



THE GOOD NEWS
PROCLAIMED
TO THEM.

— MATTHEW 11:5 —

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPI

The Worshipping Community of

Blessed Sacrament – St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church

Administered by the Josephites, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and Sisters of the Holy Family

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church | 8321 Burthe Street | New Orleans, Louisiana 70118
1909 - 2009

Rev. Charles Andrus, S.S.J., Pastor

Rev. Linus Abah James, S.S.J., Parochial Vicar

Mr. Terence Sims, Finance Council Chair

Mr. Kenneth Hayes, Parish Council Chair

Dr. David Delio, D.R.E.

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"The Uptown Church with the down home message"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday:

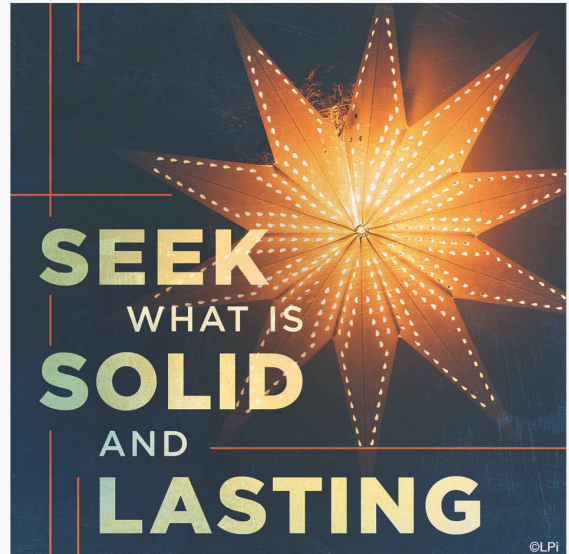
Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: **“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?” (Matthew 11:7).** He’s not just describing the crowd’s mis-aimed pursuit. He’s naming our tendency to chase after what’s flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can’t satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn’t a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— *Father John Muir*

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Weekday Mass

Wednesdays - 8 a.m.

Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Sunday (Gospel Mass) 10:00 a.m.

Livestreaming available on our Facebook and YouTube

Baptisms: 4th Sunday of the month except during Lenten Season

Weddings: Contact the rectory six months prior to desired wedding date

Confessions: One-half hour before Sunday Mass

Prayer Line: 508.924.5792 - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
at Noon

Bible Study: 508.924.5792 - Thursdays at 6pm



Saturday, December 13, 2025

4pm

In Memory of: Our Parish Family and Families

Sunday, December 14, 2025

8 am

For: Our Parish Family and Families

10 am Gospel Mass

For: Our Parish Family and Families and Diane Sims Tillman

For the Repose of the Soul of Joseph Preyan

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

For: The People of the Parish

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Repose of the soul of the Holy Father and for:

Our Parish Family Sick and Shut In: Leonard Anderson, Evangeline Thompson Antoine, Diane Austin, Joseph Bates, Jr., Barbara Blanchard, Loyce Bradshaw, Charles Braneon, Lorraine Burke, Barbara Butler, Virginia Butler, Augustine Cain, Dominique Carter, Jessie Caston, Sr., Jessie Caston, III, Ginny Clark, Bernadine Coco, Joyce Coleman, Keith Coleman, Santiago Cooper, Myrna Daniels, Lamar Davis, Beverly Dapremont, Souleymane Diop, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dix, Bonnie Easton, Cameron Fritz, Gilda Griffin, Godfrey Harris, Linda Harris, Wanda Haydel, Tammi Lynn Howard, Hubert Jarrow, Jr., Ruth Jerome, Jaylen Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Anna Jones, Evelyn Johnson, Kaylen Johnson, Ruth Kennedy, Felicia Meyers, Edgries Moon, Keith Newton, Donna Phillips, Omar Phillips, Thomas Phillips, Calvin Preyan, Joyce Randolph, Deja Rawles, Ralph Rhea, Sr., Scott Rivera, Kim Roby, Matilda Romero, Janice Sawyer, Lula Mae Schexnayder, Carrie M. Shedd, Scott Schryver, Jane Silva, Cindy Sims, Enjoli Sims, Kaila Sims, Kira Sims, Alma M. Smith, Bill Starr, Marquerite Stepter, Glenda Stewart, Annie Stoot, Eugene Stoot, Diane Sims Tillman, Perry Tillman, III, Sherman Todd, Betty Williams, Jace Williams, Nedra Wicker and Mandi Young

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**If I am honest with myself,
what part of Jesus' message
offends me?**

PROCLAIMER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 20, 2025

4pm W. Squire

Sunday, December 21, 2025

8am Chase Pierre

10am A. Frazier and T. Gaines

Announcer: S. Lucien

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **EVENING OF ADVENT** has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th at 5:30pm. More information to follow.
- **PHOTOGRAPHS** If you have any photos of the interior of the Church, the Preservation Group is looking for history of the building from the beginning to the 70s. Please send any photos to Terence Sims.
- **CHRISTMAS MASS** will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at Vigil 4p, Midnight and Christmas Day at 9am.
- **TWELFTH NIGHT BALL** - The 35th Annual Twelfth-Night Ball will be held Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 8:00 PM – 12:00 A.M. in the Church Hall. Please see any committee member if you have any questions or to receive a contestant's form.



Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
as we light the second Advent candle,
we pray for Your peace—
peace in our hearts, peace in our homes,
and peace in our world.
Calm our anxieties and quiet our spirits
so that we may hear Your voice
and follow Your ways.
Make us instruments of Your peace
as we prepare for Your coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

PEW RALLY Support the continuing restoration effort by adopting a pew. Here is your chance to assist in the restoration of our church and commemorate someone special in your life. Your donation of \$1,500 will cover the cost of refinishing a pew. A memorial plaque will be placed on each adopted pew recognizing your gift. The adoption gift can be made in 1, 2 or 3 payments and can be split by two donors. Begin your adoption gift by scanning the QR code or following the email address listed in the bulletin. Thank you for considering a gift to restore our church to its original luster.



Pew Rally QR Code

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: Please submit all bulletin entries and announcements to the parish office by close of business (4:00 pm) on Wednesdays of each week.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair - Kenneth Hayes | 504.547.1619
Patrick Anthony | 504.715.4961
Joshua Bartholomew | 504.906.8312
Arnel Cosey | 504.915.7024
Trenice Davis | 281.844.4425
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Richard Kelly | 678.994.8681
Bridget Lassere | 504.650.9913
Maurice McMorris | 504.388.9546
Emile Pierre | 504.236.7336
Twyla Rattler | 504.460.8265
John Salomone | 504.307.4645
Jerry Settle | 901.679.4060
Shannon Sims | 504.228.3656
Dawn Spears | 504.296.6320
Troy Thomas | 504.914.4901
Johnnie Tillman | 504.432.6189

PARISH CALENDAR

DECEMBER

8 Immaculate Conception -
Holy Day of Obligation, Mass 6p
17 Evening of Advent, 5:30p

COLLECTION TEAMS

NOVEMBER

7	Team 1	14	Team 2
21	Team 3	28	Team 1

If you are experiencing an emotional crisis,
are thinking about suicide, or are concerned
about a friend, call the National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline Immediately:



1-800-273-8255

This is a 24-hour hotline



<https://bssjaparish.weshareonline.org/>

Text "GIVEBSSJA" to 800-950-9952

QR Code Giving Code

May God's generosity remain in you!



Blessed Sacrament Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church



BSSJA Parish New Orleans



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