

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Abiding Press

Abiding Presence Faith Community

A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

JANUARY 2024 VOLUME 3 #2

5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792

321-594-4922

Office info@apfcwp.com

Sunday Mass is Celebrated at 12:30 pm

The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ

4605 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando, Florida 32812

Social Media

Web Site www.apfcwp.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP9i133esG31IRPfgk-Jn4w>

Clergy Serving the People of God

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins pastor@apfcwp.com

Kingsport TN Ministry: Rev. Fr. Lucas G. Brown RevLBrown@apfcwp.com

Palm Coast FL Ministry: Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen DcnCLarsen@apfcwp.com

Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish

Gene L. Thompson II - Technology

Dennis Last - JMB Crock Pot Ministry

Klaus Stodtmann - Bread Baking

Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

Please email the bishop if you want someone remembered at Mass or added to the Prayer Lists. It is at your discretion how much you donate to the support of our community. We also have Mass Cards for you to send to the recipients.

Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 1 Divine Worship Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God 10 AM
 Bishop's Residence
 Intention: Peace in the World
- Jan. 7 Divine Worship Solemnity of the Epiphany 12:30 PM
 Communal Celebration Anointing of the Sick within Mass
 Intention: Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East
- Jan. 8 Divine Worship – Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord 6:30 PM
 Intention: RIP Joan E Podunavac Month's Mind
- Jan. 13 Community Canvas
 Meet at the Church at 9 AM
- Jan. 14 Divine Worship – Second Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: RIP Sharon Streb
- Jan. 21 Divine Worship Third Sunday of the Christian 12:30 PM
 Intention: Available
- Jan. 26 Divine Worship Feasts of Saints Timothy and Titus 6:30 PM
 Intention: Bishops Carpenter and Cavins on their Episcopal
 Anniversaries
- Jan. 28 Divine Worship Fourth Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Available
- Jan. 31 Divine Worship Feast of Saint John Bosco 11 AM
 Zoom Only
 Intention: Available

*SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

Financial Update as of 12/26/2023

Total Income Year to Date: \$ 12,213.12. Total Expenditures Year to Date: \$ 11,121.36
Difference +\$1,091.76. Balance on hand: \$2,380.97. A full accounting through Dec 31,
2023, will be available at the parish meeting on January 14.

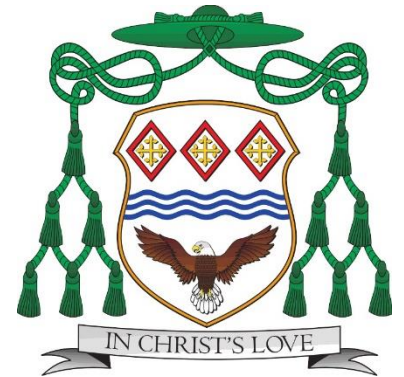
Online Giving

Donations can now be made online through our website. To make sure we get your full donation please utilize the **Zelle** method. If you choose one of the others, please send it as if to an individual. Our email address for all giving platforms is bkpg@apfcwp.com. Thank you for your generosity.

From the Bishop's Desk

First, I wish to extend to all of you my sincere gratitude for your many and varied expressions of sympathy to my family and me upon the death of my mother. I am sure she is dancing in the New Year in style.

I wish each and every member of our parishioners and our benefactors a New Year filled with good health, happiness, prosperity, and love.



Today many people are considering their New Year Resolutions. I have a few suggestions to share with you which are worthy of consideration. To begin, please note this is a presidential election year. If you're not registered, be sure you do so if eligible. It is our responsibility as Christians to be involved in civic life. Consider candidate positions carefully and apply them to Gospel Values. Try not to be a single-issue voter. For example, many pro-life candidates fixate on the issue of abortion. However, they fail to address living wages, adequate housing, public education, healthcare, climate change, air quality, potable water, as well as care for the elderly and the homeless. Being pro-life is all of that and more.

I also urge you to consider spending more time with your family. Put down the cell phones. Turn off the TVs. Hold conversations. Play games. Build those bonds of love which will last throughout your lives.

Lastly, spend more time with God even if it's only 5 minutes a day, and church on Sunday. By improving your spiritual life you improve your outlook on life as well.

In Christ's Love

+*William*

Pastor

Covid-19

The pastor has been reading about the increase of Covid with a new strain referred to as JN.1. Since the virus has invaded our congregation, we are going to reinstitute some Covid Protocols.

