

Prayers for Healing: Johnny Newport, Jason Boatwright, Ariella Beard & Family, Bob Feduccia, Troy Allen, Clifford & Cindy Gale, Nathan Williamson, Jimmy Cuevas, Charleen Rush, Thomas Young, Caleb Haymes, Merideth Walker, Pierre Ahlstrom, Chris Smith, Norris Acy, Nick Andrews, Darryl White, Joe Pennington, Bertha Hughes, Hunter Louviere & Family, Rick Bedwell, Gates Mims, Robbie Arnold, Lenore Gillispie, Benjamin Smith, Larry Howard, Elizabeth Wesse. Sandy Wojcik, Warren Estes, Glen Ray James, Fred Robinson, Cheryl Matherne, Ed Powell, Alyce and Payton Theriot, Jamie Hill, Dickie Conn, Courtney Vanover, Taylor White, Stephanie Gustavson, John Spratley, Keagan Smith, Cam Martin, Patti Austin, Mark Nettles, Freddie Barrett, Axel Smith, Lori Ann Dougherty, Carla Webb, Henry Ledet, Shannon Patterson, Ransom S. Furlow, Rita Feduccia, Cathy Fuselier, Terry Harvard, Robert Rogers, Carol Bennett, Shirley Magee

Prayers for the Homebound: Bela Nagy, Roseann Harris, James Laird, Joe Robin, Stephanie Gustavson, Steve Albright, Cindy Slagle, Bob Weathersby, Paul Phillips

Our prayers are with all of those called to defend our country, especially

Major Charles Andrew Griggs, Tucker Hoeniges

Prayers for Healing

Please contact the Parish Office
601-833-1799

March 14 & 15, 2026

Regular Offertory

Envelopes	\$2292.00
Loose Cash	\$574.00
Total	\$ 2866.00

St. Francis Parish Offertory

\$6,077.00 in offertory contributions is needed each week to meet the budget.

Catholic Relief Services
\$771.00

MARCH LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS

Palm Sunday & Vigil

Please refer to the sign up sheets in the vestibule



Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
March 26, 2026

What is it that made St. Joseph so great? He wasn't immaculately conceived as our Blessed Mother was. He was not divine like Jesus. But he was the head of the Holy Family, its guardian and its provider. He became the legal father of the Savior of the World and the spouse of the Mother of God. But Joseph is not great only because he was given such incredible privileges. First and foremost, he was great because of the choices he made in life. Today's Gospel refers to him as a "righteous man" and as a man who "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Thus, his greatness is primarily on account of his moral righteousness and obedience to the will of God.

Joseph's obedience is especially seen in the fact that he obeyed the voice of God given to him in the four dreams recorded in Scripture. In his first dream, Joseph is told "do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21). In his second dream, Joseph is told, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him" (Matthew 2:13). In his third dream, Joseph is told, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead" (Matthew 2:20). And in his fourth dream, Joseph is warned to go instead to Galilee rather than Judea (Matthew 2:22).

When these dreams are read in succession, it is clear that Saint Joseph was attentive to the voice of God. We all have dreams, but Joseph's dreams were different. They were clear communications from God, and they required a willing recipient. Joseph was open to the voice of God and listened in faith as that willing recipient. Joseph also responded with complete submission and full determination. The commands Joseph received were not insignificant. His obedience required that he and his family travel great distances, take up residence in strange lands and do so all in faith. It's also clear that Joseph took his vocation seriously. Pope Saint John Paul II gave him the title "Guardian of the Redeemer." Over and over, he showed his unwavering commitment to his role as the guardian of his legal Son, Jesus, and of his wife, Mary. His life was spent providing for them, protecting them and offering them a father's heart. Reflect, today, upon the unique vocation of Saint Joseph. Ponder, especially, the early years of his marriage and the raising of Jesus. Consider his fatherly commitment to care for, provide for and protect his Son. We all must seek to imitate Saint Joseph's virtues by protecting the presence of Christ within our own hearts, the hearts of our family and friends and in the world as a whole. Pray to Saint Joseph, asking him to help you follow his example so that the hidden presence of our Lord in our lives will grow and come to full maturation.

