

# *St. Angela Merici*

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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**NEW ORLEANS**

2020 GUIDE BOOK  
& DIRECTORY

# ST. ANGELA MERICI PARISH

901 Beverly Garden Drive, Metairie, LA 70002

504.835.0324

[www.stangela.org](http://www.stangela.org)

## PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Parish Office

901 Beverly Garden Drive, Metairie, LA 70002

Phone – 504.835.0324, Fax – 504.834.9709

[www.stangela.org](http://www.stangela.org)

## CLERGY

### Pastor

Rev. Clayton J. “Beau” Charbonnet..... 504.835.0324, ext. 302

Deacons ..... 504.835.0324, ext. 307

Rev. Mr. Raymond Heap (Retired)

Rev. Mr. Gilbert Schmidt (Retired)

Rev. Mr. Nicholas Chetta

Rev. Mr. David Aaron

Rev. Mr. Tom Kratochvil

## OFFICE STAFF

Catechetical Director: Audrey Huck.... 504.835.0324

Director of Youth Ministry &

Alpha Coordinator: Diane Kratochvil ..... 504.835.0324, ext. 306

Director of Finance: Konnie Duncan ..... 504.835.0324, ext. 305

Director of Maintenance: Wade LeBrun ..... 504.835.0324, ext. 309

Director of Music: Kimberly Mouldoux ..... 504.835.0324

Parish Secretary: Suzy Hyde ..... 504.835.0324, ext. 304

Parish Receptionist: Mary Ann Kleinschmidt..... 504.835.0324, ext. 301

# ST. ANGELA MERICI SCHOOL

835 Melody Drive, Metairie, LA 70002  
Phone – 504.835.8491, Fax – 504.835.4463  
www.stangelaschool.org

Principal: Paige Bennett  
Assistant Principal: Melanie Haydel  
School Counselor: Lindsey Touns  
Administrative Assistant: Lauren Gaudin

## MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday Vigil</b>	4 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	8 am, 9:30 am, 11 am, 5 pm
<b>Weekday</b>	Mon-Fri: 6:15 am, 9 am Saturday: 8:30 am
<b>Holy Days of Obligation</b>	See website or bulletin

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### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday 5-7 pm  
Saturday 3-3:45 pm  
Sunday 4-4:45 pm  
Also by appointment

### Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Wednesday 6-7 pm

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the second Sunday of the month following the 11 am Mass. Parents should contact the Parish office two months in advance of the anticipated date of birth. Parents and Godparents must complete the required baptism preparation prior to the baptism. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

### Sacrament of Matrimony

Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to the wedding. Contact the Parish Office for arrangements.

# ST. ANGELA MERICI

## PARISH HISTORY

### **ST. ANGELA MERICI PARISH BEGINS IN 1964**

Northeast Metairie continued to grow in population with an influx of middle income families from New Orleans. From 1940 to 1960, the area doubled in size every ten years as the post-World War II baby boom parents began looking for more living space and a place outside of the big city. The mobility of people increased due to the affordability of automobiles and gasoline along with the building of additional access roads through northern Jefferson Parish. People moved from the country to the city and now from city to suburbia (Metairie).

It was in March 1964 when Archbishop John Patrick Cody of New Orleans carved out the new St. Angela Merici Parish from two existing parishes, St. Catherine of Siena and St. Louis King of France. Archbishop Cody assigned Father Joseph J. Calato as the first pastor of this new parish.

The Times Picayune posted an article on Friday morning, March 27, 1964 titled "New Parishes to be Created" which announced that four new parishes would be established in the metropolitan area of New Orleans beginning on June 1, 1964.

The Archdiocese acquired the residences located at 900 & 916 Beverly Garden Drive and about 2.4 acres of undeveloped land across the street (Pomona) for the new parish plant, before assigning Fr. Catalo as pastor.

The large undeveloped lot was located on Melody Drive a short distance north of Veterans Highway. Fr. Calato moved into the rectory at 900 Beverly Garden Drive and began to build a church and parish. The home at 916 Beverly Garden Drive would be used in the near future as a Convent for the Ursuline Nuns.

