

CHURCH TODAY

Volume L, No. 10

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

October 28, 2019



There are still saints being made!

November is the month to remember the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Pictured here, Father Blake Deshautelle blesses the graves on All Souls' Day. See page 16 for more information on the three indulgences specifically associated with this month. And, don't forget: Saints are still being made today! Let us pray for those who have died, and ask for the intercession of the saints already in heaven. #BeASaint

INSIDE

Join us December 3 for #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday

A little goes a long way when the Catholic community gives as one. Join us in our efforts to make #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday, Dec. 3, a fantastic day of Catholic giving in our community, and across the nation. See page 5 for more information.

The Song of Our Hearts: Celebrating Saint Cecilia

Just as it was for Saint Cecilia, music can be a powerful form of prayer in our lives. See page 6 for some practical ways that we too can better utilize this gift from God.

Supporting local families

Our Catholic schools are true blessings, providing education to our children, community for our families, and encouragement for the journey to sainthood. See page 21 to read how our Catholic school communities are supporting two local families.

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Looking back

**November 2015:**

Left: BLESSING OF THE PRIESTS' GRAVES. Priests from the Diocese of Alexandria gathered Nov. 4 at Maryhill Renewal Center for Clergy Day, during which time they participated in the annual "Blessing of the Graves" at the Maryhill Clergy Cemetery. After a blessing of the grave of Bishop Charles Greco by Bishop Ronald Herzog, the priests processed down the hill reciting the rosary and carrying a white rose. At the cemetery, each priest prayed before the grave of a priest. One by one, the names of each deceased priest was read aloud as a priest placed the white rose on the grave of the deceased. Seventy-three priests are currently buried at the Maryhill Cemetery, with the oldest one dating back to 1928.

Today: November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. See page 16 for more information on the three indulgences specifically associated with this month.

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Saint Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal

By *Emily Ann McCullough*
Guest Contributor

Catherine Laboure was a young novice in the order of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Rue de Bac, Paris. In 1830, at 11:30 p.m. on the eve of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, she was awakened by her Guardian Angel who appeared as a "shining child" and invited her to follow him to the chapel of their convent, where the Blessed Mother Mary appeared and visited with her for about two hours, speaking to Catherine about a difficult task that she wished to be performed.

Four months after this, Catherine received a second vision of Mary standing on a white globe with shining rays of light streaming from her outstretched fingers. Catherine heard Mary's voice say, "These are the symbols of grace I shed upon those who ask for them." Mary's foot was on the head of a serpent. Catherine then saw an oval frame form around Mary and in it, written in gold letters, was the prayer, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

And then the image turned, and on the other side was a large M with a cross above it and a bar through it. Underneath the M were the two Hearts of Jesus and Mary, His crowned with thorns and hers pierced by a sword. Flames of Love issued from both hearts and twelve stars encircled the entire image.



Catherine heard Mary's voice say "Have a medal struck after this model. All who wear it will receive great graces. They should wear it around the neck. Graces will abound for persons who wear it with confidence."

Catherine saw this image six times over the next year. She refrained from sharing what she had seen with anyone except her confessor, desiring to remain anonymous. Her confessor, Msgr.

Aladel, received permission from the Archbishop of Paris to have the medal produced. Fifteen hundred medals were given out June, 1832, and healings, miraculous events, and conversions were the immediate result. By 1836, millions of the medals were in circulation. The medal was originally called the Medal of the Immaculate Conception, but came to be called the Miraculous Medal due to the

multitude of miracles occurring. Though Catherine would not attend any of the hearings, the medal was approved and its use blessed by the Church because of the numerous miracles received by wearers of the medal.

St. Catherine died on December 31, 1876. Fifty-seven years later her body was exhumed in connection with her beatification, and it was found to be incorrupt, soft and supple as at her burial. Catherine Laboure, was canonized on July 27, 1947, by Ven. Pope Pius XII. Some of the amazing and beautiful miracles attributed to grace from the Miraculous Medal can be found at www.tinyurl.com/7amazingmiracles.

**The feast day of the
Miraculous Medal is
November 27.**

**The feast day of
St. Catherine is November 28.**

Emily Ann and her husband, a former Protestant minister, became Catholic in 1998. She has worked in Religious Education ever since, and at present teaches Religion to third graders at St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria.

Pope: Evangelization must help, not hinder, people getting closer to God

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- God wants everyone to be saved, which is why those who evangelize must avoid letting their prejudices get in the way of God's plan, Pope Francis said.

"An evangelizer cannot be an obstacle to the creative work of God, who 'wills everyone to be saved,' but one who fosters an encounter of hearts with the Lord," the pope said Oct. 16 during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope also recalled the day marked the anniversary of the 1978 election of St. John Paul II.

"Let us thank the Lord for everything good that happened in the church, in the world and in people's hearts because of the words, deeds and holiness of John Paul II. Let us remember that his appeal to open your heart to Christ is always timely," he said when greeting Polish-speaking visitors.

In his main catechesis, the pope continued his series of talks on the Acts of the Apostles.

He reflected on St. Luke's account of Cornelius -- the generous and God-fearing pagan,



GENERAL AUDIENCE. Pope Francis leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Oct. 16, 2019. (CNS photo/Paul Harig)

and St. Peter, whom God calls to meet with Cornelius. It was unlawful at the time for a Jewish man to meet with a Gentile, and Peter is harshly rebuked by the community in Jerusalem for

visiting and baptizing him.

But God had told Peter, who had felt compelled to follow Jewish laws and restrictions, that "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane."

Peter learns "God shows no partiality" and that "whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him," according to the Gospel account.

In his catechesis, the pope

said God wanted Peter to no longer judge or see people and external acts as clean or unclean, "but to learn to go beyond that, by looking at the person and the intentions in their heart. What makes a person unclean, in fact, doesn't come from the outside, but from the inside, from their heart. Jesus said this clearly."

The pope said Peter learns to open his mind and heart to God's "creativity" so that all people could receive the blessings promised to Israel.

Pope Francis asked that everyone learn what an evangelizer must be from Peter's example and ask, "How do we act with our brothers and sisters, especially with those who are not Christians?"

"Are we an impediment to an encounter with God? Do we block their encounter with the Father or do we facilitate it?" he asked.

"Let us ask for the grace to let ourselves be astounded by God's surprises, not to hinder his creativity, but to recognize and foster the ever-new ways through which the Risen One pours out his Spirit in the world and draws hearts" to him as they recognize he is the "Lord of all," the pope said.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY

As the 2019 Election draws nearer, pastors and principals are reminded that any parish, school, or other Church-owned facility is not to be used for any activity related to the support of or opposition to any candidate for political office, nor as places for partisan debate. The pulpit, especially, is never to be used by candidates or incumbents to advance their political views or their positions. Moreover, the pulpit is not to be used as a forum by any individual -- even a priest or deacon -- to support or oppose a candidate, public official, or political position.

For a full explanation of diocesan policy regarding political activity, please refer to Article 1400 on page 15 of the Diocesan Policy Manual, located at www.diocesealex.org, under "The Diocese - Policies and Structures." If you have any further questions, please contact David Brook at 318-445-6424, ext 215.

Do you know someone who wants to receive the Church Today FREE of charge?

Visit the sign-up form at www.diocesealex.org, or email cari.terracina@diocesealex.org with their name and mailing address.

A message from the Diocese of Alexandria's Safe Environment Program

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please call: Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437).

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report also should be made to the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp at 318-542-9805.

For updated information, news articles, and documents regarding ongoing activity and planning for securing and maintaining a Safe Environment for all, visit www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing (visit www.diocesealex.org and look for "A Safe Environment For All" under the "Our Faith" tab). Here, you can find Bishop Talley's message for November 2018, as well as updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Also found on this page is the letter from Pope Francis to all Bishops in the United States regarding a meeting in February 2019 at the Vatican entitled "The Protection of Minors in the Church."

Receiving Communion in mortal sin

Q. Our pastor has told us that if a person receives Communion in the state of mortal sin, the host ceases to be the body of Christ and is just ordinary bread. But if that is the case, why would it be a sin? (east central Ohio)

A. If that, in fact, is what your pastor told you, he was incorrect. Once consecrated by the priest, the host becomes the body of Christ and remains so, even when someone receives it unworthily. That is exactly why it is wrong to take the Eucharist when in a state of serious sin -- because of the sacredness of the sacrament.

Speaking at a papal audience in March 2018, Pope Francis reminded Catholics of the need to obtain absolution for grave sins before receiving the Eucharist. "We know," said the pope, "that one who has committed a serious sin should



Question Corner

Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

not approach holy Communion without having first obtained absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation."

