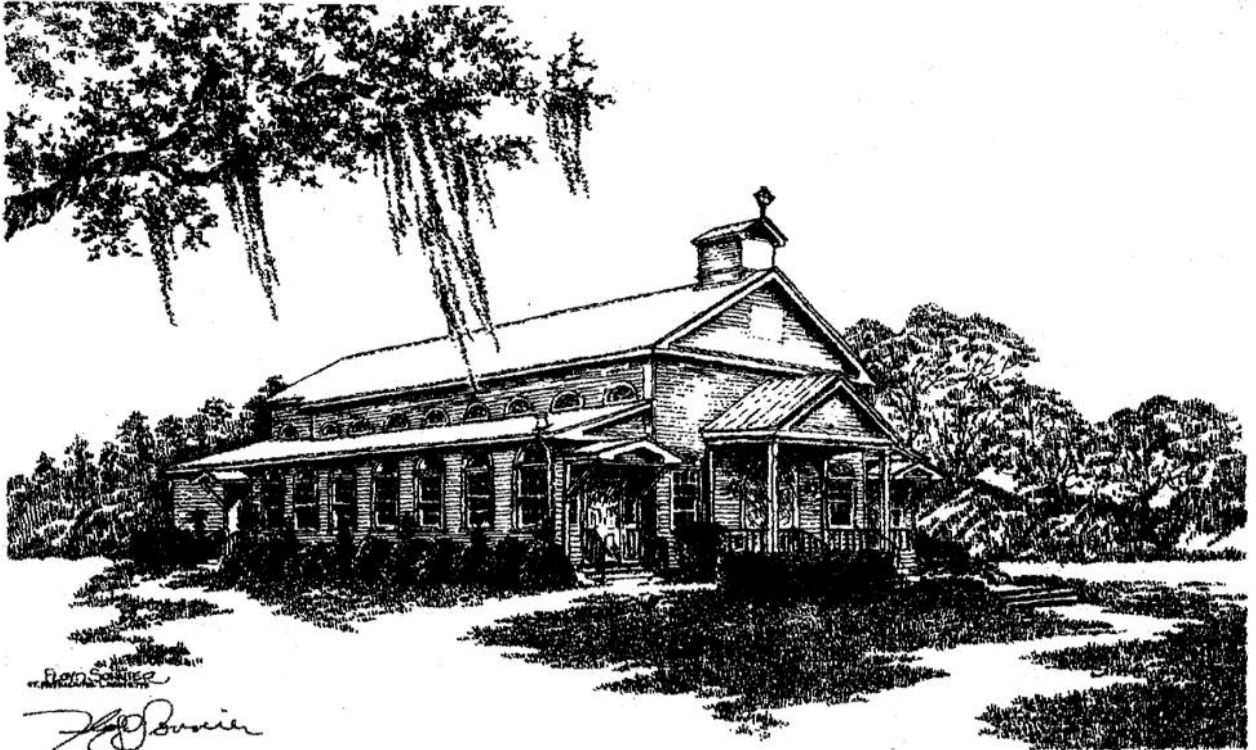


St. Patrick Catholic Church

February 23, 2025 – Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



L'Église St. Patrick

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs:
9 a.m.-12 noon and 1-3 p.m.
Fri: closed

Holy Mass

Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 & 10 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3:20-3:50 p.m.
Weekdays: 7-7:25 a.m.

Fr Joshua Guillory
Pastor

Anna Walker
Office Manager
Sharon Savoie
Sacristan

Natalie Connor **Faye Drobnic**
Shana Sampia **Mickie Sibley**
Musicians

406 E Pinhook Road
Lafayette, LA 70501-8727
Phone: 337-237-0988

Adoration Chapel
in parish hall
at 107 Petro St
across from church

<https://stpat.org>
office@stpat.org

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, February 22

4 p.m.: Dr & Mrs Leonard Rolfes; Alaina Bouvier (*living*); Ron, Wallace & Romaine Venable; Bart, Jules & Isola LeJeune; Marliene Bellard; Faye Beasley; Ludden Bellard

Sunday, February 23

8:30 a.m.: John P Zagar

10 .m.: For parishioners

Monday, February 24

7:30 a.m.: Dickie Bell

Tuesday, February 25

7:30 a.m.: Elizabeth Schnur (*living*)

Wednesday, February 26

7:30 a.m.: Ann Guillotte

Thursday, February 27

7:30 a.m.: Kreamer family

Friday, February 28

7:30 a.m.: Shirley Stinson

Pray for one another, that you may be healed.

~James 5:16

Lenten Day of Recollection

St Edmond Altar Society Lenten Day of Recollection will be on Thursday, March 6, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Retreat master will be Fr Kyle White. Tickets are \$15, and must be purchase in advance. Lunch is included. Deadline for ticket purchase is Friday, February 28. For tickets, please contact Judy Dixon at 337-739-9332 or the St Edmond Church office.

Tend Your Soul

Laura Huval Music Ministry presents a Lenten morning of reflection at St Joseph Hall in Cecilia on Saturday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Cost to attend is \$30 and includes breakfast. Register online at laurahuval.com.

Lenten Mission

March 9 through 11 at Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist with Fr Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, host of *Rosary in a Year* Podcast. Mission begins at 6:15 p.m. following Mass.

Lenten Day of Reflection – Finding Freedom in Christ: Healing Life’s Hurts

The Office of Catechetics is hosting its upcoming Lenten day of reflection on March 15, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. featuring Mass with Bishop Deshotel and presenter Dr Matthew Breuninger. For more information or to register go to tinyurl.com/yk7pbwy8.

