



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

**March 8, 2026**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

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

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

*Very Rev. Edward J. Chiffriller, 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**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 8, 2026

### THE PASTOR'S DESK



### THIRST

Each time today's Gospel story is read, I can't help but think of the many television commercials I've seen depicting perspiring athletes lifting a beverage to their lips while the scorching sun beats down on them. Our culture has definite ideas about how to quench thirst. Today, those ideas are turned upside down. The Samaritan woman operates, initially, on the TV commercial level. She asks Jesus for the flowing water so that she will not have to keep coming to the well. Jesus then talks about what real thirst is, and how he, and he alone, can quench that thirst. Lent calls us to find those places deep within ourselves where we thirst. In our thirst, as did the Israelites, we cry out to God asking for springs of living water. Deep down we know that only the Lord can satisfy these thirsts.

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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, 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, Tim Mayfield.

### Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

—Romans 5:8

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the Lord heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

**Psalm** — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

**Second Reading** — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

**Gospel** — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4;  
Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-51b, 6, 7bc, 8-9;  
Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;  
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer.7:23-28; Ps.95:1-2,6-7,8-9;Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17;  
Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-3a,4,5,6  
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

### SAINT FRANCES OF ROME (1384-1440)

March 9

Nature and human nature—plagues and wars—turned late medieval Rome into a living hell, particularly for the sick and poor. Frances, by birth and marriage well provided for, was a devoted wife and mother; but like Benedictine Oblates, who to this day “pray and work” while living with their families and working in the world, she joined like-minded laywomen friends in ministering to society's most vulnerable. Frances' charity was not only “hands on” but “in home.” Her palace became a hospital after the plague claimed two of her three children. When her husband's death ended their loving marriage of forty years, Frances joined other widowed Oblates in community. In an interesting link to the United States, our nation's premier religious congregation for women of color, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, in 1833 established bonds of spiritual communion with these Oblates of Saint Frances in Rome. Though Black History Month is past, take a moment to learn about the good work that Mother Lange's spiritual daughters are doing still and consider supporting them as a Lenten project: [www.oblatesisters.com](http://www.oblatesisters.com).

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 8, 2026

**MASS INTENTIONS- March 7th - 2026 – March 13th, 2026**

**Sat. 5:00 P.M.** For People of the Parish  
**Sun. 9:30 A.M.** For People of the Parish  
Sue Cornelius, April Logan,  
Kerry Charles, Jr, & Skylar Kelly  
req. by Felicia & Jason  
**Tues. 5:30PM** Special Intention  
**Wed. 7:00AM** Mary Paul Bourgeois, req. by Mildred  
**Thurs. 7:00AM** Fr. Charles B. Winckler, SSJ  
**Fri. 7:00AM** Fr. Hugh P. Henneberry, SSJ

**March 1, 2026** – Our Stewardship contribution amounted to \$2,276.00, **Loyalty** \$250.00, Donations, \$40.00. **Thank you for your continuous generosity.**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:** **March 8<sup>th</sup>,** Felicia Kelly, Kirsten Jolivette, **March 9<sup>th</sup>,** Claire Senegal, **March 11<sup>th</sup>,** Keyna Mouton, **March 13<sup>th</sup>,** Beatrice Coleman, **March 15<sup>th</sup>,** Deacon Nolton Senegal, **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. **DIocese of Lafayette Safe Environment (VIRTUS)** is now open for Continuing Education. It is **MANDATORY** for CCD Teachers, Volunteers & Parents. After completion a certificate will be printed and put in the office file.

**FUNERAL INFORMATION:** Mr. Curley Sonnier who was buried on Saturday. May his soul rest in peace, Amen. Please keep his Family in your prayers.

**WORDS OF ST. KATHARINE DREXEL:** One never realizes how strong the knot until separated.

**FRIED FISH DINNERS:** Friday, March 13th, 2026, from 5:00pm to 7:30pm, in the Convent. **Menu:** Fried Fish, Jambalaya, potato salad and corn. Donation: \$12.00. Sweets will be sold. Thank you.

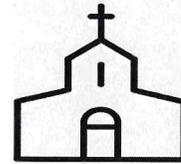
**FISH FRY PROFIT** February 27, 2026, \$1,552.00, **Thank You! Ladies Auxiliary Knights of Peter Claver Court #75.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS this weekend:** Remember to turn your clocks ahead tonight, before going to bed, Saturday, March 7, 2026.

**ST. PAUL CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:  
115 Years Ushering God's Children into His Presence**

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 4:00pm Mass, St. Paul Catholic Church, 326 South Washington Street, Lafayette, Anniversary Banquet 6:00pm, The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 914 St. John Street, Lafayette.

**TICKETS \$40.00**



**SAVE THE DATE: FREE:** Parish Wide Lenten retreat, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, @ 1:00pm, **THEME:** "Create in Me a Clean Heart"- Psalm 51, Prophetic Call: "Awake, O Sleeper"—Ephesians 5:14. The Retreat would intentionally extend into Adoration, Confession, the Rosary, and conclude with the 5pm Mass. Optional Retreat T-Shirts \$20.00. Retreat by **Retreats Coordinator, Marisha Senegal**

**LENTEN HEALING SERVICE, featuring Fr. Manny,** Friday, March 27, 2026, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rayne. Way of the Cross—5:30pm. Healing & Service with Adoration & Confessions—6:00pm. **(Out of care and respect the first pews will be reserved for the seriously ill and elderly).**



### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent  
Catholic Sisters Week Mar. 8-14  
Daylight Savings Time begins (Set clocks forward 1 hr.)  
Monday: St. Frances of Rome  
Friday: Abstinence

### AVAILABILITY

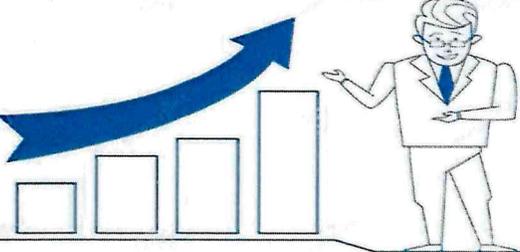
God does not ask for our ability or our inability, but our availability.

—Anonymous

### WISDOM

A wise old owl lived in an oak.  
The more he saw the less he spoke.  
The less he spoke the more he heard.  
Why can't we all be like that

<p><b>ACADIA COUNCIL ON AGING</b></p> <p>824 East First Street Post Office Box 1482 Crowley, LA 70527 337-788-1400</p>	 <p><b>BERKEN INSURANCE</b> <i>Life, Health, &amp; Annuities</i></p> <p>ERIC BERKEN 337-393-4122 LICENSED INSURANCE AGENT</p>	<p>Kerineh 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><i>Maison Daboval</i> 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 (337)334-7535</p>	<p><b>C.J. Prevost</b> Insurance Agency, Inc.</p>   <p>Sales ~ Appraisals</p>    <p>108 W. Branche in Rayne</p> <p><b>334-5152</b></p>

<p><b>Loyalty Donations 2026</b></p>  <p><b>\$1,925.00</b></p>	<p>Mildred Young, Edra K. Broussard, Jamie &amp; Sharinda Evans, Elaine Carmouche Wooley, Rockella, Lawrence &amp; Bremilin Minnix, Gilbert Martin, Pamela Duhon Babineaux, Norma Jean Evans, Kristi Hunter, Melodie, Andrea &amp; Dora Handy, Mary Copeland, Sonja Blount.</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”**