



# ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH

**Vision Statement:** "Saint Peter Claver Church will engage, energize and empower the people of God to grow and evolve spiritually."

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST SCHEDULE

**Saturday Evening:** 4:00 p.m.

**Sundays:** 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

**Holy Days:** See Liturgy of the Eucharist schedule inside

**Weekdays:** See Liturgy of the Eucharist schedule inside

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. on Saturday or anytime by appt.

## BAPTISM

Appointment with the priest or deacon for preparation is necessary. Call during pregnancy or as soon as possible after the child is born.

## MARRIAGE

Contact the priest at least six (6) months in advance.

## FUNERAL

Contact the Parish Office

**BEFORE** making arrangements with a funeral home.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 9:00 am.–5:00 pm.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Grades K-7 – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Meet in the parish hall.

**WEBSITE :** [www.stpeterclaverneworleans.org](http://www.stpeterclaverneworleans.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.saintpeterclaverNOLA](http://www.saintpeterclaverNOLA)

**NEW PARISHIONERS: WELCOME TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY!** We ask that you please call the office to register in the parish.

1923 St. Philip Street  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
Office (504) 822-8059  
Fax (504) 822-9251  
Credit Union (504) 988-7420  
Misaada Center (504) 827-0707

Rev. J. Asare-Dankwah  
**Pastor**

## DEACONS:

Mr. Lawrence Houston  
Mr. Allen Stevens

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Alena Boucree  
Director of Religious Education

Ms. Margie Brown  
Business Manager

Mrs. Veronica Downs-Dorsey  
Director of Music

Mrs. Marinda Lee-Houston  
Youth Ministry

Mrs. Edith B. Reed  
Executive Secretary



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## MISSION STATEMENT

*St. Peter Claver Catholic Church is a vibrant, spirit-filled, evangelizing community that is grounded in the Eucharist and celebrates the culture and traditions of our African-American heritage. Strengthened by our belief in Jesus Christ and trusting in God's Word, we transform our community through acts of justice by caring for the spiritual and physical needs of His people.*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *A Christmas Message from the desk of The Pastor*

My Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

**“Glory to God in the highest and on earth  
peace to those on whom his favor rest” (Luke 2:14)**

In the spirit of Christmas joy, we join our voices to the multitude of the heavenly host with the angel of praise God, for the birth of Christ and God’s greatest gift to us. In Christ Jesus, God has come to visit His people and made His dwelling among us in our time and place. The birth of Christ which we celebrate is an age of grace and a fresh hope made available to those of us who have been watching and waiting for His coming. His grace and mercy ensure that the people who walk in the darkness of sin and ignorance can now walk in the light of Jesus Christ.

Through prayerful reflections and meditations, as to how far we have come as a parish family I can truly say that we are highly favored and truly blessed. Our parish community of St. Peter Claver Church over the years has been serving the Lord with our spirit-filled Sunday liturgical celebrations and the various ministries that continue to engage, energize and empower the people of God to grow and transform spiritually. What a blessing that our parish debt of 2.5 million dollars has also been absorbed by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for this and other support, we are grateful to Archbishop Aymond. As the Psalmist says, “How can I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me?” (Psalm 116:12). Let our giving during this Christmas Season be likened to the wise men who came to Bethlehem to pay their homage to the Christ Child with their gifts. Let us, therefore, bring our gifts and ourselves to the Emmanuel, a testimony of our gratitude for God’s goodness to us.

As we contemplate on what gift to bring to the Christ Child, I would like us to consider making a generous contribution towards the elimination of the remaining parish’s debt. This gift will significantly strengthen the financial health of our historic parish. Our committed goal is \$659.00 per family. I appeal to you to be prayerful in pertaining to your participation in us realizing our goal of “Debt Retirement” as we anticipate the celebration of our 100th Anniversary in September of 2020. I am certain that you will agree that being debt-free would be a wonderful testimony to ourselves and to our community of God’s faithfulness. Our contribution is an act of generosity which is a gift to Christ himself. My sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who have already taken this act of faith and made their contributions.

