PARISH MISSION STATEMENT
We are a welcoming Christian community in New Orleans that is centered in the Eucharist. We are committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ, the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and the dignity of human life. We are a family that strives to learn and share our faith by living the Beatitudes and by reconciling ourselves with God and one another.

PARISH STAFF
Pastor - Rev. Michael J. Schneller
Director of Religious Education - Christi Schott
Director of Family Life Ministries - Melissa Rey
Facilities Manager - Matthew Landry
Administrative Assistant - Teresa Miller
Director of Music/Organist - Thomas D. Wright
Cantor - Johnny Tolentino
Sacristain - Paul Vetter

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Holy Days To Be Announced
Monday 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENCE
Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
At other times by appointment

NOVENA
In honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Tuesday following the 6:00 p.m. Mass.

ADORATION
Monday 8:30am-4:30pm - In the Parish Center

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS
Second Thursday of the Month at 6:00 p.m.
In the Parish Center

INFANT BAPTISMS
Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of each month after the 11:30 a.m. Mass excluding the season of Lent. First time parents and godparents are expected to participate in a Baptism preparation seminar which may take place during pregnancy. Please contact the Parish Center for more information.

MARRIAGE ARRANGEMENTS
The policy of the Archdiocese requires a minimum six-month preparation period for marriage, during which the couple meets with the priest or deacon and participates in the Archdiocesan marriage preparation program. Engaged couples should telephone the Parish Center no less than six months prior to the anticipated date of marriage for an appointment with the priest or deacon.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS
The parish priest is to be contacted before the family makes any arrangements with the funeral director. Family members are also asked to meet with the priest to prepare for the Funeral Liturgy.

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PARISH PRAYER
Loving Father, You gather us together as a Roman Catholic family, to thank and praise You in shared faith and lived love. May we be drawn more completely into the life of Your Holy Spirit and hear Your personal call for each of us, helping us to reveal Your presence in this world. Inspired by Your love and moved by the example of our patron, St. Francis, let us be instruments of peace, to sow love where there is hatred, pardon where injury, faith where doubt, hope where despair, light where darkness, joy where sadness. Knowing that it is only in giving that we receive, in pardoning that we are pardoned, in dying that we are born to eternal life, we make this prayer through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.
“Youth is wasted on the young”. George Bernard Shaw deserves the credit for this seeming paradoxical saying. This short statement conveys a deep wisdom, and causes us to ponder not only our past but even our present, and that none of us will be younger than we are today. The comedian George Carlin asked the paradoxical question, “If you try to fail and you succeed, which have you done?”

We live the Christian life by paradoxes. The greatest paradox is the God-human Jesus. However, many more paradoxes abound: death leads to life, to give is to receive, and emptying oneself is the means to fulfillment. The gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time reflects some of these fundamental Christian paradoxes as well: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Those worthy of Jesus are the ones who take up their cross and follow him. We do not seek out suffering and place ourselves in harm’s way merely for the sake of it. Rather, taking up one’s cross refers to managing any and all of the difficulties and challenges that come with following Jesus. As his followers, we should not shy away from such duties that flow naturally from being a Christian. As Jesus did, to gain life we must give it away. This is the ultimate paradox.

The paschal mystery is a paradox par excellence. Suffering and death lead to new life and resurrection. There can be no resurrection without death. There is no new life without casting aside the old. When we listen to the words of Jesus in today’s gospel, we might be especially attuned to the notion of paradox expressed in the saying about finding our lives – for to find our lives, we must lose them. We surrender ourselves to the will of God and thereby find ultimate meaning and purpose. As Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you Lord.”

When we busy ourselves with projects, deadlines, and goals that give us a sense of urgency and meaning, we might be missing the quintessential meaning of our lives. We discover the mystery of each paradox by reflecting on it in stillness and quiet of our hearts. It’s the paradox reflected in the U2 song “Running to Stand Still.” During this Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we might pause to consider our ultimate purpose and meaning. Are we running to stand still? Are we restless until we rest in the Lord? Only by giving over our very selves will we receive even more. By embracing the cross, Christ experienced exaltation and new life, showing us the way to the same.

As Governor Edwards announced on Monday, June 22 we will continue to be in Phase 2 of Reopening our State for the next three weeks. We encourage you to continue to make a reservation to celebrate the paradox of the Paschal Mystery with us this weekend. I want to commend those attending for following the guideline to wear a mask except when receiving Holy Communion and to thank you for assisting in sanitizing the pews for the next mass. What a blessing for our parish to have the families of our second graders celebrating their First Eucharist at each of the weekend masses. We are hoping that as we move past the pandemic, our parish will be able to celebrate a class communion in the future.

In making a reservation for mass, please observe the guidelines in this bulletin and on our parish website. If you are not a registered parishioner, use this occasion to be among the members of the flock of St. Francis of Assisi. You can register on our website www.stfrancisuptown.com
Uptown Canticle - continued

For those parishioners we cannot accommodate in the church or who are fearful to gather with us, Archbishop Aymond has given permission to distribute Holy Communion after mass outdoors. He strongly suggested that we not give Holy Communion to people in vehicles. He recommends that we do so outside where people can form a communion line and observe social distancing. Therefore, this weekend after each mass, weather permitting, I will be available to distribute Holy Communion in the front lawn of the rectory. I suggest that as you approach me to receive the Body of Christ you pray the Lord’s Prayer, the Our Father.

