

MARDI GRAS OUTREACH PRAYER GUIDE

Mardi Gras season begins with the parades two weekends before Fat Tuesday. It is celebrated across the city. Many locals spend enormous amounts of money on parades, liquor, ball gowns and everything imaginable related to Mardi Gras. People come from all over the world to party in the French Quarter. It is a time where all restraint is cast off, no expense is spared, and darkness invades the city. You will feel this as you begin to cross the bridge driving in to New Orleans.

Many Evangelical Christians and Churches feel anger and disdain towards the city and people of New Orleans during times like Mardi Gras. While we combat the strongholds of the city, we keep in mind that God loves them, and that is our goal too. This is not an easy task – let's ask God for wisdom, humility and the attitude of Christ towards the city and the people we will meet.

Please use this prayer guide to help you know how to pray in the days leading up to the outreach. It's divided into four parts- Use each part every time you pray.

1. Maps of Greater New Orleans and the French Quarter
2. Strongholds of the city
3. Spiritual Awakening
4. Saints Community Church





STRONGHOLDS OF THE CITY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NEED- Long history of corruption- former Mayor Ray Nagin, mayor during Katrina, is currently on trial for corruption. Former Jefferson Parish President is in jail for corruption. It's a problem at every level of government, affecting every person in the city.

PRAY that justice would be done. That God would usher in an era of integrity and honesty in government and business.

VIOLENCE AND MURDER

NEED- New Orleans is one of the most violent cities in America, with a murder rate 10 times the national average. It is a cultural problem, a response to the overwhelming carnage seen during Katrina.

PRAY that God would break the bonds of violence and murder. That people would be set free. That peace and self-control would reign in a city known as The Big Easy.

SEXUAL IDOLATRY

NEED- The nickname is The Big Easy- that kind of says it all. There is no sense of restraint or self-control. Pornography, strip clubs, prostitution, to name a few, are openly practiced and accepted behavior.

PRAY that God would break the bondages of sexual idolatry.

PRAY that men and women would be free and live in wholeness and purity.

Prostitution

NEED- I-10 is the #1 corridor for human trafficking in the United States. 70% of street youths will get sucked into human trafficking, and Louisiana has the highest number of homeless children.

PRAY that kids eyes would be open and they would be awakened to what is happening. That perpetrators would be discovered and brought to justice. That healing would happen for women coming out of the lifestyle.

POVERTY

NEED- Almost all kids in public school are on food stamps. There has always been a high level of poverty in New Orleans. There is not a collective social conscience about breaking the cycle of poverty.

PRAY that the cycle of poverty would be broken through the transforming power of the gospel. Redemptive lift- a term that describes what happens socio-economically over a generation affected by the Gospel

CLASSISM

NEED- New Orleans is built on a system of socio-economic ranking- class. This is reinforced by the schools children attend, krewes and organizations people belong to, and loyalty that runs for generations.

PRAY that God would breakdown the barriers of class and social status. That people would see themselves and others for who they truly are in the eyes of God.

KREWES

NEED- a Krewe (Pronounced "crew") is a Mardi Gras organization that puts on a parade holds a ball, and often times has a court of royalty. People pay dues into the krewe to pay for the trucks, floats, balls, liquor and other expenses. Many people in the krewe ride in the parades, using additional money to pay for the things they throw, costumes, ball gowns, etc. The krewes are named for the Greek gods.

PRAY that God would save people within the krewe who would be set free from the generational stronghold, and they would bring others to salvation.

PRAY for the breaking of these spirits-

Superstition- religion is practiced for fear of not complying with certain steps to avoid a certain outcome

Tradition- a deeply traditional community. Tradition is held dearly.

Generational Curses

Witchcraft- Voodoo and other occult practices

Rebellion- shown through violence and all types of loose behavior

Deception

Revelry- partying and drunkenness

Sexual Idolatry- prostitution, nakedness,

Addiction- high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse
Unbelief- the root of all spiritual issues
Darkness

SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

NEED- A deeply spiritual place, many eyes are blinded to the spirit of God- his kindness and character, the reality of who God is. Seeing Christ beyond a tradition is a barrier.

PRAY that the Holy Spirit brings REVELATION

PRAY that many come to SALVATION through Jesus Christ

PRAY that a deep SPIRITUAL HUNGER is stirred

PRAY for the loosening and outpouring of the Spirit of God- Phil 4:8, Gal 5:22-23: Love, joy, peace, hope, faith, purity, holiness, light, truth

THE BODY OF CHRIST

NEED- New Orleans area churches and believers were rocked to the core by an epic moral failure in the 1980s that destroyed unity and reputation. There is still tremendous disunity and lack of partnership.