Related to your question, a somewhat frightening study released by the Pew Research Center in August of 2019 reported that more than two-thirds of self-described Catholics think that the bread and wine at Communion are not actually the body and blood of Christ but only symbols of the sacred.

I call this frightening because the doctrine of transubstantiation is central to the teaching of the church. Didn't we grow up learning that what distinguishes Catholics is that we really do believe that we receive Jesus himself when we take communion?

Remember in the 6th chapter of John's Gospel when Jesus said to his disciples, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you?" Some of

the disciples said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" and some of them walked away.

What did Jesus do? Did he say, "Wait a second. Don't get nervous. I'm only talking symbols here?" He did not; he let them walk away, because he meant it.

Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.

*I will praise
your name
for ever,
my king and
my God.*

Psalm 145: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for November 3

Habits

I am sure I speak for most of us when I say that we are "creatures of habit." For me it is the same routine for beginning and ending each day; I drive the same route to-and-from work; I even eat certain meals on certain days. It is as if I have done these things for so long, that my mind no longer really processes the actions, I just do them. I suppose it is a good thing because I could not imagine having to consciously decide each day: "Okay, do I brush my teeth before or after I drink my coffee?" "Do I put my right shoe or left shoe on first?" "Do I put my keys in my right pocket or left?" So, good habits certainly help us in the menial tasks of life. The problem with habits is that they can restrict us from seeing and experiencing new things. For example, if I go to work the same way every day, I may never see the beautiful garden or new construction just down the street. If I eat the same foods or go to the same restaurants, I restrict myself from experiencing new things.

I recently visited friends who rearranged some furniture in their home. When I entered, it was as if I was in an entirely different home. I wanted to show that I was observant, so I commented



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard W. Mitchell

on their new furniture. They laughed at me because it was the same furniture, just moved around a little...so much for being observant. A simple change forced my mind to look at the same thing, but with an entirely new perspective.

My point is that habits can be beneficial, but can also limit our growth. The same can be said about developing habits with our spiritual and prayer life. Sure, the habit of saying daily prayers and attending Mass are good things. However, if we are not careful, our intentions while saying those prayers and our participation during the Mass can easily become just another habit.

Here is something to think about: Each time we attend Mass, we say the Lord's Prayer. The real question is, do we say it, or do we pray it? Have we said the words

so many times that it has become such a habit that we no longer consciously remember the deep meaning and impact the prayer has in our life? Or what about the Creed (or Profession of Faith) we say together during the Sunday Mass? Are we truly professing what we believe, or has it become just the words we say after the homily? The reception of the Eucharist is the most important aspect of the Mass. When the minister presents the consecrated host and says "The Body of Christ", do we contemplate and remember that we are actually receiving the Body of Jesus? If these things have become a habit, we are limiting ourselves of the impact the liturgy has in our life and missing the rich blessings presented to us. So I encourage you to find a way to approach prayer and the Mass with a sense

of renewal.

One way to shake things up a bit may be to do what my friends did with their furniture, move things around a little. We all have "our pew" that we are drawn to when we go to Mass. Before I was ordained and began sitting in the sanctuary, our family pew was the third pew from the front on the right side of the main aisle. I cannot explain why; it was just a habit. Occasionally someone would get there before we did and would (have the nerve :) to sit in "our pew." The interesting thing about changing where we sat was how different the Mass would be. Sure it is the same Mass, same priest, same prayers, but I experienced them in a different way. The simple movement of pews helped us break the habit we developed. Now I am not advocating to go and sit in "Mrs. Smith's pew" who has been sitting in the same pew since the church was built, but think about changing it up every once in a while.

So your challenge for this month is to sit in a different location at one Mass. If you do, it will help break a habit, allow you to experience the Mass in a new way, and help you come to Love the Liturgy.

*Send your questions
and/or share your comments
with Deacon Mitchell via email
to: WhyDoWe@diocesealex.org.*



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Fifth annual #iGiveCatholic kicks off the charitable season on Tuesday, December 3

#iGIVECATHOLIC
December 3, 2019



A little goes a long way when the Catholic community gives as one. Tuesday, December 3 is #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday! Please join us in our efforts to make this a fantastic day of Catholic giving in our community, and across the nation.

For Catholics, generosity and giving have a profound meaning. As we reflect with grateful hearts on how blessed we are, we are inspired to give back to God from our deep sense of gratitude. Compelled to action by our grateful compassion, we unite on this #iGiveCatholic day of giving, sharing what we have to feed the

hungry, clothe the naked, give shelter to the homeless, and preserve our Catholic heritage for future generations.

As the first-ever online day of giving created to celebrate our Catholic faith, the #iGiveCatholic Giving Day inspires faithful stewards to “Give Catholic” on #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. #iGiveCatholic is an online giving event that kicks off the charitable season and brings the community together to give thanks and give back. Considered the most successful Catholic crowdfunding event to date, the fifth annual #iGiveCatholic

Giving Day will be held on #GivingTuesday, a global day of generosity, which will take place on Dec. 3, 2019.

“The growth of #iGiveCatholic on #GivingTuesday and how it is motivating people to make a difference in their own communities is truly inspiring,” said Kyle Hamilton, CEO of Our Sunday Visitor, this year’s national sponsor. “We are proud to partner with #iGiveCatholic to sponsor this extraordinary national day of gratitude and generosity and look forward to uniting to do good, inspire action, and collectively raise millions for so many parishes,

schools, and nonprofit ministries on Tuesday, December 3.”

Please consider joining us on this year’s Giving Tuesday to continue the legacy of Catholic faith and service throughout the Diocese of Alexandria. Here’s how you can help:

- Make a donation to the church parish or organization of your choice within the diocese by visiting <https://alexandria.igivecatholic.org>. Anyone can donate, and the minimum donation is \$25.

- Spread the word. Text a friend, post on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #iGiveCatholic, or just tell some-

one in person!

Be sure to follow the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook, and keep up with our diocesan news - on #iGiveCatholic Giving Day and beyond!

Thank you for supporting the people and ministries of the Diocese of Alexandria this holiday season and throughout the year.

For more information about #iGiveCatholic, and to learn more about the participating dioceses, parishes, schools, and ministries participating in this year’s campaign, visit www.iGiveCatholic.org, and see next month’s issue of the *Church Today*.

Manna House serves up lunch, help, and hope

“Once you start serving at Manna House, you normally don’t stop,” says one Manna House volunteer.

Manna House, our local food kitchen, is open 365 days per year, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, and New Year’s Day. Begun 25 years ago by Father Gerard Foley and a group of volunteers, Manna House officially opened its doors on May 1, 1990 at 2655 Lee Street. Nineteen people showed up that day to eat a free, hot meal. Today, the food kitchen serves 200-250 people per day, totaling around 6,500 individuals per

month.

All of these years later, Manna House still survives on the generosity of volunteers, and is dedicated to banishing hunger in Central Louisiana. As Manna House begins making plans to once again feed those in our community who might otherwise go hungry on Thanksgiving Day, the ministry is asking for financial assistance to make this service possible.

Manna House’s annual Thanksgiving meal for people in need in the Cenla community is a way of not only feeding those who are hungry, but



IT STARTS WITH ONE MEAL A DAY. Manna House provides free, hot meals daily, 365 days a year, with the goal of banishing hunger in Central Louisiana.

also of showing kindness and support to those who feel the pain of poverty and misfortune.

Any donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference. To make a tax deductible donation by credit card, visit www.givetomannahouse.com or call 318-445-9053. Checks can also be mailed to P.O. Box 6011, Alexandria, LA 71307.

Donations are greatly appreciated, and will make a difference in the lives of so many people, right here in Central Louisiana.

Prayer for the Appointment of a New Bishop

Please begin praying publicly and privately in anticipation of the appointment of a new Bishop for our Diocese.

Praise to you, Lord our God, our eternal shepherd and guide.

In your faithfulness, grant to the Diocese of Alexandria a new bishop whose watchful care will serve to continue the good work of his predecessors.

In Your love, give us a shepherd who will lead us in being Christ’s heart of mercy, voice of hope, and hands of justice.

Help him to fill our minds and hearts with the truth of the Gospel, the power of the sacraments, and the desire to build up your holy Church.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS for November

Dialogue and Reconciliation in the Near East -

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

The song of our hearts: Celebrating St. Cecilia

By **Angela McCann**
Guest Contributor

Truth and beauty come from the Lord. Music can be a collision of truth and beauty made manifest for the glory of God while edifying the human spirit. Music can heal hurts, augment prayerful repose, or ignite a flaming passion within our already grateful hearts. One of our great Doctors of the Church wrote:

“How I wept, deeply moved by your hymn, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face—tears that did me good.” (CCC 1157, St. Augustine Conf. 9, 6, 14)

Countless times I too have felt this surge of devotion upon hearing a beautiful piece of music. As we, the Church, approach the feast of St. Cecilia, patroness of music, on November 22, I reflect upon her life and the power of music. I often invoke her intercession, painting in my mind the familiar Renaissance image of a beautiful young woman peacefully sitting at the organ or holding a harp. However, in truth, there is actually little known about this highly regarded and referenced saint.

