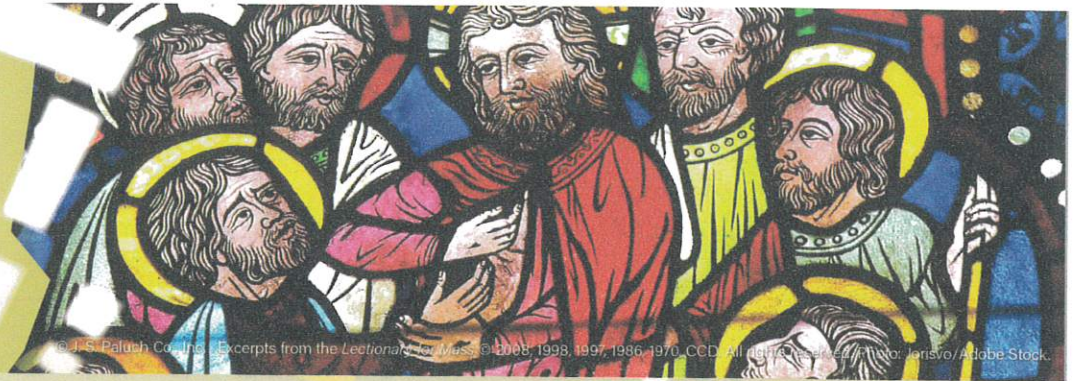


“Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

JOHN 20:29



APRIL 11, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

(OR OF DIVINE MERCY)

The apostle Thomas will forever be remembered as the one who doubted. It is good that his experience is recorded in the Gospel of John. We all doubt sometimes, and “Doubting Thomas” shows us how to move from doubt to belief, knowing that the risen Jesus will be with us through it all. Thomas did not keep his doubts to himself, but instead voiced them aloud to his trusted companions. We can only imagine the conversations that took place between Thomas and the other disciples as they described the peace that they felt following Jesus’ time with them. Thomas’ doubts were put to rest once and for all when Jesus offered him physical proof of the Resurrection. We do not have the sort of physical evidence that was shown to Thomas, but we can perceive Christ’s presence in the Eucharist, in the words of sacred scripture, and in the presence and actions of others.

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LIVING FAITH

The journey of faith often ebbs and flows, with times when our relationship with the Lord is the guiding force in our lives, and times when we are tempted to turn away from all we know to be true, good, and beautiful. In those moments when we find ourselves struggling with doubt or temptation, we can follow Thomas’ lead and turn to trusted companions, faithful and faith-filled family and friends, who will support us and show us the way from doubt to living faith. Like the disciples who were in the room when Jesus came among them, we too have received the Holy Spirit. Today, let us consider where we are on the journey of faith, turn to trusted companions and the Holy Spirit to strengthen us on the way, and know that the Lord is with us as we live and grow in relationship with Christ.

Today’s Readings: Acts 4:32–35; Ps 118:2–4, 13–15, 22–24; 1 Jn 5:1–6; Jn 20:19–31

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

3912 Gus Young Ave. • Baton Rouge, LA 70802-1727

Telephone: 225-383-2537 • Fax: 225-383-3702

Church Email: stpaulbr@aol.com • Website Address: www.stpaulbr.org

Pastor’s Email: arockiamsvd@gmail.com

PASTOR:

Father Arockiam Arockiam, S.V.D.

PERMANENT DEACON: (Retired)

Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr. 225-324-5808

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Martha Davis 225-357-4108

SECRETARY: Mary Martin 225-383-2537

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Christy Hall

BOOKKEEPER: Debra Dudley

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Justin Kennedy

PARISH NURSE: Maxine Watts

LITURGY GUIDE

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m.

(Temporary due to Covid-19)

RECONCILIATION

By Appointment

Live Stream Mass on Facebook @

[stpaultheapostleatholicchurchbr](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostleatholicchurchbr).