## DECEMBER 22, 2019

### *A Christmas Message from the desk of The Pastor*

*Continues....*

May God continue to bless the work of our hands and grant us our heart's desire.

It has been a joy, honor and a privilege in serving you as your pastor. I am really grateful and appreciative of all your sacrifices that keep our church doors open for us to offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord. It’s my prayer, that the Lord will bring into a fruitful completion the good work He has begun in us.

You and yours will be remembered in a very special way at the Masses I will celebrate on Christmas day. May the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph strengthen your family and bless you with peace, love, joy and happiness during the Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

*Rev. J. Asare-Dankwah*  
*Pastor*

## STEWARDSHIP *a way of life*

Our Stewardship for Sunday, December 8, 2019. was **\$13, 843.99**; **\$18,827.00** is NEEDED to balance the budget weekly. Shortfall for December 8, 2019 is **\$7,968.41**; **2nd Collection: Retirement Fund of the Religious: \$260.00.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Our Stewardship for Sunday, December 15, 2019. was **\$9,790.79**; **\$18,827.00** is NEEDED to balance the budget weekly. Shortfall for December 15, 2019 is **\$9,036.21**; **2nd Collection: Building Fund: \$550.71.**

*Thanks for your generosity.*



## The Principles of KWANZAA



Come celebrate the Spirit of **UJAMAA**  
Join St. Peter Claver Church, the National Association of Black Social Workers and AKA Sorority in song, dance, spoken word and fellowship as we celebrate **KWANZAA**, Friday, December 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the School Hall. In the Spirit of Kwanzaa pot luck dishes are welcomed. What is Kwanzaa? It is a holiday to celebrate African American Culture. **KWANZAA Principles:** **UMOJA**/Unity; **KUJICHAGULIA**/Self-Determination; **UJIMA**/Collective Works; **UJAMAA**/Cooperative Economics; **NIA**/Purpose and **KUUMBA**/Creativity.



**YES**, once again, we are in need of help to clean and decorate the Church for Christmas. Please come out on Monday, December 23, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m., We have two separate times. We appreciate your support.



### SANCTUARY LIGHT

Will burn in memory for:

**Mr. Michael Graham, II**

Requested by: **Deborah Graham**

### PRAYER FOR THOUGHT.

Joseph **DO NOT BE AFRAID** for it through the **HOLY SPIRIT** that this child has been conceived. You are to name him **JESUS** because he will save his people from their sins. **THE HEAVENS ANNOUNCE THE LORD'S COMING!** His name shall be **EMMANUEL GOD** with **US!** Let the King of Glory enter!



### Scripture Readings for: December 23-29, 2019

<i>Monday-12/23/19</i>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24</i> <i>Luke 1:57-66</i>
<i>Tuesday-12/24/19</i>	<i>2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14a, 16</i> <i>Luke 1:67-79</i>
<i>Wednesday-12/25/19</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i> <i>Hebrews 1:1-6</i> <i>John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14</i>
<i>Thursday-12/26/19</i>	<i>Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59</i> <i>Matthew 10:17-22</i>
<i>Friday-12/27/19</i>	<i>1 John 1-1-4</i> <i>John 20:1a, 2-8</i>
<i>Saturday-12/28/19</i>	<i>1 John 1:5-2:2</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-18</i>
<i>Sunday-12/29/19</i>	<i>Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14</i> <i>Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17</i> <i>Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23</i>



### **MEETING NOTICE!**

### *Schedule* *December 23-29, 2019*

Mon.	1:00 p.m.	Cleaning of the Church
	5:00 p.m.	Cleaning of the Church
<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>		
Tues.	6:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Eve Mass-Church
	11:30 a.m.	Christmas Eve Midnight Mass
<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>		
Wed.	10:00 a.m.	Mass-Church
Thurs.	7:30 a.m.	Mass-Rectory
Fri.	7:30 a.m.	Mass-Rectory
Sat.	4:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass-Church
Sun.	7:30 a.m.	Sunday Mass-Church
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Mass-Church