Excerpts: *Catholic Daily Reflection*



St. Francis Of Assisi Catholic Church

"Make me an Instrument of Your Peace"

227 East Cherokee Street, Brookhaven, MS 39601
Office: 601-833-1799 Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday 9:00-3:00

Website: www.stfrancisbrookhaven.org

Email: office@stfrancisbrookhaven.org

Find us on Facebook at St. Francis Brookhaven

MARCH 22nd , THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Staff

Fr. Manohar Thanugundla, Pastor
Eileen Neal, Office Administrator
Emily Phillips, DRE
Ange'le Bartholomew, Youth Minister

Mass Times

- Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00PM
Spanish Mass at 5:30PM
- Sunday Mass at 9:00AM

Daily Mass Schedule

Monday: No Daily Mass
Tuesday: 11:50 Rosary 12:10 Mass
Wed: 11:50 Rosary 12:10 Mass
Thursday: 11:50 Rosary 12:10 Mass
Friday: Divine Mercy 3:00PM
Mass 3:15 Exposition 3:45-5:15
Stations of the Cross 5:30

Benediction

First weekend of the month.

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration from 9am—1pm on Mondays in the church

Sacraments

Reconciliation: 3:30 PM on Saturday & 8:30 AM on Sunday or by appointment.

Baptism: Contact the office to make an appointment with Fr. Mano

Marriage: Contact the office to make an appointment with Fr. Mano at least six months in advance.

St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council Members

Jennifer Townsend, President

Jim Bonner, Vice President

Leslie Phillips, Secretary

Bo Allen, Christian & Family Life Commission

Kenneth Goodrum, Liturgy Commission

T. A. Boyd, Social Activities/Concerns Commission

Eddie Britt, Member

Cathy Fuselier, Member

St. Francis of Assisi Finance Council Members

David Phillips, Chairperson

Sabrina Smith

Eric Postma

James Bellipanni

Mike Smith

Laura Murray

Ashley Davis

Gerry Whitman

St. Vincent de Paul Ministries Food Pantry

St. Francis Catholic Church Ministry

706 South 1st Street

Brookhaven, MS 39601

601-833-2709

We extend a special welcome to all of our visitors. If you are new to the area and have decided to make St. Francis your church family, please pick up a blue registration card in the vestibule of the church, complete the card and place it in the offering basket.



OCIA
class *this Tuesday,*
March 24
at 6:00PM
This week's topic is
Why do I need the Church?
All are welcome to join in
the class!



Alvarez Gonzalez (22)
Michele Ratliff (23)

GOD is GOOD - All the Time
All the Time - GOD is GOOD!

**Coffee &
Donuts**

after the 9AM Mass
on Sundays
All are WELCOME!

Please pray for
Sabrina Smith &
our youth who are
participating in DCYC
this weekend in Vicksburg.

Ladies of St. Francis

The Ladies of St. Francis would like to thank
Mrs. Cathy Fuselier for her
dedication & time served as the
president of the Ladies of St.
Francis. They now congratulate
and thank **Laura Murray** for
accepting the nomination as the
current President of the Ladies.
Any woman of the parish who
would like to join & participate
in this group may contact the office or
Laura Murray.



CSA Ministry of the Week
Youth Ministry

Thank you for your generous support of the CSA. Your gifts especially strengthen Youth Ministry, nurturing the faith of our young people. This weekend, your generosity is helping them attend the DCYC!

March 22, 2026 The Fifth Sunday of Lent Excerpts: *Loyola Press*

Our Gospel this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, is again taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading from John continues the break from Cycle A's focus on the Gospel of Matthew. Today's Gospel reading recounts another sign, or miracle, found in John's Gospel, the raising of Lazarus. As our catechumens move closer to the celebration of their Baptisms at the Triduum, today's reading invites us to reflect upon what it means to call Jesus the Resurrection and the life.

The context for the story of the raising of Lazarus is the Jewish leaders' growing animosity toward Jesus. Jesus has been in Jerusalem, taking part in the feast of the Dedication, which we have come to know as Hanukkah. The people have been pressing him to declare plainly whether he is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look to his works, which testify to his coming from God. Many do not believe Jesus, however, and some try to stone him for blasphemy.