1. If you are ill please stay home. Watch us on the zoom link or YouTube Live.
2. Hand Sanitizer will be available at the entrance as well as at Communion.
3. Masks will be available at the entrance.
4. The Sign of Peace will be verbal only.

We are hopeful these precautions will help us get through this winter.

This season, vaccines are available to help protect against all three of these illnesses. Updated flu and COVID shots are available to everyone ages 6 months and older. New RSV preventions are given to the most vulnerable populations and include two vaccine choices for adults 60 and older. There is also a monoclonal antibody for infants and toddlers and a vaccine given to pregnant women to provide antibodies that will help protect their newborn infants from RSV from birth to 6 months. Check with your healthcare provider, pharmacist, or Health Department.

Community Canvas

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 13, 2024, to help grow our parish. We will be meeting in the parking lot of the church at 9 a.m. to divvy up the streets we are targeting the area northeast of the church. We have plenty of door hangers to cover the approximately 350 homes in that area. Each canvasser will also be given copies of the church flyer should you meet and talk with a resident outside. We will remind canvassers again but at no time should you enter a home. You are just distributing the door hangers.

The streets we are covering include Marabon Ave, Kasper Dr., Hargil Drive, Corbett Ln., Edmundshire Ln., Silverstone Ave., Roscoemare Ave., Vantage Dr., Berwyn Rd., Dover St., Catalpa Ln., and Strathmore Dr. If we have enough volunteers and time we will cover the area we missed in December: The streets we missed include Gaston Foster North of Curry Ford, Greenland St., Rockledge Rd., Adirondack Ave., Morrocco Ave., Haylock Dr., Fontana St., Lenmore St., Lenmore Ct., and Paladin Ct

Holy Day

January presents us with several Holy Days of Obligation. We begin with January 1, which is Mary, the Mother of God. Mass will be at the bishop's residence and streamed on YouTube Live.

Exploring Our Faith

We invite you to join us in breaking open the Word for the upcoming Sunday each Wednesday at 7 PM. The dates for the discussion group are found in the calendar. The book *At Home with the Word 2024* may be purchased directly from Liturgical Training Publications at www.ltp.org. It is available in regular and large print editions.

JMB Crockpot Ministry

Our current supply of crockpot totals 3. To donate a crockpot or volunteer to conduct a class contact Dennis Last at 321-388-1572.

Our next Crock Pot Class is scheduled for January 15, 2024, at 10 AM at the Dedicated Senior Medical Center - 690 S. Goldenrod Rd., Orlando Enter to win a new Crock Pot at the end of class. Email Info@apfcwp.com to register.

Transportation Ministry

The pastor has been aware for some time of the need for a means to bring people to church on Sundays who lack transportation. To build the parish we need more workers in the fields. We declined an offer for a church bus because the monthly insurance premium was outrageous. Yet the need remains. If you would be interested in bringing one or two people to church and taking them home each week. Please speak with the pastor.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you looking to do more within the parish community in 2024? Here are a few opportunities broken down by day of the week. On Sundays, we need readers, musicians, singers, altar servers, and Eucharistic Ministers. On Mondays we usually schedule our Crock Pot Classes. Contact Dennis Last to become a presenter. On Tuesdays, we would like to have volunteers help out at Rebecca's Pantry in the morning. Then on Wednesdays, there is the Thrift Shop. One Saturday a month we will be canvassing a different area around the Church

building. So much to choose from. We could also use a few Special Ministers to the Sick which would be a new ministry. What is God calling you to do?

Black Catholic History Month

Who was the first African mentioned in the Gospels?

The first African, in the New Testament, was mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew, Simon of Cyrene (Matthew 27:32). Simon was pressed into service to carry the cross of Jesus. This event is highlighted in the fifth station of the cross.

Tell the story of the account of the baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch.

In the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8: 26-40, we read the account of the Ethiopian eunuch. This person was a black person baptized by Philip. The Ethiopian eunuch was the court official in charge of the treasury of the Queen of the Ethiopians. "Ethiopian" refers to a person of color from Africa. The Greeks used this word, which means "burnt", or darker skin.

Prayer for Vocations

Creating God and Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Priestly Ponderings by Rev. Lucas G. Brown

Who came up with all the weird Sunday Readings?

Lectionary, in Christianity, is a book containing portions of the Bible appointed to be read on days of the year. The word is also used for the list of such Scripture lessons. The early Christians adopted the Jewish custom of reading extracts from the Old Testament on the Sabbath. They soon added extracts from the writings of the Apostles and Evangelists, which later would be formalized in the canon of Scripture as the Gospels and epistles. During the 3rd and 4th centuries, several systems of lessons were devised for churches of various localities. One of the first attempts for a diocese to fix definite readings for special seasons during the year was made by Musaeus of Marseille in the mid-5th century.

During the 16th-century Reformation, the Lutherans and Anglicans made changes in the Roman Catholic lectionaries. Martin Luther was dissatisfied with the choice of many of the lessons from the epistles in the Roman system, and he included a greater proportion of

doctrinal passages. In the Anglican church the first edition of The Book of Common Prayer (1549) assigned for each day a passage of the Old Testament and the New Testament to be read at both the morning and evening services. Nearly all the saints' days were dropped, and the new system assigned chapters of the Bible to be read consecutively.

In 1963 the Second Vatican Council allowed the introduction of the vernacular (local language) in the variable parts of the Roman Catholic liturgy, including the scriptural readings of the mass (the Liturgy of the Word). A complete revision of the missal resulted in a three-year lectionary. This lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and another for weekdays. The Sunday cycle is divided into three liturgical years, labeled A, B, and C. Each Sunday usually has a reading from the Old Testament, a semicontinuous reading from one of the epistles, and a Gospel reading. Year A mostly features the Gospel According to Matthew; Year B reads through the Gospel According to Mark; and Year C showcases the Gospel According to Luke. The Gospel According to John is read during the Easter season in all three years. After three years the cycle starts over again.

Present-day liturgists in many denominations have been active in revising traditional lectionary systems. Many Protestant churches in the United States and other English-speaking areas use the Revised Common Lectionary (1992).

The lectionary helps remind us that both the Old and New Testaments are telling one single, coherent story: We should love God and one another. There are times when the connection between the Old and New Testament readings is evident. And other times it's not. The most important theme that ties the readings together is that they're about God.

The lectionary doesn't read straight through the Bible. It assumes our knowledge of the big picture. The lectionary isn't about us knowing the Bible better. It's about us knowing God better. The readings point us to God.

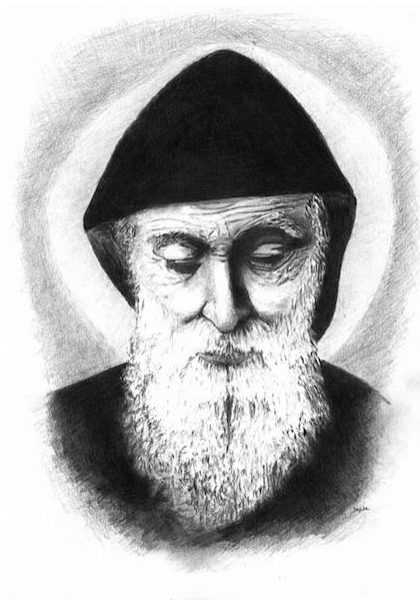
The lectionary keeps us from forgetting the stories of how God has loved us. I had a seminary professor who suggested that when it comes to the Old Testament, the Church has something like Alzheimer's. We neglect to regularly talk about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and so we forget their stories and we forget that God still encounters us in the same ways. The lectionary is one tool to exercise our "remembering" skills.

The lectionary helps us to value the Old Testament and to see its continuity in the story of Jesus and the story of the Church. There's a story in the gospels where Jesus climbs a mountain with three of his closest friends. Suddenly, there are Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. And the disciples hear a voice from heaven saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."

It's an incredible story. And one way of reading it teaches us how to read the Bible. The disciples there represent the New Testament. Moses is the Law, and Elijah the Prophets—the two primary sections of the Old Testament. The imperative to listen to Jesus is directed to all three. So, the Old Testament laws are invited to listen to Jesus. The Prophets are invited to listen to Jesus. The New Testament listens to Jesus. When we enter Scripture, we're invited to give ourselves to Jesus.

A View from the East: Diaconal Reflections by Deacon Chris Larsen

Yousouf Maklouf (St Charbel).



