
CHURCH TODAY

Volume LII, No. 7

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

July 26, 2021



INSIDE

Come to the Table

We are ready to come together as a community again! See page 2 for a message from Bishop Marshall on how we can begin to come back together in our churches and communities. Come join us, and let's celebrate together!

Becoming Catholic

We want anyone wishing to become Catholic to feel comfortable and provide assistance as you make this important step in your journey. See page 5 or the diocesan website for resources to help you find a church near you, and so much more!

Prayer and meditation app Hallow sees huge increase in popularity

When the developers of the Catholic meditation app Hallow launched it in 2018, they hoped to attract young Catholics, but what is now the country's No. 1 Catholic app has a bigger reach than that. See page 18 for more information on this prayer aid.

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Come to the Table

Dispensation to attend Mass to end August 15



Our lives have been turned upside down by a virus we knew very little about. It has been over a year of confusion, isolation and stress. We have had to change how we go about our lives, and we have given up control over some basic aspects of our daily living. We have had to re-evaluate what is important to us. We lost loved ones and friends and many of us were separated from our ultimate connection to Christ, through the reception of the Eucharist.

You see, for the first time in our lives, many of us have been away from weekly, if not daily, reception of the Holy Eucharist. We have found ourselves hungering for the Body of Christ in the Eucharist, and challenged to engage in ways to stay connected with Him and with one another, outside of our traditional gathering at His table. These efforts to remain connected have been difficult; and yet our hope remained that we would one day gather again to fully celebrate the Lord's Supper as He intended.

Personally, as a priest, and now as a bishop, I was never separated from the Eucharist, but I experienced the tremendous distance from the Mystical

Body of Christ which is the Church. I will never forget the days of celebrating Mass alone – looking only at my cell phone/camera. The Church's liturgy is not meant to be celebrated alone. We become Church when we gather for the Eucharist, for it is in the Sacrament of the Altar that we find our connection to one another and to the larger Body of Christ.

Now that we've taken necessary steps to protect ourselves, with the extraordinary sacrifices made by our health care professionals and with the aid of vaccines now readily accessible, our time of distance from each other and from the Eucharist is at an end. ***It is with joy, therefore, that we are able to lift the dispensation effective on August 15, and invite people back to the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.***

We can once again become what we receive. We can become the Body of Christ, nourished by the Eucharist, formed by the Word of God, strengthened by the Holy Spirit. I invite you – **Come to the Table!**

*Most Rev. Robert W. Marshall, Jr.
Bishop of Alexandria*

**We are ready to come together
as a community again!**

**The pandemic has been difficult on us all,
and we have been so grateful for the technology
that gave us the opportunity for virtual Mass.
However, there is nothing greater than the gift of
being able to celebrate the Mass in person.**

Come join us, and let's celebrate together!

• **To find the Catholic churches near you, and
learn of their Mass times, please visit:
<https://masstimes.org>**

• **To learn more about the Catholic Diocese
of Alexandria, visit:
<https://www.diocesealex.org/>**

You're invited to join us at the table.
To see available Mass times near you, visit www.masstimes.org.

Lifting dispensation is not enough to get Catholics back to in-person Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The mere act of lifting the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation as the coronavirus pandemic eases won't be enough to get Catholics to come back to church, and some dioceses and Catholics are actively working to bring people back.

"Just opening our doors and waiting for folks to come is a failed strategy for generations, much less for today's culture," said Marcel LeJeune, founder and president of Catholic Missionary Disciples, in a July 12 email to Catholic News Service.

Research by the Catholic Leadership Institute, based in Pennsylvania, indicates that 25%-27% of Massgoing Catholics say they go to church "out of habit," according to institute president Dan Cellucci. Another 4%-6%, he added, call themselves "Catholics in name only." The research, Cellucci said, is based on 300,000 parishioners who speak one of 14 languages in 43 U.S. dioceses.

"If you were looking at that and the (Mass attendance) habit's been broken for 18 months in some parts of the country, I would posit that those people aren't going to come back if they (parishes) are not careful," Cellucci said. "If they worked through 18 months without their parish and didn't miss it, why would they put them back into their schedule?"

Parishes that didn't do anything to keep in touch with their parishioners are "most at risk" of membership drop-off, Cellucci told CNS in a July 14 phone interview.

The parishes "holding their own," he said, or have been thriving "are ones that have actually been in relationship with their people. They've made a deep bond of community and they work really hard at that. They check in with their parishioners, issue invitations — all the hallmarks of what we know to be practices of good evangelizing all the time."

Shouldn't the parishioners return on their own? "Theoretically, they should do that because of their Sunday obligation," Cellucci replied, "but that's not our mindset and we have to recognize that."