Fr. Calato had no money and no place of any size to assemble. So within one week's time he accomplished the following:

- He convinced Marion and Mimi Leon to donate their banquet hall to be used as the temporary church facility for St. Angela Merici Parish. The Leon family owned Leon's Restaurant and the attached banquet hall located at 706 Phosphor Avenue in Metairie. It would be used for Sunday Masses and other parish gatherings. The hall was approximately 35' wide by 75' long.
- He recruited a number of parishioners to help convert the banquet hall on weekends into a reasonable facsimile of a church, with folding chairs, a make-shift moveable altar, altar linens, and curtains. Then later on Sunday afternoons, the same recruits would remove the "church" facilities and return the room to a banquet hall.

- He recruited altar servers, lectors, song leaders, church ushers and almost most important, the “parking ushers.”
- He prepared and distributed the first church bulletin, called “St. Angela Merici Parish Message,” which was mailed to 900 charter families within the boundaries of the new parish.
- He had a sign staked on the property near Melody Drive that said “Site of New Catholic Church and School, Parish of St. Angela Merici.”

Due to the efforts of Fr. Calato and the newly recruited parishioners, more than 1,400 attended the first three Masses held at 7 am, 9 am and 11 am on Sunday, June 7, 1964. Getting this many people to and from Mass within a residential neighborhood resulted in massive traffic jams.

Founding parishioner Nick Gagliano, neighbors of the Leon family who lived around the corner from Leon’s Restaurant, remembers that first Sunday Mass with the following quote, “Dick Deas and I were the first lectors and I was the first song leader. A vivid memory was the aromas coming into the temporary church from the restaurant’s kitchen, which must have been an excusable distraction during the distribution of communion.” Collections for the first Sunday totaled \$851.00. Parishioners were asked to use the church support envelopes from their former parishes until the St. Angela Merici envelopes were printed. During this time of Pre-Vatican II all Mass responses were in Latin.

The next week Fr. Calato sent out his second parish bulletin with an expanded Mass schedule for 6, 7:15, 8:30, 9:45 and 11 am. The first weekday Mass began on Monday, June 8th, 1964 6:30 am at the parish rectory (900 Beverly Garden). Redemptorist Fathers from St. Alphonsus Parish assisted Fr. Calato with Masses on Sunday.

Father Calato was anxious to build a place of assembly for the community as well as to help develop the characters, ideals, dispositions, attitudes and spiritual sensitivities of those who made up the assembly. He knew the parish would increase in numbers as more homes rose to the north, south, east and west of the plot of ground acquired for the parish plant.

During that same month of the first Mass, June 1964, Fr. Calato hired architects to begin drawing the plans for the place of assembly. He also contacted the Ursuline Nuns, whose foundress was St. Angela, to staff the school he could visualize being ready in 15 short months. Before June ended, organizational meetings, one attended by 97 men, another by 122 women, had been held. Schoolchildren continued to go to St. Louis King of France and St. Catherine of Siena until the new school at St. Angela Merici opened.





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AFFILIATES

In August 1964, Archbishop Cody appointed Fr. Jerry Dabria of Sacred Heart parish to be an assistant priest to St. Angela. A seven-week campaign to raise funds started in September 1964 and by the 27th of that month, the seemingly staggering sum of \$700,000 was set as the cost of the place of assembly, not only for worship but also for the formation of the children who would be the future of the parish and the archdiocese.

That same month, 135 men began soliciting funds, which soon surpassed \$200,000 in gifts and pledges. More importantly, the parish, still assembling in a restaurant and worshipping without benefit of kneelers or other conveniences, had its trained ushers, Mass readers, organist, acolytes, altar society and traffic ushers.

A construction contract for the permanent church and school building was signed on December 22, 1964. The contract was awarded to Gervais F. Favrot Co., general contractor. Completion date, by contract, was scheduled within 240 calendar days.

Near the end of 1964, pilings were driven for the new parish plant that was to have 50,000 square feet of space for church and classrooms. The church, on the first floor, will have seating in the shape as three arms of the cross with the altar in the center. The second floor will provide over 20 classrooms and office space for school administrators and faculty.

