



*The Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church,  
Rayne, Louisiana.*

February 1, 2026

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy  
*Staffed by the Josephite Fathers since 1924*

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[www.shrineofourmotherofmercy.com](http://www.shrineofourmotherofmercy.com)

Very Rev. Edward J. Chifftriller, SSJ - Pastor  
Ms. DeBorah A. Smith - Secretary  
Secretary's Office Hours  
4:30pm - 6:00pm

### MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday - 5:30pm  
Wednesday - 7:00am  
Thursday - 7:00am  
Friday - 7:00am

### **Weekend Masses**

**Saturday Mass - 5:00pm**  
**Sunday Mass - 9:30am**

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick contact  
Fr. Ed at (225) 571-8233

**CONFESSION: Before and after each Mass/and  
By appointment**

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

## THE PASTOR'S DESK



## THE PEOPLE OF GOD'S KINGDOM

In our Gospel reading from Matthew, we hear the Beatitudes, the stirring opening to the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus is proclaiming the coming of the kingdom of God, and begins by considering what kind of people will enter and participate in this kingdom. They are the poor in spirit, the meek, the clean of heart, the peacemakers. We hear both Zephaniah and Paul echo this, as God specifically chooses the weak and the lowly to be God's agents in ushering in the reign of God. By living with humility and integrity, their hearts are open to being transformed by the grace of God. We too are called to live in this way. Jesus invites us to be people with open hearts, to receive God's blessing. And working through us, God may bless all of creation.

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**PRAYER FOR THE SICK:** Lord Jesus who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless your friends who are sick. Give them strength in their body, courage in their spirit, and patience in their pain. Let them recover their health, so that when they are restored to the Christian community, they may joyfully praise Your Name, for You live and reign forever and ever. Amen

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH &

**THEIR CAREGIVERS:** James Guidry, Edward Sonnier, Chester Charles, Betty Jolivette, Anthony Gardiner, Kirsten Jolivette, Tim Smith, Sr. & Family, Marie Sly George, ASBS, Mattie G. Lindon, Crystal Senegal, Lynn Smith, Ros Cook, Pricilla Pierre, Sonja Blount, Rhonda Duhon, Janet Pabum, Tommy Senegal, Ronald Senegal, Sr., Linda Mouton, Helen Caillet, Gracia Senegal, Audrey Guidry, Anthony Flynn LaPointe, Michael Jolivette, Mary Keel, Ann McDaniel, Thomas Simon, Mary Simon, Betty Paul, Maudry Bellard, Jeanette C. Williams, Bernadette Cole, Gloria Jean Wilridge, Donna Duhon, Mervin Dugas, Kabre' Broussard, Ida Rubin, Bretha B. Guidry, Tyre Jordan, Sandra Cole Livings, Denver Babineaux, Viola Daron, Richard Caillet, Wendy Y. Francis, Glenn Hunter, Sr., John Washington, Lois Gabriel Yokum, Jean Tervius Jadotte.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

**Psalm** — The Lord blesses the humble and gives them the heavenly kingdom (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

**Gospel** — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24:7-10 Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 [22-32]

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

## OUR FASCINATING FAITH

### Candlemas (February 2)

Thanks to Pope Sergius I (687–701), on February 2 we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. On this day we also commemorate the Purification of Mary, who complied with the Jewish law (Leviticus 12:1). The law indicated that a mother should be purified forty days after giving birth to a boy child. Since the eleventh century the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of the Lord have been celebrated with the blessing of all the candles and candlesticks that are going to be used during the year. This is done with the hope that there will never be a lack of light, either material or spiritual, in the houses of the faithful. The root of the word candlemas is the Latin verb *candere* ("to shine") and from which also come the words candelabra and candlestick. This feast of candles recalls that Christians can, like Simon and the prophetess Anna in the temple, say that they also have seen salvation: Jesus the true Light who shines in the arms of Mary (Luke 2:25–38).

—Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.

—Gilbert K. Chesterton

**BIBLE STUDY:** on Wednesday at 5:00PM in the Convent

## **FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 1, 2026**

**MASS INTENTIONS- January 31st, 2026-February 6th, 2026**

**Sat. 5:00 P.M.** For People of the Parish

**Sun. 9:30 A.M.** For People of the Parish  
Columbus & Cleste Julian  
req. by Sylvester Julian

Peter Jolivette, Sr. (Anniversary)

Jean Tervius Jadotte

**Tues. 5:30PM** For Paul & Joyce Senegal req. by Paula

**Wed. 7:00AM** Fr. William F. Danahy, SSJ

**Thurs. 7:00AM** Fr. John M. Meskill, SSJ

**Fri. 7:00AM** Fr. Joseph R. Hanley, SSSJ.

**January 25th, 2026** – Our Stewardship contribution amounted to \$1505.00, Donation, \$940.00, Church in Latin America, \$196.00. **Thank you for your continuous generosity.**