POST PANDEMIC CHURCH ATTENDANCE. A woman receives Communion at St. John the Baptist Church in Monroe, Mich., amid the coronavirus pandemic. An understanding of the importance of the Eucharist is seen as key to Catholics returning to in-person Mass for the first time in more than a year. (CNS photo / courtesy Detroit Catholic)

The issue has weighed on the mind of bishops and pastors for some time.

During the pandemic, "people were disconnected from one another," said Bishop William E. Koenig of Wilmington, Delaware, in an interview with *The Dialog*, Wilmington's diocesan newspaper, prior to his July 13 installation as bishop.

"In coming together as a community of faith, we're also a community. It's not just vertical with God feeding that hunger, but it's also horizontal where we are with one another," Bishop Koenig said. "Certainly, praying is the highest way we come together as a community, but to continue to explore ways, whether it's prayer groups, support groups, working as a team for religious education ... those ways help us come together, too."

"When churches were closed, people got out of the social ritual practice of going to Mass on Sunday," Michael McCallion, a theology professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, said in an interview with Detroit Catholic, the online news outlet for the Archdiocese of Detroit.

"Especially for those on the fence — perhaps about a number of other issues that have nothing to do with the pandemic — that

practice might not resume," McCallion added. "In the sociology of conversion, belief follows behavior. If we get out of the behavior, the belief fades as well."

He said, "What we need to do now more than ever is ramp up our hospitality and invite people to hang out with us at the parish. We can no longer wait for people; we need to go out and find them," McCallion said. "Each parish should have staff dedicated to a radical ministry of hospitality based on their own individual community with social events every week, not every month."

The Detroit Archdiocese's Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship has assembled a "welcome-back playbook" for parishes to use. In the playbook are a sample script for calling parishioners and a sample welcome-back letter to send to parishioners. "A letter from the pastor is one of the most essential messages to share with your parish community," the playbook said.

Other elements in the playbook include having the parish update its Mass and confession schedule on www.massfinder.org, and updating its profile on Google Business.

One teen in the archdiocese

took a page from the playbook to arrange a monthly Teen Summer Mass Series at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, featuring monthly themed Masses.

Anthony Schena, a senior at De La Salle Collegiate High School in the Detroit suburb of Warren, Michigan, had noticed that at his home parish, there weren't a lot of people his age at Mass.

The cathedral Masses' readings and music will follow the theme, and after Mass there will be food and fellowship in the cathedral plaza.

"Teens like having fun and having food," Schena told Detroit Catholic. "There will be a snow cone truck and fellowship for one night, and we'll have games and fun get-togethers for a brief amount of time after each of the Masses."

"We're trying to have some fun, to make it something interesting for teens to bring them back to church," said Christine Broses, a pastoral associate at the cathedral. "With COVID, we noticed a lot of young people have not returned to church as fast as the older crowd has."

In a September 2020 study from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 36% of Catholics ages 18-35 said

they planned to attend Mass less frequently when stay-at-home orders were lifted.

Father Kevin Gill, pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Solomons, Maryland, said he installed a large "Welcome Home" banner at the front of the church because "I want people to have the sense as they pull into the parking lot that we are saying to them, 'You are home, and we are happy you are here.'"

"For several weeks our attendance has been almost at pre-COVID levels," he told the *Catholic Standard*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington. "We are at the very southern tip of Calvert County," a sparsely populated part of the archdiocese, "and it was much different here than in D.C."

For Msgr. Raymond East, pastor of St. Theresa of Avila Parish in Washington, as restrictions in the nation's capital were gradually eased or eliminated, "every week somebody new would come (back) and say, 'I have missed this very much.' They have been looking forward to coming back, and they are grateful to be back."

LeJeune, in an undated Catholic Missionary Disciples blog posting, said, "Catholic leaders need to stop asking, 'How do we get back to pre-COVID days?' ... Our job has never been to maintain institutions. It is to make disciples."

To do that, leaders need to envision "a post-COVID parish," he said. "The pandemic gives us a unique opportunity. Still, big changes need to be bathed in discernment and prayer." He added, "Mission tells us why we exist. It is the engine which drives the car. We don't get anywhere without it."

Four of LeJeune's prescriptions for living in a post-pandemic parish are: "Let us love each other fully. Let us serve our communities. Let us fight for what is true and good," and "Let us not settle for what our parishes looked like in the past."

Contributing to this story were Karla Dorweiler and Daniel Meloy in Detroit, Richard Szczepanowski in Washington and Joseph P. Owens in Wilmington.

The thing that happened in between

"I was one way... and now I am completely different. And the thing that happened in between... was Him."

These are some of my favorite lines from Season 1 of *The Chosen* TV series, a series that portrays, with artistic freedom in its storytelling and dialogue, the back-story of Jesus' ministry.