At the beginning of the New Year 1965, St. Angela Merici Parish had 1,191 families registered within the parish.

When the preliminary registration of school students took place on January 10, 1965, six months after the parish was founded, parents expressed a desire to place their children in the school that was still under construction. On registration day, 100 kindergarteners; 100 first graders, 78 second graders, 77 third graders, 76 fourth graders and 83 fifth graders where registered.

On August 22, 1965, the boundaries of our parish were extended to include the area from Homestead Ave. to Oaklawn Dr. between Veterans Hwy. and Interstate 10. The 1965 summer was now ending and it was evident that the school would be ready for opening but the church would not. All efforts where focused on the completion of the school. The parish convent located at 916 Beverly Garden was spruced up and made ready for the Ursuline nuns by volunteer parishioners. Four Ursuline nuns were assigned to St. Angela Merici School; Mother Elizabeth, Principal, Mother Kevin Marie, Mother Maureen Therese and Mother Ann Maureen.

School opened smoothly on September 1, 1965 and eight days later the New Orleans area was hit with the first "Billion Dollar" Hurricane named "Betsy." The new upstairs school was used as a shelter for more than 600 persons who sought refuge from the storm.

Mass attendance had increased approximately 80% since the first Mass on June 7th, 1964; (1,400 to 2,429). Space was becoming an issue so it was decided to open the church earlier than originally planned. Sunday, October 10th, 1965 was the last Sunday at Leon's after 17 months of use for weekend Mass.

The first Mass at the new St. Angela Merici Church was Sunday, October 17, 1965. Even though the church was not completely furnished, it was sufficiently functional to have Sunday Masses.

The parish had grown so fast that Fr. Calato wanted to make sure the parish stayed connected, informed and involved so he divided the parish into 16 geographical areas (block system), each with a married couple to serve as the coordinators. Husband-wife teams were assigned for each block and they formed the link between the pastor and parishioners. From this organizational structure, lay-apostles were trained to promote spiritual, cultural, educational, and social activities for the new parish - and it worked well for many years.

In 17 months, Fr. Calato, Fr. Dabria and the entire St. Angela parish built a City of God, united as family in spirit. Msgr. Henry C. Bezou best captured this spirit in his Homily from the 10th Anniversary Mass, May 25, 1974.

*In a word, St. Angela has luminously met the criteria of a vital and vibrant parish: It has had participation of the members of the assembly; it has been blessed with the "sacrament" of unity - a "holy people brought together and organized under the direction of the bishop"; it has been universal or, simply, Catholic in its outlook; and its parishioners have realized that it is not the place, but the assembly of people in it that is the more important, so the mere edifice of dead stones or of inert concrete and steel is much less significant than the temple of living stones upon which a deanery, a diocese, and the world beyond can and must build. You, the parishioners of St. Angela, represent well and illustriously the definition of the Second Vatican Council with which I opened this homily: "You represent the visible Church as it is established throughout the world."*



## ST. ANGELA MERICI PARISH MINISTRIES

*“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit;  
there are different forms of service but the same Lord;”  
1 Corinthians 12:4-5*

There are many ways to get involved at St. Angela Merici Parish. Stewardship is a fundamental Christian value. As you get involved, you meet others who share the same desire to serve the parish and community. You will strengthen your personal relationship with God by doing His work. God is the ultimate giver of gifts! We are blessed with the gifts of time, talent and treasure and we are called to share them.

### **Alpha Course**

“Is there more to life than this?” “Why am I here?” “Is this it?” “Who is Jesus?” Do you ever ask yourself any of these questions? If so, the Alpha Course may be just what you are looking for! Maybe you have a friend or a family member that could benefit from the fellowship of the Alpha Course. We begin each session with a meal, listen to a presentation, and then share in small group discussion. There is no charge for Alpha. Here at St. Angela, The Alpha Course runs twice a year (spring and fall) for 10 consecutive weeks. The course helps us to answer some of our basic questions about Christianity and faith. Visit the parish website to register or contact Diane Kratochvil (Coordinator) for more information at 835-0324 ext. 309 or [alpha@stangela.org](mailto:alpha@stangela.org)

### **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers are a necessary liturgical function by assisting priests and deacons before, during and after the liturgy. They are chosen from volunteer candidates who are in the 4th grade through high school and have received the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. Altar Servers assist the celebrant at Sunday Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, as well as other liturgies throughout the year. For more information, please contact the parish office at 504-835-0324 or [parish@stangela.org](mailto:parish@stangela.org).

