / Poochie Frederick (D) / Michael Allain (D) / Jerry D. Guidry (D) / M/M Harold Brashear (D) / M/M Errol Robichaux (D) / Ms. Belinda Thibodeaux (L) / Mr. Doyle Brashear (D) / Paul/Myrtle Breaux (D) / M/M Guy Martin Sr. (D) / Vinh Nguyen (D)
	<u>Monday, December 16th-</u> 12:10 PM- Steve Hanks (D)(ANN) / Mrs. Rita Prejean (HBD) / Frank and Rhena Comeaux / Ben & Annie Guilbeaux / Tu Nguyen (D)
	<u>Tuesday, December 17th-</u> 12:10 PM- Michael O'Neil Mouton (D) / Mr. Eloi Comeaux Jr. (D) / M/M Don Montoucet (D) / Michelle Geiger (L) / Aurelie Delhomme (D)(ANN) / Tien Nguyen (D)
	<u>Wednesday, December 18th-</u> 6:30 AM- Hien Nguyen (D)
	<u>Thursday, December 19th-</u> 12:10 PM- Lee Martin Sr. / Joan Dailey Comeaux & Larry Paul Comeaux (D) / Joseph Tien Pham (D)
COLLECTION FOR 12/08/2024	<u>Friday, December 20th-</u> 6:30 AM- Alex Lantier (D) / Gerald & Louella Savoy (D) / Joseph Thai Pham (D) / Paul & Leatrice Brown (D) / Robert Lee Savoy (D)
Regular Offertory: \$ 16,665.00 Retired Religious: \$ 1,745.00 Immaculate Conception: \$ 2,680.00 <i>Thank you for your generous spirit of giving!</i>	<p>We hear Paul say, "The Lord is near," in the second reading today and we can count so many ways this is so. We're just ten days away from Christmas, for one. In a little while we will receive the Lord in the Eucharist. The Lord is here when two or more gather in his name. The Lord is near to us always, by virtue of our baptism. Right now, the Lord is here in the form of God's word. Warmed by the Lord's presence, let us listen for his voice in the words of scripture.</p>

Turn From Sin

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" Luke 3:10

Among those within the crowds who were asking Saint John the Baptist this question were tax collectors, soldiers and ordinary people. John gave an answer to them all, first telling them to turn away from the sins that they struggled with the most. Sin takes on many forms and often is closely associated with our daily duties in life. Some sins are sins of commission, meaning sins we commit by an intentional act. Some sins are those of omission, meaning a lack of certain virtues or a failure to do what we ought to do.

After addressing the particular sins that those in the crowds were struggling with, John then turns their attention to Christ. He states to them that "one mightier than I is coming" and that "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In other words, John was giving the people a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin. And second, turn your eyes to Him Who is coming to you. Repenting from sin is not enough. Once we repent, we must then fill the void within our souls with the presence of Christ.

Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it's true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Christ every day of the year, God knows we need a special time each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavors. So before Advent passes you by, heed the words of the Baptist and take some time to examine your conscience thoroughly. Perhaps use a detailed list of the Ten Commandments or the Seven Capital Sins. Once you do that, seek out an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing so is essential to a fruitful Advent season.

Once you thoroughly repent of the sins you struggle with the most right now, turn to the Savior of the World with special attentiveness to the miracle of the Incarnation this Advent. Spend time adoring the God Who came to us in the form of a little child. Meditate on this Gift. Gaze at a nativity scene prayerfully. Read the Scripture passages about the birth of Christ. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there at His birth.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold exhortation from John and apply it to your Advent preparations. Cleanse your soul in a special way from all sin this Advent. Then prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, allow the Christ Child to truly "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" through your deepening devotion and prayer this Advent.

My dear Jesus, please help me to see my sins as You see them. Help me to be attentive to every sinful action I commit and even those smaller sins of omission. As I ponder my sin, please draw me to Your mercy and grace so that I can then open the eyes of my soul more deeply to see You and to adore You more completely this Advent. Jesus, I trust in You.