Women’s Lenten Morning of Reflection

St Pius X Women’s Guild will be hosting it’s Women’s Lenten Morning of Reflection on March 18. Doors will open at 9 a.m. with light refreshments in Leonpacher Hall. Guest speaker is Fr Stephen Pellessier from Our Lady Queen of All Saints, Ville Platte. Confessions will be heard following the talk and Mass will be celebrated at 12:05 p.m.

Lenten Way of the Cross

Friday mornings during Lent, beginning at 7:05 a.m. in St Patrick Church.

Holy Hour for Vocations

The monthly "Holy Hour for Vocations and for the Spiritual Renewal of All Priests" will be held Monday, March 3, from 6-7 p.m. here at St Patrick's. Recitation of the Rosary begins at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in prayer for vocations and perseverance of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. Sponsored by the Serra Club of Lafayette.

Be Silent and Let God Speak to Your Heart

St Anthony's Altar Society is hosting its Lenten retreat on March 15, 8 a.m. to 12 noon. A donation of \$15 is asked to cover the cost of all retreat materials, continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Florence Henry at 337-230-2905 for more information.

Let us pray for:

Jared and Ashley LaVergne, who celebrate their first wedding anniversary on February 23.

Charles and Kate Bull, who celebrate five years of marriage on March 1.

Harold Guilbeau, who celebrated his 86th birthday on February 14.

Kathy Arceneaux, Lee Carricut, and David Roy, who are recovering from surgeries.

Ryan Rohrberger and Keisha Barras, who were married at St Patrick's on February 15.

Jackie Bourgeois, Joyce Stelly, Harold Schoeffler, Raymond Garry, Merrick Stelly, Gail Roetker, and Brenda Simon for their health concerns.

Please let us know of your prayer intentions, birthdays, anniversaries, and other prayer-worthy occasions. Email us at office@stpat.org.

Collect for the Seventh Sunday

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, always pondering spiritual things, we may carry out in both word and deed that which is pleasing to you.

From a sermon by St Bernard, abbot (†1153)

Where can the weak find a place of firm security and peace, except in the wounds of the Savior? Indeed, the more secure is my place there the more he can do to help me. The world rages, the flesh is heavy, and the devil lays his snares, but I do not fall, for my feet are planted on firm rock. I may have sinned gravely. My conscience would be distressed, but it would not be in turmoil, for I would recall the wounds of the Lord: *he was wounded for our iniquities*. What sin is there so deadly that it cannot be pardoned by the death of Christ? And so if I bear in mind this strong, effective remedy, I can never again be terrified by the malignancy of sin. Surely the one who said: *My sin is too great to merit pardon*, was wrong. He was speaking as though he were not a member of Christ and had no share in his merits, so that he could claim them as his own.

Online giving at St Patrick's

If you would like to contribute to St Patrick's online, please visit our website (stpat.org) and click Give Online at the top, where you will be directed to Give 52. Fill out the information and select St Patrick Church from the drop-down menu. Thank you for your support of our parish and its mission.

Thank you for last week's stewardship Offerings.....\$3,789

Next week's second collection is for St Patrick's building and maintenance fund.

From the Pastor's Desk

This past Tuesday evening I was privileged to attend an event organized by the Innocence Project New Orleans (IPNO). Innocence Projects are found throughout our country. They are a non-profit group that works to free innocent people who have been wrongly convicted and imprisoned.

This was the fifth annual event held here in Lafayette to raise awareness of the work that the Innocence Project does to correct the grotesque miscarriages of justice that allows people who are totally innocent to be convicted and sentenced to prison for crimes they never committed.

We heard testimony from a woman whose brother was convicted of murder at age 19 and served 42 years in prison at Angola before being exonerated and released in 2019. To compound that tragedy, her son, twenty years after her brother was wrongfully convicted, was himself sentenced to prison in Angola for a crime that he did not commit. He was exonerated through the work of IPNO and released a few years after his uncle. Totally and completely innocent of the crimes for which they were tried and convicted, this uncle and nephew suffered a grievous injustice.

There are many such stories around the country, stories that are heartbreaking and encouraging. Encouraging in that there are people out there who care enough to fight long and hard so that justice may be done in the face of injustice. Discouraging, because here we are faced not with inadvertent injustice,

but with injustice that is very often attributable to prosecutorial misconduct, witness misidentification, and misuse of forensic evidence. Too often there is something evil or malign behind these wrongful convictions and incarcerations.

And this is where things really hit home. At the event we learned that Louisiana has the highest rate of wrongful convictions in the United States, period. And this includes a death penalty reversal rate of over 80%. Think about that: 80% of all death sentences in Louisiana are overturned.

Louisiana's sentencing laws are also harsh beyond what could ever be considered appropriate or normal. Consider this: over 4,000 people in Louisiana are serving life without parole. That is more people serving life than in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee combined.

And yet Louisiana is plowing ahead to resume executions. Now by nitrogen gas hypoxia. I don't remember the resumption of the death penalty being any kind of an issue in the most recent statewide legislative and gubernatorial elections. But here we are, with the worst false conviction rate in the country, eager to kill, with ready vindictiveness.

A true culture of life advocates for all life, from conception to natural death. It is shameful, and sinful, that in our wealthy and developed land, any kind of "legal" killing of human beings is tolerated, whether a baby in the womb, or a convict in prison (who, in Louisiana at least, may well be innocent). *Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy.*

Fr Guillory