### VOCATION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give to parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood or religious life. May Your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. **AMEN.**

**ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA**

**St. Peter Claver Homebound and Sick Parishioners**

*Please pray for the following parishioners and friends who are homebound or ill:*

Edith Henry, Alice Allen, Gwendolyn Rocque, Joycelyn Johnson, Stanley & Beatrice Grant, Myra Harrell, Pearl Dupart, Aaron LaCabe, Bernice Stein, Joyce Evans, Javette and Michael Garner, John & Claire Bidol, Demetria Bernard, Gladys Shief, Jerald LaPierre, Robert "RJ" LaPierre, Doris Finister, Marie Walker, Chris Price, Shirley Walton, Antoinette Johnston, Cindy Armstrong, Ralph Walker, Albert & Miriam Boucree, Audrey Evans, Vint Barney, Yvette Brown, Shirley Pratt, Lorraine Bowman, Linda Hunter, Ruby Perry, Barbara Phillips, Ina Claire Buckley, Louise Jenkins, Toki Joseph, Joseph Williams, Gerard Robinson, Sr., Emelda Petit, Johnnie Petit, Scarlett Crawford, Vivian Plessy, Debra Gray, Lionel and Marion Evans, Verlyn Mallory, Marva Batiste, Bronson Lee, John Parker, Maureen Nutting, Cynthia Bluford, Victoria Leslie, Lorraine Bart, Myrtle Dorsey, Bernell Johnson, Tamiko Haynes, Warrentia Clincy, Wilma Wilson, Wendell Baptiste, Maxine Rixner, Jeremy Tauriac, Shonne Pierce, Wylene Jones, Nowell Lackings, Sr., Roslind Louis, Lydia Edwards, Ted Nutting, Alcede Carter, Joseph Washington, Ruby Downs, Delores Chapital, Rockial Riley, Jerri Queen, Malcolm Lear, Mary Harris, Florence Lee, Sarah Lafitte, Gail O'Brien, Marynell Fernandez, Charlie Mae Thompson, Donna Stallworth, Gloria Oliver, Gerald Merritt, Wilma White, Janet Nealy.



**FATHER ASARE  
& STAFF  
WISH EVERYONE A  
VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND A  
HEALTHY & SAFE  
NEW YEAR, 2020**



**Visit  
St. Ann's Shrine  
(2100 Block of Ursulines Ave.)**

**OPEN  
Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**FATIMA ROSARY**

**Monday, December 23, 2019  
@ 5:00 p.m. 2100 Ursulines  
Ave., Apt. 1103**



**Requested by: Ms. Shirley Smith**



**December 28, 2019**

**December 29, 2019**



- 4:00 p.m. **Veronica Stevenson**, Ingrid Delahoussaye, Derek Delahoussaye, Verita Thomas, Stella Reese, Cleo Silas
- 7:30 a.m. **Monique Hardy**, Roslyn Veals, Joycelyn Renfro, Ann Coston, Keith Darby
- 10:00 a.m. **Marguerite Johnson**, Linda Boyle, Niquelle Lackings, Angie Nash, Kionne Lear
- Balcony:** Lynette Walker, Keith Darby, Margie Sears

**Lectors**

- 4:00 p.m. Vanessa Smith \* Wanda Gray
- 7:30 p.m. Charmaine Gray \* Felicia Bergeron
- 10:00 a.m. Kenitha Grooms-Williams \* Hillary Williams

## Christmas Mass Schedule



### A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

#### **Children's Christmas Eve Mass**

Guest of Honor: Jesus Christ

Date: December 24, 2019

The Eve of His Great Birth

Time: 6:00 p.m., St. Peter Claver Church

#### What to Bring

Your Heart and Bells to join in ringing with Christmas Joy that Christ our Savior is Among Us! Celebration given by God's Children.