Into this scene of confrontation, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, send word to Jesus that his friend is ill. Jesus is said to love Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, but he delays his journey for two days. The delay heightens the drama and shows Jesus' obedience to God, who is to be glorified through Lazarus's resurrection.

When Jesus finally declares that he will journey to Bethany, his disciples fear for his life. Thomas declares that he and the other disciples should prepare to die with Jesus.

The scene described at Bethany is a sad one. Martha meets Jesus weeping and saying that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Yet she remains confident that God will do whatever Jesus asks. Martha affirms her belief that there will be a resurrection of the dead in the last days. Then Martha's sister, Mary, comes to Jesus with the same confidence, saying that Jesus could have cured Lazarus. Jesus asks to be brought to Lazarus's tomb where he prays and calls Lazarus out from the tomb. At this sign, many come to believe in Jesus, but others take word of the miracle to the Jewish authorities, who begin their plans for Jesus' death.

Set against the backdrop of Jesus' impending death, many elements of the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the good news of Jesus' own Resurrection. Jesus, facing the conflict with the Jewish authorities, acts in complete obedience to God. In raising Lazarus, Jesus shows his power over death so that when Jesus dies, those who believe in him might remember that and take hope. Just as Jesus calls for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb, so too will the disciples find the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb. With our catechumens preparing for their Baptism at Easter, the Gospel today calls us to reflect on Baptism as a dying and rising with Jesus. In baptism we die to sin's power over us, rising as children of God. In Baptism we join ourselves with Christ, who conquered death once and for all so that we who believe in him may have eternal life. With Martha and Mary, we are called to profess our belief that Jesus is indeed the Resurrection and the life.



Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates:

Jenna Beth Townsend, Camille Calcote,
Barrett Womack, Parker Shann,
Braden Allen, Jacob Postma, Lucas Phillips,
Yessi Gonzalez, Melvin Hernandez, &
Jose Dardon.

Confirmation is scheduled for 6:00PM on
April 7 here at St. Francis of Assisi.



**Parish Wide
Reconciliation Service**

Wednesday, March 25
6:00PM

*Whoever confesses his sins...is
already working with God...
The beginning of good works is
the confession of evil works.*

You do the truth and come to the light.

-St. Augustine

"The beginning of good works is the confession of evil works," as St. Augustine writes. To truly begin, we have to humble ourselves, confess our sins, and embrace the enthusiastic forgiveness that Christ is eternally offering through his priests.

Take the opportunity to go to Confession this Lent, and greet Easter with a heart full of joyful hope.



From What? To So What?

Night 1: Are going to church regularly, and do you want to get closer to God and do what's right according to his will for your life. But how can you tell? How can you tell if you are actually getting closer to God? Through stories, a deep reflection on the bible, and with an honest reflection on life, you discern how your life is going and hear practical steps to grow in God.

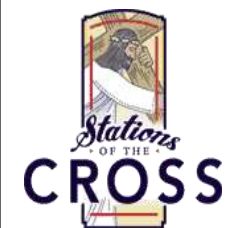
Night 2: Many times, we look to the Eucharist and know *what* it is: the actual Body and Blood of Christ. Yet, the question of *why it is* or *so what*, can remain unanswered. Answering these questions unlocks the door to deeper and long-lasting Eucharistic spirituality.

Robert Feduccia is a proud native of Brookhaven and St. Francis, but service to the Church has taken him to many places. He was the founding director of the Youth Liturgical Leadership Program at Saing Meinrad School of Theology, the general manager of OCP's contemporary music division. He is a PhD candidate in practical theology with his primary research being teens and Eucharistic spirituality. Robert is now the President of EQSaints youth ministry event, training, and resource organization. He lives in the Nashville area with his wife, Kathleen, and their four children.

Mission Schedule

Thursday (March 26) & Friday (March 27)
Light Meal at 6:00PM
Mission at 6:30PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Fridays at
5:30PM
during Lent!
Light meal
to follow
at 6:00PM