In our Christian lives, the most important rule is to pray. Prayer is communication with God. This is lacking in many respects. We tend to be too busy with our daily lives to even be thinking about prayers. Prayer life to many, can be a hard task. What do I say? What is the right way? How do I approach him? Am I worthy? Prayer in simple terms is a conversation, asking, or thanking God for the life one leads. How often should we pray is solely between the individual and God.

There is one person who devoted his entire life to prayer and service to God. His name was Yousouf Makhoulf renamed St. Charbel. From a very young age, he had a major devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Yousouf Anton Maklouf was born in the town of Bekaa Kafra in Lebanon on May 8, 1828, to a poor religious family Anton and Brigitta Makhoulf. His father was a mule driver who worked for the Ottoman overlords who in 1833 died on the way back from a work detail. Yousouf's mother raised her children alone until she married a man who became a priest. It was he who inspired Yousouf to be in religious life. When he and his brothers were out herding their small herd of cows, Yousouf always visited a Grotto right next to it to talk to the Holy Mother. His friends always made fun of him and called him Little Saint.

He began his religious life by joining the Lebanese Maronite Order at the Monastery of Our Lady in Mayfouq in 1851. He then was transferred to the Monastery of St. Maron in Annaya. It was there that he changed his name to Charbel, honoring the 2nd-century martyr in Antioch. In 1859 he was ordained a priest.

Charbel stayed in Annaya until he died on Christmas Eve 1883. He was often most remembered for his miracles such as the oil lamp. He had asked the monks to place oil in

his lamps so he could have them for the evening. The monks decided to pull a prank on him. Instead of oil, they put water in the lamps. When they went to check on him, they saw the light illuminating the room. They could hardly believe the lamp was on even with the water. They went to the abbot who then tasted it and saw that it was water. This was probable cause to send Charbel to the hermitage near to the Monastery to grant Charbel's request to live a secluded life as a hermit. Many miracles were attributed to Charbel after his death,

Another important miracle was the blood-like substance seeping out of his tomb which had a healing element to it. His body never decomposed until the 1970s. The most telling miracle happened in 1993. A woman was half paralyzed. She said she had a dream after her surgery of three monks. One of them was Charbel who held up her pillow. She said when she woke up, she was completely healed.



Charbel was canonized on October 9, 1977, by Pope Paul VI. Then in 2017, his body was transferred to Slovakia where he is visited by many devotees from around the world.

Sometimes we think that our prayers do not get answered. St Charbel taught us to pray with perseverance and patience, Charbel taught us to.

Always serve God and devote everything to him. Be in constant conversation with him. It does not even have to be verbal. Even at work or driving, turn your thoughts to God. In 2016 his relics toured the Maronite Churches along the East Coast of the United States.

Family Faith Activities

Courtesy of LTP's At Home With the Word 2024.

January 6, 2024: The Epiphany of the Lord

Questions

- ◆ When God reveals to our understanding something of himself, we call this gift an epiphany. What epiphanies have you had? What has God revealed of himself to your understanding?
- ◆ God warned the Magi not to return to Herod because he knew what was in Herod's heart. When God looks into your heart, what does he see?
- ◆ The Magi followed the light of a star to find the light of the world. Who or what has lit the way for you, guided you toward Jesus, shown you the love and mercy of God, and helped you to see Christ in all people?

Activities

◆ Visit the crèche in your church and talk with your child about the Magi who came from nations far away. Explain that God loves and calls to himself all his people, wherever they come from, whatever language they speak or customs they have, however, they look or dress. Add the Magi to your home crèche. For added fun, make a paper star, let your child decorate it, and organize a ceremonial procession through your home, following the star and carrying the Magi figures, before adding the statues to your display.

◆ Together, make a menu for the week, incorporating everyone's favorite foods from other countries. Children's favorites often include pizza, tacos, and French toast. Read a little about each country represented in your menu, learn a word or phrase in the language, listen to the nation's traditional music, and so on. When you say grace, pray for peace and blessing for the people of each land, remembering that Jesus is the Shepherd of all.

Bake a "king cake." You'll find plenty of recipes online. Just as the holy family welcomed the world on the day of the Epiphany, welcome your neighbors into your home for an impromptu dessert. If the idea seems to be welcome, suggest that whoever finds the bean (or baby) host the next impromptu neighborhood dessert at his or her convenience. Warm the winter with hospitality.