**Midnight Mass:** December 24, 2019

Christmas Caroling at 11:30 a.m.

**Christmas Day:** Tuesday, December 25, 2019

**The Feast of Nativity of The Lord**

10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 28, 2019

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 29, 2019

**Feast of the Holy Family**

7:30 a.m. Mass & 10:00 a.m. Mass

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

**New Year's Eve Mass**

4:00 p.m. Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

**The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

10:00 a.m.

*Happy New Year's—St. Peter Claver Family*



## **Sylvia Cares**

4th Annual  
Christmas  
PAJAMA Drive, 2019



There are many children active and vital members of our community, who will not receive a Christmas gift this holiday season. Please let it be about **GIVING** and not just receiving! Please help me spread a little joy and love to the children in our community this holiday season by donating a new set of **PAJAMAS!!** **Sizes: Infant (3 mos-24 mos.) ; Toddler (2T-6T, 6x); girls/boys (7-14); Youth (S, M, L & XL); Adult (S, M, & L).** Donations will be accepted on Sunday, December 1, 2019 thru Sunday, December 22, 2019. I will be in the Vestibule (back) of the Church and donations can be left in the Parish Office, 1910 Ursulines Avenue.

### OUR FAMILY PRAYER

Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of war, disaster, epidemic and illness.

We come to you,  
Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism.

We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people.

Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence.

Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.

Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family.



**December 21-22, 2019**

**Saturday, December 21, 2019**

4:00 p.m. Ms. Leah Chase  
Mr. Edgar Chase, Jr.  
Mr. Thomas A.G. Lee  
Mr. Jiar Joseph Means  
Ms. Joyce Evans (Living)  
Mr. John Bidol (Living)

**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

7:30 a.m. Parishioners of St. Peter Claver  
Mr. Kenneth Carter  
Mr. James Smith, III  
Mr. Michael Graham, II  
In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony

10:00 a.m. Ms. Edith Brisco  
Ms. Jade Gibson  
Ms. Joan Diaz  
Ms. Lydia Broyard  
Ms. Angela McWilliams  
Ms. Julie Fleury  
Mr. Chester Staes  
Mr. Lionel Joienille  
Edward and Edna Walker  
Mr. Lyle Stuart  
Mr. Percy Walker  
Ms. Vivian Delaney  
Mr. Lester Marshall  
Ms. Edna Collins  
Michelle, Caden & Cylie McCullum  
Living & deceased members of the  
Crusto, Fleury, Graham, Saulney  
Prevost & Wilson families

**Christmas Eve**

**Tuesday, December 24, 2019**

6:00 p.m. Children's Mass-Church  
11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass-Church  
Baby H. L. Richard

**Christmas Day**

**Wednesday, December 25, 2019**

10:00 a.m. Mass-Church  
Donald Harris, Jr.  
Ms. Lydia Broyard  
The Mitchell Sisters

**Thursday, December 26, 2019**

7:30 a.m. Mass-Rectory

**Friday, December 27, 2019**

7:30 a.m. Mass-Rectory

**SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS**

On this final Sunday before Christmas, the readings highlight the foundation of our faith in Jesus' identity and, by extension, our identity as his followers. Matthew opened his Gospel, in imitation of the Old Testament, with a genealogy of Jesus Christ that identifies him as a descendant of Abraham through the lineage of David. Today's reading gives Matthew's account of Jesus' birth presented from Joseph's perspective.

Joseph's dilemma regarding Mary's pregnancy is resolved when in a dream an angel reveals that the child is conceived "through the Holy Spirit." The child to be born is the Son of God and the son of Mary. This is Jesus' identity: fully divine and fully human. Matthew supports this by quoting from Isaiah's prophecy: "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel."

This is the same Gospel message that St. Paul hands on so clearly in the beginning of his Letter to the Romans (today's Second Reading). The message of the Good News of our salvation centers on the person of Jesus fully human, as a descendant of David and foretold by the prophets, and fully divine, as the Son of God and demonstrated by the Resurrection.

