

August 10, 2022

From Fr. John

Today is the feast day of St. Clare, Abbess of Assisi. She was born in 1194 as the daughter of a wealthy family in Assisi. When she was eighteen years old, she heard a sermon by (now Saint) Francis of Assisi, and was moved to follow the example of the Franciscan brothers and vow herself to a life of poverty. Naturally, her family disapproved. But she ran away from home to Francis' monastery. He found a house for her and she began the order of nuns that became known as the "Poor Clares." They were devoted to fasting, prayer, nursing the sick, and works of mercy for the poor and neglected. The community of Poor Clares continues to this day, both in the Roman and in the Anglican communions.

Last Sunday my sermon included information about CENLA Interfaith. An organization that is also dedicated to prayer and "works of mercy for the poor and neglected," although today we prefer to do that work in partnership with the communities that are served. The organization's purpose is simply to try to improve Rapides Parish and surrounding area by "addressing community problems, both great and small," and working toward "change on concrete issues, as part of our common call to justice." On its website, Interfaith describes itself as a coalition that, "is deliberate about crossing the lines of race, religion, neighborhood, and political affiliation. [It says,] We work on issues affecting families and communities, and we are a strictly non-partisan organization."

St. James is involved in CENLA Interfaith because the work that it is doing is the same work that we, as a congregation, have been doing (mostly without involvement from other organizations) for decades. I accepted the invitation to be a part of the Leadership Council of this group because I believe deeply that this may be the way to begin to achieve lasting and meaningful change in our community.

When CENLA Interfaith began, about 14 months ago, the goal was to gather 25 churches and social service groups with a yearly operating budget of \$45,000 from member pledges. To date, there are over 30 churches and non-profits involved. So far there are about 15 churches with combined pledges of almost \$23,000. I hope that St. James, as a congregation, will make a pledge soon.

The projects that CENLA interfaith has either initiated or been involved in so far, include:

- Vaccine equity – We knocked on over 40,000 doors and gave out COVID vaccine information. Taking the Black and Hispanic populations from only 22% vaccinated, to the point where LA became the first of only 3 states to have more people of color than White people vaccinated.
- We partnered with CENLA Community Action Committee (CCAC) and the City of Alexandria to distribute over \$432,000 from a utility assistance grant, to more than 800 families, in a two-week period. St. James was one of the primary locations for this work.
- Six of the constituent members are working with Central Louisiana Area Health Education Centers to help folks register for Medicaid or transition from Medicaid to affordable health insurance.
- We have also begun developing a long-term strategy to get CENLA homes weatherized and energy-efficient to lower utility bills for the economically disadvantaged and to reduce the strain on our power grid.

If you would like to be involved in this, or any other community engagement project at St. James, contact me and I will get you plugged in.

Peace be with you all,
Fr. John+



Funeral News for Trevor From

Visitation with the family and friends of Trevor From
St. James Parish Hall

Friday, August 12 --- 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, August 13 --- 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Service of the Burial of the Dead with Eucharist

Saturday, August 13 --- 1:00 PM

Click [here](#) to view complete obituary.

Home Communion
Thursday - August 18
6:00 PM

Joan & Dana Brunson's Home
6170 Audubon Oaks
Alexandria, LA



Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share! Bring a friend, too! Enjoy faith and fellowship in a relaxed setting with family and friends!

Worship



August 14th

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

In-person Worship at 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Childcare is available for the 10:30 AM service.

[Click here for the readings.](#)

August 14th
Evening Prayer
Online @ 5:00 PM

[Click on this link to join Evening Prayer.](#)

Meeting ID: 863 4898 4077
Passcode: 1620

[Click here for the order of service & readings.](#)



Prayer

Parish Prayer List

Please keep these members of our community in your prayers:

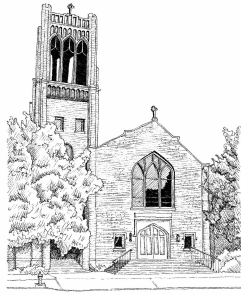
Laura Murchison, Amber Damico, Darriel & Charles, Minnie Mikell, Massi Jordan, Richard Norem, Bedingfield Family, Pepe Rizzo, Alice Gill, Bonnie McLellan, Devon Miller, Eileen DeBoer, Michael Sterne, Jim Leggett, Cackie, Rita and Bill Clancey, Bernard Parker, Rachel and Ben, Kristie Fresh, Janet & Carl Ahrens, Andrea, Jeff and Anne, Lillian DeVille, Shannon Norman, Bill Jarvis, Wilma Filipi, Stephen, Natosha and Family, Jack Bender, Fran Barbato, Kevin Delaney, Gail, Charlotte Sterling, Matthew Fontanille, Andrew, Shirley Christian, Susan Webster, Stacy, Chase Barnfield, Mattie Dean McNaughton, Johnnie Hart, Taylor Thompson, Jane Y. Harris, Kip Hogue, Kyle, James Jay Watts, Beth Virden, Glenn Guillory, Elda Schoolcraft, Jimmy Hurt, Mesta Bain, Dean M. Tyree, Jackie Jeanne, Dietrich DeBoer, Beverly Butler, Murel Trimble, Emily Warren, Bill Leibke, Sarah, Jackie Moody, Wayne Moorehead, Pat Carter, Kevin Hooter, Jane Tyson, Gerard, and Mehre Hajighassem.

For those in the military:

Josh Duff, Samuel Hayes, Steven Brevelle, Franklin Watson, Kyle Jordan, Gill Tatman-Tyree, Donal McCarthy, Michael Geiger, Erskine Cook, Jr., Patrick Downs, and Chris Babcock.

For those celebrating birthdays in August (day):

Walter McLellan (2), Susie Randow (3), Becky Warren (4), Sonny Trammell (7), Linda Culpepper (8), Larry Menache (8), Fr. John Bedingfield (9), Suzanne Alexander (11), Catherine Davidson (12), Tish Fresh (12), David Lind (13), Claire Callis (14), Murel Trimble (14), Betty Ingrish (15), Scott Yeager (15), Gene Sterling (19), Paton Downs (21), Faye Flanagan (21), McKenzie Yeager (22), Jameson Milliner (23), Delores Brewer (24), Nancy Flournoy (25), Allie Malone (27), Sara Davidson (28) and Susan Frey (28).



[Visit our Website](#)

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