

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLIX, No. 3

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

March 19, 2018

ON THE INSIDE

Holy Week Begins

Before Lent ends and Holy Week begins, there is still time to attend a Penance Service or individual confession. Please turn to page 5 for a listing of many of the services that will be offered throughout the diocese during Holy Week, as well as special times for Easter Vigil Masses and Easter Sunday Masses. For more information, contact your church parish or the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org.

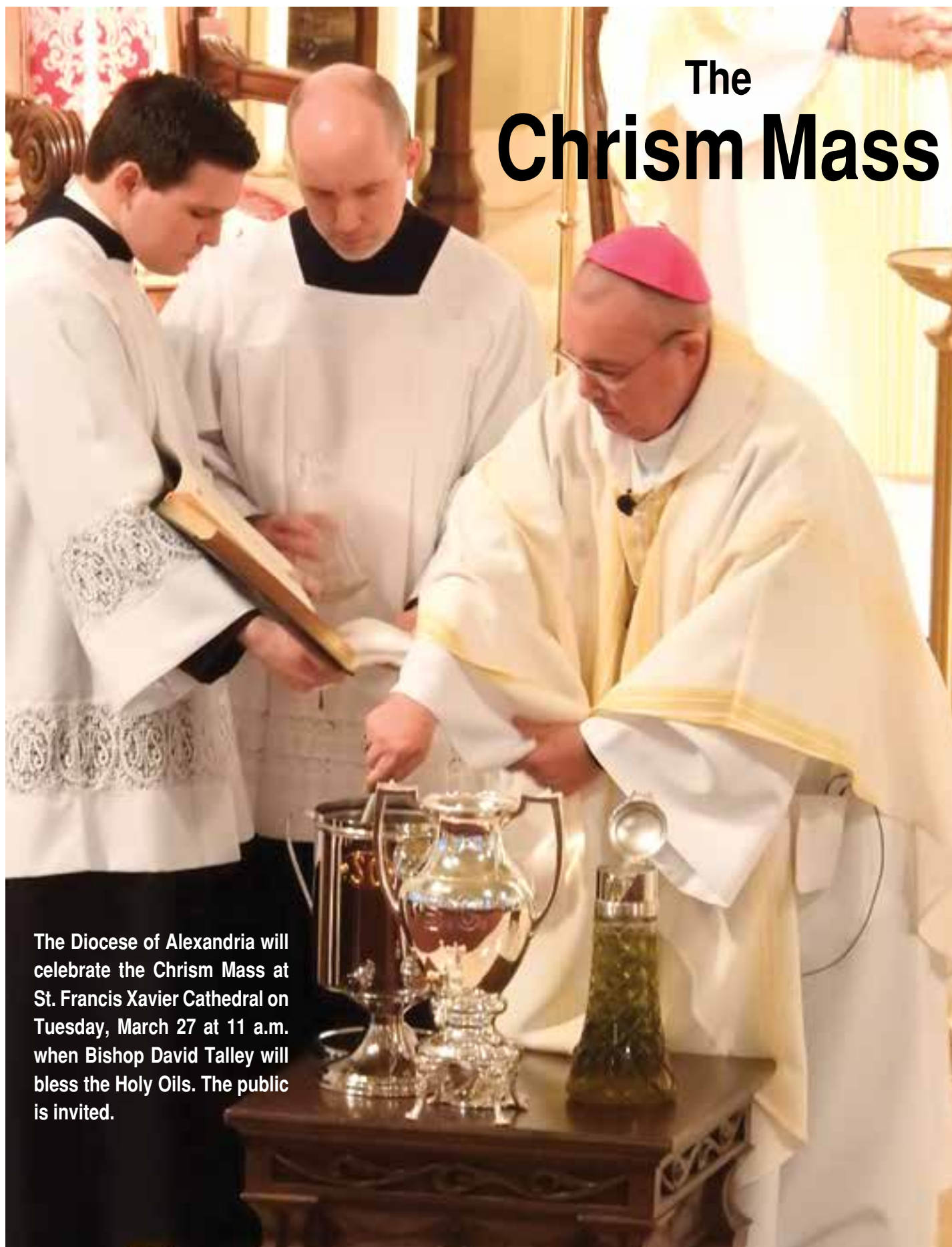
Why do we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday?

Divine Mercy Sunday, this year on April 8, is always celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. For a listing of churches throughout the diocese that will be offering Divine Mercy services, go to page 9. Check it out and make sure you are there at 3:00 p.m., the Hour of Mercy and Grace.

Survey on CT Readership & Use of Social Media

March 30 is the deadline to turn in the survey on page 20, if you haven't already done so. The survey is about the Church Today and your use of Social Media to let us know what you think! Survey is also available online at www.diocesealex.org. Don't delay! -- Remember, the deadline to return it is Friday, March 30!

The Chrism Mass



The Diocese of Alexandria will celebrate the Chrism Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Tuesday, March 27 at 11 a.m. when Bishop David Talley will bless the Holy Oils. The public is invited.

Five years a pope: Francis' focus has been on outreach

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope just a few days after telling the College of Cardinals that the Catholic Church faced a clear choice between being a church that "goes out" or a church focused on its internal affairs.

After the cardinal from Buenos Aires, Argentina, was elected March 13, 2013, and chose the name Francis, he made "go out," "periphery" and "throwaway culture" standard phrases in the papal vocabulary.

Catholics have a wide variety of opinions about how Pope Francis is exercising the papal ministry, and many of his comments -- both in informal news conferences and in formal documents -- have stirred controversy. But, as he wrote in "Evangelii Gaudium," the apostolic exhortation laying out the vision for his pontificate: "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security."

But there are two areas of internal church affairs that he recognized needed immediate attention: the reform of the Roman Curia and the full protection of children and vulnerable adults from clerical sexual abuse.

The organizational reform of the Curia has been taking place in stages, but Pope Francis has insisted that the real reform is a matter of changing hearts and embracing service.

On the issue of abuse, nine months into his pontificate, Pope Francis established the Pontifical Commission for Child Protection to advise him on better ways to prevent clerical sexual abuse and to ensure pastoral care for the survivors.

While Pope Francis has emphatically proclaimed "zero tolerance" for abusers and recently said covering up abuse "is itself an abuse," as his fifth anniversary approached serious questions arose about how he handled accusations that Chilean Bishop Juan Barros, who was a priest at the time, covered up allegations of abuse against his mentor.

The new scandal threatened to undermine the widespread popularity of Pope Francis and his ef-



POPE FRANCIS greets a disabled man after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this June 17, 2013, file photo. The pope has shown special concern for the aged, the sick and those with disabilities. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

forts to set the Catholic Church on a new course.

For Pope Francis, that new course involves evangelization first of all.

"Evangelizing presupposes a desire in the church to come out of herself," he had told the cardinals just days before the conclave that elected him. "The church is called to come out of herself and to go to the peripheries, not only geographically, but also the existential peripheries: the mystery of sin, of pain, of injustice, of ignorance and indifference to religion, of intellectual currents and of all misery."

Mercy is the first thing the

Catholic Church is called to bring to those peripheries, he says.

Although in 2013 he told reporters he would not be traveling as much as his predecessors, Pope Francis has continued their practice of literally "going out," making 22 trips outside of Italy and visiting 32 nations.

But he also regularly visits the peripheries of Rome, both its poor suburbs and its hospitals, rehabilitation centers, prisons and facilities for migrants and refugees.

His desire to reach out has inspired innovations that were noteworthy at the beginning of the papacy, but now seem to be

a natural part of a pope's day. For example, after beginning with Vatican gardeners and garbage collectors, the pope continues to invite a small group of Catholics to join him most weekday mornings for Mass in the chapel of his residence.

The residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, is a guesthouse built by St. John Paul II with the intention of providing decent housing for cardinals when they would enter a conclave to elect a new pope. Pope Francis decided after the 2013 conclave to stay there and not move into the more isolated papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace.

On Holy Thursday each year, he has celebrated Mass at a prison, care facility or refugee center and washed the feet of patients, inmates or immigrants, both men and women, Catholics and members of other faiths. He also ordered the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments to clarify that the feet of both women and men can be washed at the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper.

During the 2015-16 Year of Mercy, he made a visit one Friday a month to people in particular need, including those at a school for the blind, a neonatal intensive care unit, a community of recovering alcoholics, a children's group home and a community for women rescued from traffickers who forced them into prostitution. Once the Year of

Mercy ended, the pope continued the visits.

In September 2015 as waves of migrants and refugees were struggling and dying to reach Europe, Pope Francis asked every parish and religious community in Europe to consider offering hospitality to one family. The Vatican offered apartments and support to a family from Syria and a family from Eritrea. Then, seven months later, Pope Francis visited a refugee center on the island of Lesbos, Greece, and brought 12 refugees back to Rome on the plane with him.

Less than three months into his pontificate, he began denouncing the "throwaway culture" as one where money and power were the ultimate values and anything or anyone that did not advance money or power were disposable: "Human life, the person are no longer seen as primary values to be respected and protected, especially if they are poor or disabled, if they are not yet useful -- like an unborn child -- or are no longer useful -- like an old person," the pope said at a general audience.

In the first three years of his papacy, he published three major documents: "Evangelii Gaudium" (The Joy of the Gospel); "Laudato Si", on Care for Our Common Home, on the environment; and "Amoris Laetitia" (The Joy of Love), on Love in the Family,"

continued on page 6



**Gulf Coast
In-Home Care**
Serving Louisiana Communities for Over 30 Years

Offering

**Temporary & Long Term Assistance
Holiday & Respite Care**

**Schedule Your FREE
In-Home Care Assessment Today!**
Alexandria 318-448-1801

Accepting private pay, private insurance
and veterans benefits.

gulfcoastinhomecare.org

At Home with Gulf Coast.®

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

PETER J. LEMOINE

Social Security Disability Law

Offices in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Cottonport
Adjunct Professor (1994-1997), Northwestern State University

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association,
Baton Rouge Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association,
National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives,
Legal Services for Purposes of Disability Committee (Louisiana State
Bar Association).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited,"
"Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C,"
"Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of
Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at
Social Security Disability Hearings."

318-717-1995

Wuerl: Reflecting on true presence of Christ in the Eucharist during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the very heart of our faith

By Richard Szczepanowski
Catholic News Service

(CNS) -- Spending time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity “to reflect on something at the very heart of our faith -- the enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist,” Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said March 8.

“As we make our way along our Lenten pilgrimage . . . we come together to recognize the presence of Jesus, not just in his words, not just in his actions, but in his enduring presence in the Eucharist,” Cardinal Wuerl said.

Cardinal Wuerl made his remarks during a Mass in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington to open the national shrine’s observance of “24 Hours for the Lord.”