In this scene, Mary Magdalene, who was plagued by demons that had thrust her into an immoral life, tries to explain to Nicodemus her miraculous healing.

Nicodemus, like other religious leaders, had previously visited Mary in hopes of healing her, but ultimately acknowledges that he is incapable of helping her - that only God can cast out her demons.

Later, in a single moment, Jesus encounters her and calls her by name. Completely awestruck that anyone would know her real name, she turns to look, and the intensity of his gaze pierces her



Letter from the Editor

Mrs. Cari Terracina
Publications Manager for the Diocese of Alexandria

darkness. And the demons are cast out.

She is free.

Called by Name

"He called me Mary," she explains to Nicodemus.

"He said I am His. I am redeemed."

In John 20:11-18, following the crucifixion, Mary woke up early to anoint Jesus' body, wanting to see Him one last time.

She witnessed His miracles before. Could she hope for one even now?

Worn out from the grief of Good Friday, Mary was frantic as she searched for Jesus' missing body, mistaking Him for a gardener. As Mary sought for

the One who was dead, it is He who surprises her, calling her by name:

"Mary!"

Don't we, too, desire to be called in this most intimate way?

This overwhelming event - Jesus' resurrection from the dead - was not marked by a thunderbolt; it began in the calling of a name.

Mary didn't have to wait until Heaven to experience the Resurrected Christ. She encountered Him right there in the ordinary.

And so can we.

We need only turn our gaze away from the chaos of the current moment, circumstance, upheaval, and look to Him who has been holding us all along.

Go and Tell

Do you doubt that God can call *you*?

The One who marks us with His own Name also entrusts us with the calling to tell of the love that transforms.

Who would imagine that a demon-possessed woman would be entrusted to "go and tell"? Yet, this is our story, too. Like Mary, we discover both the freedom of a life beyond the grave, and the calling to go forth and tell of this "thing" that has happened to us. To offer every sinner an opportunity for their own sainthood.

Friend, your past is not a barrier for God. And your poor choices cannot derail His plans.

I hope that's an encouragement for you. I hope to articulate the reality of the world we live in at any given moment: one held by our Savior. Our Good Shepherd. Friend. Loving Father. Defender and Advocate. Leader.

And Healer.

The Best One.

We can trust Him, even when it all feels undone, unraveled, unknown. And like no one else can give us quite the healing we need.

So let's lift our gaze to Him. See Him offer us our own personal resurrection and then thank Him for the opportunity to go and tell:

"I was one way... and now I am completely different. And the thing that happened in between... was Him."

Saint Mary Magdalene, pray for us!

See you back at the Table,
Cari

Follow Cari on Instagram
[@cariterracina](https://www.instagram.com/cariterracina)

Getting child baptized / Religious practice and parents' concern

Q. I have been a non-practicing Catholic, but I am sending my child to a Catholic school. She is now 4 years old and wants to be baptized, and I want this for her, too. My desire is to return to church practice, have her baptized and bring her up as a Catholic. But because I have not been attending a church, I cannot find a parish that will baptize her.

Recently I was asked to fill out a form whereby the pastor of my previous parish would sign permission for her to be baptized in the parish that we will now be attending. I have no idea how to proceed and am hoping that you can advise me. (Austin, Texas)

A. It surprises me that you have been unable to find a parish willing to baptize your daughter -- especially given your willingness to return to church practice yourself and thus serve as an example for your child. As a parish priest myself, I would be delighted to welcome to the sacraments someone with a similar story.

If the parish that you now



Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service

wish to attend is requiring your former pastor to submit a letter of approval, by all means you should try to make that happen. But first, if I were you, I would telephone (or, even better, visit) that former pastor and explain your situation.

Make sure that he understands your deep desire to have your daughter baptized and your own intention to return to regular church attendance and ask him if he would be comfortable in vouching for you.

Q. I am a cradle Catholic, as are my children. My concern is that, since they reached adulthood, they started going to nondenominational Christian churches instead of to a Catholic church. When they visit me they

go to Mass with me, but otherwise they don't. They are, however, very close to Jesus and read their Bibles regularly. But I can't help being concerned because I have always learned that not going to Mass is a mortal sin.

It breaks my heart that only one of my grandchildren was baptized in the Catholic Church. Most of them are active Christians in adulthood, but there is not a practicing Catholic among them.

I keep wondering what I did wrong and what I can do now, but then again their faith is strong and active. Are my daughters living in mortal sin because they abandoned the Catholic Church? I am so worried about this and keep praying about it. (Kailua, Hawaii)

A. I, too, am saddened and disappointed that your children are no longer practicing Catholics. I believe that the Catholic Church offers the strongest and surest path to salvation -- especially with the strength that comes from regularly receiving the Eucharist -- and it bothers me a lot when people abandon that path.