St. Cecilia is believed to have been born into a wealthy Roman family in the 2nd century. Though promised in marriage to a pagan man named Valerian, she had long taken a vow of virginity. At her own wedding celebration, while raucous music played, she was said to be singing her own song to God in her heart. It is thought that from this instance is how she garnered her patronage



of music. When the time came to consummate her marriage, she told Valerian of her vow of virginity, which was protected by an angel. He wanted to see this angel as proof of this, but Cecilia said that only through Baptism would he then have eyes to see. He went on to be baptized and then saw the angel. Valerian's conversion also led to the conversion of his brother, with whom he began burying the Christian martyrs, an illegal act eventually leading to their own martyrdom. Cecilia continued to live devoutly, preaching and aiding in converting many to Christianity, before she was martyred as well.

Most alluring is the unwavering song of her heart, a song to God that accompanied her through her short life of trial and persecution. Just as it was for St. Cecilia, music can be a powerful form of prayer in our lives, and

there are some practical ways that we too can better utilize this gift from God. One does not have to skillfully play an instrument as the voice itself is a beautiful instrument sufficient for praising the Lord.

1. Personal prayer and meditation: While our personal prayer time can take on many forms and incorporate many different styles, including music can help elevate our hearts and minds to God. You can sing traditional or modern hymns acapella or, with a smartphone or computer, access a sacred music album or Catholic music playlist from one of the many streaming apps (Spotify, Amazon, Apple Music, etc.). Beautiful musical settings of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, the Rosary, and other canticles are available. Oftentimes simply listening to instrumental sacred music or hymns as background for

prayer enhances our prayer time, ushering in the Holy Spirit and directing focus to God. Consider listening to Gregorian chant or polyphony, which are some of the most beautiful and heightened forms of sacred music and held in highest esteem in the Catholic Church.

2. Praise and worship: When attending a Catholic conference or retreat, music can play a major role in creating an environment that helps to foster a personal cathartic encounter with the Lord. Again, styles of music at events can vary, but contemporary Christian praise and worship songs are very popular and engaging, particularly amongst teens and young adults. Whether the music is live or recorded, our singing along can have a powerful communal impact when our hearts are postured in prayer and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. The popularity of Contemporary Christian music, coupled with its accessibility through radio and personal streaming devices, can also provide a custom soundtrack to accompany us through the day, focusing our attention to God and giving language to the prayers of our hearts.

3. Music in Liturgy: “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art” (CCC 1156). There is no better setting for music in prayer than in the most holy Mass

where we are invited into deeper union with God by engaging our body, mind, and soul in the various parts of the liturgy. To fully participate, we are called to raise our voices to God in the designated vocal responses both spoken and sung. Singing in mass allows us to give glory to God and aids in our own sanctification.

While music style preferences vary from person to person, there is no denying that prayerful music has the power to connect us to the Divine. Like St. Cecilia, we all have a song in our hearts for God, and like her, may we have the courage to sing it, giving praise back to the Giver through the use of one of His greatest gifts, the gift of song.

Download the Spotify app and search for “Diocese of Alexandria” to listen to “The Song of Our Hearts,” a playlist by Angela Papale McCann.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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HURRICANE PRAYER OF PROTECTION

Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, spare us from all harm during this hurricane season, and protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to our help. Amen.

*Lord, when your glory appears,
my joy will be full.*

Psalm 17: 15
Responsorial Psalm
for November 10

Speech by abortion survivor Ohden highlights CPC's "Gift of Life Banquet"

By Bob Tompkins
Guest Contributor

Melissa Ohden, who survived an attempted saline abortion in 1977, said her life could've been radically different if her mother had been able to visit a place like the Cenla Pregnancy Center.

Ohden was the featured speaker at the CPC's second annual Gift of Life Banquet, Sept. 10 before a packed house at Our Lady of Prompt Succor's Divine Providence Center. Doctors, she said, didn't believe she would survive the abortion procedure at a hospital in Sioux City, Iowa, but she did, defying all odds.

What's more, her grandmother "told the nurses to leave me there to die," but, fortunately, some nurses intervened to save her life.

"You can imagine I'm a little stubborn, right?" she asked the crowd of 256 diners plus scores of volunteer workers from the Our Lady of Prompt Succor Youth Group and the Knights of Columbus.

Once Melissa survived, her adoptive parents were told she would suffer from multiple disabilities, but she said they accepted her, giving her love and care "no matter what my life looked like.

Married with two daughters, Melissa said she knows God spared her life and wants her to share her story with the world. She is doing so as the founder of the Abortion Survivors Network as well as being an advocate for women, men and children impacted by abortion.

Part of her story was her search for, and discovery of, her biological parents. She obtained her medical records from the attempted abortion in 2007. Her parents' names were blacked out in all but one place – apparently an oversight – and she realized she was working in the same city as her biological father. Despite her efforts to reach out to him, she never heard back from him.

She found out her birth father died about six months after she sent him a letter. She figured he didn't answer "because he was fighting for his life." Her grandmother died "before she could bring herself to meet me."

Thirty-nine years after being separated from her birth mother, Melissa finally met her, with the



GIFT OF LIFE BANQUET. Melissa Ohden (far right), the featured speaker of the Cenla Pregnancy Center's second annual Gift of Life Banquet, poses after the Sept. 10 fundraiser with CPC executive director Claire Lemoine and CPC Board president Brian Gunter.

help of her mother's cousin, in an emotional, tearful embrace. Her birth mother told how her parents coerced her into having the abortion. They were outraged by her pregnancy and ashamed about her being unmarried and pregnant, Ohden said. They were afraid of what it would mean for their reputation in the community.

Melissa's birth mother thought Melissa had died during the procedure, which is what her parents told her at the time, when she was heavily sedated.

"I know I can never be 'Mom' to you, but I just hope I can be in your life," Melissa's mom said before they parted from their redemptive meeting a few years ago.

"Yes, absolutely, I want that, too," Melissa responded then, saying they have been close since.

Ohden gives speeches across the country about her life story. She has advocated for life in appearances before Congress, and she wrote a book, "You Carried Me," about her life. When making a pitch for donations to help pregnancy centers and pro-life causes, she said one of her sayings comes from a practice she and her husband Ryan live by: "Choose to live simply so others can simply live."

Two clients of the pregnancy center, Courtney Bates and Queenisha Allen, gave testimonies about their life-changing experiences with the CPC in saving their babies' lives. Bates, who traveled from

Beaumont, Texas, to speak at the banquet, is expecting her baby on Nov. 27, the day before Thanksgiving. "And I'm thankful," she said, "for what's inside of me."

Allen brought to the banquet her 5-month-old baby, a girl. Her first reaction, when she found out in July of 2018 that she was pregnant, was, "I've got to get rid of it," amidst feelings of shame and guilt.

Even though her father told her, "If you keep the baby, we're done," Allen visited the Cenla Pregnancy Center, and she is now overjoyed that she did, and that she kept the baby, saying, "She completes me."

Allen is in her last semester of nursing school and is scheduled to graduate in December.

CPC board president pastor Brian Gunter told the group of the rapid growth of the center, including the addition of the Avoyelles Pregnancy Center.

CPC executive director Claire Lemoine credited the center's growth to the support the CPC has received from people across Central Louisiana and from its inaugural fund-raising banquet a year ago. Last month's fund-raising banquet was a financial success, too, netting nearly \$87,000.

Bob Tompkins is a retired sportswriter and columnist who's a member of the CPC Board's Advisory Committee.

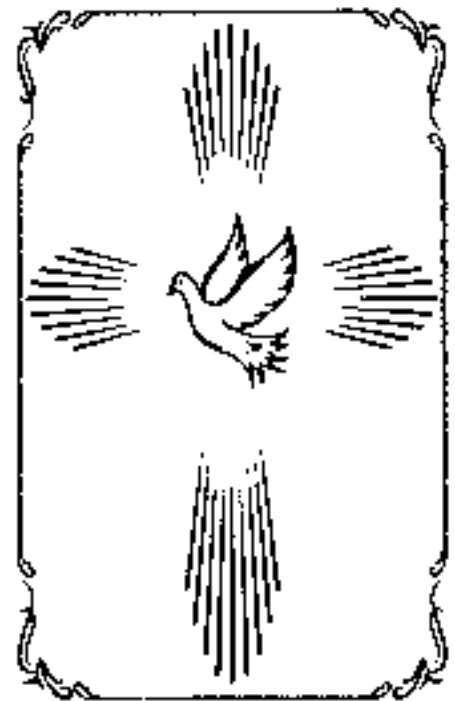

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Oh Holy Spirit

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thoughts

My words be your,
words

My actions be your,
actions

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Couple says adoption is a blessing, gift and 'roller coaster of emotions'

By Benjamin Wideman
Catholic News Service

KIEL, Wis. (CNS) -- After David and Maria Schuette got married in 2015, they wanted a family right away but months later they found out that infertility issues would likely prevent them from having children of their own.

"It was tough knowing that everything I thought about growing a family as a little girl ... it wasn't going to happen that way," Maria told *The Compass*, diocesan newspaper of Green Bay. "So there was a lot of pain and sadness over the loss of what we thought growing our family would look like," she added.

David agreed. "The pain we were experiencing was a combination of the infertility and the unknowns of adoption. Even when making the decision to adopt, we were fearful it would take five years, if it even happened at all. And we didn't know where to start or what the future would look like."

Now, it turns out the future is working out well for the Schuettes, proud parents of Isaac, 18 months old, and Eli, 8 months old, both adopted.

David and Maria, members of SS. Peter and Paul Parish in Kiel, were at the hospitals for



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH. David and Maria Schuette, seen with their sons, 8-month-old Eli and 18-month-old Isaac, are reaching out to other couples considering adoption. The family, who belongs to Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Kiel, Wis., were at the hospitals for each birth and remain in close communication with their sons' birth parents. (CNS photo / Sam Lucero, *The Compass*)

each birth and remain in close communication with their sons' birth parents.

The new parents, who are both 30, are thrilled to be growing

their family, even if it occurred differently than they originally planned.

"The joy of parenthood isn't dependent on whether your

child is your biological child. We have so much love and joy being parents to Isaac and Eli," said David, adding they are discussing adopting a third child.

Their adoption journey began in spring 2017.

At the time, Maria worked for the Diocese of Green Bay in youth ministry and religious education so she knew about Catholic Charities' work in facilitating adoptions.

"Catholic Charities was phenomenal in helping us understand adoption from a pro-life perspective," Maria said, which included "how to care and walk with birth mothers and birth fathers and what our role was in that entire process."

She said they received an email that Isaac's parents had been referred to Catholic Charities and that several other matches fell through before they connected with Isaac's parents.

"Four weeks later, Isaac was born," Maria said. "When Isaac was about 7 months old, we met another birth mother through a friend of a friend, and that's how we got two adoptions 10 months apart."

Although David and Maria were at the hospitals for each birth, the two situations were different.

Isaac was born with a congenital heart defect and spent 11 days in the hospital's neonatal

See **ADOPTION**, page 11

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

National Adoption Day, a separate event first observed in 2000, is celebrated the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On this day, thousands of children throughout the country who are being adopted from foster care have their adoptions finalized. National Adoption Day also seeks to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 American children living in the foster care system who are eligible for adoption. (source: *Catholic News Agency*)

DIocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice

The Diocese of Alexandria Office of Life and Justice now lists a Social Service Directory on the Diocese website!

The Office of Life and Justice lists this directory as a public service.

It does not recommend, support, or guarantee any of the mentioned services. Each consumer should be vigilant and ask questions of each provider, including costs (if any), confidentiality of medical or personal information, and to whom they can address complaints if necessary.

Please visit www.diocesalex.org/office-of-life-justice for a directory of utilities assistance, mental health, legal, and other services.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED:

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse / Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency.

If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.

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Shreveport martyrs considered for sainthood



SHREVEPORT MARTYRS. Five priests who served in the Alexandria/Shreveport area are now being considered for sainthood. Let us pray through the intercessions of these servants of God for divine favor for those we know who have special need of our prayer, especially the ill, as well as for ourselves and the cities of Alexandria and Shreveport.

In the late summer of 1873, Shreveport was besieged by the third worst epidemic of Yellow Fever recorded in United States history, amassing an unprecedented loss of life. 2018 marked the 145th anniversary of this milestone in Shreveport history, but it marks a significant point in Catholic history as well.

Counted among the city's dead were five Catholic priests: Fathers Isidore Quemerais, Jean Pierre, Louis Gergaud, Francois LeVezouet, and Jean Marie Biler. The sacrifice of their lives in the service of the city's sick and dying provides compelling testimony to the Christian virtue of charity. Their willingness to die for others is a model of true selflessness, bearing witness to the ideal given to us by Christ: "Greater love has no one than to lay down one's life for his friends." (John 15:13)

The first of the five martyrs to succumb to the virus, the young 26-year-old Fr. Quemerais had only recently joined Fr. Pierre as associate pastor of Holy Trinity church in Shreveport. The two died only one day apart, on September 15 and 16, 1873. Two days later, realizing that he was also ill with Yellow Fever, Fr.

Le Biler, chaplain of the nearby Daughters of the Cross convent, sent a telegram to Fr. Gergaud, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Monroe, asking for help. Fr. Gergaud boarded a stagecoach bound for Shreveport. His final words to his assistant were, "Write to the bishop and tell him I go to my death. It is my duty, and I must go."

Fr. Gergaud arrived in time to provide comfort and final sacraments to Fr. Le Biler, who died on Sept. 26. His prophecy proved true in that he contracted the virus almost immediately upon his arrival in Shreveport, and died on Oct. 1, but not before receiving the final sacraments from Fr. LeVezouet, who traveled to Shreveport at the request of Bishop Martin.

It was not long before Fr. LeVezouet was also ill and knew that his own death was imminent. He died on Oct. 8, just after receiving the final sacraments from two new priests who had previously been exposed to the virus. It is remarkable, and even miraculous, that such Providential care is seen in that each priest arrived in succession, just in time to care for the one before, with

the end of their lives timed so that these individuals, and the area as a whole, were not left without access to the sacraments.

Father Peter Mangum, diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Shreveport, along with others from the Dioceses of Alexandria and Shreveport, as well as several dioceses in France, have taken up an international project, with the final goal being the canonization of these five martyr priests. The Dioceses of Shreveport and Alexandria are making a joint effort, seeking any additional knowledge of the historical events of the time, as well as encouraging devotion to the five priests who willingly gave their lives in service to others. The faithful are encouraged to ask for their intercession, and to even make a small pilgrimage to Holy Trinity Church in Shreveport, where the five are immortalized in stained glass and statues inside the church, asking for their intercession, and to contact the Office of the Tribunal with any additional information about the time period in local history, or to report any miracles that can be directly attributed to the intercession of these men.

Reverend Robert Garrione dies

Reverend Robert Garrione, 69, of Alexandria, passed away on Oct. 19 at Summit Retirement Center in Alexandria. Funeral services will be held at Immaculate Conception Church, Solomon, Kansas. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Solomon, Kansas.

Born on February 24, 1950, in Salina Kansas, Father Garrione was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church in 1989. Father Garrione served as Administrator of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Campti and its missions; Parochial Vicar at St. Frances Cabrini Church and Principal of St. Frances Cabrini Parish School in Alexandria; as well as Parochial Vicar at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and Chaplain to the Rapides Regional Medical Center.

Father Garrione was an effective chaplain at Rapides Regional, and was a gifted scripture teacher for adult classes while in Alexandria. He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Gilbert Max Garrione. He is survived by his brothers Larry E. Garrione, Sr., and Gregory J. Garrione, plus nieces and nephews.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests.
 Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.
 Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people.
 Grant them the wisdom, understanding,
 and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
 Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.
 Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
 Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.
 Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

Seminarian Burses

September 2019 Donations

Mr. and Mrs. Siltan Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Walter Ajaero Burse	
Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
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Mr. J. Robert Baker	\$50.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$50.00
Deacon Gary Schupbach Burse	
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Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$100.00
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Knights of Columbus Council #13296	\$125.00
Father Alfred Chlebowczyk Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$200.00
Floyd LaCour Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$500.00
Deacon Rodrick "Benny" Broussard Burse	
Total	\$1,375.00

Parish Spotlight: St. Francis de Sales, Echo Established 1894, celebrating 125 years as a church parish

Located 20 miles south of Alexandria along Louisiana Hwy 1 is the small community of Echo.

The town received its name from steamboat captains who used to blow their whistles at the local landing. The sound of those whistles would echo back across the river from the woods.

The first Catholic community in Echo was formed in 1884 as a mission of St. Francis Xavier in Alexandria. Fr. Limagne, the assistant in Alexandria, served as the first visiting priest. Land for a small chapel was donated by Paul Guillory. The Guillory family later donated two and a half more acres for use as a cemetery. When St. Francis de Sales was designated an independent parish in 1894, Fr. Regis Dumas served as the first pastor and when he died, he was buried under the church floor.

A larger church was built in Roman style in 1906. In 1944, the current brick rectory was built under the direction of Fr. Herman

Couvillion.

In 1947, the Sisters of Divine Providence opened a small school for grades 1-8 in the community with the help of the pastor, Fr. George Martinez. It closed in 1962.

A church hall was built by Fr. William Allison (pastor from 1952-1955) who also built the grotto of the Blessed Mother located in the front of the new church (pictured below).

Fr. Allison, who was a Protestant convert, was diagnosed with tuberculosis before he became Catholic. He promised the Blessed Virgin that if she interceded on his behalf and he regained his health he would become a priest and build a shrine in her honor where ever he may be assigned.

In 1970, the current church, designed by Harold DeKeyser, was erected by Fr. Joseph Van Winkle, C.I.C.M. The pine pews, altar, benches and bishop's chair were built by local craftsmen



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO, celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year.

together with the original stations from the 1906 church. A new tabernacle was placed in the church in 2006 together with an antique statue of the Sacred Heart.

Today's St. Francis de Sales church parish community is very busy all year long with activities such as the annual Church Fair in September; outdoor rosary in the Rosary Garden in October; children's All Saints Parade in November; the December Christmas Program; Outdoor walking Stations of the Cross during Lent; May Crowning; year round activities such as Monday's alternating Rosary/Divine Mercy; and other collaborations with neighboring churches within the Avoyelles Deanery such as ACTS, men's ministry "God on the Move," catechism and bible study.

A St. Francis de Sales 125th Anniversary Mass and Celebration was held Oct. 5, 2019.

(people of the parish) as were all the furnishings in the sanctuary. Antique statues of the Blessed

Virgin and St. Francis de Sales made by the Daprato Company can be found in the church



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to rule the earth
with justice.*

Psalm 98: 9
Responsorial Psalm
for November 17

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CHALICE PRESENTED IN HONOR OF LATE BISHOP HERZOG.

On Monday, Sept. 30, John Tumminello (white jacket), Knight Commander, Order of the Fleur de Lis and Patrick Moore, Commander of the Order of the Fleur de Lis, along with Father James Ferguson, present an engraved memorial chalice and paten to Archbishop Gregory Aymond in honor of the late Bishop Ronald Herzog. Bishop Herzog served as Grand Prelate of the Order of the Fleur de Lis from 2006-2017. The Order of the Fleur de Lis is a Catholic men's service organization, active in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. Its primary mission is the promotion of the love of God and country and the research into the history of Catholicism in the southern and southwestern United States and Mexico.

ADOPTION —

(continued from pg. 8)

intensive care.

"Isaac is doing great now," David said. "He's sort of a miracle baby. But the doctors weren't sure how his health would be when he was born."

David and Maria were able to be in the room with Eli's birth.

"We were very, very lucky to be at the hospitals for both of the boys' births and to be matched the way we were," David said.

Early in the adoption process, the Schuettes wondered about ongoing contact with birth parents.

"What if the birth parents wanted to come back and co-parent?" she recalled thinking. "That was really a bit scary."

However, after learning more and being in contact with both sets of birth parents, she now calls it "a very special relationship. We have a lot of respect for the birth parents. Both sets expressed before they had the boys that they would like to have contact."

Sometimes there are visits, sometimes text messages.

"We really give preference to the birth parents with how they'd like to be communicated with," Maria said. "We very much love them for who they are and who

God made them to be and the decision they made to place their children with us."

David and Maria are pleased that their sons are close in age and feature different personalities; Isaac is outgoing, whereas Eli is reserved.

"We continue learning every day how to be parents," Maria said. "Whether we had the boys biologically or they came to us through adoption, they are God's children first and we are caretakers of them. We learn every day how to be better parents, how to be more loving, more patient, more giving. And we have a lot of fun in the process."

The Schuettes enjoy sharing those experiences with others. In part because they were public about the adoptions, Maria said about 10 families, who are also struggling with infertility and considering adoption, have reached out to them.

"The biggest thing I'd say to (prospective adoptive parents) is to give it a chance," said David, noting that both his youngest sister and paternal grandmother were adopted. "For the most part, people are very open and want to share their experiences and help others. And agencies do a great job of educating."

"Adoption is a great blessing

and gift, but also a roller coaster of emotions," Maria said. "We tell families to trust and have faith that there is a child out there for you. Our family is a picture of that."

Maria also had a message for birth parents considering placing their child for adoption.

"Know that you aren't alone and that there are many, many people who love you and want to help you," she said. "Please don't be afraid to reach out for help. Know there are people there to support you every step of the way."

--

Wideman writes for The Compass, newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay.

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*Let us go
rejoicing
to the house
of the Lord.*

Psalm 122: 1
Responsorial Psalm for
November 24

Saints in the making



ST. RITA AWARD. The 2019 recipient of the Kathy Holt Memorial Volunteer Service Award at St. Rita Church is Mr. Donnie Bolton, pictured with Father Craig Scott, pastor.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO. St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo celebrated the 125th anniversary of the church parish on Oct. 5 with a Mass and Church Fair.



KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER COURTS. Fr. John Brocato is pictured with the Knights Of Peter Claver Courts, Bishop D.F. Desmond #91 and St. Juliana #268 after the initiation of new members. Court #91 initiated Birdie Metoyer. Court #268 initiated Melissa Johnson pictured and Kathy Taylor-Melbert, not pictured.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. On Sept. 22, over ninety people filled Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield for the installation of Father Brian Seiler as pastor. The installation was performed by former pastor, Father John O'Brien, dean of the Natchitoches Deanery. Pictured left to right: Linda Tinnerello, trustee; Reverend Brian Seiler, Reverend John O'Brien, and Vickie Weeks, trustee. The parish also gathered to celebrated Catechetical Sunday (pictured above).



NEW ALTAR SERVERS. Students from 3rd-5th grades at St. Mary's School, Natchitoches attended an altar serving course with Father Luke LaFleur.



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY. Richard and Carolyn Smith celebrated their fiftieth anniversary this year, with Father Craig Scott presiding over the renewal of their wedding vows. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Smith!



BLESSING OF THE PETS. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville held its Blessing of the Pets on Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Pastor, Father Jose Pallipurath, blessed pets from Sacred Heart school's families on the outdoor basketball court. Mrs. Carmen Necaise, art and religion teacher, assisted Father Jose by holding the readings for the blessing.



LIVING ROSARY. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville held its annual Living Rosary at the Sacred Heart grotto on Oct. 4. Students from grades 4-8 led the entire school in praying the rosary. The Congregation of the Children of Mary, and The Columbian Squires, along with the eighth grade students, began the rosary.

ROSARY RALLY. (RIGHT) An "America Needs Fatima" rosary rally was held Oct. 12 at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. Over 70 parishioners were in attendance praying the rosary for our nation, an end to abortion, and other causes.



The saints inspire us to bold action, and remind us again and again that we can change the world for God's glory. See below or visit www.diocesealex.org to see how the Diocese is cultivating saints of all ages!



CABRINI STEAM PROJECT. St. Frances Cabrini School 8th graders finished a STEAM project. They were "hired" by Amazon to create a package that could be carried by a drone. They had to scale down the original package, create a prototype, 3-D print their design and then test it. They were successful!



BLESSING OF THE ROSES. Father Chad Partain blessed the roses held by St. Frances Cabrini School children during the Procession of the Roses held Tuesday, Oct. 1 at St. Frances Cabrini Church. The procession is held in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as "the Little Flower." The roses were presented as part of a prayer service before Mass.



DONATION CHECK. During Grandparent's Day, Mrs. Hogg's 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade religion classes at St. Mary's School, Natchitoches sold lemonade to raise money for the Northwestern Louisiana Cancer Center in Natchitoches. They presented Sarah Stewart with a check of \$450! Thank you to all who donated!



ROSARY MONTH. St. Mary's School seniors gave their kindergarten buddies a rosary, and prayed a decade together during the month of the Rosary.



BACK TO SCHOOL RALLY. St. Anthony School hosted a Back to School rally on Aug. 24. Kyle Melancon, youth minister from Lafayette, was the guest speaker, providing faith formation and inspiration on how we can all let our lights shine. Students and families enjoyed food, fellowship, and praise and worship music led by Shelly Juneau and Mia Hukins.



PRAYER CIRCLE. Sr. Cristina Angelini of St. Anthony of Padua school offers her students various prayer activities, including "the prayer circle." Pieces of carpet remnants are placed on the floor of the classroom for the students to work on their prayer activities. The center of the room contains a small table or box with the Holy bible, a candle, incense, and a piece of nature.



FALL FOOTBALL. The football teams and cheerleaders from Sacred Heart and St. Anthony schools come together in prayer after the game.



Bishop's

GOLF TOURNAMENT

benefiting Seminarian Education

The Bishop's Golf Tournament, scheduled for Monday, October 14, was cancelled due to rain. The annual tournament, held at Oakwing Golf Club, features teams participating to raise money for the seminarians currently in formation for the Diocese of Alexandria.

We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors for their support of seminarian formation and passing on of the Catholic heritage in the Central Louisiana community.

We hope to see everyone next year!

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Fairs and Holiday Festivities

• **November 1-2: Cabrini Fest, Alexandria** | Cabrini Fest will be held Nov. 1-2 at St. Frances Cabrini Church and School. The fun starts at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 with a night Glow Run and Bike Ride, live music, food, games, train rides, face painting, and zip line until 9:00 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 2, join us beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the Talent Show, more food, games, train rides, face painting, zip lining, and more! Contact Ashley at 318-445-4588 for more details.

• **November 2-3: St. John the Baptist Mini Fair, Cloutierville** | Come join St. John the Baptist Church in Cloutierville for their annual Mini Fair on Nov. 2-3. The fair begins Saturday, Nov. 2 with Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by Blessing of the Graves, and gumbo, meat pies, tamales, and hamburgers. Prize bingo will be from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 the kitchen will open at 11:00 a.m., and the prize raffle drawing will be held at 3:00 p.m. Raffle tickets are available through Church members.

• **November 3: St. Jude's Fundraiser Lunch, Vidalia** | Join us on Sunday, Nov. 3 in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall in Vidalia from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for a jambalya lunch hosted by Rosalie Smith. Cost is \$10 and all proceeds will go to St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

• **November 23-24: St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society Christmas Shoppe**

The St. Frances Cabrini Church Sanctuary Society will hold its annual Christmas Shoppe on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. featuring a variety of frozen foods, casseroles, holiday sweets, homemade tamales, a Silent Auction and a visit from Santa Claus from 2:00-4:00 p.m. A delicious lunch will be served on Sunday, Nov. 24 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. to eat in or take out. All are welcome to come by and stock up your freezers for the holidays!

• **December 3: Christmas at the Nest** | Holy Savior Menard High School invites all students in grades PreK3 - 6th to attend the Sixth Annual Christmas at the Nest, on Tuesday, Dec. 3 from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The evening will start in the school gymnasium with storytime with award-winning storyteller, Sylvia Davis. After storytime the fun will continue in the school mall area with Christmas crafts and games, light refreshments, and pictures with Santa. This event is FREE and open to the public. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Food Bank of Central Louisiana as part of the Christmas Cheer Food Drive.

TAMALES. (BELOW) The St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society makes tamales to sell at the annual Christmas Shoppe to be held Nov. 23-24.



Upcoming VIRTUS sessions

• **November 5, 6:00 p.m.**
St. Joseph Catholic Center
ALEXANDRIA

• **November 21, 6:00 p.m.**
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate
Conception, NATCHITOCHEs

To register,
go to www.virtus.org



Upcoming Retreats

The following ACTS retreats
will be offered:

• **November 7 - 10**
ACTS Retreat for Men (Spanish)
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• **November 7 - 10**
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ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA CELEBRATION. The annual St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass will be held on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin Church, Lecompte. Mass will begin with a special procession of attendees in traditional regalia, St. Kateri vestments and banners. This is not a typical English/Latin Mass but a Native American Indian Mass and all are welcome to experience this celebration with us!

'Tis the season for hanging out in the cemetery

November is the month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. As Christians, we believe that the dead are not gone. Their bodies have died, but their souls live on forever.

We believe that Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all human beings who have ever lived. This is called the general judgment. But those who die before Jesus comes again face what is called the particular judgment. There are three possible outcomes to the particular judgment: Heaven, Hell, or, for those who loved God, but imperfectly, Purgatory.

One of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to pray for the living and the dead. It truly is a beauti-

ful act of charity to pray for these souls who cannot pray for themselves, and to make sacrifices for them since they cannot make sacrifices for themselves.

There are three indulgences specifically associated with this month, available pursuant to the usual conditions:

On All Souls Day itself, if you visit a church, and pray the Our Father and the Creed, you can be granted a plenary indulgence applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

Any time between Nov. 1 and 8, you can visit a cemetery and pray for the dead. Any time of the year, you can obtain a partial indulgence, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, can be

obtained when the Eternal Rest (Requiem aeternam) is prayed. This is a good prayer to recite any time, but it's especially appropriate during November.

I hope that someday we'll arrive in Heaven to be greeted by a lifetime of souls who were freed from Purgatory with the help of our prayers!

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

?? Catholic ?? Trivia

“Doctor of the Church” is a title given by the Catholic Church to saints recognized as having made a significant contribution to theology or doctrine through their research, study, or writing.

How many doctors of the church are there in the Catholic Church?

Answer on page 19.

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

Do you have a desire to learn and become more involved with this vital ministry to and with our indigenous brothers and sisters?

Are you looking for new opportunities to pray, serve and grow alongside believers right in your own community?

You are invited to **COME & SEE** what we're all about!

- Tribal affiliation, though welcome, is not a requirement •

The **“Heart of Saint Kateri” Circle** meets:
2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.
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for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

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The Cross Word

November 3
and 10, 2019



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Sunday readings: 2 Thes 1:11-2:2; Lk 19:1-10 and
2 Thes 2:16-3:5; Lk 20:27-38

ACROSS

- 1 Easter month
- 4 Grow smaller
- 8 Child of Abraham
- 11 Food & Agriculture Organization (abbr.)
- 12 Middle East country
- 13 Mistake
- 14 Alternative (abbr.)
- 15 Children of God will
- 16 Won
- 17 Cheese type
- 19 "The ___ of God"
- 20 Reticent
- 21 Seethe
- 22 Retort
- 25 Point that sticks out

26 Often poetically

- 29 Margarine
- 30 Lumber
- 31 Canal
- 32 Danish *kroner* (abbr.)
- 33 Pigpen
- 34 Single cell creature
- 35 Junk email
- 37 African antelope
- 38 Zacchaeus' stature
- 40 Snow transportation
- 44 One of Columbus' ships
- 45 Location
- 46 Kimono sash
- 47 All right
- 48 Wrote Thessalonians

- 49 "___ v. Wade"
- 50 Bitsy
- 51 Swiss mountains
- 52 Finish

DOWN

- 1 Where Magi saw star
- 2 Burmese language
- 3 Reserve Officers Training Corps.
- 4 "___ of his calling"
- 5 Peace
- 6 Rocket builders
- 7 Vane direction
- 8 Zacchaeus climbed
- 9 Petroleum Exporting Countries (abbr.)
- 10 Connection
- 13 Biblical weed
- 18 Norway capital
- 19 Understand
- 21 Work boat
- 22 Pole
- 23 Moose relative
- 24 Book characters
- 25 Zacchaeus felt
- 27 Lie
- 28 British drink
- 30 Long-term memory
- 31 Flightless birds
- 33 Rested
- 34 Shall be like ___
- 36 "We always ___ for you"
- 37 Stood (2 wds.)
- 38 "Sins shall be white as ___"
- 39 Climb a mountain
- 40 Face
- 41 Legend
- 42 Black
- 43 Jesus did for us
- 45 Whirlpool

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How to host a no-stress “Friendsgiving”

By **Susana Starbuck**
Guest Contributor

I love Thanksgiving. I love the meal planning and preparation, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the football on TV, and of course, the family time! In addition to the big day spent with our families, many of us want to celebrate the gratitude we feel for the friends who feel like family. The friends who understand us on a deep level. The Francis to our Clare, the Ignatius to our Xavier, the Pope John Paul II to our Mama T. Every year I wish I could spend a day of intentional thankfulness with those people who feel like family. God bless the millennials for coming up with “Friendsgiving.”

What is Friendsgiving?

In today’s pop culture, there are ample weird trends and tons of random national holidays (I’m looking at you, #nationalavocadotoastday). But there is one evolution in particular I’m happy to support: Friendsgiving!

Essentially, Friendsgiving is a traditional big Thanksgiving event, only it’s celebrated with your friends. Since Thanksgiving Day is typically reserved for



SACRED HEART SCHOOL OLS DAY. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville with the Sisters of Our Lady of Sorrows in preparation of their Feast Day on Oct. 15. Students made cards of many blessings for the Sisters and the Postulates. Sacred Heart School’s Parent’s Club treated them to a beautiful cake and punch reception. We are so blessed to have the OLS Sisters at Sacred Heart School. Pictured above: Postulate Angela Chaeruka, Sr. Kalen Sarmiento, Postulate Justine Del Castillo, Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, Postulate Lydia Hide, and Sr. Cristina Angelini.

family gatherings, Friendsgivings usually take place the weekend before or after the big day.

During this time of year, many of us are caught up in family, job, and education responsibilities that it can be intimidating to even think of adding another event to our calendar (much less planning

one). But it is possible to host a memorable and meaningful event without requiring all our time and energy. I’ll show you how to put together an easy Friendsgiving with a Catholic twist!

How to Host a Simple Friendsgiving

1. Invite Friends Online

You can keep this event casual and relaxed by setting the tone from the get-go. You can send paper invitations, but I suggest either creating an event on Facebook or emailing your guests. It keeps everything low-key and low-pressure. And saves a tree or two (go, Captain Planet!).

2. Make it a Potluck

Friendsgiving doesn’t

have to involve the traditional Thanksgiving meal. In fact, I think mixing it up helps the day stand out for your guests. Ask everyone to bring a pot of their favorite soup. Bring some recipe cards to exchange. That way, everyone gets to try each other’s favorite family recipes and soak up every last drop with chunks of warm French bread. It also takes the pressure off you, the host, to execute an entire multi-course meal on your own.

3. Make Your Table Cloth an Activity

Use brown packaging paper for your table cloth. You can find this kind of paper at Hobby Lobby or Michael’s or on Amazon. It’s inexpensive and very trendy. Use chalkboard markers to write your guests’ names at their places. Leave crayons on the table for kids to draw. When everyone leaves later that night, it’s easy clean up for you! Simply roll up the paper table cloth and discard (sad Captain Planet).

4. Choose Simple Centerpieces

If you’re feeling fancy and want to create centerpieces, cut some foliage from your yard (or your neighbor’s yard) or collect some pretty fall-colored leaves. Sprinkle them down the middle of the table. Add some freshly sliced citrus fruits like lemons and limes, or oranges and dried

cloves, or even cinnamon sticks! These items look beautiful and provide a festive fragrance.

5. Practice Gratitude

Either before or after the meal, circle around the table and allow everyone the opportunity to express what they are grateful for this year. Use this time to really contemplate where you’re at in life and to acknowledge the ways God is blessing you.

6. Invite a Priest

Seriously! Invite your parish priest to attend your Friendsgiving. Priests love to be among their community. Ask your priest to say a prayer of thanksgiving for the past year and to pray a blessing over everyone in attendance.

7. In-Source Entertainment

Have any musical friends? Invite them to play an instrument while everyone enjoys dessert and coffee. Ask if they’re willing to lead the group in a few songs of thankfulness to God before everyone departs for home.

November and December are undoubtedly busy seasons. However, I hope that this Friendsgiving guide makes it a little easier for you to host and celebrate those friends who are family.

You can follow Susana on Instagram @susana_starbuck.

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God wants to put things in order. He wants to rearrange our priorities. If we let him, we will be happier than we ever thought possible in this lifetime, and finally then we will come to know the peace for which we all yearn, but so few of us ever find. Our Catholic spirituality is constantly inviting us to establish the deep roots of order in our lives, and one of the best ways I know to do that is by praying the Rosary.

The Rosary works. It's a very powerful way to pray. There is just something about it that settles our hearts and minds. It puts everything in perspective and allows us to see things as they really are. It reaches deep down into our souls and puts us at ease, creating a peace that is rare



ST. PAUL ROSARY. A Rosary Rally was held on Saturday, Oct. 12 at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura. Pictured are all of the participants with pastor, Father Irion St. Romain.

the perfect prayer for busy people in a busy, noisy, confused world.

Develop a habit of praying the rosary, and discover the treasures of this powerful, ancient prayer. Try Matthew Kelly's new book, "Rediscover the Rosary: The Modern Power of An Ancient Prayer," found at www.dynamiccatholic.com, for help in getting started.

Abandon yourselves confidently in the hands of Mary, ceaselessly calling upon her with the rosary.

• Pope John Paul II •

and beautiful.

If you've been away from the home of Church for any length of time and desire to return, consider starting with the simple practice of praying the rosary. Here are 10 tips to help you get started:

- Say the rosary in moments of sadness or spiritual drought.
- If you can't pray a whole rosary at once, break it into parts.
- Use each mystery to ask for a particular intention.

- Pray while you walk and think of the people in your life.
- If you're upset, pray for the situation that worries you.
- Use images and music. The rosary is a contemplative prayer.
- Recite the rosary while doing chores or while you work out.
- Say it while you wait in line at the store, the bank, or in the carpool line.
- Carry a rosary in your

pocket.

- Simplest of all, fall asleep praying the rosary.
- Praying the rosary makes us better children, parents, spouses, neighbors, co-workers, and friends. It teaches us to slow down, surrender, and listen. It is

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Carol Garcia-Rachal named Teacher of the Year at St. Mary's School



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD. Mrs. Carol Garcia-Rachal, a high school biology/chemistry teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches, was recently named the recipient of the Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award for the 2019-2020 school year. For the past 15 years, Mrs. Jo B. Stamey has presented the award to an outstanding St. Mary's teacher in honor of her sister, Em Knipmeyer, a graduate and former teacher and principal at St. Mary's School. Pictured are (from left) Andrea Harrell, principal; Carol Garcia-Rachal; Jo B. Stamey, and her son David Stamey.

Mrs. Carol Garcia-Rachal, a high school biology/chemistry teacher at St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches, was named the recipient of the Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award for the 2019-2020 school year.

This is the 15th year that Mrs. Jo B. Stamey has presented the award to an outstanding St. Mary's teacher in honor of her sister, Em Knipmeyer, a graduate and former teacher and principal

at St. Mary's School. The award honors a current teacher who holds the same teaching ideals of Mrs. Knipmeyer.

Mrs. Garcia-Rachal is a graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches with an undergraduate degree in biology and a master's degree in education. Her 47 years of teaching experience includes 36 years in public schools, 10 years as an adjunct teacher at NSU, a few years at Bossier Parish Community College, and eight years at St. Mary's. At St. Mary's, Garcia-Rachal teaches Biology I and II, Honors Human Anatomy Physiology, Chemistry

I and Honors Chemistry I.

"Mrs. Carol Garcia-Rachal is dedicated to her students and maintains high expectations of them," said Principal Andrea Harrell. "She taps into the students' potential and encourages them to be their very best. Alumni frequently come back after classes in college and speak of how well they were prepared for university classes thanks to having her as a high school teacher."

The award was presented Oct. 4 after Mass at the school and followed by the St. Mary's Homecoming Court presentation.



COACH WREN NAMED ASSISTANT COACH OF THE MONTH. Coach Stephen Wren, assistant to the principal and director of maintenance at St. Mary's Catholic School, has been named the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) Dairy Max Assistant Coach of the Month. Wren also serves as an assistant coach of the football team, a position he has held for the past two years. Every month between September and May, Dairy Max selects an assistant coach of the month, based on nominations sent in by the school administration. By receiving this, he is automatically placed in the running for Assistant Coach of the Year, which will be announced in May. "Coach Wren is one who supports the mission of our school, which is to develop the whole child – academically, spiritually, and athletically," said Andrea Harrell, principal. "He emphasizes the importance of academics and character each and every day and works hard at forming relationships with our student athletes so the he can reach them on and off the field."

See more photos from Catholic Schools please visit www.diocesealex.org.



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Our Catholic schools are true blessings, providing education to our children, community for our families, and encouragement for the Christian journey.

So when one of our own is in need, our Catholic school families tend to rally around them offering prayers, support, guidance, and encouragement. That is exactly what our local communities have done this fall.

Baby Charlotte Bordelon, daughter of Mrs. Ashley Bordelon, first grade teacher at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Alexandria, turned eight months old on October 22, and Elizabeth Butler entered Pre-K4 at St. Frances Cabrini School this fall. Both have faced tremendous obstacles in their short lives, but not without the support of their local church and school families.

Charlotte's family received news of her heart condition, called "Tetrology of Fallot" the evening she was born, and had heart surgery to repair the condition at Children's Hospital in New Orleans on Sept. 18. To



COMMUNITIES RALLY TOGETHER. (LEFT) Father Derek Ducote blesses green scapulars for Mrs. Bordelon's first grade class. **(RIGHT)** Elizabeth Butler of St. Frances Cabrini School was diagnosed with Leukemia earlier this year. The school communities have rallied around these two families, offering them their prayers and support.

prepare for the surgery, Mrs. Bordelon informed her students and their parents that she would be out of school to care for Charlotte. The school community responded with overwhelming generosity, surprising Mrs.

Bordelon and her family with a prayer book for baby Charlotte, a beautiful cross necklace blessed by Father Derek Ducote, as well as a basket of goodies when the family arrived in New Orleans for the surgery, and a gift card upon

their return for several meals. Charlotte's open-heart surgery was successful, thanks, in part, to the generous prayers of her beloved school community.

"There is no way that I could thank my precious class enough

for everything they had done, but I wanted to do something for them that was special to me," said Bordelon. Green scapulars were purchased for her students, and then blessed by Fr. Ducote during a small ceremony in their classroom. "I feel that this whole experience has not only taught myself, but the children the amazing power of prayer," says Bordelon.

Elizabeth Butler was also surrounded by the prayers and support of her Cabrini School community after being diagnosed with Leukemia in early August. Elizabeth is in PreK-4, her mom, Ashley, teaches 3rd grade at Cabrini, and her older sister also works at the school.

In August, Elizabeth began chemotherapy, with treatments expected to continue for at least two years. The Cabrini family hosted a fundraiser, with all proceeds going directly to the Butler family to help offset the costs of treatment and travel.

Both families ask for our continued prayers and support, as well as prayers for other families facing similar situations.

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Cabrini Fest - November 1 - 2

Cabrini Fest will be held Nov. 1-2 at St. Frances Cabrini Church and School. The fun starts at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 with a night Glow Run and Bike Ride, live music, food, games, train rides, face painting, and zip line until 9:00 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 2, join us beginning at 10:00 a.m. for the Talent Show, more food, games, train rides, face painting, zip lining, and more! Contact Ashley at 318-445-4588 for more details.

St. John the Baptist Mini Fair, Cloutierville - November 2-3

Come join St. John the Baptist Church in Cloutierville for their annual Mini Fair on Nov. 2-3. The fair begins Saturday, Nov. 2 with Mass at 4:00 p.m., followed by Blessing of the Graves, and gumbo, meat pies, tamales, and hamburgers. Prize bingo will be from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, the kitchen will open at 11:00 a.m. and the prize raffle drawing will be held at 3:00 p.m. Raffle tickets are available through church members.

ACTS Retreat Leadership Training - November 2-3

Interested in becoming an ACTS Retreat Leader? ACTS Missions Chapter of Alexandria will be hosting an ACTS Retreat Leadership Training on Saturday, Nov. 2, and ACTS Core Training on Sunday, Nov. 3 at Maryhill Renewal Center, both days from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Each training session is \$35. Deadline to register is Oct. 11. For more information, contact Tom Bouchie at 318-792-6755 or twbouchie@aol.com, Melanie Dupre at 318-613-6959 or dupre.melanie@gmail.com, or Chris Armstrong at 225-931-5495 or chris5meac@gmail.com.

St. Jude's Fundraiser Lunch, Vidalia - November 3

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 3, in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church Hall in Vidalia from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for a jambalaya lunch hosted by Rosalie Smith. Cost is \$10. All proceeds will go to St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, TN.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS**Blue Mass - November 7**

The Blue Mass will be celebrated Thursday, Nov. 7 at 12:05 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. This Mass honors law enforcement, firefighters and first responder emergency personnel. All are invited to attend.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Garage Sale - November 9

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Youth Ministry will be having a HUGE Garage Sale on Saturday, Nov. 9. We need your used furniture, large appliances, sporting goods, and household items! If you would like to donate anything, please contact Felicia Schneider at 318-613-3497. Your large items like furniture can be picked up. Please contact Felicia to schedule a time. All proceeds from this Garage Sale will fund transportation for teens doing mission work next summer at work camp.

St. Mary's Training School Memorial Mass - November 9

You're invited to join St. Mary's Residential Training School at our first annual Memorial Mass. Held in remembrance of St. Mary's residents who have gone to their eternal rest, and members of our St. Mary's family who honored their loved ones' legacies by giving back to children with developmental disabilities, the Memorial Mass will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at St. Mary's Chapel located at 6715 Highway 1 North, Boyce, LA. After Mass, you're invited to join us in fellowship at a reception on St. Mary's grounds. To learn more or to RSVP, please contact St. Mary's development office at 318-445-6443, ext. 2162 or morgan.kee@stmarys-rts.org.

St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass - November 14 (rescheduled from Nov. 21)

Please join us for the annual St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass on Thursday, Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin Church, Lecompte. Mass will begin with a special procession of attendees in traditional regalia, St. Kateri vestments and banners. This is not a typical English/Latin Mass, but a Native American Indian Mass and all are welcome to experience this celebration with us!

Women's Conference - November 16

CENLA Magnificat and the Catholic Charismatic

Renewal of CENLA will sponsor a one day Women's Conference: "I Am Enough!" which will be held at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria on Nov. 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (dismissing in time for the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass). Father Derek Ducote will be the main speaker. Registration fee is \$35 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To register, please contact Diane Ardoin at dianeardoin@yahoo.com or at 318-419-1547. Pre-registration and pre-payment is necessary. Deadline to register: November 12.

St. Frances Cabrini Sanctuary Society Christmas Shoppe - November 23-24

The St. Frances Cabrini Church Sanctuary Society will hold its annual Christmas Shoppe on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. featuring a variety of frozen foods, casseroles, holiday sweets, homemade tamales, a Silent Auction and a visit from Santa Claus from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. A delicious lunch will be served on Sunday, Nov. 24 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to eat-in or take out. All are welcome to come by and stock up your freezers for the holidays!

Be Radiant Women's Retreat - November 30

Join the gals of Everyday Missionaries as we partner with St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Bunkie to glorify the Lord! Come and learn about the source and summit of our faith - the Eucharist! We will hear about miracles of Jesus through the Eucharist and how as women we can draw strength and hope from the Lord. This retreat comes just before the beginning of Advent, the time when we await for the coming of Jesus, God made flesh. Let us take this time to ask ourselves if we truly adore and appreciate the miracle of the Eucharist. We will come together to explore the truths of this sacrament and open our hearts to Him in a new and exciting way! Visit www.everydaymissionaries.com/retreats for updates and registration information. All women are invited. Cost is \$15. Lunch will be provided.

Small Business Saturday - November 30

Here's to a day to celebrate the makers, managers, employees, visionaries, entrepreneurs, and dreamers of small businesses - and the amazing people who support them! Remember to shop local and support small businesses in the Central Louisiana community.

REGISTRATION for Steubenville South 2020 is NOW OPEN!

Go to www.steubenvillesouth.com to register! Online registration for the 2020 Steubenville South Conference in Alexandria is now open! This year's theme is RESTORED. Youth ministers are invited to go online to www.steubenvillesouth.com to register their groups. The conference will be held June 26 - 28, 2020.

Church Today News Deadlines

**Next issue: Nov. 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 14**

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November 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Diocesan Offices Closed</p> <p>Men's Nocturnal Adoration 7:00 p.m. St. Frances Cabrini Church</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>1</p> <p>ALL SAINTS DAY FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR ARCHBISHOP AYMOND</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Cabrini Fest, Alexandria</p> <p>St. John the Baptist Mini Fair, Cloutierville</p> <p>ACTS Retreat Leadership Training</p> <p>ALL SOULS DAY FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>3</p> <p>St. Jude's Fundraiser Lunch 11:00 a.m. Our Lady of Lourdes, Vidalia</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>
<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Blue Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. HASIEBER</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. R. HOPPE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Garage Sale Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</p> <p>St. Mary's RTS Memorial Mass 11:00 a.m. St. Mary's Chapel, Boyce</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Diocesan Offices Closed</p> <p>VETERANS' DAY PRAY FOR FR. G. KROSFIELD</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUPURAM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>St. Kateri Tekakwitha Memorial and Native American Mass 7:00 p.m. St. Martin Church, Lecompte</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. KWEBUZA</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Women's Conference Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M LAIRD</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>
<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>21</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MESSINA</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FEAST OF ST. CECILIA PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Cabrini Christmas Shoppe, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. MILLER</p>
<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p>27</p> <p>FEAST OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>	<p>28</p> <p>THANKSGIVING FEAST OF ST. CATHERINE LABOURE PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Everyday Missionaries Women's Retreat St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie</p> <p>Small Business Saturday PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p>1</p> <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>



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