### **Bridge to Naim**

Bridge to Naim is a support group for the recently widowed. If you are newly widowed, consider joining Bridge to Naim Support Group. A professional leads each meeting. Bridge to Naim meets at 10:30 am on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Conference Room at St. Angela Merici. There is no charge or obligation. For more information contact, Jo at 504-833-9470.

### **Choir (Adult)**

The Adult Choir is a part of the parish music ministry and serves the church community by enhancing liturgical celebrations with music and song. Membership is open to those in high school and older. No experience is necessary. Adult Choir meets weekly to rehearse in the church on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm. For more information, please contact Kimberly Mouledoux at [kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org](mailto:kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org).



## State of Cha-Ching.



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### **Choir (Children's)**

The Children's Choir is a service organization for St. Angela Merici school children in 3rd-7th grades. Children in the choir learn what it means to sing from their hearts to the Lord with talents that God has given them. The Parish family benefits from the effectiveness that comes when we allow God to use us as His instrument for His Glory. The choir leads school mass and also leads the 9:30am Sunday Mass on the second Sunday of each month. Rehearsal's are on Wednesday afternoons at 3:15pm. For more information, please contact Kimberly Mouledoux at [kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org](mailto:kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org).

### **Choir (Praise & Worship )**

The Praise and Worship Choir is a new addition to our music ministry. This Choir adds to the Eucharist celebration at Mass by performing more contemporary hymns at our 5pm Mass. For more information, please contact Katarina Boudreaux at [migonfleur@aol.com](mailto:migonfleur@aol.com).

### **Child Church**

This ministry is designed for Pre-K 4, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders. Volunteer leaders breakdown the Sunday readings for our little ones through sharing stories and singing songs during 9:30 am Mass. Any child in this age group may participate. For more information, please contact Tiffany Stutzenbecker at [TLWelch@cox.net](mailto:TLWelch@cox.net) or Lauren Morvant at [lcayay@gmail.com](mailto:lcayay@gmail.com).

### **Coping with Life Alone**

Coping with Life Alone is a ministry to help men and women who have lost their spouse through either death, divorce or separation. The program is designed to aid those who have lost their spouse deal with their grief and to manage the many changes happening in their lives due to their loss. It is a 10-week program meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm in the St. Angela Merici Conference room. The 10-week program is offered twice per year, typically beginning in June and December. For more information, please contact Mike Caruso at [mcaruso11@cox.net](mailto:mcaruso11@cox.net)

### **CYO**

St. Angela Merici C.Y.O. is open to all high school teens in 8th through 12th grades. We meet monthly on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm in the gym. We participate in several archdiocesan events annually including World Youth Day in the fall and Abbey Youth Festival in the spring. We participate in C.Y.O. athletics with Co-ed Volleyball (spring and fall) and Cabbage Ball in the summer. Twice annually we host a Troops Drive for service members deployed overseas. One of the highlights of our year is our annual retreat in January, held at Camp Abbey. We also host the "Rose Rally for Life" in July, which brings C.Y.O.'s from all over the archdiocese to raise money for pro-life organizations. Our C.Y.O. helps teens to stay connected to God, to their parish family and to each other as they spread out to all the different high schools. Throughout the year many service hour opportunities are available through C.Y.O. For more information contact Diane Kratochvil at [cyo@stangela.org](mailto:cyo@stangela.org) or 835-0324 ext. 309.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion minister the Body and Blood of Christ at our weekday, weekend Masses, and assist in bringing Holy Communion to the homebound of our parish. Before beginning in this ministry, interested persons meet for an interview with Fr. Beau and then must participate in a basic formation workshop conducted by the Archdiocesan Office of Worship, with a follow-up session here in the parish.

