



# FASTED FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

## **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, FEBRUARY 22, 2026**

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

### Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/  
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

### Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/  
Mt 25:31-46

### Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/  
Mt 6:7-15

### Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/  
Lk 11:29-32

### Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,  
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

### Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/  
Mt 5:20-26

### Saturday:

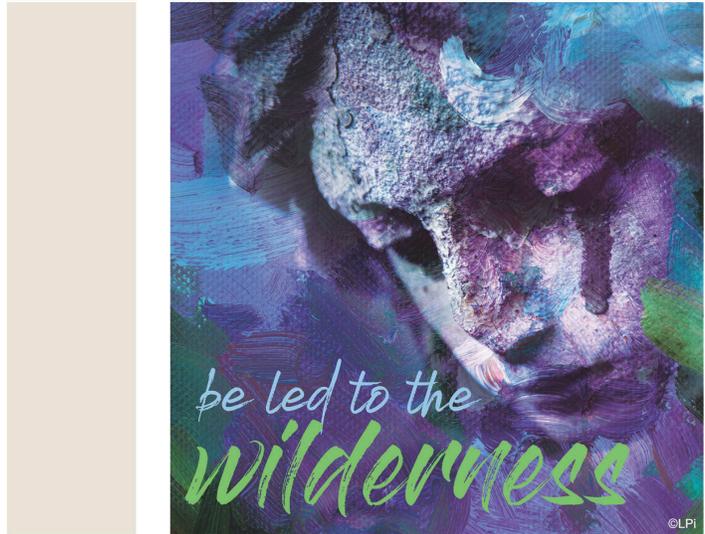
Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/  
Mt 5:43-48

### Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/  
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1).** The word “led” denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

**Lenten Challenge:** This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one “desert” into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

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, February 21, 2026**

**4pm**

**In Memory of:** Our Parish Family and Families

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

**8 am**

**For:** Our Parish Family and Families

**10 am Gospel Mass**

**For:** Our Parish Family and Families

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

**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., 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, Souleymane Diop, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dix, Bonnie Easton, Cameron Fritz, Gilda Griffin, Godfrey Harris, Linda Harris, Wanda Haydel, Tammi Lynn Howard, Joseph James, 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, 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

## BLACK HISTORY INSPIRATION

### Faith That Sings: The Sound of Praise in Our Community

In New Orleans, faith has rhythm. From spirituals to Gospel Mass, our praise carries history, sorrow, hope, and triumph. Our music has always proclaimed what words alone could not, that God is faithful. Black Catholic worship in this city reflects both reverence and rejoicing. It tells the story of a people who refused to let suffering silence their praise. When we sing, we remember who we are. When we worship, we declare that God has kept us. *"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth."* Psalm 96:1

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**How do I resist temptation? Can I remember to look ahead to the long-term consequences before I choose what to do?**

### PROCLAIMER SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 28

4pm L. Coleman

Sunday, March 1

8am T. Rattler

10am L. Latimore Jones  
S. Lucien

Announcer: M. Green

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MINISTRY ASSEMBLY AND WORKSHOP: Sharing your Talents in the Vineyard**  
 Calling all parishioners who feel called to serve! Join Us for a Ministry Assembly and Workshop designed for those interested in sharing their God-given talents within our Parish Ministries. This assembly will provide an opportunity to learn about ministries, share ideas and discuss how each of us can contribute to the life and mission of the Church and our Parish. The gathering will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am – Noon in the Church Hall.
- STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be celebrated every Friday in Lent at 6pm followed by Mass.
- MEN'S MINISTRY MEET AND GREET** is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> following the 10am Mass in the Convent.
- LENTEN FISH FRY FRIDAYS** will be held Friday, February 27 and March 13 and 27 from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Your support is appreciated.
- BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS** will be celebrated at the Cathedral on Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>
- TRI PARISH LENTEN REVIVAL** has been scheduled for March 9-11. This year's theme is **"All in His Hands"** with our message by Revivalist Fr. Rick Andrus, SVD. Save the Date.
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNUAL BREAKFAST** Mark your calendars and make plans to come and celebrate on March 14, 2026. This year's theme is "Women of God: Stand Firm in Your Faith and Walk in Your Path" and the color is blue. Tickets are on sale now: Individual: \$25 and Table of 10: \$250. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. with the Prayer Breakfast beginning at 10am.
- KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER LADIES AUXILIARY COURT 22** is hosting a casino bus ride to Beaux Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Please see any member for tickets.
- CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION** Our Parish is seeking assistance from parish ministries quarterly to clean of our sanctuary weekly in preparation for Masses. Ministries will be scheduled on a rotating basis throughout the year. Ministries and parishioners willing to assist are asked to please sign up in the vestibule or contact Emile Pierre (504.236.7336) or John Salomone (504.307.4645).

**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
- Carol Dotson | 504.339.8691
- Richard Kelly | 678.994.8681
- Bridget Lassere | 504.650.9913
- Maurice McMorris | 504.388.9546
- Emile Pierre | 504.236.7336
- John Salomone | 504.307.4645
- Shannon Sims | 504.228.3656
- Dawn Spears | 504.296.6320
- Troy Thomas | 504.914.4901
- Johnnie Tillman | 504.432.6189

## PARISH CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Parish Council, 6:30pm
- 18 Ash Wednesday Masses
- 21 Men's Ministry Church Cleaning
- 22 Men's Ministry Meet & Greet
- 27 Fish Fry

### MARCH

- 7 Ministry Assembly & Workshop
- 9-11 Tri Parish Lenten Revival
- 13 Fish Fry
- 14 Women's Ministry Breakfast
- 21 Ladies Auxiliary Bus Ride
- 27 Fish Fry

## COLLECTION TEAMS

### MARCH

- |    |        |    |        |           |
|----|--------|----|--------|-----------|
| 1  | Team 2 | 8  | Team 3 |           |
| 15 | Team 1 | 22 | Team 2 | 29 Team 3 |

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 Giving Code

*May God's generosity remain in you!*

 Blessed Sacrament Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church

 BSSJA Parish New Orleans

 @BSSJAnola

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