 <p><i>The Sanctuary Candle this week is lit for:</i></p> <p>The Souls in Purgatory</p>	<p>LET US PRAY DAILY FOR OUR PRIESTS, SEMINARIANS, AND DEACONS OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE</p>			
<p>The Adoration Candle this week is lit for:</p> <p>Parishioners of SPP</p> 	December 15th	Rev. Msgr. Charles Mallet	Michael Johnson	Dcn. Kyle Faber
 <p>Come, Lord Jesus! <i>Revelation 21-22</i></p> <p>Dive deep into what Sacred Scripture is telling you.</p>	December 16th	Very Rev. Msgr. W. Curtis Mallet, JCL, VG	Drew Landry	Dcn. Shannon L. Freeman
	December 17th	Rev. Edwan "Manie" Manuel, SVD	Bret Lee	Dcn. Ryan J. Fuselier
	December 18th	Rev. Arockia Sebastian Mariasusai, SVD	Christopher Lee	Dcn. Gary Gaudin
	December 19th	Rev. Charles "Billy" Massie	Isaac Lejeune	Dcn. Perry Guidry
	December 20th	Rev. Suresh Mathangi	Ian McElwee	Dcn. Joseph Herd Guilbeau
<p>Study the Gospel for each upcoming Sunday in detail.</p> <p>A new Come, Lord Jesus! group has begun! On Thursday's at 6:15-7:15 p.m. in the Church Hall, Rm 7. Prayer, Guiding Questions, Discussion, and so much more!</p> <p>Seating is limited.</p> <p>Text or call (337) 254-0959 to make sure that we have a seat for you.</p>	December 21st	Rev. Kenneth Mayne	Stephen Melancon	Dcn. Russell Hayes



ATTENTION!!!!

Baptismal Information

YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED & PRACTICING PARISHIONER

Parents must fill out a Baptismal Registration Form and Godparents must fill out a Baptismal Godparent Form. They can be found on the church website (www.stspeterandpaulscott.org) under sacraments. You must bring the forms to the Church Office. You will then have to make an appointment with Fr. Mark. After approval by Fr. Mark, parents and godparents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class.

Criteria for Godparents: Must be at least 16 years old, confirmed, and a practicing Catholic. They must be able to receive communion & in good standing. Non-Catholic godparents are highly discouraged. They will **NOT** appear on the baptismal certificate!

Baptismal Class Schedule:

2nd Tuesday of every other month, from 6 PM to 7 PM

January 14th

July 8th

March 11th

September 9th

May 13th

November 11th

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CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES 2024:

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas):

Tuesday, December 24th:

(anticipated) 4 pm & 6 pm

Wednesday, December 25th:

7 am & 9 am

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God:

Tuesday, December 31st:

(anticipated) 4 pm

Wednesday, January 1st:

7 am & 9 am



Visit our ACTS Retreat page on the Sts. Peter & Paul Church Website—stspeterandpaulscott.org—for more information on ACTS, upcoming retreat dates & the applications to apply. The information can be found under ACTS.

Blessing before a Christmas Stable

FATHER PETER JOHN CAMERON, O.P.

No one, whether shepherd or wise man, can approach God here below except by kneeling before the manger at Bethlehem and adoring him hidden in the weakness of a new-born child.
(CCC 563)

Lord Jesus, as I kneel before your manger in adoration, let my first Christmas word be: thank you. Thank you, Gift of the Father, for coming to save me from my sins.

Without you I do not know even how to be human. The characteristics of your human body express the divine Person of God's Son. And in that wondrous expression, Lord, you reveal me to myself. Thank you for that saving revelation in your sacred humanity. As the Christmas liturgy proclaims, "For through him the holy exchange that restores our life has shone forth today in splendor." Thank you for coming as one like myself to save me from myself. You come as a baby because babies are irresistible and adorable.

You come as a baby because you want our first impression of God incarnate to be that of one who does not judge. How I long to be united with you in every way. May I never be attracted to the allurements and charms of the world. May I love you always, at every moment, with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. May the tenderness, the dependency, and the mercy that you reveal in your infancy become the hallmarks of my life.

Newborn Savior, the very silence of your Incarnation proclaims that the answer to the misery, the strife, and the meaninglessness we often experience in life cannot be found within us. You alone are the Answer. As I kneel before you, eternal King, I surrender to you all my selfishness, self-absorption, self indulgence, self-righteousness, self assertion, and self-exaltation. Even as I adore you on this night of your birth, rid me of the nagging desire to be adored.

Word become flesh, you make your dwelling among us. Yet you do not live your life for yourself, but for us. And you enable us to live in you all that you yourself lived. Help me to embrace this truth with all my mind and heart. Come and live your life in me. Empty me of my willfulness, my petulance, my hardness, my cynicism, my contemptuousness. Fill me with your truth, your strength, your fortitude, your purity, your gentleness, your generosity, your wisdom, your heart, and your grace.

O Emmanuel, may the assurance of your unfailing Presence be for me the source of unending peace. May I never fear my weakness, my inadequacy, or my imperfection. Rather, as I gaze with faith, hope, and love upon your incarnate littleness, may I love my own littleness, for God is with us. Endow my life with a holy wonder that leads me ever more deeply into the Mystery of Redemption and the meaning of my vocation and destiny.

