



ST. ROSALIE PROCESSION

Celebrating Kenner's 114 year old tradition with Archbishop Gregory Aymond:
Kenner's annual St. Rosalie Procession and Celebration returns September 9, 2012

August 24, 2012

For Immediate Release

The annual St. Rosalie Procession celebrates one of Kenner's oldest and most meaningful traditions. In 1855, Italian immigrants settled into the Kenner area on the tract of land spanning from what is now the intersection of Williams Boulevard and Kenner Avenue to the St. Charles Parish line.

Although this community began to thrive quickly, it was vulnerable in its infancy stages. Completely dependent on the growth of produce and health of livestock, tragedy struck in 1898 when an epidemic of "Charbon," (commonly known today as Anthrax) infiltrated the area. Without the sale of vegetables and livestock, the immigrants would have no means to feed and care for their families.

Desperate for help, the farmers prayed for the intercession of St. Rosalie, the patron saint of Sicily, and asked her to stop this devastating epidemic that was quickly killing their crops and livestock. The prayers of these farmers were so powerful, that the skies opened and a long rain fell, in turn, stopping the spread of the disease.

The grateful farmers were in awe of St. Rosalie's grace and promised an annual procession through the streets of their community in her honor. That year, in 1898, the first St. Rosalie procession took place and the residents of Kenner have continued to honor her for saving this community for 114 years. Throughout this three mile procession of faith and prayer, participants carry a St. Rosalie statue and symbolic relics.

This year, the participants of this procession will be joined once again by Archbishop Gregory Aymond, who will take part in celebrating the City of Kenner's oldest miracle. Please join him, along with Father Richard Miles of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, as well as members of the St. Rosalie Committee and the community to make this year's celebration the best yet.

This year's celebration will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2012 beginning at 5pm. Please note that there is a time change this year. The celebration has historically started at 3pm. However, due to the extreme heat, it has been determined that the start time must be later to ensure the safety of the participants. The full schedule is as follows:

Sunday, September 9, 2012:

- 12:00pm** Following 11:00am Mass, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Madonna will begin serving Italian dinner, including cookies and Italian bread.
- 5pm** Mass-Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Church, 531 Williams Boulevard
- 6pm** Procession (3 miles)-Begins at OLPH Church, down Short Street to Williams Boulevard, crosses the railroad tracks, turns left onto Kenner Avenue, turns left onto Hanson Place, turns left onto Rev. Richard Wilson Drive, turns left onto Minor Street, and back to OLPH Church.
- 8pm** Benediction-OLPH Church

For more information regarding this most spiritual event, please contact the OLPH rectory at (504) 464-0361.