January 14, 2024: Second Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

◆ Samuel responds to God's call: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). How has God called you, and how have you responded?

◆ In today's readings, Eli, John the Baptist, and the apostle Andrew each help others recognize and respond to God's call. Are you struggling with anything God is calling you to do? Is there someone who might help you discern and answer God's call?

◆ Paul tells us that discipleship in Christ makes us temples of the Holy Spirit. How do you recognize the Holy Spirit within you and others? What is this Spirit calling you to do today?

Activities

◆ Invite your child to point out any differences he or she notices in your parish church's art and environment or the vestments worn by your priest and deacon. Explain that the Church has moved into another liturgical time, not one of preparation like Advent, or of solemn celebration like Christmas Time, but a time of growing and deepening in our relationship with God. This period is called Ordinary Time, and its color is green, the color of growing things.

◆ Look at your wedding album with your child and talk about your call to married life and to parenthood. Let your child know that you see your commitment to your family as a sacred trust. Invite your child to help you write a prayer for your family, that God will

strengthen your marriage, guide you in all parenting decisions, and bless your child with faith and good character. Place your prayer where you will see it and pray it together often.

◆ Invite a priest, deacon, or religious sister or brother to have dinner with you one evening and to tell your family about his or her vocational call. Ask how it was recognized as a call from God, whether or not the person could respond right away. Ask who may have helped your guest discern or heed the call, and how he or she has felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in living out this vocation. Keep your guest in your family's prayers.

January 21, 2024: Third Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

- ◆ Today's readings call us to conversion, to a new life and new priorities. How is your faith changing your life and priorities?
- ◆ Faith motivates the people in today's readings to public action. How would you respond to someone who said that faith is a personal thing to be lived privately?
- ◆ The special vocation of the lay faithful is to bring the light of Christ into secular affairs, into situations where that illumination can be brought only by them. Where do you see others living and witnessing their faith in the temporal world, and what daily opportunities do you have to do the same?

Activities

- ◆ From the vestments of the priest and deacon, green as springtime, to the words of each reading, the call to change and newness of life resounds clearly in today's Mass. Invite your child to listen closely to the readings and squeeze your hand each time he or she hears someone being called to change or to do something different from what he or she is already doing.
- ◆ Invite family members to name one thing about themselves that they would like to change for the sake of God's kingdom. Brainstorm ways in which you can help one another reach these goals. Proclaim a fast one day this week. Eat lightly that day, and avoid snacking, to strengthen your will and demonstrate your sincere desire to become the person God made you to be, one choice at a time.
- ◆ In our parishes, we are taught, fed, and renewed for our mission of building the kingdom of God in the world. If your parish has a welcoming ministry for new parishioners, ask how your family can help. If not, offer to recruit help and begin one. A visit from parishioners with information about the faith community, and perhaps a freshly baked loaf of bread, is a great way to say to new members: "Welcome! We're glad you're here. Let's get acquainted and discover how we can work together for the glory of God."

January 28, 2024: Fourth Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

- ◆ Jesus taught with authority, as God, the authentic author of truth. How does Christ's Church help each of you to form and inform your conscience so you can navigate this world of conflicting values and moral relativity?
- ◆ In what situations is it most difficult for you to follow Christ's teaching? What or who might be able to help you with this?
- ◆ Have you become complacent about or hardened your heart to some person or situation in your family, community, school, or workplace? If so, what can you do that you aren't doing?

Activities

- ◆ Research the Church's teaching on some moral questions of interest to members of your family, including your child. If your child can read, assist him or her in finding answers, and paraphrase as necessary to clarify understanding. Read aloud any Scripture passages referenced.
- ◆ Show your child your Bible and any holy cards, letters, or photos that you keep there. Point out the table of contents, explaining that there are many books within this book. Give your Bible a place of honor in your home in keeping with its authorship. If you don't have a children's picture Bible, purchase an age-appropriate one, and share stories from it often.
- ◆ Baking cookies is a great accompaniment to discussing how hard hearts can be softened by love, caring, and sharing. If you don't have heart-shaped cookie cutters or a desire to bake from scratch, purchase refrigerator dough, and help your child mold hearts by hand. As an alternative, spread the dough in a pizza pan, bake for about as long as a sheet full of cookies, let it cool slightly, then flip the giant cookie onto a cake plate, and draw hearts on it with icing when it has completely cooled. The final appearance isn't important as long as there's lots of love rolled in.