Longed-for Messiah, your servant Saint Leo the Great well wrote that in the very act of reverencing the birth of our Savior, we are also celebrating our own new birth. From this night on may my life be a dedicated life of faith marked by holy reliance, receptivity, and resoluteness. May I make of my life a total gift of self. May my humble worship of your Nativity manifest how much I seek the Father's kingship and his way of holiness. The beauty of your holy face bears the promise that your Father will provide for us in all things. This Christmas I renew my trust in God's goodness, compassion, and providence. I long for the day when you will teach us to pray "Our Father."

May your presence, Prince of Peace, bless the world with peace, the poor with care and prosperity, the despairing with hope and confidence, the grieving with comfort and gladness, the oppressed with freedom and deliverance, the suffering with solace and relief. Loving Jesus, you are the only real joy of every human heart. I place my trust in you.

Oh, divine Fruit of Mary's womb, may I love you in union with the holy Mother of God. May my life be filled with the obedience of Saint Joseph and the missionary fervor of the shepherds, so that the witness of my life may shine like the star that leads the Magi to your manger. I ask all this with great confidence in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor

Juan de Yepes y Álvarez was born in Fontiveros, Ávila, Spain. His family descended from Jewish converts who settled in Fontiveros. His father, Gonzalo, was an accountant who worked for relatives who were involved in the silk trade. In 1529, Gonzalo married Catalina who was poor and an orphan. Gonzalo's wealthy family did not receive the news well. As a result, he was shunned by his relatives and no longer able to work as their accountant. Therefore, Gonzalo joined his new bride in her trade of weaving to support his own family. Gonzalo and Catalina had three boys: Francisco, Luis, and Juan. In 1545, when Juan was only three years old, his father died, leaving Catalina to raise and provide for their boys, a difficult responsibility for a widow at that time. She sought assistance from Gonzalo's family but was rejected. Therefore, she and her boys lived in destitution. Two years after Gonzalo's death, Luis died of malnutrition. Eventually, Catalina took Francisco and Juan and moved to Medina del Campo, a larger city, and resumed her work as a weaver. In Medina, Juan was able to attend a boarding school for poor children. He received a basic education, housing, and food. Juan proved to be an excellent student and, in 1559, was invited to study at the nearby newly founded Jesuit school at the age of seventeen. With the Jesuits, Juan studied the humanities, grammar, rhetoric, Latin, and Greek. Four years later, in 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order, taking the name John of Saint Matthias. John made his profession as a Carmelite in 1564 and subsequently received special permission from his superiors to follow the ancient Carmelite rule to the letter, rather than embrace the various changes to the rule that occurred over the years. After his professions, he was sent to study theology and philosophy at the prestigious university in Salamanca. There he excelled in his studies and was known for his intelligence and insights. At the end of his studies, John had second thoughts about his vocation as a Carmelite, preferring instead to live a more contemplative life. As a result, he decided that he would enter the Carthusians once he was ordained. John was ordained a priest in 1567. Father John returned to Medina to offer his first Mass. However, his intention to join the Carthusians all changed after meeting the Carmelite nun Teresa of Ávila. Mother Teresa was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and was in Medina to found a new convent. While there, she heard of the newly ordained priest, Father John, and attended his first Mass. Later, she spoke to him about her ideas on reforming the Carmelites in hopes that he would become her first friar in the reform. Father John was intrigued and accepted her invitation to remain a Carmelite and assist her with the new reforms, reviving the ancient rule. After returning with Mother Teresa to Valladolid, he participated in a period of formation under her guidance and founded the first house for friars, along with two other Carmelite brothers. This first house began formally on November 28, 1568. Father John gave up his old name and took on the new name of Father John of the Cross. As more friars joined them, Father John, now the subprior and novice master, moved to a larger house in nearby Alcalá where he also became the rector of the university. In May of 1572, Mother Teresa asked him to move to Ávila to become the spiritual director for the sisters at the Monastery of the Incarnation. He remained there for five years, working closely with the sisters and growing deep in his own spiritual life. He was especially blessed to act as spiritual director to Mother Teresa who, in many ways, acted as a spiritual guide to him. Shortly after his arrival in 1572, Mother Teresa entered into the spiritual transformation of the Divine Union while Father John acted as her spiritual director. At times, their conversations led both of them into ecstasy as the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in their lives and through their spiritual friendship. Sadly, politics had its place in the Church at that time, and there were some who did not like the idea of reforming the Carmelite order. In January of 1576, Father John was arrested for the first time by the more contemporary and well-established Carmelites of the Observance. They wanted to end the reforms of Father John and Mother Teresa and their Discalced Carmelites (meaning those who wore sandals rather than shoes). His arrest was quickly ended by the intervention of the papal nuncio, Nicolás Ormaneto, who was favorable toward the reforms of the Discalced Carmelites. However, the following year, in June of 1577, the nuncio died. A new nuncio was appointed who was not in favor of the reforms. In December of that year, Father John was once again arrested by the Carmelites of the Observance and put in prison in their monastery in Toledo, where he remained for nine months. After Father John's arrest, the Provincial ordered him to "repent" of his reforms and to return to the monastery in Medina. Father John refused to do so, arguing that he was not bound by the Provincial's demands, since he had received permission for his work on the reform from the nuncio Ormaneto while he was alive. As a result, Father John was judged as being rebellious and willfully disobedient to their authority and was imprisoned in a six-by-ten-foot dungeon cell. During the nine months of his imprisonment, Father John was regularly abused by the friars in attempts to get him to "repent." He was given no change of clothing, very little food, endured a severe case of lice, and had only his breviary to read. He endured the severe cold of the winter and the heat of the summer in the small dark cell that had only one small window high up on the wall. However, it was during this time of abuse that some of the greatest spiritual treasures to fill our Church were born. Father John, in the darkness of this prison, composed numerous poems, including *Dark Night of the Soul* and portions of the *Spiritual Canticle*. God did not allow this abuse to go fruitless. Father John grew deep in the spiritual life and entered into interior freedom through his prayer and surrender to God. In August of 1578, it is said that God miraculously enabled Father John to escape at night "in the darkness," as his poem relates, and find refuge with Mother Teresa's sisters in Toledo. Eventually, he escaped to Santa Cruz, where he was cared for secretly and nursed back to full health. Over the coming years, his prison experience, the poems he composed, and his life of deep prayer and study prepared him to write four of the greatest works on mystical theology the Church has ever known: *Ascent to Mount Carmel*, *Dark Night of the Soul*, *Living Flame of Love*, and *Spiritual Canticles*. Each book was a commentary on the mystical poems he had composed. The poems themselves are considered to be among the most beautiful poems written in the Spanish language. During the year after Father John escaped imprisonment, the Discalced Carmelites did all they could to regularize their situation within the larger Carmelite order and within the Church. Though the new nuncio tried to stop them, the king intervened. In April of 1579, a new provincial was appointed to oversee the Discalced Carmelites and to assist them with their reforms. In 1580, the Holy See allowed the Discalced Carmelites to enjoy independence from the Carmelites of the Observance, and Father John was appointed as prior of one of the new monasteries. Mother Teresa died in 1582. In 1585, the Discalced Carmelites were given even greater independence from the Carmelites of the Observance when they were established as an independent province. Father John was elected Vicar Provincial. The charisms of this reform in which Father John and Mother Teresa were so instrumental included the following: 1) a strong Marian devotion, 2) a daily plan carefully set forth to maintain a life of continual prayer, and 3) a strict rule of enclosure focused on the asceticism of solitude, manual labor, perpetual abstinence, fasting, and fraternal charity. Many were attracted to this new strict Carmelite life. Therefore, monasteries of both nuns and friars continued to be founded. Father John continued to found monasteries and oversee the reform until September of 1591, when he developed gangrene on his leg. He went to a monastery in Ubeda to receive care for his illness. Instead, the superior treated him coldly, arguing that Father John was a burden to the monastery. On December 13, just hours before his death, Father John called the prior to his cell and humbly begged his forgiveness for being a burden. This act of humility completely transformed the prior who was overwhelmed by Father John's sanctity. At midnight, the saintly friar went home to Heaven to his Beloved to sing Matins with the angels, thus completing his mystical journey to divine union. Saint John of the Cross endured many trials throughout his life, but God used those trials as a foundation for the spiritual formation he would provide to the Church through his masterful mystical theology. It could be argued that no one has captured the depths of the spiritual life, leading us to Divine Union and Mystical Marriage, better than Saint John of the Cross. He did not shy away from describing, in great detail, the interior purifications a soul must endure on that journey to complete freedom. As we honor that great saint and mystical doctor of the Church, ponder the profound spiritual truth—that complete union with God is an ongoing process that requires total surrender, interior purgations of the senses and spirit, mortification, and mystical annihilation. Though these concepts are deep and utterly otherworldly, they are beautiful truths that the Church continues to uphold. Allow Saint John to inspire you to go deeper in your faith journey so that your divine union will evolve and blossom into the glorious life God desires for you.

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Join us in expressing our gratitude during the
service and keep them in your prayers
throughout the week.

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