Jesus' identity has significant implications for us. We are called to "belong to Jesus Christ" by being transformed in holiness through the grace and peace that comes through Jesus' Resurrection. This is our faith. This is our inheritance: "We belong to Jesus Christ" as God's beloved children called to be saints. As such, like St. Paul, we are called to witness to this message by our lives.

- ◆ What is the significance of the name "Emmanuel"?
- ◆ How do Matthew and Paul, respectively, illustrate that Jesus is both Son of God and Son of Man?
- ◆ How do you live out your identity of being "called to belong to Jesus Christ," as God's beloved child, called to be a saint?



**ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Events & Meetings*

*December, 2019*

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

<p><b>1 1st Sunday of Advent</b>            7:30 am Mass            10:00 a.m. Mass</p>	<p><b>2</b>            6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>3</b>            7:30 am Mass            5:00 pm Legion of Mary            6:00 pm Family Life</p>	<p><b>4</b>            7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>5</b>            7:30 am Mass            1:00 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b>            7:30 am Mass Jr. Daughter Lock-in            6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>7</b>            9:00 am CCD            4:00 pm Vigil Mass            4:00 pm Eagle Scout Honor</p>
<p><b>8 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>            7:30 am Mass            10:00 am Mass</p>	<p><b>9</b>            3:00 pm Senior Citizens            6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>10</b>            7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>11</b>            7:30 am Mass            7:00 pm <b>McMain Christmas Concert</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>            7:30 am Mass            1:00 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13</b>            7:30 am Mass            4:30 pm Social Concerns            6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p><b>14</b>            9:00 am CCD            4:00 pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p><b>15 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>            7:30 am Mass            10:00 am Mass            5:00 pm Christmas Concert</p>	<p><b>16</b>            6:00 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>17</b>            7:30 am Mass            6:00 pm NIA-Imani</p>	<p><b>18</b>            7:30 am Mass            4:30 pm Bereavement Ministry</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>Fr. Asare's Birthday</b>            7:30 am Mass            1:00 pm Adult Bible Study</p>	<p><b>20</b>            7:30 am Mass            6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts            6:00 pm Jr. Daughter's Gala</p>	<p><b>21</b>            9:00 am CCD            4:00 pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p><b>22 4th Sunday of Advent</b>            7:30 am Mass            10:00 am Mass</p>	<p><b>23</b>            3:00 pm Senior Citizens            1:00-3:00 pm &amp; 5:00 p.m. Cleaning of the Church and Decorating</p>	<p><b>24 Christmas Eve Mass</b>            6:00 pm            11:30 pm</p>	<p><b>25 Merry Christmas</b>            10:00 am Mass</p>	<p><b>26 OFFICE CLOSED</b>            7:30 am Mass</p>	<p><b>27 OFFICE CLOSED</b>            7:30 am Mass            6:00 pm Kwanzaa Celebration-Hall</p>	<p><b>28</b>            4:00 pm Vigil Mass</p>
<p><b>29 Holy Family</b>            7:30 am Mass            10:00 am Mass</p>	<p><b>30 No Meeting OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>31</b>            7:30 am Mass            4:00 pm Vigil Mass  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>JAN 1, 2020 New Year's Day</b>            10:00 am Mass  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>JAN 2, 2020</b></p>	<p><b>JAN 3, 2020</b></p>	<p><b>JAN 4, 2020</b>            4:00 pm Vigil Mass</p>

CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS

St. Peter Claver Church #784950  
1910 Ursulines Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70116

TELEPHONE

504 822-8059

CONTACT PERSON

Edith Reed

EMAIL: ereed@spclaverchurch.org

SOFTWARE

MSPublisher 2010  
Adobe Acrobat XI  
Windows 7

TRANSMISSION TIME

Wednesday 2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION

December 22, 2019

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT

1 through 8

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS