

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Super Bowl Blues*

I had my heart set on Atlanta - I've got the Super Bowl Blues;  
The ref's blown call made me a Ranter - I've got the Super Bowl Blues;  
Now I'm drinking straight Mylanta - To shake the Super Bowl Blues!

The City of New Orleans has had a love affair with the New Orleans Saints Football Team since its inception in 1967. New Orleans is a small T.V. market and Southerners love football, creating a natural and intense bond between the Saints and the City, despite many losing seasons in the history of the franchise.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated our area, the reopening of the Superdome and the Saints victory over archrival Atlanta provided an emotional boost that helped the City recover from the storm. The Saints Super Bowl victory in 2009 made the relationship between the City and Saints into an almost unbreakable bond. We LOVE the Saints, and this year were looking forward to another Super Bowl run for the Black and Gold.

Then, on Sunday, January 20, the Saints lost the NFC Championship Game 26-23 to the L.A. Rams in the Louisiana Superdome. The Saints didn't play their best game and the Rams played very well, but a referee's failure to call a flagrant penalty against the Rams near the end of the game cost the Saints a win in regulation time and allowed the Rams to escape with an overtime victory. It was a gut-wrenching and unjust defeat that may never be forgotten in these parts.

Though the sting of the loss is painful, we can't lose sight of several things: The Saints remain a beloved part of the fabric of our city; on the field, they provided lots of uplifting moments this year; off the field, they continue to bless our community through numerous works of charitable outreach. In brief, thanks be to God we have the Saints. May we stand with them in this time of suffering, remembering that God didn't promise justice in this life but victory for the Saints in the life to come.

O Lord, bring healing to our grieving Team and City, and next year, help us to win a Second Lombardi Trophy – with a heaping helping of Ram Gumbo!

God bless,  
Fr. Joe