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:** February 1st, Jacob Senegal, Elaine Carmouche Wooley, Noel Peter, **let us put our hands together for them.**

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE:** The Diocese of Lafayette requires that each parish is in safe environment compliance. Everyone working with children, Ministers of Hospitality, Eucharistic Ministers, volunteers working with the Praise Team, and Religious Education, must be Safe Environment Certified. **Continuing Education ONLY, PLEASE go online and complete your certification.**

For **INITIAL TRAINING:** contact the parish office.

**2026 BISHOP'S SERVICES APPEAL:** This weekend is the 2026 Bishop's Services Appeal Education Weekend. As we embrace this year's theme, 'Holding the Faith: Decades of Prayer & Service,' we ask you to prayerfully consider how your financial gift can become a "lifted prayer" that provides tangible and essential services not only to our brothers and sisters across Acadiana but to our parish, Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy.

In honor of Saint Katharine Drexel, the matriarch who established our school, visited our parish, and impacted the lives of our parishioners.

**Please cast your vote by scanning the QR CODE for the new official name of the convent.**



**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN FAMILY:** Rooted in Faith: Reclaiming, Restoring, & Healing the Village. February 1st, 2026, First Sunday of Black History.

**GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE** we place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation. Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life. Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us. Prayer composed by **FR. JIM GOODE, OFM**, who in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer for the African American and African Family

### **SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
National Day of Prayer for African  
American Family; Black History  
Month begins

Monday: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord  
Blessing of Candles; World Day of  
Consecrated Life

Tuesday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; Blessing of  
Throats

Thursday: St. Agatha

Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions

Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

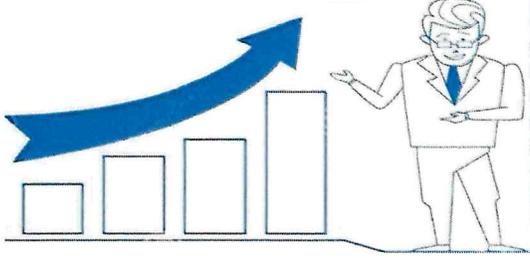
**WORDS OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:** The sacred Host exposed on the altar gives my soul food for admiration.

### **CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

#### **God Be in My Head**

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.

<p><b>ACADIA COUNCIL ON AGING</b></p> <p>824 East First Street Post Office Box 1482 Crowley, LA 70527 <b>337-788-1400</b></p>	 <p><b>BERKEN INSURANCE</b> <i>Life, Health, &amp; Annuities</i></p> <p>ERIC BERKEN 337-393-4122 LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT</p>	<p>Kenneth Schexnayder Owner</p> <p><b>"All your wiring and air conditioning needs"</b> Residential • Commercial Free Estimates</p> <p><b>KEN'S ELECTRICAL &amp; A/C</b></p> <p>303 S. Avenue H Crowley, LA 70526 Email: kenselectrical@aol.com</p> <p>Ph 337.788.1916 Fax 337.788.3935</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of the <i>ERNEST, CARMOUCHE, WOOLEY FAMILIES</i></p> 	<p><b>FEZZO'S II Inc</b></p> <p>720 I-10 S. Frontage Rd Scott, LA 70583 337-261-2464</p>	 <p>720 I-10 S. Frontage Rd Scott, LA 70583 337-456-8026</p>
<p>www.maisondaboval.com maisondaboval@gmail.com</p> <p>337-427-9600</p>  <p>Bed &amp; Breakfast</p> <p>305 East Louisiana Avenue Rayne, Louisiana 70578</p> <p>Hosts Jerry &amp; Denise Underwood</p>	<p><b>RAYNE BUILDING &amp; LOAN</b></p> <p>Post Office Box 46 Rayne, Louisiana 70578 <b>(337)334-7535</b></p>	<p><b>C.J. Prevost</b> Insurance Agency, Inc.</p>   <p>Sales ~ Appraisals</p>   <p>108 W. Branche in Rayne <b>334-5152</b></p>

<p><b>Loyalty Donations 2026</b></p>  <p><b>\$600.00</b></p>	<p>Mildred Young, Edra K. Broussard, Jamie &amp; Sharinda Evans, Elaine Carmouche Wooley.</p>
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Shrine of Our Mother of Mercy, Rayne 100 years of Faith, Family and Friends.  
We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. – (1924-2024).  
**“ROOTED IN FAITH”**