But I think you can be at peace and leave it to the Lord to judge the state of your children's souls. From the circumstances you indicate, I think it's doubtful that they are living in mortal sin. (Remember that for something to be seriously sinful, it demands that the person realize that it is.)

It is more likely, I would think, that your children are sincere in their faith journey -- reading the Bible, praying, attending religious services -- and seeking to do what God wants.

Maybe what you might do is ask them sometime, in a quiet conversation, "Do you ever miss receiving Jesus in holy Communion?" But don't be forceful or confrontational, lest you drive them farther away.

Meanwhile, I will pray for them, too.

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

Visit
www.diocesealex.org
for updated
COVID-19
information
and resources
for our diocese.

Becoming Catholic

You've taken the first step already!

The following information is to assist you in the process of joining the Catholic Church.

Though the Catholic Church is considered one universal body, there are many church "Parishes" within a diocese. The word "Parish" in this sense is not a civil parish, but a church that is responsible for a certain geographical area. There are fifty-one church parishes within the Diocese of Alexandria!

The best way to enter into the Catholic Church is to find a church parish where you feel comfortable. It is preferable for you to attend the parish that is closest to your home, but this is not required. You will notice each church parish has different Mass times and programs offered. Perhaps you have friends that attend a church parish further from your home... if you think another parish is a better fit for you and your needs, by all means choose that one!



will not be baptized "again." However, if (for example) the minister used water and only said "I baptize you in the name of Jesus," the Catholic Church would not recognize that as a valid baptism and you will be baptized. In the RCIA program, you will be asked to provide a copy of your baptismal certificate from the church you were baptized in. There may be cases where that is not possible (i.e. records destroyed in a fire), but know there are processes for those cases.

How long does it take to become Catholic?

The RCIA program, generally speaking, lasts from September through Easter and you are brought into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday (the evening before Easter Sunday).

"Why does it take so long?" and "Why is everything so formal?" you may ask.

The Church believes this program is needed to ensure you are well prepared and understand the wonderful graces received when you enter fully into the Church. There are exceptions to this norm and can be discussed with the Pastor of the church parish you choose.

The Catholic Church has been in existence since the time of Jesus and takes the responsibility of caring for your spiritual life very seriously. Becoming Catholic is meant to be a lifelong commitment and we want to ensure you understand the process, the

Mass, and are able to fully receive the Sacraments the Catholic Church offers you.

I have more questions. Is there someone I can speak with about how to proceed?

We want you to feel comfortable and provide assistance as you make this important step in your journey, so for additional questions please contact Deacon Richard W. Mitchell either via email dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org or call 318-445-6424, ext. 206. He is available to assist you by answering more specific questions, help you find a church parish that is closest to you, or help guide you along as needed.

Find additional resources at www.diocesealex.org/come-to-the-table, including:

- How to find a church parish near you
- How to find Mass times at churches near you, even when you're on vacation
 - Divorce and annulments in the Catholic Church

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Once you've selected a church parish, introduce yourself to the priest/pastor at the parish. He will be very instrumental in guiding you through the necessary steps for coming into the Catholic Church. Call the church office to make an appointment to meet with the priest/pastor.

Most parishes have a program called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). In this program, adults learn

about the Catholic Church, ways to develop their spiritual lives, and are integrated into that parish family.

The RCIA program typically consists of weekly meetings at the church with a small group of other adults and led by the priest, deacon, or catechist (someone trained to teach). The program is free of charge, but some parishes may request you purchase a workbook. There are no tests or exams, but the more you read the material and participate in




the discussions, the more you will benefit from the program.

I was baptized in another religion; will I be baptized again?

The Catholic Church believes in only one baptism. Generally speaking, if you were baptized with water in the Trinitarian formula (meaning the minister said "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"), the Catholic Church recognizes that as a valid baptism, so you

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.


Psalm 78: 24
 Responsorial Psalm
 for August 1

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 EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Healing in public

By Abby Johnson

My healing story is not an ideal one. There was no time to grieve, to reflect or to even be alone really. Less than a month after I left the abortion industry, my face was on national news. It was like being shot out of a cannon.

The one break I had was the amazing media training from Planned Parenthood. At the very least, when I was on TV I didn't look like a bumbling idiot.

Moments of healing

My first moment of healing came on October 23, 2009, at 10:00 p.m., when I went back to my old clinic. I stood out there and faced my egregious sins for the first time. It was then, on that dark sidewalk, I realized how broken and wretched I was.

Two weeks later, I was in court against Planned Parenthood. I witnessed my best friends take the stand and lie about me. I watched them cry as they were caught in their lies, over and over again, by my attorney. I saw the hurt on their faces. I knew they felt forced. And, in that moment of betrayal I chose to forgive them, but I haven't spoken to them since then.

One week after the court case brought against me by Planned Parenthood was dismissed, I was invited to speak on dozens of national news shows. I told my story, I answered their questions, and I tried to be as raw and honest as possible. The media continued for several months. The result of all of the media led to requests from pro-life groups across the country for my testimony.

At my first event I gave a speech, a month after the media explosion, and I spoke for two hours. I had so much to say, so much to get off my heart, so much to expose. Everyone had questions. And, down in the warm basement of a church in New York, in front of over 100 people, I received a little more healing.

I continued to speak and each time I experienced a lot more healing. Sometimes, I would speak and memories would pop into my mind when I was on stage. At times, those memories were so powerful it made it hard to finish my talk.

I found myself lost and



overwhelmed by the media storm. To be honest, even though the people around me were supportive and wanted to help how they could, it seemed like they had no idea what it was like to experience what I had experienced.

Fifteen months after I left Planned Parenthood, my book was published. Writing proved to be incredibly healing. Publicly sharing those intimate memories and moments in my book was more healing than I ever could have imagined.

I realized that I still needed to heal from my past abortions, so I went through just about every post abortion bible study known to man, and I healed a little bit more. I was at peace about my own abortions. I knew they were wrong. I regretted both of those decisions, but I knew I could move on from those memories, those two grievous mistakes.

And Then There Were None

About two and a half years after I had left the industry I started an organization for people like me, workers who wanted to leave the abortion industry, but thought they had nowhere to go. I didn't know if it would be successful, but God continues to amaze me.

Ever since *And Then There Were None* was established in June 2012, to this day, we have helped over 140 abortion clinic

workers through our ministry looking for support, healing, and compassion. They were able to find a safe place in us and, hopefully, we have helped them find forgiveness in Christ.

Every time we hold a healing retreat for the workers in our ministry I also heal just a little bit more. These men and women, these beautiful and courageous people, have brought more healing and comfort into my life than they will ever know.

Now, it's been over five years since I walked out of Planned Parenthood's doors, and I can honestly say that I have never looked back. I have never wondered if I made the right decision. I have never questioned my decision to leave. I know it was the right decision.

Many of you, in these past several years, have walked through this journey with me. You have seen me heal. Many of you have seen me stand up on a stage and cry when I shared my story. And yes, you have seen me screw up, lots of times. Some people had mercy on me when I messed up. Other people, not so much. You know what they say, right? Christians are often the worst at wounding our wounded.

An empty building

In August 2013, my former Planned Parenthood clinic closed its doors. No more women would be hurt inside those clinic

walls. No more babies would be killed on their tables. In September 2013, we even held a "celebration" outside the clinic. That was a heavy day for me. Yes, there was some happiness, but I mostly felt sorrow.

I could only see one more piece to close that chapter of my life: I wanted to walk through that empty building one last time. I wanted to hold my husband's hand and relive those memories, only so I could finally put them to rest. I wanted to walk in each room and pray. I just wanted that closure.

I was so overcome with emotion when the local pregnancy center and another national pro-life group, who bought the building, told me I would be able to have that time to heal. I had been preparing my heart for that walk-through. I knew that it would be emotional. I was nervous because I honestly didn't know what to expect.

You might be able to imagine my devastation when my husband received a text message telling us we were no longer allowed to go and walk through the building. This was their media moment and as it turned out they didn't want me to take away any of their spotlight. I was crushed. These people who had stood beside me and pushed out my story when I left were now ripping this opportunity of healing from me.

My family now lives in

Austin, but I had an appointment in College Station where the clinic was located. After my appointment finished, I thought to drive past my former clinic just to see if there had been any changes made to the building. I noticed immediately the big heavy fencing had been removed, along with the bars on the windows.

You would drive by and just see a building. It's possible that you would even look at that building and see a victory, but I look at that building and see so much sin, my sins, too. When I look at it, I see eight years of time spent without God. I see so many years of loss. However, there is a small part of me that sees triumph.

I wanted to pull into that parking lot, but I couldn't make myself do it at first. I drove by at least three times before I finally turned my wheel and pulled in. I instinctively pulled into the second to last parking spot, the same spot I had parked in for eight years. I decided to move my car closer to the building.

I thought I might be able to see through the windows. It felt strangely familiar to be in that parking lot, which I didn't like, but I worked there longer than I have been out of there, so I figured that made sense.

There was some light shining through one of the windows on the building. The window was very familiar, it was my old office window. I also knew that light. It was a light right outside one of our education offices that never turned off. I felt drawn to go look inside, from the outside.

I got out of my car and walked up to the building. I went to my office window and looked inside. It took my breath away to see my old desk still sitting there. There was a note on the desk, apparently, left behind from Planned Parenthood. The note had a woman's name and phone number written on it. In the memo it said that she was "calling about AB information." We always abbreviated abortion with "AB."