PRAY that churches, outreach groups, and believers would set our differences aside and be unified through our faith in Christ

PRAY that believers' hearts would be softened toward the lost

OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

NEED- There are many approaches to church planting that have worked in other settings, and many people have been saved as a result. It is well accepted that nothing conventional works in New Orleans. Daily we are reminded that the only thing that will break this city open is a sovereign outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

PRAY that many believers would be baptized in the Holy Spirit

PRAY for a renewed passion for fasting and prayer

PRAY for hunger for a move of the Holy Spirit

PRAY that believers will be used in the gifts of the Spirit

PRAY that believers will boldly witness through the power of the Spirit

PRAY that miraculous signs and wonders would bring many people to Christ

SAINTS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Out of Answering The Cries, Saints Community was planted in October 2011. Many former participants moved to help us start the church. Many people in our congregation have come to know the Lord through one-on-one relationships that led them to Christ. We've seen a major shift in the last year of the church taking root in the community.

LEADERS

NEED- Many of our leaders have faced enormous obstacles and attack, but have kept on fighting!

PRAY for our leaders. Pray for health and protection, blessing. That God would continue to use them, and they would not grow weary in well doing.

Pastors & Staff-

Wayne & Kristi Northup; Libby (8) & Lincoln (4)- lead pastor, worship leader. Wayne has faced major physical battles. In the last year he has had seven surgeries and too many serious

bacterial infections to count. It stems from severe Asthma and it's treatment, which has caused severe side effects. He's currently being treated for an immune deficiency. Please pray for strength, COMPLETE healing, and endurance.

Jenna & Ray Hernandez; Bella (1)- ministry coordinator, small group pastors

Small Group Pastors

Nathan Brown (Emily)- Men's group
Justin Pennock (Nicole)- Men's group
Nicole Pennock- Women's Group
Jodi McMullen- Women's Group
Ashley Nerat- Young Adults
Wes Seals- Young Adults
Matt Fellman- Youth
Christina Vincent- Youth
Daniel & Laura Rickett- Couples
Don & Lauren Kasten- Couples
Larry & Lee Northup- Adults

Team Leaders

Justin & Heather Lyles- Saints Kids
Trevor & Sara Ekanger- Creative Arts & Media
Matt Short- Worship
Mark Jones- Faces
David McMullen- Set up

COMMUNITY CARE

NEED- we want to make a difference in the community around us. The main door the Lord has opened is with the public schools.

PRAY that God continues to give us favor and open doors to serve

SMALL GROUPS

NEED- Small groups are considered "the main course" of our church.

PRAY that God will move in our groups, discipleship will happen, and relationships will be built that will draw us closer to Jesus!

ENCOUNTER RETREAT- April 4 & 5

NEED- Encounter is a time where we go away for 24 hours and help people deal with the deep sin, pain and generational issues that have kept them living in the victory that Christ has for us. It is an intensive time of confession, prayer and worship.

PRAY that many of our new believers would come on the retreat, and that the Lord would provide the registration cost for those who can't afford it.

SAINTS KIDS

NEED- Empowering Families is a core value for us. We continue to see families who begin coming regularly because their kids LOVE Saints Kids.

PRAY that God would move in the lives of kids and solidify their faith in Him.

PRAY that God would strengthen our families as they draw closer to Him.

PRAY that God continues to bring us workers with a burden to see kids serve Jesus!

DIVERSITY

NEED- The New Testament Church broke every age, ethnic, racial, socio-economic barrier. We want to be a church that represents all the different people of God!

PRAY that God would give us insight into ways of reaching new groups

PRAY that he would draw people of every tradition, race, age and class

PRAY that prejudice would be torn down and the love of God would change our hearts toward people we don't understand

BUILDING

NEED- Saints Community Church is currently in a building campaign entitled "Prepare the Way." Metairie is land-locked, and commercial real estate is outrageously expensive.

PRAY that God will lead us to a building that is adequate in size, in a good location, for an amazing deal

PRAY that we have favor with Jefferson Parish in for permits and zoning.

FINANCES

NEED- As a young church plant, every month is a faith walk! Our leaders are giving faithfully and our new believers are learning to step out in their giving.

PRAY that we would be good stewards of the offerings people have given sacrificially

PRAY that God would miraculously provide for SCC

PRAY that we would all give generously to the church, the kingdom of God, and to people in need

PRAY that God would bless our people financially through employment, raises, and unexpected means.