Jubilant January Saints

January provides us with numerous opportunities to reflect on the lives of the saints in heaven. Please use Google or an encyclopedia to research each. Let us know which one of these saints is your favorite for this month. Go to our Facebook group or page and post your answer with a picture of your favorite.

We begin the month with the celebration of Mary, the Mother of God on January 1. Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen are marked on January 2. They are followed by the American saints, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, on January 4 and Saint John Neumann on January 5. Saint Hilary is celebrated on January 13. Saint Anthony is commemorated on January 17. January 20 celebrates Saints Fabian and Sebastian. January 23, we recall Saints Vincent and Marianne Cope. They are followed on January 24 by Saint Francis de

Sales. The Conversion of Saint Paul is commemorated on January 25. He is followed by Saints Timothy and Titus on January 26. Saint Angela Merici is remembered on January 27. We end the month with the Feast of Saint Angela Merici on January 31.

January Recipes

Polish Potato Pancake

Julianna Witkowski, Pittsburgh, PA

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion
- 3 white potatoes (medium size) peeled.
- 2 eggs
- 1 heaping teaspoon of baking powder
- Flour to bind.
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon of bacon drippings or you may use Crisco.

Directions:

- Into a large bowl grate onion and potatoes.
- Beat eggs directly into the mixture and stir thoroughly.
- Add flour, baking powder, and salt.
- Stir until you reach a batter-like consistency.
- Heat the griddle with bacon drippings or Crisco.
- Drop potato batter by the tablespoons onto a hot griddle. Do not crowd.
- Cook until golden brown on both sides.
- May be served with apple butter, applesauce, or sour cream.

Slow Cooker Jambalaya

Hope Barnett, Deltona, FL

Ingredients:

- 1 (28-ounce) can of diced tomatoes with juice
- 1-pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves - cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 pound andouille sausage, sliced.
- 1 large onion, chopped.
- 1 large green bell pepper, chopped.
- 1 cup chopped celery.
- 1 cup chicken broth

2 teaspoons dried oregano
2 teaspoons dried parsley
2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
½ teaspoon dried thyme
1-pound frozen cooked shrimp without tails

Directions:

- Gather the ingredients.
- Mix tomatoes with juice, chicken, sausage, onion, green bell pepper, celery, and broth in a slow cooker.
- Season with oregano, parsley, Cajun seasoning, cayenne pepper, and thyme.
- Cover and cook on Low for 7 to 8 hours, or on High for 3 to 4 hours. Stir in shrimp during the last 30 minutes of cooking time.
- Serve over rice.

Black-eyed Peas Fritters (Akara)

Imani Smith, Orlando, FL

Ingredients

- 2 cups black-eyed peas
- 1/2 Medium Onion
- 1-2 Hot Peppers: Scotch Bonnet or Habanero Pepper
- Salt to taste about 1 3/4 teaspoons or more adjust to taste.
- 2 Large eggs
- optional spices: 1/2 teaspoon chicken bouillon powder 1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika.
- Oil for deep frying

Directions:

- Soak them for about 15 minutes, and pulse in the blender or food processor to break the peas (about 5- 10 times or about 10 to 15 seconds) you should do this in small quantities. In a large bowl soak the beans in warm water for about 2 hours or up to 24 hours, and cover with water until tender.
- Rub the peas between your hands to take the skin off. The skins will float to the top. Pour off the skins, into a colander; you may have to do this process several times. Most of the skin will come off the peas; Sort through the remaining peas to remove all the skin. You can do this ahead of time and freeze it, to save time.
- In a food processor, puree onions, black-eyed peas, and habanero pepper with no or very little water until completely smooth. You might have to do this in two batches.

It is important to know that using water will cause the mixture to be very light and will not hold together.

- In a medium bowl mix together, blended black-eyed peas, salt, and eggs.
- Heat a large skillet or cast iron with oil up to ½ inch- medium-high heat (375) until hot but not smoking.
- Gently place batter by spoonfuls in hot oil and fry until golden brown, about 4-5 minutes turning once. Fry in batches and do not over-crowd the pan - it may lead to soggy akara. Remove from hot oil with a slotted spoon, drain well, and serve.