Welcome to Opening Doors!

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER

To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen. Prayers – Year of St. Joseph (yearofstjoseph.org)

I. Did You Know?

June is PTSD Awareness Month - PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.

It's normal to have upsetting memories, feel on edge, or have trouble sleeping after a traumatic event. At first, it may be hard to do normal daily activities, like go to work, go to school, or spend time with people you care about. But most people start to feel better after a few weeks or months.

If it's been longer than a few months and you're still having symptoms, you may have PTSD. For some people, PTSD symptoms may start later, or they may come and go over time.

More information can be found at the National Center for PTSD Help Raise PTSD Awareness - PTSD: National Center for PTSD (va.gov)
Tips for Welcoming People with Disabilities at Mass

Disability Etiquette and Hospitality Physical/Mobility •  Ask about preferred location for seating. •  Don’t push or touch a person’s wheelchair without their permission. •  Don’t assume people with canes or crutches prefer to use a ramp over stairs. •  Don’t grab people’s arms who use canes/crutches. They need their arms to balance themselves.

For more information click this link
Disability Etiquette and Hospitality | NCPD - National Catholic Partnership on Disability

II. What’s Happening!

The NCPD is offering Webinar Series: Five Tasks of Catechesis for Diverse Learners

The five tasks of catechesis, grounded in the mission of Jesus Christ, serve as the model for Christian life for ALL disciples. The following three learning sessions will address the Five Tasks of Catechesis for Diverse Learners. No cost to attend. The sessions are presented at 1:00 pm ET on April 8, 2021, June 10, 2021, and August 12, 2021.

For more information and to register you can click the link here

Five_Tasks_of_Catechesis_for_Diverse_Learners_2021.pdf (ncpd.org)
God’s Special Children’s

- Archbishop Gregory Aymond will be celebrating our 17th Anniversary Mass on Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier.

Please mark your calendars.

If your angel has not yet been Baptized, received First Communion, or been Confirmed, and if you would like for your angel to do so at our Anniversary Mass, please contact Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan at: srmwheelahan@arch-no.org

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has been in the forefront of including people with special needs in the liturgy and in administering the Sacraments to them.

In October, 2004 the group God’s Special Children was formed in New Orleans as a way for people with special needs, their families and friends to celebrate the Holy Sacrament of the Mass together.

Indeed, EVERYONE was invited to join us at the Mass – regardless of whether or not they had family members with special needs.

Over the years, the attendance at the Mass grew from approximately 65 people to as many as over 400 people.

We have been very blessed to have Fr. Mike Mitchell celebrate our Eucharist for the last 15 years.

Each month Fr. Mike inspires us with Christ’s message of love, peace and acceptance.

When the attendance increased so significantly, Archbishop Hughes asked to meet with my wife Joy and me to discuss the Mass and how the Church could better accommodate those of us who have family members with special needs.

Archbishop Albert Hughes was appalled to learn that many people with special needs were denied the Sacraments and he immediately assigned two nuns to assist people with special needs to prepare for the Sacraments.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond has been a strong advocate for people with special needs and their families.

Since 2009 when he became Archbishop of New Orleans, Archbishop Aymond has been the chief celebrant of the God’s Special Children’s Anniversary Mass held every
In October. He has baptized, administered First Communion and he has confirmed numerous people with special needs.

Archbishop Aymond believes that no one should be denied the Sacraments.

In setting guidelines to address issues within the Catholic Church faced by people with special needs, the Vatican has promulgated guidelines which include the following statement: “The Sacraments are gifts of God and the liturgy.....therefore, no one can deny the Sacraments to people with disabilities (emphasis added).”

In fact, Pope Francis has weighed in on the subject, and as recently as last December stated: “Special attention should be given to disabled people who have not yet received the sacraments of initiation, meaning Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion...no one should be excluded from the grace of the Sacraments”.

In the December 3, 2020 issue of the Crux newsletter, Pope Francis also insisted on the need to provide training for priests, seminarians, religious, catechists and pastoral workers so they know how to best interact with the disabled and use inclusive pastoral tools. Again, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, has been in the forefront on this issue.

For the past number of years, the Very Reverend James A. Wehner, Rector/President of Notre Dame Seminary has invited my wife Joy and me to make presentations to the Seminarians each Semester on ministering to people with special needs. In this way, seminarians who have not been exposed to people with special needs, are given the opportunity to obtain a better understanding of ways to minister to God’s children who have special needs. Under Fr. Jim’s leadership and example, a number of our future priests have attended the Mass and have shown great sensitivity towards God’s Special Children.

Recognizing the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, Archbishop Aymond has stated: “As Catholics, we should lift up each other in life and in spirit, no matter our degree of intellectual ability. It is the responsibility for each of us to give love and pastoral care to all of God’s Special Children – because we are all special in God’s eyes. We should treat our brothers and sisters in light of their special needs, and not in spite of their special needs.”

We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate God’s Eucharist at our God’s Special Children, Families and friends Mass, held monthly at St. Francis Xavier Mass on Metairie Road.

To learn more about us, please contact Joy Zainey at: (504) 834-5865.
If you would like to sign up to be on our mailing list, please contact: jay.zainey@gmail.com

If you would like your angel with special needs to receive the Sacraments, please contact Sr. Mary Ellen Wheelahan at: srmwheelahan@arch-no.org

Remember, no one with special needs will be denied the Sacraments!

• Special thanks to GSC’s friend, Steve Munster, for revamping and updating our website. Please take a look at www.godsspecialchildren.org.

Mass for God’s Special Children, their families and friends is held every month at 2:00 p.m. at St Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, LA on the following dates:

• June 6
• July 11
• August 1
• September 12
• October 10
• November 7
• December

Dear God’s Special Children Families and Friends,

Year of the Eucharist & St. Joseph – a special gift

As we continue through the Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph, the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans have been given a special gift. Introducing “True Presence” – a Music Album by The Vigil Project composed and produced specifically for the Year of the Eucharist & St. Joseph. Listen to the music online here: https://www.nolacatholicyoe.com/music.

We welcome and encourage you to share any information or questions or you would like to see in Opening Doors e-Newsletter to klivauda@bellsouth.net. Please use Opening Doors in the subject line. We encourage you to share some of what is in Opening Doors with your parish by publishing some info in your church bulletins.