If you were to look through that same window, you would only see a basic office. However, as I stood there I could see myself sitting at that desk, auditing charts, checking to make sure the ultrasound pictures of the babies we killed were in every chart.

I see the bowl of miraculous medals that sat on my shelf, all of

those medals that were left behind by the pro-lifer advocates in our flowerbeds. I had picked them all up and kept them in that bowl for eight years.

You would look in and see a large empty space next to my desk. I see a small conference table that sat there. That was where I interviewed applicants, where we sat as I would lie to them about our “mission” at Planned Parenthood.

“We want to reduce the number of abortions,” I would tell them. That was just a lie. We didn’t care about those women who came to us. We just wanted their money. The time spent at that small table was my first opportunity to brainwash these potential employees about all of the “good” we were doing at Planned Parenthood.

I slowly walked to the window to the right of me and looked in. You would see a small room with a kitchenette. You would realize this room must have been a staff break room, but I look in and see all of us standing around a table, grabbing a bite to eat in between abortion procedures. I see us all laughing as the abortionist would tell us his greatest “abortion stories.” I remember us looking out that window and mocking the pro-lifers outside who were praying for all of us.

I continued walking down

that sidewalk and looked into each window. I had been in every one of those rooms.

I could see all of it. I could see all of those memories so clearly, things I hadn’t thought about in over five years. They were all rushing in and I couldn’t control them. I was already sobbing and clinging to the stone wall when I reached one of the last windows and looked inside.

It felt like my legs couldn’t support my weight anymore, so I just sat on the ground and wept. I was aware the people driving by could see me, but I just couldn’t move. It felt like my heart was literally breaking inside of my chest. It was physically painful.

I have no idea how long I had been sitting there with my face in my hands, but I suddenly felt a hand on my shoulder. I looked up, feeling startled, to find a stranger standing there. It was an older man. I figured I needed to give some sort of explanation as to why I was sitting there sobbing like a crazy person, but the only thing I could get out was, “I used to work here.”

He looked at me with such compassion and in a gentle voice said, “I know. I know who you are. Can I help you?” I was trying to stand up, but felt a bit wobbly. He grabbed my arm and walked with me as I made my way to my car. He asked me if I wanted him to call someone for me, but I

didn’t. I couldn’t think of anyone who would understand what was happening inside of me at that moment. I thanked this kind gentleman and assured him that I would be fine.

As I watched him walk off, I went back to the window of my old office one last time. There was a Bible verse written on the wall. It said something about evil. That was not the Bible verse I envisioned writing on that wall one day. I always wanted to write 2 Corinthians 5:17, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Alive again

I walked back to my car and pulled out of the parking lot. I felt numb, but I knew that would eventually go away. I turned on my iPod and hit shuffle. I don’t think it was a coincidence the song that started playing was Matt Maher’s, “Alive Again.”

The chorus says, “You called and You shouted Broke through my deafness Now I’m breathing in and breathing out I’m alive again

You shattered my darkness Washed away my blindness Now I’m breathing in and breathing out I’m alive again”

I drove home thanking God to be alive again, that I am alive in Him. I don’t know why things

happen the way that they do, but I know I just have to keep moving forward in forgiveness, in truth, and with God.

My past will always be there. Those memories will always be a part of my mind. I don’t even mind that they are there, those memories keep me motivated in this battle. I know I am forgiven. I know that God has cast my sin as far as the east is from the west. I feel His redemption. I feel His mercy. I feel it every day of my life.

I share this part of my journey with all of you because many of you have been here since the very beginning. You heard there was an unnamed abortion clinic director who had resigned from Planned Parenthood and was now pro-life. You have shared your lives and your struggles with me, so I will continue to share mine with you. I reveal my vulnerability and my weakness because I don’t know how to be something I’m not.

I pray that I have saved more than I helped to kill. I pray that God continues to open doors as long as He wants me doing this work.

Healing in public has not been easy or ideal, but, in the end it has been worth it. Thank you for being on this journey with me, even when it has been messy. It’s important to express how thankful I am to you for loving me in spite of my past sins.

Thank you for embracing my ministry, which reaches out to others who need healing. Thank you for looking past the victory of an abortion clinic worker who switched sides and just seeing ME, a broken sinner in need of grace, mercy, and compassion.

I’m not sure that I could ever express how much your prayers, your kind words, and your hugs have healed my heart.

As I reflect on our last retreat for clinic workers, something really stands out to me. Yes, God heals us, but so does your faith in us. Your kindness heals us. You play a part in putting our hearts back together. Thank you for loving us.