10:30a.m. Mass



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
Immaculate Conception, 2019. SVD Pastor

Baptism: Call the Rectory to make arrangements. Infant Baptism is on the first Sunday of the month. Attendance of the pre-baptism workshop is required.
Marriage: Make arrangements six (6) months in advance of wedding date with the pastor.
Communion to the Sick: Please call the office to make arrangements to bring communion when someone is unable to attend Mass due to illness.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:32-35).

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting (Psalm 118).

Second Reading — The victory that conquers the world is our faith (1 John 5:1-6).

Gospel — Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed (John 20:19-31).

THE PSALMS IN THE LITURGY

The book of Psalms is a prayer book, hymnal, and anthology of verse all rolled into one. It contains one hundred fifty ancient songs—poem-prayers that express the joys and sorrows of the Hebrew people and their longing for God. The psalms are incredibly varied in tone. Some are solemn anthems of praise that once accompanied processions of great multitudes to the temple; others record the lonely cries of a faithful soul who feels abandoned by God. This ancient prayer book of the Hebrew people is our principal prayer book as well. The psalms are everywhere in the liturgy—in the antiphons and acclamations of the Mass, and most particularly in the responsorial psalm that follows the first reading. The psalm that is sung at Mass usually echoes the themes of the first reading, and sometimes even comments on it. On this Second Sunday of Easter, we listen to the account from Acts describing the communal life in the early Church, and then the psalm comes to remind us: “Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting” (Psalm 118:1). In their wonderful variety, the psalms teach us how to pray.
—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Ramadan (Islamic observance) begins at sunset Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-3, 4-9; Jn 3:1-8	Thursday:	Income Tax Day Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36
Tuesday:	Memorial of St. Martin I Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15	Friday:	Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21	Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21
		Sunday:	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48



April 11, 2021	7:30 a.m.	Lucille Brown Barbara Cornell
	10:30 a.m.	Tasha Anthony Sydney Brown
April 18, 2021	7:30 a.m.	Joanette Dunn Paulette Robertson
	10:30 a.m.	Linda Carter Gigi Collin-Mathis

APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS APRIL 11 - APRIL 17

Larelle Benjamin 4/11	Sheila Rucker 4/15
Angela Lamotte 4/12	Hazel Brown 4/17
Stafford Davis 4/12	Ogbonna Ofor 4/17
Janet St Cyr-Moore 4/12	Bree Parm 4/17
Veronica Freeman 4/13	



MASS INTENTIONS

7:30 a.m. - Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle
10:30 a.m. - Deceased Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle

For pastoral needs, contact
Fr. Arockiam Arockiam, SVD
at Cell # (337) 522-0624
Email: arockiamsvd@gmail.com



BAPTISMAL SCHEDULE

Baptismal Class for Parents and Godparents
Thursday, May 6, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Mrs. Vera Dunbar - 225-324-2939
Baptism will be celebrated on Sunday,
May 16, 2021 During or After 10:30 Mass

(For exceptions, please contact Fr. Arockiam SVD)

FROM FR. AROCKIAM, SVD

Dear Parishioners:

As of today all 554 families whose names are in the church records either have taken or were delivered or given the DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN PACKET consisting of my letter, church census form, and the pledge card. **IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE YET, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AND GET YOURS.** Please help me by reading my letter and responding to it. Since I came to realize that **out of 554 families nearly 235 families had been inactive and non supportive in the church.** I understand, that many have moved out of the city or joined other churches, left the church, and few have died. Now it is time for me to update the church census. **If you want to continue your membership at St. Paul's Church,** I humbly request you fill out the census form and reach back to the church office in the return envelope. You can mail it, drop it by the office, drop in the church collection basket, or give it to me in person. **If I don't receive your census paper I understand that you are not a member of St. Paul's church and I may go ahead and remove your name and cancel your envelopes.** If you realize that any of your family members, neighbors, or friends who may be elderly or out of town and belong to our church, I request you bring it to my attention and I will try to reach out to them. **My friends, I need all of your help in doing this.** Please watch out and look out for your family and friends who supposed to be members of our church and not here. After receiving the census forms and updating the church records, within a couple of months I would like to post the names of our church families in the church notice board. Thank you.