A worldwide initiative to encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, “24 Hours for Lord” was introduced by Pope Francis during the 2016 Year of Mercy. It has since become an annual Lenten event organized by the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization.

Cardinal Wuerl called the Eucharist “bread that contains eternal life for those who eat it” and “a perpetual memorial to Christ’s death and resurrection.”



24 HOURS FOR THE LORD. A worldwide initiative to encourage Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, “24 Hours for the Lord” was held March 9-10 in the Diocese of Alexandria. Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said spending time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is an opportunity to reflect on something at the very heart of our faith -- the enduring presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Recalling Christ’s words at his Last Supper -- “Do this in memory of me” -- when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, Cardinal Wuerl said the Catholic Church “continues to do this at every celebration of Mass.”

“What we proclaim in the

Eucharist -- Christ’s death and resurrection -- is at the heart of our faith,” Cardinal Wuerl said.

Stressing “the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,” the cardinal reminded those in the Crypt Church that “wherever the Sacrament is, there

Christ is. Jesus chose to be with us (in the Blessed Sacrament) out of love for us.”

At the start of Mass, Msgr. Walter Rossi, rector of the national shrine, noted that the annual event was an opportunity for the faithful “to touch the grandeur

of God’s mercy.”

He said that while the worldwide celebration is 24 hours in duration, the devotion at the national shrine would continue for 48 hours, with confessions being heard six hours each day and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available every moment that a Mass is not being celebrated.

“May these days bring God’s abundant mercy and blessings upon all who come before the Lord in Mary’s shrine as well as for those who unite themselves with us in spiritual communion at home,” Msgr. Rossi said.

At the end of the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament was placed on the altar in an ornate monstrance, and Cardinal Wuerl led the faithful in adoration and veneration.

“Offering adoration to Jesus in the Eucharist, the Blessed Sacrament, is a graced moment, one that brings us into the presence of our Lord,” Cardinal Wuerl said. “It is truly a mystery but also a wonderful gift.”

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States, was to celebrate the closing Mass for the devotion the evening of March 10 in the national shrine’s Great Upper Church, concluding with a eucharistic procession followed by Benediction.

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office

School Principal Job Opening

2018-2019 School Year

St. Anthony of Padua School, Bunkie, Louisiana

St. Anthony of Padua School seeks an enthusiastic, dedicated and qualified principal to minister in leadership for a school community of more than 177 students in Grades Pre-K – 8. The successful candidate must be committed to balancing the strong traditions of the 87 year history as a parish school with embracing new and creative opportunities to lead the faculty, students, and parent community to deeper spiritual, academic and social excellence. Ability to collaborate with pastor, parish staff, assistant principal, faculty, and parent body is essential.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Strong Practicing Catholic
- Masters Degree, preferably in Education
- Minimum of 5 years experience in Education (preferably Catholic Education)
- Credentials meet Non-Public School Certification for State of Louisiana
- Demonstrated Leadership Ability
- Availability on or before July 1, 2018

Inquiries and applications may be sent to:

Saint Anthony of Padua Parish

Principal Application Committee

409 Saint John Street

Bunkie, Louisiana 71322

Deadline for Application Packet: May 1, 2018

The schools of the Diocese of Alexandria admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Diocese of Alexandria • Catholic Schools Office

Assistant Principal Job Opening

2018-2019 School Year

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Alexandria, Louisiana

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School seeks an Assistant Principal to assist the Principal in the leadership, coordination, supervision and management of a Catholic school serving 475 students in grades Pre-School 3 through 6. The candidate must be committed to strengthening the strong traditions of a parochial school entering its 70th year. This person must also have the ability to maintain an effective working relationship with the pastor, principal, faculty, staff, students, and parent community.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Practicing Catholic
- Master’s Degree, preferably in Educational Leadership
- Minimum of 5 years’ experience in education
- Credentials meeting Non-Public School Certification for State of Louisiana
- Preference of Catholic Education
- Availability on or before July 30, 2018

Inquiries and applications may be sent to:

Our Lady of Prompt Succor School

Mrs. Jo Tassin, Principal

420 21st Street

Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

Deadline for Application Packet: April 15, 2018

The schools of the Diocese of Alexandria admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Looking for Jesus

Jesus wants to be found by those who are looking for Him. But to look for Him we have to get up and go out. These two sentences from Pope Francis open up the truth of holy Lent for us. Let's look at the spiritual power of these two sentences.

Jesus wants to be found: A Saint for our day, Mother Teresa, taught the world that Jesus longs for us...He thirsts for you and me...for our hearts, for our obedient love. Do we really get this? The mystery of God, known through the relational love of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, this living love that is God thirsts for you and me...for this is the nature of God, Who Is love.

But, are we really looking for Jesus? Those of you who have taken the time to read this March edition of my Vine and Branches column...yes, you are looking for Him. But in this search, this heart seeking Heart, remember both the teaching of Saint Te-

resa of Calcutta and Pope Francis. Mother Teresa reminds us that this thirst of Christ the Lord for us is readily recognized...revealed... in the cry of the poorest of the poor: their nakedness is His nakedness; their hunger is His hunger; their suffering under oppression and injustice and racism and addiction and evil is His suffering (Matthew 10.42 and 25.31-46). If we do not respond as best we are able, to the cry of the poor and the oppressed and the forgotten...we are not truly looking for Christ the Lord...who identifies

Himself with the broken ones in this throw-away culture of 2018.

Holy Lent is a time for spiritual introspection...for looking to speak the truth of about ourselves: who we are and who we hope to be. Holy Lent offers you and me...through the disciples of intensified prayer, the bodily prayer of fasting and almsgiving...a capacity to seek the Lord....by getting up and going out as Pope Francis urges us. How so?

Prayer and fasting and almsgiving...these disciplines...break the ingrained habits that dull our

hearts, the way we often make the gift of life a boring routine. YES, in our repentance, we are called as every follower of Jesus is called...to renounce every sinful habit and every sinful inclination. Of course. But repentance means more than saying NO to the habits of self-centeredness, the sins of pleasing only ourselves, saying NO to the temptations of the Enemy of our human nature. Repentance is also saying YES to God's love for us, YES to the Father's gift of His Son and the Way of Life He offers us, YES to

the indwelling Spirit that we have been given.

Through the gifts given by the Lord, these disciplines of Lent allow us a new freedom (from habit and self-centeredness and boredom)...so that we might see and hear and experience the thirst of Christ the Lord for us... under the disguise of the poor seeking a helping hand, the oppressed longing for freedom and recognition.... those isolated and lonely judged by our thrown away as useless. When we seek out and embrace those that have been lost, we satiate the thirst of Christ....as we embrace Him in our loving care of neighbor.

Jesus wants to be found by those who are looking for Him. But to look for Him we have to get up and go out. AMEN.

AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(For The Greater Glory of God)



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

Most Rev. David P. Talley
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

What's going on around the altar?

The response to the idea of this column, designed specifically to answer YOUR questions, has been great. Through emails and through just talking to people around town, there is apparently a lot of interest and a strong desire to learn more about our participation in the Mass.

So, let's get started.

"Why is there a saint's relic in the altar of the Church?"

For those unfamiliar with a "relic," it is a part of the physical remains or some personal effects of a saint. Many, but not all, altars may indeed have a relic sealed inside the altar in such a way that it is not easily removable. But why??

This is a tradition that continues from the early Church when the remains of martyrs were placed in above ground tombs. During the times of persecution, the people of the Church would gather around the tomb which would be used as the altar to celebrate the Mass. There are some Churches built above the tombs of martyrs including the basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul outside the walls in Rome.

"Why does the priest/deacon kiss (or reverence) the altar at the beginning and at the end of Mass?"

At the very beginning of the Mass, (and at the very end of the Mass) the priest (and deacon) will bow down and kiss the altar. This is done mainly to honor the altar of sacrifice (which represents Christ) where the miracle of the Eucharist takes place. Secondly, it is to continue the tradition of reverencing the relics of the saint or martyr placed in the altar.

"Why does the priest break off a piece of the Eucharist and place it in the Chalice?"

This is a great question that some may not even notice during the liturgy of the Eucharist because it is done immediately after the "Sign of Peace" while we are singing (or speaking) the "Lamb

Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard Mitchell



of God". Since it is a quick action with a prayer that is said silently by the priest, it can be easily missed by the congregation.

However, the priest does indeed break off a piece of the host and place it in the Chalice saying: "*May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.*" But why??

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (also known as the GIRM) states: The priest breaks the Eucharistic Bread as a gesture of Jesus breaking the bread at the Last Supper. The priest then puts a piece of the host into the chalice to "signify the unity of the Body and Blood of the Lord in the work of salvation, namely, of the Body of Jesus Christ, living and glorious." (GIRM 83)

So, this coming Sunday, when you are participating in Mass, take

notice of these two actions:

- The priest reverencing the altar with a kiss at the beginning and at the end of Mass
- The priest uniting the Body and Blood of Christ after the Sign of Peace.

Keep those questions coming!

You may either send an email to WhyDoWe@diocesealex.org or mail them to Deacon Richard Mitchell, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, La. 71306-0417

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLIX, No. 3 • March 19, 2018

P. O. Box 7417 • Alexandria, LA 71303
churchtoday@diocesealex.org 318-445-6424

Publisher: Most Rev. David P. Talley, Bishop of Alexandria
Editor: Jeannie Petrus, ext. 255; jpetrus@diocesealex.org
Advertising: Joan Ferguson, ext. 264; joanferguson@diocesealex.org
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209; starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month, free of charge to members of the parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Out of diocese subscriptions are \$20 a year.

The office is located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303.
Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, LA.
Postmaster: Send address changes to
The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306

Website: www.diocesealex.org
To receive a free subscription, call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or e-mail jpetrus@diocesealex.org

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week schedules for church parishes across the diocese. If your church is not listed, contact your church parish office for Mass times.

PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, March 26

- 5:30 p.m. -- Penance Service, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville
- 6:00 p.m. -- Penance Service, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph

Wednesday, March 28

- 6:00 p.m. -- Penance Service, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth

Saturday, March 31

- 3-4:00 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria

CHRISM MASS

Tuesday, March 27

- 11:00 a.m. -- Chrism Mass, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

Wednesday, March 28

- 5:00 p.m. -- Holy Hour followed by Mass, St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
- 6:00 p.m. -- Mass followed by Stations of the Cross, St. Mary's, Winnsboro
- 7:00 p.m. -- Living Stations of the Cross, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville

Holy Thursday, March 29

Mass of the Lord's Supper

- 4:00 p.m. -- St. Margaret Church, Boyce
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria. Solemn Adoration from 7 pm - midnight
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria. Mass followed by Adoration in the Chapel until midnight.
- 6:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville. Mass followed by Parish Meal and Adoration.
- 6:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga; Washing of Feet, Presentation of Oils, Transfer of Holy Eucharist, Adoration until midnight.
- 6:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
- 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Winnsboro, Last Sup-

per, Washing of Feet, Institution of Eucharist, Institution of Priesthood, Adoration.

- 6:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, Colfax
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle
- 6:00 p.m. -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura, followed by Adoration until midnight.
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Church, Bordelonville
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, followed by Adoration until 8:00 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. -- St. Louis Church, Glenmora

Good Friday, March 30

Friday of the Passion of the Lord

- 10:00 a.m. -- Walking Way of the Cross, Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Rectory), Natchitoches
- 11:00 a.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Waterproof
- 12:00-3:00 p.m. -- Relic of the True Cross exposed, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
- 12 noon -- St. Patrick Mission, Montgomery
- 12 noon -- Way of the Cross, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
- 12:05 p.m. -- Way of the Cross, St. Rita Church, Alexandria
- 3:00 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
- 3:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- 3:00 -- Stations of Cross, St. Louis, Glenmora
- 3:00 p.m. -- Liturgy, Way of the Cross, Passion, General Intercessions, Veneration of the Cross, Communion, St. John's, Columbia
- 3:00 p.m. -- Lord's Passion, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
- 3:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin, followed by Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 p.m. -- St. Margaret Church, Boyce
- 3:00 p.m. -- Stations of the Cross, St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
- 3:00 p.m. -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 3:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, Colfax

- 5:30 p.m. -- Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Communion, St. Rita, Alex.
- 6:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
- 6:00 p.m. -- Way of the Cross, Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
- 6:00 p.m. -- Passion of Our Lord, St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
- 6:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
- 6:00 p.m. -- Good Friday Service, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
- 7:00 p.m. -- Liturgy, Way of the Cross, Passion Reading, Veneration of Cross, Communion, St. Mary's, Winnsboro

Holy Saturday, March 31

Easter Vigil

- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
- 8:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- 8:00 p.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga
- 8:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Mission, Elmer
- 8:00 p.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Margaret Church, Boyce
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Joseph Church, Colfax
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Mary's, Winnsboro
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle
- 8:00 p.m. -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Peter Church, Bordelonville
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Waterproof
- 8:00 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 8:05 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura (NOTE: no 4:30 p.m. Mass)

Easter Sunday, April 1

- 6:30 a.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura
- 7:00 a.m. -- St. Mary's, Winnsboro
- 7:00 a.m. -- Latin Mass, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria
- 8:00 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- 8:00 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 8:00 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth. Mass followed by Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.

- 8:00 a.m. -- St. Margaret Church, Boyce
- 8:00 a.m. -- St. Michael Church, Rexmere
- 8:00 a.m. -- St. Gerard Mission, Jonesville
- 8:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin
- 8:30 a.m. -- St. Anne Chapel, Old River
- 8:30 a.m. -- St. Louis Church, Glenmora
- 9:00 a.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 9:00 a.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria. Mass followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
- 9:00 a.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tioga
- 9:00 a.m. -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 9:00 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph
- 9:30 a.m. -- St. Joseph Church, Colfax
- 9:30 a.m. -- St. Peter Church, Bordelonville
- 9:30 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria, followed by Easter Egg Hunt for 7 years and younger
- 10:00 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- 10:00 a.m. -- St. Patrick Church, Ferriday
- 10:00 a.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura
- 10:00 a.m. -- St. John's, Columbia
- 10:30 a.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth
- 10:30 a.m. -- Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin
- 10:30 a.m. -- St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle. Mass followed by Easter Egg Hunt.
- 11:00 a.m. -- St. Jude Mission, Sieper
- 11:00 a.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 11:00 a.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 11:00 a.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
- 11:00 a.m. -- Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tioga
- 11:00 a.m. -- St. Patrick, Montgomery
- 11:00 a.m. -- Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 11:30 a.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville
- 4:30 p.m. -- Vespers, Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 5:00 p.m. -- Latin Mass, Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
- 5:30 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth
- 5:30 p.m. -- St. Paul the Apostle, Mansura
- 6:00 p.m. -- St. Rita, Alexandria
- 6:15 p.m. -- St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria
- 7:00 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville



For 142 years and five generations, the Kramer Family has been guiding families in creating meaningful ceremonies to honor the life and memory of their loved ones.

KRAMER
Funeral and Cremation Service

Alexandria
(318) 445-6311

Fifth Ward
(318) 240-8305

Colfax
(318) 627-3511



Monday-Friday 7 am-5 pm
Saturday 7 AM to 12 PM

We also sell propane, please call (318) 473-4124

3011 MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria
445-4561



1721 Hwy. 3175
Natchitoches
356-8811

Five years a pope cont. from pg. 2

his reflections on the discussions of the Synod of Bishops in 2014 and 2015.

People skeptical about the scientific proof that human activity is contributing to climate change objected to parts of “*Laudato Si’*,” but the criticism was muted compared to reactions to Pope Francis’ document on the family, especially regarding ministry to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics and the possibility that, under some conditions, some of those Catholics could return to the sacraments.

The strongest criticism came from U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke and three other cardinals, who sent to the pope and then publicly released in November 2016 a formal, critical set of questions, known as “*dubia*,” insisting that allowing those Catholics to receive the sacraments amounted

to changing fundamental church teaching about marriage, sexuality and the nature of the sacraments.

Pope Francis has not responded to the cardinals, two of whom have since died. But in December, the Vatican posted on its website the guidelines for interpreting “*Amoris Laetitia*” developed by a group of Argentine bishops, as well as Pope Francis’ letter to them describing the guidelines as “*authentic magisterium*.”

The guidelines by bishops in the Buenos Aires region said the path of discernment proposed by Pope Francis for divorced and civilly remarried couples “does not necessarily end in the sacraments” but, in some situations, after a thorough process of discernment, the pope’s exhortation “opens the possibility” to recep-

tion of the sacraments.

In the document and throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has emphasized God’s mercy and the power of the sacraments to spur conversion and nourish Christians as they try to progress in holiness.

Like all popes, Pope Francis frequently urges Catholics to go to confession, telling them it is not a “*torture chamber*.” And he repeatedly gives priests blunt advice about being welcoming and merciful to those who approach the confessional.

Like St. John Paul did each Lent, Pope Francis hears confessions in St. Peter’s Basilica. But, he surprised even his closest aides beginning in 2014 when, instead of going to the confessional to welcome the first penitent, he turned and went to confession himself.

If you wish to show your appreciation or remember

Any of These Deacons



who serve you now, or who served you in the past, come to the

Mass of Renewal for Permanent Deacons

Saturday, March 24

10:30 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

BISHOP DAVID: MAGNIFICAT SPEAKER. Bishop David Talley, Bishop shared his personal story recently with a group of 120 people at the Magnificat in Avoyelles hosted by CENLA Magnificat. Attendees from throughout the diocese and from the Diocese of Shreveport listened attentively as Bishop Talley shared moments from his conversion, events from his priesthood, and how he received “the call” regarding his appointment as Bishop of Alexandria. His warm personality and his ability to bring everyone into the event gave those who attended a peek into his walk with God. Bishop Talley stressed how we each have our own walk, our own stories to tell, and how we are each called by God.



2-YEAR

Spiritual Director INTERNSHIP

The Diocese will soon partner with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program in offering a certification for those interested in this ministry. This program is a two-year Spiritual Director Internship that is based on the Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Classes are one day per month and available during either weekdays or weekends. There will be an

Informational Meeting

Saturday, April 7, 2018

10 a.m. - noon

St. Joseph Catholic Center

4400 Coliseum Blvd • Alexandria

There is an application process with prerequisite requirements and a fee for the program. Prerequisites include:

- A life of prayer
- A member in good standing within “one’s” church
- Have the Gift of Discernment
- Personal experience of Ongoing Spiritual Direction
- Attend a directed retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius
- Make one of two Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: “30-Day Retreat” or “19th Annotation”
- Have adequate Theological Background (Bachelor’s in Catholic Theology or a certified catechist or completion of the formation program for the permanent diaconate...)
- Have a present or future ministry which includes some form of Spiritual Direction
- Ability to attend all aspects of the program and to do the required study.
- Fee is \$2,000 for the two-year program (fee does not include textbooks or housing if it is required)

To register for the informational session on April 7, please contact

Deacon Richard Mitchell

dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org

(318) 445-6424, ext. 206

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

561-2500 • NBALawFirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria



LOUISIANA AIR NATIONAL GUARD CHAPLAIN. General Pete Schneider, Commander of the 159th Fighter Wing, flew into Camp Beauregard on a Blackhawk helicopter Feb. 23 to officially swear in Father John Brocato as a member of the Louisiana Air National Guard, where he will be serving as chaplain. General Scheider said it has been one of his goals, as the commander of the 159th Fighter Wing, to get a priest in the Louisiana Air National Guard. Father Brocato said he believes this will truly be a blessed experience and is grateful to Bishop Talley for the opportunity to return to serve our men and women in uniform. Fr. Brocato will be training in Belle Chasse, La. for the next couple of drill weekends, followed by serving as chaplain on Guard weekend duty at Camp Beauregard in Pineville.



65TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION. Msgr. John Timmermans celebrated his 65th anniversary of ordination March 11 with a Mass and reception. Pictured are Father Martin Laird, Msgr. Steve Testa, Msgr. John Timmermans, Father Jose Pallipurath, and Father Derek Ducote. (Photo by Jana Bordelon)

Msgr. Timmermans celebrates 65 years as a priest

Msgr. John Timmermans celebrated the 65th anniversary of his ordination March 11 at the 9:30 Mass at Sacred Heart Church Moreauville with fellow priests and parishioners.

A reception followed in the church hall.

John M. Timmermans was born on November 30, 1924 in Made, Province of North-Brabant, Netherlands. His parents were Johannes Timmermans and Maria Mechtilda Timmermans-Lommers. He had four brothers and a sister.

After finishing elementary school in his hometown, he spent six years in the St. Joseph Protector Seminary at St. Anthonis, Netherlands from which he graduated. He completed his course of philosophy at the University

of Nijmegen and theology at the Diocesan Theologicum of Den Bosch at Haaren. Upon completion of his studies he was ordained by the Most Rev. William, J.P.M., Mutsaerts, Bishop of Den Bosch in the Cathedral Basiclica of St. John in Den Bosch, Holland on December 20, 1952.

After his ordination Fr. Timmermans worked in the parish of Hooge Zwaluwe for more than a year and assisted in a disastrous flood of 1953 during which more than 2,000 people drowned. Having survived as a seminarian the World War II, he had promised to devote his priesthood in the service of a missionary country.

He left his native country for the United States and arrived in New Orleans on March 7, 1954. Bishop Charles Greco appointed

him as the assistant pastor at St. Frances Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria for two years and again as assistant pastor at St. Catherine’s Church in Shreveport where he remained for four years.

In November 1959 Bishop Greco appointed Fr. Timmermans as the 14th pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville and retired from the same church on July 1, 1993 after a wonderful pastoral ministry for 34 years.

In his long term of service he also served as the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church for many years. He has worked hard to build up Sacred Heart Church, Sacred School, St. John’s Village and Our Lady of Sorrows Church and continues to remain active vibrant as a priest being a beacon of light to Moreauville Community.

Seminarian Burses

February Donations

Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian L. Molenschot Burse	
Father Peter Kuligowski	\$30.00
Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Mrs. Billie H. Robertson	\$50.00
Father Louis Gagnard Burse	
Knights of Columbus Assembly 2078	\$100.00
Monsignor S. J. Dekeuwer Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Couvillion	\$100.00
Father Sheldon L. Roy Burse	
Mr. Leland Moreau, Jr.	\$100.00
Father Sheldon L. Roy Burse	
Mrs. Newlyn Broussard	\$100.00
Deacon Rodrick “Benny” Broussard Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Father Derek Ducote	\$100.00
St. Mary’s Assumption Church Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Tarver	\$500.00
Father Daniel Cook Burse	
Total	\$1,455.00

7 OUT OF 10 CHURCHES

AREN'T GETTING THE BEST SOUND FROM THEIR EXISTING SYSTEM

CALL US AT 318.614.0422 TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

BOOK YOUR IN-PERSON CONSULTATION FOR FREE!

Diocese of Alexandria CFO releases audited financial information

I am happy to present the audited financial statements for the Diocese of Alexandria for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The numbers presented show only the operations of the diocesan corporation itself and do not include financial information from parishes, missions or schools.

The most interesting item (to me) on these statements is not a number but the dashes you see beside the phrase “Unrestricted – Undesignated” in the Net Assets section of the Balance Sheet. This means that 100% of the assets of the Diocese have been earmarked for some specific purpose – ei-

ther by outside donors or by the Bishop or his predecessors. We truly have nothing that could be considered “free and clear” with no strings attached. We are able to survive solely by the grace of God and your continued generosity.

The “Note Receivable” listed at \$1,590,138 represents loans made by the Diocese to Holy Savior Menard Central High School for the purposes of building maintenance and other support. Of that amount, about \$1 million represents bank debt which is included in the \$3,279,587 amount listed in the Liabilities section as Loan Debt. The rest of that number (nearly

\$2.3 million) represents the balance due at June 30 on a line of credit we used to finance the construction of new lodging facilities at Maryhill in 2015. Due to the strength of stock market since last June, we have been able to reduce the line of credit balance to a little over \$1.1 million as of the date of this letter without touching the principal of our investment portfolio.

Almost the entire “Accrued Payables” figure you see of \$6,051,290 represents the present value of the future medical benefits we expect to pay on behalf of our priests. The priests’ pension fund is owned by the priests of this diocese who are

vested in it – not by the Diocese – and is therefore not included in these financial statements.

I was recently told that the Diocese of Alexandria, financially, is the sixth poorest diocese in the United States. Thankfully, I know that “poorest” designation only applies to finances and not at all to the faith, cultural richness, and overwhelming spirit of giving (in all its forms) that the good people of this diocese exhibit every day. We profoundly thank you for your efforts in support of the Catholic Church in our corner of the world.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the in-

formation presented, please contact me at dbrook@diocesealex.org or (318)445-6424 ext. 215. - Sincerely,

David V. Brook, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Financial Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2017

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash	2,120,455
Accounts Receivable	805,199
Pledges Receivable	250,426
Note Receivable	1,590,138
Other Receivables	21,682
Prepaid Expenses	6,797
Investments	9,034,550
Interest in Trusts	1,068,159
Land/Bldgs/Equipment	4,987,197
Equity in Workers Comp Pool	52,373
Other Assets	15,000
Total Assets	19,951,976

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	341,385
Loan Debt	3,279,587
Accrued Payables	6,051,290
Insurance Reserves	48,864
National Collections	20,113
Other Liabilities	450
Total Liabilities	9,741,689

Net Assets

Unrestricted – Undesignated	--
Unrestricted – Designated	6,588,041
Temporary Restricted	1,670,339
Permanently Restricted	1,951,907
Total Net Assets	10,210,287
Total Liabilities / Net Assets	19,951,976

Revenue and Expense Statement

Revenue

Parish Assessments	1,538,105
Priests Benefit Charge	338,625
Contributions / Grants	2,504,549
Maryhill	231,244
Church Today	53,978
Investment Income	266,598
Market Gain on Investments	554,618
Insurance Premiums	2,978,120
Steubenville Conference	337,377
Other Revenue	270,669
Total Revenue	9,073,883

Expenses

Maryhill	313,544
Vocations	479,190
Infirm / Retired Priests	1,684,518
Educational Ministry	158,533
Pastoral Services	731,400
Communications	213,825
Tribunal	213,694
Insurance Programs	2,930,790
Steubenville Conference	372,829
Other Ministries	230,217
Administrative	683,477
Development	165,649
Interest Expense	118,277
Depreciation	299,717
Total Expenses	8,595,660

Net Income

	478,223
Net Assets – Beginning of Year	9,732,064
Net Assets – End of Year	10,210,287

3 p.m. -- the hour of grace and Divine Mercy for the entire world

By Emily Jaminet
Catholic News Service

Known as the apostle of divine mercy, St. Faustina Kowalska brought the message of God's deep and passionate love for all of humanity.

Faustina was born in 1905 to a poor peasant family in a small village in Poland. Named Helen, she was the third of 10 children. Despite their poverty, her parents taught their children the importance of living out their Catholic faith in daily life.

From a young age, Helen always felt drawn to the religious life, but she experienced many obstacles in getting to the convent. Helen joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw on Aug. 1, 1925, where she took on the name Sister Maria Faustina. She wrote in her diary that she felt immensely happy: "A single prayer was bursting forth from my heart, one of thanksgiving."

Despite the joy she felt in becoming a religious sister, she had many trials and struggles, including tuberculosis, which led to her early death.

Considered a mystic, Faustina spread the message of divine mercy in her personal journal called "Divine Mercy in My

Soul." Over 600 pages long, the diary is full of personal insights, interactions and accounts of mystical experiences with Christ and Mary. The diary details aspects of the divine mercy devotion.

The Feb. 22, 1931, entry of her diary states that Christ instructed Faustina to have an image painted like the one she saw in her convent cell that night. He told her, "Paint me an image ... with the signature: 'Jesus, I trust in you.'"

The image depicts Jesus with two bright rays of light, one red and the other white, flowing from Christ's heart. The lighter ray symbolizes water, which "makes souls righteous" and the red ray symbolizes blood, which is "the life of the souls."

According to Faustina, there are special graces for those who pray before



this image. "By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so let every soul have access to it," Christ told her.

Christ also instructed Faustina that there should be a great feast day to celebrate his mercy.

Known as Divine Mercy Sunday, this feast day falls on the first Sunday after Easter, pointing to the close relationship between the paschal mystery and God's mercy. "I desire that the feast of mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners," Christ told her.

Special graces are available on this feast day, and Faustina presented the conditions for receiving these graces. Most important, she writes, one must be in a state of grace, have gone to confession and received holy Communion.

Another aspect of the divine mercy devotion is the chaplet of divine mercy, which is prayed on the beads of a rosary.

The prayer, beginning with, "I offer you the body, blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ," unites us to the crucifixion.

Another line from the prayer states: "For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." This powerful phrase is the backbone for the chaplet and the driving force for why we pray it, for the

people in our lives, loved ones, friends, family members and the whole world.

Another aspect of the devotion, the "hour of mercy," observed at 3:00 p.m., is the customary time Christians remember Christ's death on the cross.

"It was the hour of grace for the whole world -- mercy triumphed over justice," Faustina recorded in her diary. Pray the Stations of Cross, go to eucharistic adoration or "immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be, if only for a very brief instant," Christ instructed Faustina.

One other aspect of divine mercy is spreading the devotion and the hour of mercy. "Souls who spread the honor of my mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a judge for them, but the merciful savior," Christ said to her.

Divine Mercy Services Sunday, April 8

- **St. Frances Cabrini, Alexandria**
2:00 -3:00 p.m. -- Confessions
3:00 p.m. -- Chaplet and Benediction
- **Mary Mother of Jesus, Woodworth**
11:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m. -- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Chaplet Chanted
- **Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin**
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Service
- **Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches**
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Service
- **Holy Ghost Church, Marksville**
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:15 p.m. -- Adoration
- **St. Augustine, Isle Brevelle**
2:00 p.m. -- Adoration/Confessions
2:45 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Service
- **Mater Dolorosa, Plaquemine**
2:30 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Service
- **OL of Prompt Succor, Alexandria**
2:00 p.m. -- Confessions
3:00 p.m. -- Holy Hour: Exposition, Veneration of the Image, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary, Short Way of the Cross, Intercessions and Benediction.
- **Sacred Heart, Moreauville**
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Hour
- **St. Anthony, Natchitoches**
2:00 p.m. -- Confessions
3:00 p.m. -- Divine Mercy Hour



Panda Restaurant
Chinese Cuisine & Mongolian Grill

Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet and Mongolian grill . . . We do party trays . . . all major credit cards accepted.

2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA
Ph: (318) 767-8596/Fax: (318) 767-2250

Lunch:
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dinner:
Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday:
11 a.m.- 9 p.m.



TUNK'S

NOW OPEN FOR
LUNCH!

Restaurant:
Mon-Sat: 5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun:
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Oyster Bar:
Mon-Sat: 4 p.m. - 11 p.m.
(Oyster Bar is closed on Sundays)

On Hwy 28 West
8.5 miles past the Coliseum
487-4014
www.tunkscypressinn.com
Like us on Facebook!





Restaurant - Lounge - Oyster Bar



ST. RITA (Alexandria). Catechumens: Crystal Brister, Reece Brister, Robert Brister, Joseph Grabowski, and Haylie Jeansonne. Candidate: Courtney Loyacano.



HOLY CROSS (Natchitoches). Catechumens: Mark Massia, Taylor Powell, and Rhonda Vienne. Candidates: Serena Bonnette, Jacob Ellis, Deborah Holley, Bailey Pierce, and Taylor Pierre.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL (Leesville). Catechumens: Andrew Marsalise and Skye L'Heureux (not pictured)



MATER DOLOROSA (Plaucheville). Catechumens: Johnathan Vaccaro and Keith Vaccaro, Jr. Candidate: Caiden Vaccaro.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR (Alexandria). Catechumens: Amanda Funk, Kelsie Gurgainers, Ethan Hartman, Megan Riche, Mike Small. Candidates: Kari Book, Mansel Funk, Maddie Kelone, Sharon Kelone, Edgar Rigby, and Brock Sues.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY (Tioga). Catechumen: Rick Marshall. Candidate: Buddy Hively.



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS (Woodworth). Candidates: Jocelyn Brown, Maddie Doherty, Lara Riche.



ST. JOSEPH (Colfax) and ST. PATRICK MISSION (Montgomery). Candidates: Samanth Jackson and Kahnya Moore.

Rite of Election: February 18



ST. FRANCES CABRINI (ALEXANDRIA). Britany McCauley, Serena Hurley, Gabriel Smith, and Caroline Ragsdale. Johnnie Kircher and Allen Smith



SACRED HEART OF JESUS (Pineville). (Front row) Jonathan Belgard, Jewel Flaherty, Isabella Hailey, Reed Gray, John Painter, Christinana Mimes. Back row: Jan White, Sarah Couvillion, Myra Spruill, Crystal Bellino, and Christine Mimes. Not pictured: Donald Madison, Chris Babcock, Kyle Faulks, and Nate Ussery.



ST. MARGARET (Boyce). Catechumen: Tyler Suttles. Candidate: Alexas Martin.



ST. JOSEPH (Marksville). Jamie Dausatz and Diane Dubroc.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL (Alexandria). Catechumens: Michael Drerup and Abbey Perez-Montez.



ST. PATRICK (Ferriday). Candidates: Molly Hoffpauir, Danny Malone, Matthew Malone, and Vicki Malone.



MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Natchitoches). Candidates: Hayley Aguillard, Karen Lee, and William Lee



I will give you a New Heart
 "... and a new spirit I will place within you." *Ezekiel 36:26*

Please prayerfully consider a
 generous donation today.
 Go to www.diocesealex.org to donate.



2018 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

Beyond the limits

BEYOND THE LIMITS -- the first youth conference for the junior high students of the Diocese of Alexandria was held Feb. 24-25 at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Alexandria. More than 350 students in grades 5-8 attended the conference to hear host Chris Padgett, and guest speakers Kelly Lombardi, Sister Fatima, OLS, Father Jose Robles, Father John Wiltse.

(at right) **THE JOSH BLAKESLEY BAND** performed throughout the conference inspiring and uplifting the students in praise and worship.

(Far right) Father José Robles-Sanchez holds the monstrance during Adoration and Benediction.



(at left) **HOT POTATO.** Keeping 350 junior high students interested and entertained for the weekend was a must between talks. Ben Lesnifsky engages the students with an action-filled game of hot potato.

(below) **COMING TO KNOW JESUS IS FUN!** If you've never met Chris Padgett, you're in for a treat. Host for the weekend, Chris Padgett was funny, entertaining and yet inspired and filled the young people with the love of Jesus.



(above) **ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP.** This group of students and their chaperone from St. Augustine Church in Isle Brevelle were some of the 350 students who attended the 1st annual Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference. The largest groups came from St. Mary's School in Natchitoches with 54 students and Our Lady of Prompt Succor School with 49 students.



Bishop Talley recognizes Scouts for accomplishments in faith, community



SCOUT SUNDAY. Bishop David Talley presented awards to several Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts during the special Mass for all Scouts on Scout Sunday held March 4 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.



SCOUT SUNDAY. Bishop David Talley also presented awards to several Girls Scouts, Brownies and Daisies during the special Mass for all Scouts on Scout Sunday.

Bishop David Talley presented awards to a number of Boy and Girl Scouts March 4 during a special Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in honor of Scout Sunday. The awards presented are:

- **Light of Christ Award:** presented to Catholic Tiger and Wolf Cubs: Matthew Cobb, Silas Franks, John Morgan and Mason West.

- **Family of God Award:** presented to Brownies in the 2nd & 3rd Grades: Shelby Bordelon, Mallori Cole, Britney Falks, Adalynn Gravel, Belina Nguyen, and Breanne Williams.

- **Parevuli Dei Award:** presented to Catholic Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts: Dustin Bonnette, Preston Greer, Austin LeBlanc, Andrew Richard, Madryx Soley, Christopher Waits, Dakota Warren, Shane White, and Dagan Zaunbrecher.

- **I Live My Faith Award:** presented to Catholic Girl Scouts

from Grades 4 -11: Emily Hatcher

- **Ad Altare Dei:** presented to 13 - 14 Year Old Members of BSA Troops and Crews: Roland "Beau" Bordelon, III, Jake Noda, Daniel Raines, and Nathan Raines.

- **Pope Pius XII Award:** presented to 15+ year old members of BSA troops and crews: Blaine Phillips.

- **Bishop's Service Award:** Maya Shelby and Austin Shelby

- **100 Years of Catholic Scouting Patch:** Eugenie Bass, Sydnee Bordelon, Kannin Cole, Ami Fahrenholtz, Kennedi Johnson, Tina Nguyen

- **National Catholic Committee on Scouting Patches:** Maya Shelby earned the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Patch; St. George, St. John Paul II, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Patches. Cara Jeansonne earned the St. Mother Teresa Patch. Christa Jeansonne

earned the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Patch.

- **Our Lady of Fatima Patch:** Eugenie Bass, Sydnee Bordelon, Kannin Cole, Ami Fahrenholtz, Emily Hatcher,

Kennedi Johnson, and Tina Nguyen.

- **Discipleship Pin:** Eugenie Bass, Sydnee Bordelon, Kannin Cole, Ami Fahrenholtz, Emily Hatcher, and Tina Nguyen.

Adult Leader Awards

- **St. Anne Medal:** Shannon Shelby. Shannon has been an active Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader for over 10 years. She is a volunteer at Manna House, supports the VA through Girl Scout cookie donations and her church as a member of the choir.

- **Bronze Pelican Award:** Ian Kho. Ian is an assistant Den Leader for the Webelos Scouts. He serves as the Grand Knight of KC Council 13505; an adult altar server; is active in the music ministry; and organizes the Filipino Catholic Mass each month at his church.



Daisy Girl Scouts with Bishop Talley.

YOU GET IT ALL AT

SAYES

OFFICE SUPPLY

WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM

OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT

7603 Highway 71 South • Alexandria, LA 71302
318.448.4225 • Toll Free: 1.800.766.4819

LET US FILL YOUR TANK

Jim's South Propane



Complete Installation & Service
Available for Commercial & Residential

318-473-4124

3011 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria, LA 71301



[REDACTED]: 5th Grade Student of the Year from Sacred Heart School in Moreauville.

[REDACTED] 12th Grade Student of the Year from Holy Savior Menard High School.

Catholic Schools Office announces non-public Student of the Year winners

Seventeen students, representing seven non-public schools around Central Louisiana, competed for the District Student of the Year competition held Feb. 15 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center in Alexandria.

The 17 students in grades 5, 8 and 12, had already competed against their peers in their schools and were selected as Student of the Year to represent their school for their grade in the district competition.

The winners of the district competition, announced by Thomas Roque, superintendent of Catholic Schools are Ryan Lemoine, 5th grade winner from Sacred Heart School; Abigale Michaud, 8th grade winner from Old Bethel Christian Academy; and Michael Hirschak, 12th grade

winner from Holy Savior Menard Central High School.

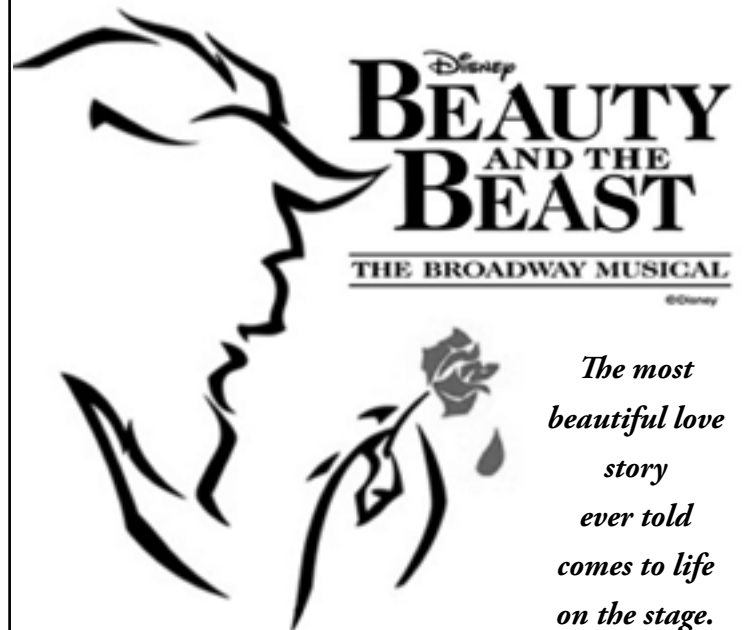
Each winner received a certificate and medal and then went on to compete in the regional Student of the Year competition in Baton Rouge held on Feb. 22.

5th graders who represented their schools in the district competition were Joshua Blakesley, Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria; Kelly Jo Chapman, Old Bethel Christian Academy in Alexandria; Matthew Crenshaw, Alexandria Country Day School; Ryan Lemoine, Sacred Heart School in Moreauville; Marie-Elise Malzahn, St. Anthony of Padua School in Bunkie; Bo Pilgreen, St. Joseph School in Plaquemine; and Gabriel Ragusa, St. Mary's Assumption School in Cottonport.

8th graders who represented their schools in the district competition were Layla Aymond, St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport; Sarah Deshotel, Sacred Heart School in Moreauville; Sarah Gad, Alexandria Country Day School; Brook Lemoine, St. Joseph School, Plaquemine; Abigale Michaud, Old Bethel Christian Academy in Alexandria; Catherine Roy, Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria; and Jenna Vogel, St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie.

12th graders who represented their schools in the district competition were Abigail Barnhill, Old Bethel Christian Academy in Alexandria; Michael Hirschak, Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria; and Hadley Leonards, St. Joseph School in Plaquemine.

a production of
HOLY SAVIOR MENARD THEATRE ARTS
Under the direction of Cherise Rino



*The most
beautiful love
story
ever told
comes to life
on the stage.*

APRIL 11-15, 2018

COUGHLIN SAUNDERS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

April 11, 7:00 p.m.

April 12, 7:00 p.m.

April 13, 7:00 p.m.

April 14, 2:00 p.m.

April 14, 7:00 p.m.

April 15, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15 from www.ticket-central.org
at the Menard Front Office or at the door.

For more information, call 318.445.8233

*Presented through special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI)*



Oestrieher Financial Management Services



Emile P. Oestrieher, III, CPA

**Let us help your family
manage your financial goals.**

**Education Funding
Family Risk Management
Small Business Planning*

**Retirement Planning
*Mutual Funds
Annuities



Anne Oestrieher, CPA, CFP®

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303
318-448-3556 • www.o-fms.com

*Securities offered through HD Vest Investment ServicesSM, Member: SIPC
Advisory services are offered through HD Vest Advisory ServicesSM
6333 North State Highway 161, Fourth Floor, Irving, Texas 75038, 972-870-6000

Oestrieher Financial Management Services is not a broker/dealer or independent investment advisory firm.



CALL IN YOUR ORDER - WE WILL HAVE IT READY IN 20 MINUTES
COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY & PRICE
WE DELIVER EVERYTHING FROM CHEESE TO "FULL HOUSE"
WITHIN LIMITED AREA SUN-THUR 11 AM-10:30 PM
CHECK ACCEPTABLE FRI & SAT 11 AM-11 PM

#1 ALEXANDRIA
902 VERSAILLES
BLVD.
448-4104

#2 BALL
6301 MONROE HWY.
640-2983

#3 PINEVILLE
CORNER HWY. 28
EAST & STILLEY RD.
445-9249

VALUABLE COUPON

Two Medium Pizzas \$17.99

Single Topping - Additional Toppings Extra
Not valid with any other coupon

Coupon
Expires
4/16/18

All prices subject to change



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 1357 DONATE MORE COATS. Natchitoches Knights of Columbus Council 1357 presented coats and jackets to East Natchitoches and LP Vaughn Elementary Schools. More than 60 "like-new", previously owned and dry cleaned coats were distributed as part of their



ongoing community outreach.



GILDA AUGUSTINE from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Mansura was chosen "Avoyellean Catholic Church Secretary of the Year Feb. 6 at the 14th Annual Avoyellean Catholic Church Secretary's Appreciation Supper at St. Alphonsus Church Rectory in Hessmer. The secretaries from all of the churches in Avoyelles attended. Father Edwin Rodriguez presented Gilda with a nice gift with her name engraved on it and was also added to a plaque with names of past winners that will be displayed in her church office until the next supper in 2019. Congratulations, Gilda!





Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop

- * Architectural Millwork
- * Custom Cabinets & Moulding

Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276

GUY JEANSONNE
Owner

1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301

PEST AID CO.

We Sell
Do-It-Yourself
Pest Control
Supplies



Termites • Ants
Ticks • Roaches
Mice • Fleas
Mosquitoes

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
6 Month Service Agreements
Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.

473-0228
1-800-256-0450

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA




Telephone 318-445-1446
Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists
Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower

Schnack's

FINE JEWELRY
Established 1865
1438 Dorchester Drive
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408
www.schnacks.com



BAKER 

LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT, INC.

P.O. Box 5624
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751
Fax: (318) 473-4045
Email: DonaldJBaker@aol.com

Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF
CONSULTING FORESTER
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

OLPS Church offers free Substance Abuse Ministry

Addiction is not just the problem of an individual. It is a family disease which touches spouses, children, mothers, fathers, grandparents and numerous others.

In this day and time where the family structure is under assault by so many different aspects of modern day life, addiction can unravel a family beyond repair.

That's why Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria started offering a free Substance Abuse Ministry in this area.

The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Madonna Room of OLPS Church.

The confidential meetings are facilitated by Mike Lofton, LCSW, who has a master's degree in Clinical Social Work and who specializes in issues related to addiction, co-dependency and mental health.

At every meeting, there are a lot of good people who are sorely in need of affirmation that their struggles are not in vain. Some are those that are newly addicted and have come to the reality of addiction and the shambles that it can make of relationships.

Others are those who have



experienced a lifetime of dealing with addiction in its many forms and need the support of the group to continue their fight or to seek closure and forgiveness through God's grace.

Substance Abuse Ministry is for anyone with an addiction

problem of any kind and for family members who need assistance in coping with relationship problems caused by the addiction.

Although the meetings are open to everyone regardless of church parish affiliation or religious preference, the ministry is

Catholic based. The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon are also integrated into the meetings. All are welcome.

Teens and adults are urged to attend these healing sessions and pastors are urged to identify those who could benefit from this ministry and make them aware of it. Child care is provided upon request. The meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Madonna Room of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church. A meal is served at each meeting. Prayer and fellowship are integral parts of the sessions. All meetings are confidential.

For questions regarding this ministry, please contact Mike Lofton at 308-1880 or Dee Gilbert at 445-3693 ext. 212. For childcare reservations, you must contact Dee by noon on the day of the meeting at 229-7890 or 445-3693 ext. 212.

Six dates remain in Grief Support Ministry at OLPS

The Family Life Commission at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria is currently offering grief support meetings on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. in the Lourdes Room for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Anyone (of all faiths) seeking healing through Jesus is welcome. Meetings are facilitated by parishioners Beth Ponthier and Dana Boudreaux.



Three of the support meetings have already been held but anyone interested can still pick up on the meetings. Participants use a workbook, *New Day Grief Recovery*, which offers information specific to the catholic teachings of death and eternity.

Remaining dates are March 21 and 28; April 11, 18, and 25; and May 9.

For more information contact the church office at 445-3693.

Louis Lowrey, M.A.

Licensed Professional Counselor

Offices located at 207 Church Street, Natchitoches
(318) 332-8422 • lowrey@cp-tel.net
Mail: 109 Royal Street, Natchitoches, LA 71457

**Listen to the Holy Sacrifice
of the Mass on**

KLIL 92.1 KZLG 95.9
8 a.m. Sunday Mass 7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Martha Neil Anthony



Feline Canine Coach

- Behavior Modification
- Obedience and Therapy
- Pet Training
- 30-day Money Back Guarantee
- In home, Individual, and Group Sessions Available
- Phone Consultations and Phone Assessments

985.226.6458 • www.felinecaninecoach.com

**SABINE STATE
BANK**
& Trust Company

Member FDIC



Call your local
branch for
information.
(318) 256-7000

**Budget
Blinds**
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds



Huge selection of the best brands!

(318) 443-9730
**FREE In-Home Consultation
& Estimates**

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated
www.budgetblinds.com

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions
Exterior Window Screens




THE CAST AND CREW OF “MY SON PINOCCHIO JR.” Our Lady of Prompt Succor School performed three shows of Disney’s “My Son Pinocchio, Jr” at Coughlin Saunders Theatre of Performing Arts February 23-25. Almost 60 students in grades K-6 participated in the play. This was the 11th year to perform a school play.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL RECEIVES NEW BASEBALL SCOREBOARD. St. Joseph School in Plaquemine received a new baseball scoreboard in mid March. It was long overdue. A huge thank you to Laborde Earles, injury lawyers and Lemoine Therapy Center for the sponsorship. Thank you to Gibko Signs for donating their time and labor to prepare and install it. This is just one of many amazing projects coordinated by the newly formed booster club at SJS, -- Eagle Nation Athletics.



ST. JULIANA MARDI GRAS KING AND QUEEN OF THE BALL. Gary Davis and his bride Angelia Davis reigned as St. Juliana’s Krewe of St. Peter Claver’s Mardi Gras Ball.



MidEast Chess Board

a book by local author, Woody Voinche Marksville, LA

A short history of some of the major events that have contributed to the development of the mideast: from the coup d'etat that brought about the downfall of Mossadeg and the rise of the Shah; the hostage crisis in Iran; the rise and arming of Saddam Hussein and the events leading up to 9/11.....and much more!

Now available from Amazon and Books-A-Million.

B.K. ROOFING, LLC

Call the Pros!

Residential Roofing Experts

www.bkroofingllc.com

Brian Maddox, Owner
13 years experience
Licensed & insured • References available

“It doesn’t cost any more to get it done right!”

Free estimates!
Most estimates in 2 days

Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies
Let us handle the details!

318-201-9065

17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460



ACTS MISSIONS, CHAPTER OF ALEXANDRIA COMMISSIONING MASS. Bishop David Talley celebrated the formation of the Diocese of Alexandria ACTS Chapter, with a Commissioning Mass March 11 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. As celebrant of this Mass, Bishop Talley welcomed parishioners from the Diocese ACTS Core Parishes -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville; St. Mary's Assumption Church, Cottonport; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville; and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria. Pictured with Deacon Richard Mitchell (forefront) are (front row) Mark Neely, Sue Welch, Bishop Talley, Chris Armstrong, and Jeannie Gauthier. Back row: Robert Kinberger, Nicki Mitchell, Melanie Dupré, and Tom Bouchie. Not pictured are Dixie Clement and Robert Johnson.



Upcoming ACTS Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered soon:

• **April 5-8:**
Sacred Heart ACTS for Women
For more information, contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026 or www.jesusinpineville.com

• **April 26-29:**
St. Mary's ACTS for Women
For more information, contact Luke Welch at 318-359-3372 or thestmarys.com

• **June 7-10, 2018**
OLPS ACTS for Women
For more information, contact Les Glankler at 318-664-5269 or www.cenlaacts.org

• **July 19-22, 2018**
OLPS ACTS for Teens
For more information, contact Les Glankler at 318-664-5269 or www.cenlaacts.org

• **Aug. 9-12, 2018**
Sacred Heart ACTS for Men
For more information, contact Cheryl Paul at 318-308-5026 or www.jesusinpineville.com

• **Sept. 13-16, 2018**
St. Joseph ACTS for Women
For more information, contact John Gary Dauzat at 972-333-3490 or jdauzat@crcins.com



WE CHOSE TO PRAY! One month after the deadly shooting in Parkland, Florida, students at Sacred Heart School in Moreauville joined thousands of students throughout the country in the National School Walkout March 14 to honor the 17 victims of the shooting by praying for them. The students prayed the Rosary in front of the Sacred Heart Grotto from 10 a.m. - 10:17 a.m. for the students and school families of the 17 who lost their lives at Parkland High School. Others across the country walked out of their school for 17 minutes in protest of the gun laws and gun violence in this country.

"It is Finished"

Our Lord and Savior was nailed to the cross,
For all of us sinners and those who were lost.

He looked down on each one of us.
Giving us hope and someone to trust.

His heart was grieved and He hurt so much,
Hoping one day we would keep in touch.

His side was pierced with a lance,
His pain was terrible, but it gave us another chance.

His arms stretched out, and His hands were nailed,
His feet were pierced, and I know He yelled.

He then died on the cross after He cried out,
"It is finished," thus giving us a new route.

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant.

NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT

Need Social Security Disability Benefits?

561-2500

NBALawFirm.com

Richard J. Arsenault

2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria



Seed Taters are in!

Petrus

FEED & SEED

2914 N. Bolton Ave.
Alexandria, LA

442-2325

Readership Survey of the Church Today & Use of Social Media

I. The Church Today

1. How often do you read the Church Today?

- a. Almost always
- b. A few times a year
- c. Never or rarely

2. How much of the Church Today do you read?

- a. Cover to cover
- b. Most articles
- c. A few articles
- d. Just skim it

3. Including yourself, how many people in your house pick up the Church Today and read it or look at it?

Write the number here _____ (include yourself)

4. How well do these describe the Church Today?

4 = Very Much 3 = Yes 2 = A Little 1 = Not at All

- 4 3 2 1 Interesting
- 4 3 2 1 Informative
- 4 3 2 1 Easy to read
- 4 3 2 1 Inspirational
- 4 3 2 1 Helpful for understanding the Catholic faith
- 4 3 2 1 Helpful for living out the Catholic faith
- 4 3 2 1 Good mix of local, national, and world news
- 4 3 2 1 Boring

5. Rate the list of stories below:

3 = Love these stories
2 = These stories are OK
1 = Don't like these types of stories

- 3 2 1 National/international news about the Church
- 3 2 1 Local news
- 3 2 1 Local features about people, places and things
- 3 2 1 Bishop's column
- 3 2 1 Updates on priests, deacons, seminarians
- 3 2 1 Stories to learn more about my faith
- 3 2 1 Church/parish news
- 3 2 1 Organization news (KC/CDA, etc)
- 3 2 1 Catholic School news
- 3 2 1 Historical features
- 3 2 1 Notice of events about to be held (briefs page)
- 3 2 1 Pics of events around the diocese already held
- 3 2 1 Movie reviews
- 3 2 1 Book reviews
- 3 2 1 Calendar

6. Things I would like to see in the Church Today: (check all that apply)

- ___ a. A Catholic crossword puzzle
- ___ b. A page devoted to kid news and activities
- ___ c. Quizzes to learn more about the faith
- ___ d. More color pages (4-12 more pages)
- ___ e. All color newspaper
- ___ f. A full color magazine

7. Circle just one option that you think is best:

- a. Keep the newspaper format.
- b. Change to a magazine format.

5. How do you prefer to receive the Church Today?

- a. Mail the newspaper to my house
- b. Email it to me
- c. I'll go to the website and read it online

II. Church Today Advertising

1. Have you ever advertised in the Church Today?

- a. Yes, I currently advertise in the Church Today
- b. Yes, I used to or have very recently
- c. No, but I have considered it.
- d. No, and probably never will.
- e. No, but I would like to. Email some info to me:
Name _____
Email _____

III. Social Media

1. Rate your current use of technology, socia media

- a. An expert, use social media constantly
- b. Knowledgable, average use of social media
- c. Not real knowledgable, rarely use social media
- d. Don't use technology or social media

2. Where do you currently get most of your news about what's going on in the Catholic Church today?

- a. The Church Today newspaper
- b. Other Catholic newspapers or publications
- c. Local or national TV/Radio (NBC, KALB, etc)
- d. Catholic television networks (EWTN, etc)
- e. Popular magazines (TIME, People, etc)
- f. The Internet (various websites)/Social Media
- g. Family and Friends
- h. Other _____

3. Where would you prefer to get your news about what's going on in the Catholic Church?

- a. The Church Today newspaper
- b. Other Catholic newspapers or publications
- c. Local or national TV/Radio (NBC, KALB, etc)
- d. Catholic television networks (EWTN, etc)
- e. Popular magazines (TIME, People, etc)
- f. The Internet (various websites)/Social Media
- g. Family and Friends
- h. Other _____

4. Answer Yes or No to the following:

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Yes | No | Do you receive the Church Today? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Facebook |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Instagram |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Twitter? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Snapchat? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of Email? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of Texting? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of YouTube? |
| Yes | No | Have you ever visited the Photo Galleries on the diocesan website? |

5. Answer Yes or No to the following

- Y N Have you ever read the Church Today online?
- Y N Do you follow the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook?
- Y N Do you follow the Diocese of Alexandria on Instagram?
- Y N Do you follow Bishop Talley on Twitter?
- List other Social Media apps you use: _____

IV. Diocese of Alexandria Website

1. How often do you go to the Diocesan website?

- a. Daily
- b. 2-3 times a week
- c. a few times a month
- d. Rarely, never

2. Why do you go to the website:

- a. To read what's new/view photo galleries
- b. Seek information about a program/event
- c. Check the Mass schedule
- d. To read the Church Today
- e. Look for information about church
- f. Look for information about a school/school menu
- g. To contact someone within the diocese
- h. Seek other information such as: _____

3. How would you describe the Website

- 4 = Very Much 3 = Yes 2 = A Little 1 = Not at All
- 4 3 2 1 Interesting
 - 4 3 2 1 Informative
 - 4 3 2 1 Easy to find things (navigate)
 - 4 3 2 1 Easy to read
 - 4 3 2 1 Well designed, organized
 - 4 3 2 1 Helpful in finding answers
 - 4 3 2 1 Hard to find information
 - 4 3 2 1 Not well organized
 - 4 3 2 1 Boring

V. Personal Data

1. Gender

- a. Male b. Female c. Age _____

2. I am...

- a. currently employed full-time
- b. retired
- c. clergy
- d. student
- e. other _____

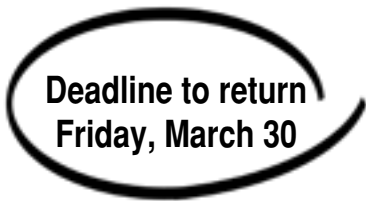
3. How often do you attend Mass?

- a. Every Sunday
- b. Every Sunday and more
- c. Almost every Sunday
- d. Once or twice a month
- e. A few times a year
- f. Rarely or never

4. How active are you in your parish?

- a. Very active
- b. Somewhat active
- c. Not active at all

Any comments you would like to add: _____



Complete this survey and mail to:

The Church Today
P. O. Box 7417
Alexandria, LA 71306

or save time and postage by completing the survey online at www.diocesealex.org/forms/CTsurvey

Paul, Apostle of Christ, opens in theatres March 23

Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in *The Passion*, plays Luke, the Apostle

By Steven D. Greydanus
National Catholic Register

Now, for the first time since *The Passion*, Jim Caviezel has returned to the Bible-film genre to play the role of St. Luke the Evangelist in the upcoming film *Paul, Apostle of Christ*, written and directed by Andrew Hyatt (Full of Grace) and produced by Sony's faith-based label Affirm Films.

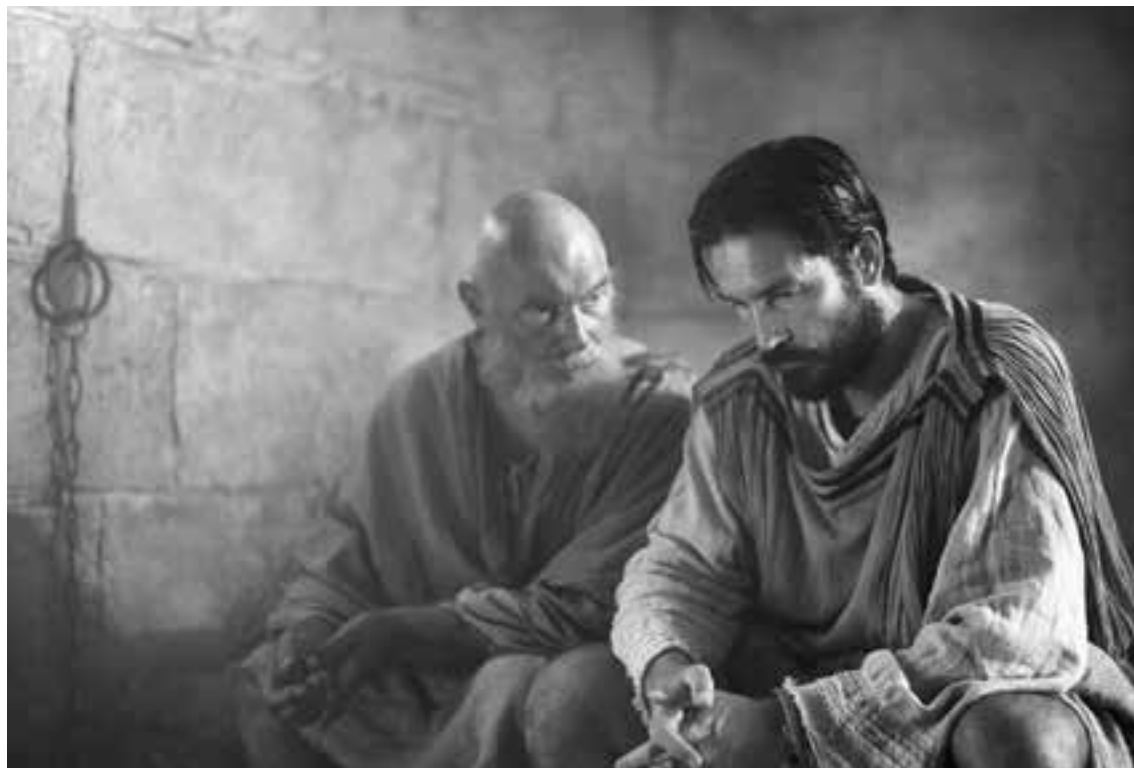
Caviezel recently spoke by phone with Register film critic Steven D. Greydanus about his approach to playing iconic roles like Jesus and Luke and the pitfalls of expecting faith-based films to be family-friendly.

Paul, Apostle of Christ will open Wednesday of Holy Week, March 28, 2018.

How does it feel to step back into the world of the New Testament and the Bible film?

As long as it's good material — that's what kept me from doing all the ones before *The Passion* and all the ones after *The Passion*. Finally I found another good one. It takes a long time to find the right screenplays.

As Jesus, obviously you were playing someone for whom, for countless people all over the world, there's an image that they have in their heads and their hearts that's very specific. With St. Luke, you're playing a charac-



PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST. Paul (James Faulkner, left) and Luke (Jim Caviezel) reunite when Luke ventures into the Roman prison to bring solace to his friend in 'Paul, Apostle of Christ.' (Photo: CTMG)

ter whom we meet in the New Testament, if at all, only as an author writing about other people — as it were, behind the scenes, not on-screen. So Luke is less defined in our collective imaginations than St. Paul, and certainly than Jesus.

Does that vagueness about the role make the role more challenging? More liberating? Both at once? Something else?

Yeah, as you say, the vagueness is very difficult. You start talking to the director — Andrew Hyatt wrote the screenplay. I read the Acts of the Apostles and started lifting little clues here and there, and I went to Mass and prayed on them. And then we see how he wrote, how Paul sees [Luke], and I started cross-examining him — and there is a lot of cross-examining and asking him about it — and, slowly, it starts to all come together.

I think one part of it is that he was a physician, and he had this particular lifestyle — he

was wealthy, and he left it all. Why? He saw Paul speak. Was it Paul who spoke, or was it Christ speaking through him? I believe it was the latter, and that changed his life. So that's kind of where I started.

You mentioned turning down a lot of Bible scripts. Obviously The Passion was a divisive film, but it did have an artistic integrity that engaged viewers beyond regular churchgoers. Since then, few Christian films have been that provocative, but most of them are content to preach to the choir, to put it politely. Less politely, most

of them stink. Do you have any thoughts about why that is?

Well, there is truth and there is grace. Maybe years ago there was too much of the truth, and they got one side of it — you know: "You screw up, and you go to hell." Fire and brimstone drove a lot of people away. Nowadays, it's all grace and no truth. That's sentimental hogwash. It isn't truth or grace — both are important.

The Bible is a living word — it is alive, and it pretty much does what God wants it to do, if we don't get in its way. The same way when we are making films — that's why this thing has power behind it. That's why it had power in *The Passion*, not just for Christians, because I do believe that Our Lord didn't just come for the Christians — he also came for those who do not believe.

So is this a harder-hitting film than most films in the Christian movie genre? Do you have any idea what rating it's aiming for?

I think it probably will be an R. I think it only based on: This is what really happened. It's hard for me, too, but when you read about the grisly things that Nero did, what do you do? How do you show that? Or don't show it ... maybe you just talk about it. But we chose to show it, just like *The Passion of the Christ*. This is the reality of it. Also, the reality is Jesus saying, "Do not be afraid — I go before you always; you see greater that is in me than is in this world."

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Understanding

Understanding is that Gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to comprehend the mysteries and doctrines of our holy religion. If God designs to lead a soul to holiness,

He gives it an interior light and a deep insight into the Divine mysteries, whereby it is animated to serve Him more perfectly. This light is the Gift of Understanding, through which simple persons often have a deep knowledge of great mysteries--for instance, of the Most Holy Trinity and the Incarnation--surpassing the natural understanding of men who are learned but less devout.

Excerpt from *Devotion to the Holy Spirit*, TAN Books, Charlotte, NC
(www.tanbooks.com) used with permission.

lizdescant@gmail.com

Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant

LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

6400 COLISEUM BLVD.
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM
318-767-3300



Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Ryan and Mary Rose Verret, founders of Witness to Love, will present a Marriage Enrichment mini-retreat March 24 from noon to 4 p.m. at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaquemine. The mini-retreat is a time to gather as a couple, to strengthen their faith in the Sacrament of Marriage and to go deeper into the Sacrament. There is no cost for attending. Books and materials are available for a small donation. For more information, go to materdolorosa@suddenlink.net or call Ken or Stacie Marsh, Marriage Prep coordinators at Mater Dolorosa at 318-359-9102.

Bible Timeline Adult Faith Series

"The Bible Time Line: The Story of Salvation" Adult Faith Series continues at St. Joseph Church in Marks. This Spring 2018 will be the first of three Seasons (Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019) of studying in God's Plan of Salvation as told in Sacred Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Participants will learn the major people, places and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith. Each Session will include an engaging video presentation and then group discussion.

A morning session will be offered in the Office Bldg. on Tuesdays from 10:30 am – 12:00 Noon; and an evening session will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m.. The workbook fee is \$30 (or three \$10 installments over the three seasons). Please contact the Office (318-253-7561) and sign-up.

April 3 & 4	Patriarchs Part 2
April 10 & 11	Egypt & Exodus Part 1
April 17 & 18	Egypt & Exodus Part 2

April 7 Informational Meeting for Spiritual Director Program

A new Spiritual Director Internship will be offered through the Diocese of Alexandria and the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program. The 2-year program is for those men and women who have a special gift and are trained to guide the People of God on their faith journey. An informational meeting will be held Saturday, April 7 from 10 a.m. – noon at the St. Joseph

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Catholic Center. There are prerequisite requirements and a fee for the program – all explained on the flyer that is available through your pastor. For more information, contact Deacon Richard Mitchell, at dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org or 318-445-6424, ext. 206.

Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Maryhill Renewal Center, followed by a pizza lunch. Study guides are available. The contest is for any number of teams of 6th, 7th and/or 8th graders (mixed on a team or all one grade), and teams can be from a school or parish CCD program. Entry fee is \$10 per team. First place winners win \$500 and a trophy; second place wins \$200 and a trophy. For more information please call Emily Ann McCullough at 448-3333.

Da Parish Crawfish Championship

St. Joseph Church (Marks) ACTS Apostolate will host the first Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship April 14 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the St. Joseph Church Hall. The event will showcase 25-30 local boiling teams, each boiling approximately 250 pounds of crawfish, and then serving "all you can eat" to the attendees. (That's more than 6,000 lbs. of crawfish!). The event will have three local bands along with other entertainment, drink and food booths, vendors, and lots of activities for the kids. If you or your business are interested in helping to sponsor the event or putting together a boiling team, contact Rhett Desselle at 318-481-9793 or John Gary Dauzat at 972-333-3490 or Scott Coco at 318-308-7913 or visit our website at www.stjosephacts.com

St. Mary's Super Hero 5K/Fun Run

St. Mary's Residential Training School will host its annual Super Hero Challenge 5K and Fun Run on Satur-

day, April 14 in Downtown Alexandria. After the run, enjoy a full day of festival fun including music and entertainment, arts and crafts, food and activities for kids. Register online at <http://stmarys-rts.w.solutionsoftware.net>

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - July

Join Father Emilio Garraud, national priest director for Radio Maria, as your spiritual director for a 9-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, July 30-Aug. 7, 2018. Visit the places where Jesus lived, performed miracles, and preached to the people. Enjoy a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, a visit to the Church of the Nativity where Christ was born the Garden of Getsemane, and so much more. The cost is \$2,990 from Houston or New York. To receive an information packet with an application, please call 1-844-400-9559 or email at info@nativitypilgrimage.com.

Pilgrimage to Ireland - October

Heart of Ireland -- Take a spiritual adventure through our Catholic Heritage in the Emerald Isle. October 1-10, 2018 with Fr Kenneth Michiels. Pilgrimage Highlights include: Killarney and Ring of Kerry, Cathedral in Cobh, Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Kylemore Abbey, Gothic Church and Gardens, Croagh Patrick, St Patrick's Holy Mountain, Shrine of St Kevin, Clonmacnoise, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College and Books of Kells. To receive an information packet with application please contact St Michael the Archangel in Leesville 337-239-2656.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land - November

The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southeastern Lieutenancy, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 5-15, 2018. The trip departs from Newark, non-stop to Tel Aviv, and includes first class hotels, private motor coach transportation, breakfast and dinner and all fees and taxes. A local guide will be our leader throughout the trip. Cost is \$4,150 per person, double occupancy. You do not be a member of the order or even Catholic to join the pilgrimage. For more information contact Roz or Pierre Allemond at 318-452-6443 or e-mail us at ehsjaxalexandria@gmail.com, or go to sleohs.com, and at the news/events dropdown, click pilgrimages.

VIRTUS

Upcoming Virtus sessions are:

- **May 1** – Tuesday, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria.

To register, go to www.virtus.org



TERRY'S D.J. SERVICE
Music & Light Show
Country, Rock, Zydeco, Oldies, Rap

The Cajun D.J.
Terry Laborde
(318) 253-8949
Cell (318) 305-7186
E-mail: terrylaborde77@gmail.com

Brigitte Paul Kelso Insurance, LLC

Brigitte Kelso
Owner/Agent

2918 S. MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, La. 71301

Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
kelsoins@yahoo.com



Brigitte Paul Kelso Insurance, LLC

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: April 16

Deadline for news:
Friday, April 5

Lacombe Floor Finishing

310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322

Specializing in installation

- Floor Finishing
- Ceramic Tile Floors
- Hardwood Floors
- Reseal Tile Floors

Ph: (318) 481-0950

Morgan Newton, Owner



Refueling & Refreshing Communities

www.ynotstop.com

March - April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div>19</div> <div>FEAST of ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</div>	<div>20</div> <div>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</div> <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Grief Support 6:15-7:15 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY</div>	<div>22</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</div>	<div>23</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Mass of Renewal for Permanent Deacons 10:30 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>Marriage Enrichment Retreat 12 noon-4:00 pm Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</div>	<div>25</div> <div>PALM SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</div>
<div>26</div> <div>PENANCE Services 5:30 p.m. St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Chrism Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. HERZOG</div>	<div>28</div> <div>PENANCE Service 6:00 p.m. Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth</div> <div>Grief Support 6:15-7:15 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</div>	<div>29</div> <div>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Last day to return Church Today survey</div> <div>GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. B. IBE</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Confession 3:00-4:00 p.m. St. Rita Church, Alexandria</div> <div>HOLY SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</div>	<div>APRIL 1</div> <div>EASTER SUNDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY</div>
<div>2</div> <div>St. Dymphna Novena 6:30 pm Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</div>	<div>3</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</div>	<div>4</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</div>	<div>5</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</div>	<div>6</div> <div>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Informational Meeting for Spiritual Director Program 10:00 a.m. - noon St. Joseph Catholic Ctr. Alexandria</div> <div>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</div>	<div>8</div> <div>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</div>
<div>9</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Grief Support 6:15-7:15 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</div> <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</div>	<div>12</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</div>	<div>13</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</div>	<div>14</div> <div>St. Mary's Super Hero 5K Downtown Alexandria</div> <div>Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl 10:00 a.m. - noon Maryhill, Pineville</div> <div>Da Parish Crawfish Championship 11:00 am - 6 pm St. Joseph, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</div>	<div>15</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</div>
<div>16</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Grief Support 6:15-7:15 p.m. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</div>	<div>19</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</div>	<div>20</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</div>	<div>21</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</div>	<div>22</div> <div>PRAY FOR FR. R. OWUAMANAM</div>

TRUST

*CHRISTUS
Cabrini*

for the surgery
that matters the
most...yours

**JOSHUA
BORDELON**

Bariatric Patient

**JAMES
PARRISH, MD**

General Surgeon



SMART MEDICINE | HEALING GRACE

CABRINI.ORG



**CHRISTUS ST. FRANCES CABRINI
Hospital**

Joshua's Story

"My little boy asked me, 'Daddy, are you going to die?' I thought, 'man, I've got to do something.' I went from not being able to walk 100 yards to running two miles. My bariatric care at Cabrini was excellent. It was like having family in the room with me."

Joshua

"Joshua had a laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy. This procedure changes your body so that it becomes geared toward losing weight. He's a completely different person and his illnesses have gone away. It was my honor to provide him with the kind of bariatric care he needed to get his life back."

Dr. Parrish