About Abby Johnson:

Abby travels across the globe sharing her story, educating the public on pro-life issues, advocating for the unborn, and reaching out to abortion clinic staff who still work in the industry. She is the founder of And Then There Were None, a ministry designed to assist abortion clinic workers in transitioning out of the industry. To date, this ministry has helped over 430 workers leave the abortion industry. Abby lives in Texas with her husband and eight precious children.

Cenla Pregnancy Center hosts annual Gift of Life Banquet



ABBY JOHNSON
Guest Speaker

Join the Cenla Pregnancy Center this September for the 3rd Annual Gift of Life Fundraising Banquet. The banquet will be held Tuesday, September 14 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in downtown Alexandria.

Featured guest, Abby Johnson, former director of a Planned Parenthood facility, will share her story of conversion. Come to celebrate life and enjoy a delicious meal! We will also hear from a client who has benefited directly from your donations.

At Cenla Pregnancy Center, we understand that women come from different backgrounds, and that their lives are unique. We believe every woman deserves

truth especially when faced with news of an unplanned pregnancy. Cenla Pregnancy Center provides unique support to help women understand their options. The Cenla Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization serving Central Louisiana and the surrounding communities.

Learn how your contributions support life in Central Louisiana and beyond!

To purchase tickets for the Gift of Life Banquet or for more information about the Cenla Pregnancy Center, please visit www.cenlapc.com.

Did you know?

2,986	Total number of services provided to clients since the Cenla Pregnancy Center’s inception in 2017
14%	Percentage of women who were considering or planning to have an abortion
57%	Percentage of mothers considering an abortion who chose LIFE in the last year alone
92%	Percentage of ALL women served at Cenla and Avoyelles Pregnancy Centers who chose LIFE
17%	Reduction in the number of women choosing abortion in Central Louisiana since 2017, as reported by the LA Department of Health

Manna House implements Expanded Meals Program

Time has flown by, and we find ourselves in the middle of summer. While most families may be planning summer vacation or sending kids off to summer camp, Manna House is still serving meals 7 days a week to those in need in our community.

But they haven't stopped there.

Manna House has recently partnered with United Way of Central Louisiana to deliver prepared meals to those in our community who are in need of a nutritious meal, but who do not have means of transportation. This will add to the number of people served by Manna House each month.

During this post-pandemic time, Manna House plans to continue to utilize the "to-go" model, but will be able to serve even more in the Central Louisiana area through this new endeavor.

The staff and volunteers of Manna House work daily to provide nutritious meals to our

hungry and homeless neighbors in need, and need your help to continue to banish hunger in our community.

Your support helps to break the cycle of poverty for children, families, seniors, and the homeless.

No donation is too small or too large, and each donation received is utilized to support individuals and families in our own community.

Those wishing to make a donation to support Manna House and the new Expanded Meals Program are encouraged to give at givetomannahouse.org, or to mail their donation to:

Manna House
P.O. Box 6011
Alexandria, LA 71307.

Patrons may adopt Manna House for a day through a donation of \$500.00 or more, or give in honor of someone's birthday, a school club, or simply to honor someone in the community.

Together, we can achieve so much more to help those in need. Call 318-445-9053 for more information.



CIVIC LEADER AWARD. Jessica Viator, director of Manna House (pictured above with Father Chad Partain), recently received the Civic Leader Award.

A prayer to avert storms and hurricanes

Father, all the elements of nature obey your command.

Calm the storms and hurricanes that threaten us and turn our fear of your power into praise of your goodness.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

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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.

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 more information, 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."



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Sunday:

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.





OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. The Our Lady of Lourdes community bid farewell to Fr. Brian Seiler on June 27. Veronica Pray, president of the church council, presented Father with a “Laughing Jesus” portrait to remind him of the fun times at Our Lady of Lourdes! The portrait was purchased in memory of Roy Maggio. Pictured left to right: Father Brian Seiler, Veronica Pray and Tracy Maggio Kelly.

Seminarian Burses

June 2021 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Scott Chemino Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Marion French	\$50.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Mrs. Frances F. Serwatka	
In memory of Mr. Joseph S. Serwatka	\$100.00
Monsignor Aloysius O. Olinger Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Sklar, Jr.	\$100.00
Father Dennis A. Curren Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$100.00
Deacon Gary Schupbach Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$100.00
Leo P. Dobard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$200.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Sklar, Jr.	\$400.00
Father Louis Sklar, III, Burse	
Total	\$1,300.00

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.

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HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for August 2021

The Church -

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A prayer card with this prayer can be downloaded and printed from foryourvocation.org

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to the Chancery Office, Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.

-- Very Reverend Stephen Scott Chemino, Chairman

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Parish Spotlight: St. Mary Church, Winnsboro, Louisiana, Established 1945



ST. MARY CHURCH, WINNSBORO.