Also, I request you send the PLEDGE CARD along with the census form. Let's all try our best to pay off our \$548,000 debt as early as possible. Thank you. God bless.

Fr. Arockiam, SVD

Fr. Arockiam would like to thank the parish staff and Mrs. Vera Dunbar, Mr. Lionel Bazile Jr., Ms. Myrtis Rogers, Ms. Nancy Ball, Ms. Edmonia Joseph, Ms. Lorena Williams, Ms. Ethel Young, Mrs. Velita Benjamin and Mr. Paul Stewart for helping to deliver the Debt Reduction Campaign Packets to our Parishioners. Thank you so much.

DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN UPDATE



We are moving forward. THANK YOU!! Most of the packets have been picked up or delivered to St. Paul's registered members. Again, please read the information in the packet

carefully. **Your decision to make a pledge is personal. Give what you can! THE CENSUS FORM MUST BE RETURNED.** Contributions toward pledges or donations to the Debt Reduction Campaign may be made online: osvonlinegiving.com/4266 or place checks or cash in the special envelope on the baptismal font or tables in the church and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office.

Special Reminder: If, for some reason or another, any member did not give to or finish giving to the 4-Month fundraiser, **please do not try to pay on the 4-month fundraiser at this time. Let us all focus now on the Debt Reduction Campaign and the Census Form.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN SUMMARY	
Area of Focus	As of 4-4-2021
Our Goal	\$548,000.00
Total Amt. Pledged	\$239,856.00
Total Donations Collected	\$30,567.00
Total # of Members Pledged	81
Total # of Registered Members	554

OFFERTORY

April 1-4, 2021

Offertory Collection	\$10,052.87
Online Giving	\$ 3,735.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,476.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 259.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 62.00
Easter	\$ 30.00
Total	\$15,614.87

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND



Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Charles Davis, Jr., Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Curtell Thibodeaux, Irene Warner, Louis Simms, Sadie Simms, Patrick Simms, and Yvonne Joseph

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Charles Bethley, Jenna Scott, Anthony Grand, Allen Paschal, James Pace, Connie St. Romain, Kirk Haynes, and Carey Haynes

ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Income and Expenses for March 2021

INCOME

Regular Offertory Collections	\$ 35,420.67
Contributions to Building Fund	2,621.00
Special Donations (Funeral)	300.00
Bulletin Ads	410.00
Other (Rent from Billops Street House, Easter Flowers)	<u>1,087.00</u>
	\$ 39,838.67

EXPENSES

Salaries (Priest & Staff)	\$ 9,052.57
Household(Priest household items, food/meals)	779.28
Utilities/Telephone (3 buildings, residence)	1,837.61
Office(Computer, Bulletin,Contrib. Env, Supplies,Calendars)	2,545.33
Contracted Services(Security, Grass Maintenance)	1,854.00
Parish Share (Amount due Diocese)	4,873.00
Property Insurance(Property,Vehicle,Worker's Comp)	1,834.00
Repairs, Maintenance (Paint. Church,1/2 AC/Heat Rental)	18,572.50
Principal on Church Loan	6,142.94
Interest on Church Loan	1,694.10
Other(Bank,On-line giving fees,Liturgy,Tbuildings)	<u>637.54</u>
	\$ 49,822.87

NET PROFIT OR LOSS \$ (9,984.20)

Note: We would have been in the black this month, but we had extra expenses for painting of the church and the AC/Heat for the rental house. We would have had a profit of \$8,588.30, if we did not have these expenses.

We transferred \$11,000.00 from the Fundraising Account to meet our expenses for March.

Amount we owe on Church Loan as of 04/05/2021 \$535,967.98

APRIL Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month.