Please remember that Archbishop Aymond has dispensed the people of the Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. If someone is vulnerable and not feeling well, you should not celebrate Mass in church with other people. Baptisms, Weddings and funerals is limited to 100 worshipers. This number will increase gradually.

We will continue to live stream the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday from church. We have returned to celebrating daily mass in church. Monday, Wednesday through Friday mass is at 8:30 am and Tuesday at 6:00 pm. No reservation is necessary for daily mass. We will no longer live stream daily mass.

As we enter the hurricane season,
let us implore the intercession of
Our Lady of Prompt Succor
to hasten to help us and our patron
St. Francis of Assisi
to make us instruments of the Lord’s peace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Confession)
Saturday, 3:00 - 3:40 p.m.
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.
At other times by appointment.

Sisters of Christian Charity Chapel
Located in the Parish Center
Enter through front door on State Street

General Guidelines for Mass Attendance:
To sign up to attend Mass:
https://www.stfrancisuptown.com/mass-rsvp

Entering & Leaving: All entrances are open. Church pews are marked and roped off. When Mass has ended, please do not gather in groups outside of church or in the parking lot and continue to maintain social distancing.

During Mass: Wear a mask during Mass aside from receiving Communion. Be mindful of social distancing and maintain six feet of distance from others at all times. For our weekend Masses, a worship aid will be available at the entrances for weekend Masses. After Mass, leave it in your pew. You may place your regular offering for support of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and other collections in the baskets in the center aisle and side doors. The Offertory procession is omitted. We can express the sign of peace by means of a smile and/or nod of the head.

Reception of Holy Communion: Bring hand sanitizer to use before receiving Communion. During the distribution of Holy Communion, form a single line and observe the social distancing blue lines on the floor of the aisles. We ask everyone to receive Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue. You will receive the Body of Christ in the form of bread only. When approaching the priest or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, place your hand flatly atop the other and fully extend your arm toward the priest or minster who will place the Host on your hand in a manner to avoid any contact with your hand.

Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Composed by: St. Alphonsus Liguori - 19th Century
Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, June 27 - 4:00pm - Lucille Mire McCann, Robert McIntyre, Margaret “Butsy” Ross, Julia Pansano, Henry Schorr, Liz St.Cyr, Edouard M. Plauche, Lionel T. & Catherine P. Hammock
SUNDAY, June 28 - 9:30am - Betsie Melancon, Phillip Tipp, Marice Picheloup, III, Margaret Hoffmann
11:30am - Parishioners
MONDAY, June 29 - All Souls Book of Remembrance
TUESDAY, June 30 - In Thanksgiving
WEDNESDAY, July 1 - Henry Schoor
THURSDAY, July 2 - Harold F. Hand
FRIDAY, July 3 - Viola Piglia

WEEKLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

June 28th - July 4th

Sunday 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a; Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10:37-42
Monday Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19
Tuesday Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8; Mt 8:23-27
Wednesday Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17; Mt 8:28-34
Thursday Am 7:10-17; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Mt 9:1-8
Friday Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 20:24-29
Saturday Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 9:14-17

Prayer Intentions

Please remember the following parishioners and friends in your prayers: Jerry Abdo, Anne Atkinson, Ann Babington, Barbara Barrosse, Glenn Becnel, Simone M. Becnel, Christopher Brewster, Antoinette Clark, Marvette Clark, Cathy Dermady, Rosita Duplantier, Mildred Flynn, James Ira Ford, Jr., Evelyn Francioni, Tamberly Gray, Ryan Hartley, Sherry Heller, Juanita Herndon, Pat Jones, Leona Labat, Meredith Landry, William Robert Little, Robert Maddox, Cheryl Ann McDonald, Craig Melancon, Darnell Menasco, Lynn Middleton, John “Junior” Morreale, Joy Morton, Angelica Pecoraro, Paige Peterson, Melissa Phelps, Steven Philburn, Nedine Rende, Betty Richburg, Nell Ricker, Fred Riggle, Patricia Riggle, Justin Roy, Emma Ryan, Linda Sayegh, Robert Schwab, Louis Scott, Sr., Samantha Smith, Sara Surgi, Deacon Wil Toups, Nancy Williams, Residents of Hainkel, Covenant and Poydras Homes and Lambeth House.

O heavenly Father, You sent Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. We pray that You heal Your servants from our parish family, friends, and relatives of every spiritual and bodily ill which affects them. Amen.

Church Sanctuary Lamp

Our Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in memory of Deceased Military
First Communion

Congratulations to

Addison Chocheles  Amelia St. Marie
Charlotte Guider  Elizabeth Perrien
Ava Ernst  Olivia Claire Truxillo

who received Jesus for the first time in Holy Eucharist on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21. Please continue to keep these children, all the first communicants, and their families in your prayers as we welcome them to the table of the Lord.

A Stewardship Moment

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”

Jesus was caring, kind and loving. But he was not subtle. He spoke bluntly about his mission and message to the people of his day and to all who would come to believe in him. He clearly stated the conditions to be his disciple and consequences for those who did not accept those conditions. That caused many people to choose not to follow him. He did not chase after them and beg them to stay or offer them an easier path. We do not know their names. Those who chose to remain as disciples of Jesus would eventually learn and understand the consequences of their decision. They followed Jesus because they had faith in him; because he told them about a loving God; because he demonstrated that love to them; because he was unequivocal and honest. We know the names of many of them. There are streets, cities, churches and children named after them. That is not why they risked all to follow Jesus. They were happy to live another day to tell others about Jesus. But that is why they are remembered, loved and honored.

Parish School of Religion (CCD)

Thank you to all the families who were a part of this year’s Parish School of Religion. The parish is in the process of planning for the 2020-2021 school year and help is needed. Registration and class schedules will be available in mid-July. If you would like to assist in planning and preparation for next school year or would be interested in serving as a catechist, for more information contact Christi Schott at 225-571-1547 or cschott@stfrancisuptown.com.
A Dream Come True

Perhaps you have hoped for something that has never come to pass. All your life you had your heart fixed on one desire, but it has eluded your grasp. Perhaps you feel anger and take it out on people you love. Perhaps you have accepted this unrealized dream as a part of the life God calls you to live.

The woman who offers hospitality to Elisha had such a dream. She wanted a child. But her husband was aging, and it appeared that her one desire would never come.

The story, in the Second Book of Kings, indicates that she was a woman of influence. She may have had wealth and respect in her community, but she was unable to have the blessing she most wanted. All we know of her is her reputation for hospitality. She was remembered not for her misery, not for her disappointment, but for opening her home to a traveling prophet.

In the story’s happy ending, she receives the desire of her heart. But throughout, she is a model for those who hope for something good. She never gave up trusting in God. She practiced the one virtue she would need if her dream would ever be fulfilled: hospitality.

The Walking Dead

They speak of someone on death row as a dead man walking. The person sentenced to die is as good as dead. He or she may be walking around, but the person’s life has virtually ended.

All Christians can be called dead people walking, though in a different way. In Baptism, we die to sin, but we continue to walk in the new life of Christ. Christians may be dead, but our life has virtually begun.

Some Christians are baptized as infants. Some are baptized as adults. When adults are baptized, they are asked to renounce their former way of life, to turn away from anything that keeps them from allegiance to Christ. When infants are baptized, parents and godparents renew their commitment to Christ, and they pledge to share it with the child. Baptism makes all the difference in the world. It totally redirects our lives toward Christ, whether we are changing course as adults or committing ourselves to Christ from the start as infants.

St. Paul says to the Romans, “You too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.” Christians are dead, yet walking.

Throughout our lives we recommit ourselves to our baptismal promises. We do it weekly at church when we recite the Creed. We do it any time we attend a baptism. We also do it each year at the Easter Vigil. We turn away from sin and turn toward Christ, who shows us how to walk in the newness of life.
INFORMATION & INTRODUCTION SESSION:
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 @ 7 PM  (Pre-registration required)
Call or email Melisa Rey to register 504.227.3766 or familylife@stfrancisuptown.com

Enjoy the series in the privacy of your own home, at your pace & on your schedule.

PROGRAM FOCUSES:
❖ Strengthen couples in love for God & each other.  ❖ Offer insight into God’s plan for marriage.
❖ Develop and grow prayer lives of spouses.  ❖ Foster deep appreciation & living out sacraments.
❖ Practical suggestions to assist couples in living their vocation faithfully & joyfully.
❖ Promote sacramentality of Marriage.
❖ Highlight importance of Mary for marriage & family & encourage Marian devotion.

Haiti Update
An emergency appeal was made by our sister parish, St. Francois Xavier in Giles, Haiti to assist with funding the purchase of bulk food items for 50 area families because the area has been hit hard by COVID-19. Even while St Francis of Assisi Parish had its own struggles with adapting to the economic impact of COVID-19, we were able to support our fellow Catholics in need.

St. Francois Xavier and the St. Francis of Assisi Outreach to Haiti Committee thanks Father Michael and the parishioners for their generosity.

Mothers Prayers Group Meets Virtually
Wednesdays at 10:00am
Join us in weekly prayer for children/grandchildren
For more information contact Melisa Rey 504.227.3766 or familylife@stfrancisuptown.com

Food Resources
❖ SFA Matthew 25 Food Distribution - Monthly, food distribution to those who are in need of assistance with monthly food supplies. Contact the parish office to get help. 891.4479
❖ Catholic Charities’ Food Pantry - Open Monday – Thursday from 10 am – 2 pm. The food pantry is located at 2505 Maine Ave in Metairie.
❖ More Resources visit: https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/assistance/#food

Mental Health Resources
❖ State Covid19 Crisis Counseling Line: Text “Reachout” to 741741
❖ Catholic Counseling Service - Services to individuals, couples, & families-$50/session or sliding scale or pro bono services when necessary. Calls are confidential 504-861-6245.