Upon completion of the training, the Archbishop then delegates them for a five-year term of service. Those who come forward for this ministry must be 18 years of age, have received the sacraments of initiation and, if married, be validly married in the Catholic Church. Those who minister Holy Communion must be faithful to Sunday Mass, have a true devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, usually manifested by participation in Mass occasionally on weekdays, and time committed to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, please contact Fr. Beau Charbonnet at [parish@stangela.org](mailto:parish@stangela.org).

### **Family Life Apostolate**

FLA is a ministry within our parish that serves, encourages and celebrates all families in our homes and church community. We welcome new parishioners, we support the families of the bereaved, we offer up our prayers through the prayer line, and we host various Parish-wide events during the year. Membership meetings are held twice a year and Chair meetings are held once a quarter. For more information, please contact Kay Dornier at [edornier@aol.com](mailto:edornier@aol.com).

### **Funeral Ministry**

The Funeral Ministry consists of parishioners, (Liturgy Assistants), who help the family plan the liturgy for the funeral with emphasis on family member participation, if this is desired. At the planning session, which takes about an hour, readings are chosen and copies are given for the participants. Since live music is an integral part of Catholic funerals, the Liturgy Assistant contacts the organist with the songs chosen. The organist in turn contacts the cantor. The Assistant attends the funeral and acts as a guide for the participants. We offer our support, love and compassion in their time of need. For more information, please contact Donna McNamara at [dnnmcnamara38@gmail.com](mailto:dnnmcnamara38@gmail.com).

### **Hospitality Ministry**

The Hospitality Ministry invites all who are interested in becoming involved in serving the parish. Stop by one of monthly meetings in the Conference Room to find out more about our ministry. Before monthly meetings, we gather for a social to enjoy food and fellowship. Join us to help plan and coordinate parish events. If interested, please contact Tammy Cardinale at [tammycard920@gmail.com](mailto:tammycard920@gmail.com) or 504-905-2505.

### **Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus are a fraternal organization of Catholic men. They lead the way by helping to integrate more completely the life of the family and laity within the life of the parish. Through membership, they help our pastor and parish community in real and concrete ways. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Kern Center. For more information, please contact Jay Schwander at jschwapole@aol.com or 504-481-2467.

### **Parish School of Religion (PSR)**

St. Angela Merici Parish School of Religion strives to provide the young church with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary to become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The PSR Program is predominantly remote learning for grades K-8, utilizing curriculums with fully embedded online platforms. PSR lessons will be assigned by catechists on a weekly basis and students will have one week to complete all lesson components (i.e. reading, videos, games, and assessments) at home with their family (requiring approximately one hour of time per week). Adult volunteers to teach and form children in their faith are greatly needed. Safe environment training is a requirement. For more information, contact Ashley Huck, Catechetical Director, at audrey@stangela.org.

### **Prayer Group (Wednesday Morning)**

The Wednesday Morning prayer group has been active in our parish for over 50 years. Anyone interested in participating is welcome. We meet in the conference room every Wednesday morning at 9:15 am. Mass is celebrated on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. There is time for prayer and fellowship at our meetings. For more information, please contact Puddin McNamara at puddin003@cox.net or Elsa Hodges at johnandelsa@gmail.com.

### **SAM Prayer Line**

The St. Angela Merici Prayer Line has been part of our parish community for 20 years. It is a powerful and important opportunity for us to offer spiritual support for the special intentions of our parish family. Currently, we have over 300 members who pray for these intentions. Just like the weekly church bulletin, the prayer line is emailed directly to your email address each Sunday. There are no meetings involved at all. We just ask that you find a way to pray that is best for you to support our parishioners' prayer requests. It could be Prayers at Mealtimes, Adoration, Mass, Rosary, or Scripture to name a few options. We would love to have you join us! If you have a prayer request or would like more information, please contact Beth Kliebert at stangelaprayerline@stangela.org

### **Pro-Life Ministry**

The purpose of the Pro-life Group is to advance the belief that each human being regardless of age, health, talent, limitations or condition, deserves respect, care, and the recognition and protection of law and social policy. We sponsor events throughout the year to encourage respect for life including prayer, education, regular prayerful presence at abortion centers and public marches, and offering material assistance to women at pregnancy crisis centers. For more information, please contact Judy Legett Martin at 504-835-4777.

