



CITY OF KENNER

News Release

E. "BEN" ZAHN III
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 7, 2017

ST. ROSALIE PROCESSION SET FOR SUNDAY IN SOUTH KENNER

Kenner, LA. – The yearly St. Rosalie Procession in south Kenner is one of the city's oldest traditions. In 1855, Italian immigrants settled into the area of Kenner that now stretches from Williams Boulevard and Kenner Avenue to the St. Charles Parish line.

In 1898, an epidemic of what is commonly referred to today as anthrax was devastating their livestock. Without livestock, the immigrants would not be able to feed their families.

The farmers prayed to St. Rosalie, the patron saint of Palermo, Sicily, and set forth on a procession walking through the streets of Kenner – some in bare feet – for an end to the epidemic. According to legend, the epidemic stopped.

The St. Rosalie tradition was brought over from Sicily. The feast of Saint Rosalia is traced back to 1624, where a plague beset Palermo. The faithful carried her bones in a procession through the city, while praying, and the plague soon subsided.

The first St. Rosalie procession in Kenner was held in 1898 and has now reached its 119th year. The three-mile procession of faith and prayer has changed little over the past century and the participants carry a St. Rosalie statue and symbolic relics.

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The celebrant for this year's event is Father Cleo Milano.

Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017

Where: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1908 Short Street
Meatball and Sausage Dinner: Will be served from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mass: 3 p.m.

Procession: 4 p.m.

Benediction: 6 p.m.

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

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