The Effects of ABUSE

When a child is abused, the effects are grave and can last a lifetime. Some of the most common effects of abuse include:

- Loss of faith and trust in God.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and other indirect signs of trauma, such as anxiety, trouble sleeping, chronic stomach pain, and headaches.
- A greater risk of developing behavioral problems, substance abuse, and suicide.

The sense of violation goes deep into a person's psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt, and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place.

Steps to Prevent ABUSE

Communicate with Your Children

It is extremely important to communicate openly with your children. Let them know that they can talk to you about anything that bothers them. This will help you identify warning signs and grooming behaviors perpetrated by offenders before they escalate to abuse.

Educate Yourself and Your Children on Abuse

Learning how to identify, prevent, and report abuse is key. Parents and guardians should empower their children to protect themselves from harm and to report abuse. Ask your diocesan safe environment coordinator or parish delegate about opportunities for safe environment training.

Identify and Report Warning Signs of Child Abusers

Grooming behaviors are the actions abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. Offenders can be patient and may groom their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts, while others allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, such as wrestling and tickling. Abusers also often try to isolate their victims from family or friends and encourage their victims to keep secrets from their parents or other caring adults.

Holding Offenders ACCOUNTABLE

To help hold offenders accountable, report all suspected abuse to local public authorities. You can also contact your local diocesan victim assistance coordinator to make a report and seek outreach for the abused.

In accordance with diocesan policy, when a single act of sexual abuse is admitted or established, the offender is to be removed permanently from ministry.



“Let it be clear that before these abominations the Church will spare no effort to do all that is necessary to bring to justice whosoever has committed such crimes . . . To those who abuse minors I would say this: convert and hand yourself over to human justice, and prepare for divine justice.”

—Pope Francis, Dec. 21, 2018




<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Opston, Dorcenia, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert & Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth & Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p>JANI-KING</p> <p>Commercial Cleaning Service</p> <p>Monique Scott 225 273-5464</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p>State Farm Insurance</p> <p>Leonard Benjamin 775-2494</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Geneva Battley Spooner Della Battley Rodney Rosa Lee Johnson</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>
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<p align="center"><u>St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference</u></p> <p>Altar Servers - 7:30 - Shirley Dawson.....802-6128 Altar Servers - 10:30 - Christy Hall... ..223-7851 Infant Baptism - Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr.....324-5808 Bible Study - Barbara Haynes.....665-2630 Bookkeeper - Debra Dudley.....383-2537 Center (Use of Center) - Mary Martin.....383-2537 Center Rental & Repast - Velita Benjamin.....654-6705 Child Protection Coordinator - Vera Dunbar.....324-2939 Eucharistic Ministers - Nancy Ball.....397-4309 Liturgy Committee - Gigi Collin Mathis.....278-0071 Nurse - Maxine Watts278-6732 Office Assistant - Christy Hall.....383-2537 Parish Office - Secretary - Mary Martin.....383-2537 Pastor - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Readers - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Religious Education Director - Martha Davis.....357-4108 RCIA Coordinator - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Ushers - Edmonia Joseph772-2090 Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....754-2609</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:</i></p>  <p>Roosevelt Bowers Joseph "Buddy" Walker Oscar LeDuff, Jr. Elizabeth & Frank P. Bowers Carrie & Douglas Rodney, Sr. Clara & Willis Walker Sarah Rodney Domino & Wilbert Domino, Sr. Freddie Bowers Ora Bowers Ward Sybil Thomas Johnson Maureen Bowers Johnson</p> 
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Famye Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis, and Grainger Families</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Lionel Bazile, Sr. James Bazile Sheila Bazile</p> 

<p><i>Space Available</i></p>

<p><i>Space Available</i></p>

<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Milton, Rachel, Lillie, Lillian, Kirby, James "Pookie" Verdell, Corinne & Michael Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. & Shedrick Ashford, Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose & Albert, Terry Hebert, Eula White, J.D. Joseph, Aaron Bradley Joseph, Jessie Joseph Sr., H.P. Martin</p> <p align="center"><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p> 