## **RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults guides interested non-Catholics through a process of initiation into the faith. We offer this program for individuals who have never been baptized in the Christian faith; for individuals who may have been baptized in another Christian denomination but wish to become members of the Catholic Church; or individuals who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation (Communion and/or Confirmation). For more information, please contact Jerome Ibarra at [jerome@stangela.org](mailto:jerome@stangela.org) or 504-835-0324.



## **Readers**

Readers proclaim the readings of Scripture at Weekday and Weekend Masses. Readers meet with Deacon Nick Chetta for an orientation and receive a Reader workbook that assists them with the mass readings. For more information, please contact Deacon Nick Chetta at [elainemchetta@gmail.com](mailto:elainemchetta@gmail.com).

## **St. Angela Merici School**

Our elementary school serves prek-2 through 7th grade students in the heart of Metairie. We are dedicated to providing excellence in education in a loving, Catholic environment with a commitment to Christian service. A strong focus on hands-on learning allows students opportunities to investigate, discover and create. Our strong sense of community makes St. Angela Merici School a great place for your child to pray, play and grow. For more information, please contact the school office at 504-835-8491.

## **St. Joseph's Altar Committee**

The St. Joseph's Altar Committee welcomes all friends of St. Joseph willing to share their talents, skills and gifts to join in the planning and executing of our Parish Family Celebration in honor of St. Joseph's intercession for us to God our Father. During our most active months, January through March, we meet to prepare for our celebration by baking thousands of Italian cookies, decorative fig pastries, and decorative breads. We also have sub-committees that assist with Altar decorating, obtaining donations of food supplies, working with the media, ensuring bulletin announcements reach our parishioners, working with charities that will receive items from our Altar and coordinating volunteers to work during our celebration. All of our members can attest to now feeling a bigger part of our Parish Family, with our love for St. Joseph having brought us closer together! For more information, please contact Renee Lauland at [fishinfe@msn.com](mailto:fishinfe@msn.com), 504-371-2101 or Janet Cruppi at [janet.cruppi@yahoo.com](mailto:janet.cruppi@yahoo.com), 504-338-2957.



### **St. Vincent DePaul Society**

Members of St. Vincent De Paul assist our parishioners in need of food or emergency funds for rent and utilities. Throughout the year, parishioners generously donate non-perishable food items for SVDP to distribute to those in need. At Thanksgiving, SVDP distributes groceries and gift certificates to people in need in both our parish as well as any others. For more information, please contact Ed Mazoue' at 504-835-0324 ext 308 or sixhard2@gmail.com.

### **SALA**

St. Angela Ladies Auxiliary is an organization made up of women from our Parish who work to promote the spiritual learning and growth of their members. These women also work with and promote various parish, church and school activities. SALA meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Kern Center at 7pm. For more information, please contact Diane Gregoire at dkbgregoire@hotmail.com.

### **SAMA**

This is an organization of men from our parish who join monthly for great food and fraternity. Additionally, our members provide help at parish and school events such as the Catfish Festival and Lenten Fish Fry's. If you are looking for a quick way to get involved at St. Angela Merici, become a member today. SAMA meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Kern Center. For more information, please contact David Steeg at dsteeg856@gmail.com.

### **Scripture Study (Morning)**

Each Tuesday morning at 9:15 am, the Scripture study group meets in the Religious Education Library. This group studies the readings for the upcoming Sunday in order to more fully understand and apply these passages in our daily lives. Additionally we study books from both the Old and New Testament of the Bible using various scholastic commentaries. For more information, please contact June Prados at wprados@cox.net.

### **Scripture Study (Night)**

A Scripture Study meets every Tuesday night to help participants navigate the Old and New Testaments, to learn more about Sacred Scripture, its history, theology, literary forms, the people and the places encountered, and how God's Word is speaking to each of us today. For more information, contact Marilyn Heap at 504-835-9373.

### **Scripture Study (Men's – Night)**

A group of men meets every other Wednesday night seeking to increase their understanding and appreciation of Sacred Scripture by reading and discussing various books of the Bible so they grow in faith and love of God. For more information, please contact Deacon Ray Heap at 504-835-9373.

### **Serra Club of East Jefferson**

This Catholic organization is named for Father Junipero Serra. The objective of Serra is to foster vocations to the priesthood and religious life and to further Catholicism through fellowship and service. Membership is open to Catholic laymen and permanent deacons, who are active Catholics, belong to a church parish and have an interest in promoting vocations and supporting those in religious life. For more information, please contact Larry DeBlieux at LHDeBlieux@cox.net.

### **Substance Addiction Ministry**

Addiction is a spiritual illness that disconnects a person from self, loved ones, and God. The Substance Addiction Ministry (SAM) mission is to help these individuals reconnect through education, prevention, referral and family support. SAM provides educational awareness of the pain in people's lives and refers those in need to places where help can be found. Support, acceptance, understanding and healing are extended to those touched by addiction. In any addiction, the entire family is "Affected" not just the "Afflicted" member. For every person "afflicted," at least four others are "affected." Nothing can destroy a family or relationship quicker than addiction. If there is an addict or alcoholic in the family, the whole family needs to be treated. SAM group meetings are open to both afflicted as well as affected members of the community. The meetings will focus on education, referral and spiritual help and are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month in the Parish Conference Room at 7 pm. The Conference Room faces Melody St next to the church parking lot just off Veterans Blvd. For more information, please contact Deacon Dave Aaron at daaron@arch-no.org or Lisa Carroll at lisacrll2@gmail.com.

### **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible**

*Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible* is an 8-week bible study by Ascension Press. It is an amazing journey through Sacred Scripture which uncovers the incredible story of salvation history woven within the pages of the Old and New Testaments. It presents the complexity of the bible in a way that is easier to understand. Participants discover how their lives fit into God's saving plan and gain a deeper understanding of the readings at Mass. Weekly sessions include a video presentation followed by group discussion. Purchase of an accompanying workbook is required. Announcements will be made when the study is offered throughout the year. For more information contact Diane deFrance at dmdefrance@gmail.com.

### **Ushers**

Ushers are the face of our parish. They are the first people visitors and parishioners meet as they enter the church. They play an important role in our parish by helping people feel welcome and appreciated. A friendly smile or hand shake go a long way. Ushers also assist in taking up the weekly collections at Mass, as well as guiding parishioners in the Communion line. For more information, please contact Jason Bailey at [jasonabailey99@gmail.com](mailto:jasonabailey99@gmail.com).

### **Vacation Bible School**

Vacation Bible School is a summer adventure with Jesus Christ through music, love and laughter. Our camp is open to elementary school aged children. For this ministry, we seek adult and high school volunteers. Safe environment training is a requirement. For more information, please contact Kimberly Mouledoux at [kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org](mailto:kmouledoux@stangelaschool.org).

### **Vocations Cross**

This parish-wide ministry is open to all parishioners and school families. Each weekend a family or individual agrees to receive the Vocation Cross at one of the weekend Masses and prays in their homes for vocations. After praying for vocations during the week, the cross is returned to Mass the following weekend. All are encouraged to participate and pray for vocations to the religious life. For more information, please contact Billy Steen at [williamsteen@cox.net](mailto:williamsteen@cox.net).

### **Young at Heart**

Membership in our Senior Citizens group is open to parishioners aged 55 years or older. The goal of this organization is to provide for the spiritual, cultural and social enrichment for each of our members. We also support parish activities and programs throughout the year. We meet at 12:00 noon on the first Thursday of the month from September through May at Lakeshore Playground, Meeting Room #3 (across from the gym). For more information, please contact Carol Gutelius at [carolfgutelius@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolfgutelius@bellsouth.net).