In 1859, Fr. Louis Gergaud, the pastor of St. Matthew's in Monroe, offered Mass in the home of a Mr. L. Zimm and also preached in the local courthouse where he won three converts.

Priests from Monroe continued to visit the town of Winnsboro until 1904 when it became a mission of Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia.

John Myer donated land for the building of a chapel in Winnsboro in 1905 and a small church was built.

In 1941, the mission was assigned to the Franciscan friars at St. Pascal's in West Monroe until 1944.

On September 30, 1945, Bishop Daniel Desmond established St. Mary's as an independent parish and invited the Josephite Fathers to take charge of its administration. The parish

was staffed by the Josephites until 1963 when it was placed in the charge of the diocesan clergy. Under the Josephite Fathers a new brick church was built and dedicated by Bishop Charles Greco.

Under the administration of Fr. Daniel Corkery, a native of Ireland, a parish hall was built as well as a new rectory.

A new mission was established at Fort Necessity on

land donated by W. E. Moore, Sr. and dedicated in honor of St. Patrick on August 7, 1966. That mission was discontinued in 1994.

Another mission, St. John's Chapel, was built in 1954 in downtown Columbia. It burned down on Christmas Eve in 1988. St. John's was then relocated to 7900 Hwy. 165 in Columbia and was dedicated on June 17, 1990.



ST. JOHN CHAPEL, COLUMBIA.

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Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 34: 9
Responsorial Psalm
for August 8

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Live-streamed Mass Schedule

Please continue to visit your church parish's Facebook page (you do not need a Facebook account, just click "not now" and view the content) or the diocesan website for updates. Please inquire directly to your church parish concerning their requirements and guidelines for attending Mass in-person.

Sunday

- 7:00 a.m. **Sacred Heart Church**, Moreauville KZLG-FM 95.5
- 8:00 a.m. **Sacred Heart Church**, Moreauville KLIL-FM 92.1
St. Rita Church, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 10:00 a.m. **Radio Maria** | www.radiomaria.us
(click the play button) or tune in on your radio in
Alexandria: station 580 AM
or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. **Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church**, Alexandria
on Facebook or YouTube
St. Francis de Sales, Echo on Facebook
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Facebook
St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah on Facebook
- 10:00 a.m. **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Pineville
on Facebook or YouTube
- 10:30 a.m. **St. Augustine Church**, Isle Brevelle on Facebook
Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth
on Facebook or YouTube
- 11:00 a.m. **St. Rita Church**, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- 11:30 a.m. **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Pineville
on Facebook or YouTube

Monday - Friday

- 8:00 a.m. **Radio Maria** | www.radiomaria.us
(click the play button) or tune in on your radio in
Alexandria: station 580 AM
or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 9:00 a.m. **St. Edward the Confessor**, Tallulah
on Facebook (Wednesdays),
(9:30 a.m. talk - aka "The CU Catecast"; Wed.)
- 5:30 p.m. **Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church**, Alexandria
on Facebook or YouTube
St. Edward the Confessor, Tallulah
on Facebook (Fridays)

Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. **Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church**, Alexandria
on Facebook or YouTube
- 4:00 p.m. **St. Rita Church**, Alexandria on Facebook or YouTube
- Radio Maria** | www.radiomaria.us
(click the play button) or tune in on your radio in
Alexandria: station 580 AM
or in Natchitoches: station 89.7 AM
- 5:00 p.m. **St. Michael the Archangel**, Leesville on Facebook

View recorded Mass on YouTube:
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches

Historic Badin-Roque house restoration groundbreaking



On July 10, a groundbreaking signaled the beginning of a Restoration Project for the historic Badin-Roque House located in the St. Augustine Parish community known as Isle Brevelle. The St. Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) and the Louisiana State Daughters of the American Revolution (LSDAR) did a cordial welcome. On hand for this momentous occasion were members of (DAR) from across the State, (SAHS) members, City of Natchitoches Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., Senator Louie Bernard, community partners, friends, and neighbors.

Badin-Roque's Significance

For Creoles and historians, the structure represents the first Catholic school for Creole children at St. Augustine parish. This structure was built by a Frenchman and purchased by the Founder of St. Augustine Catholic Church, Nicolas Augustin Metoyer (1768-1856). It was donated and served as the first convent resided by French Daughters of the Cross nuns who had come at the request of the the first bishop of the Diocese of Natchitoches, Auguste Martin. The nuns also schooled children of the parish in the Badin-Roque house.

Badin-Roque is a rare example of a French Colonial architecture with only this one in Louisiana and about 3 others still in existence in the United States. The structure features poteaux-en-tere (post in the ground) dating back to the 1700's. Moreover, walls were built of bousillage, and dirt floors completed the structure. A marker at the site reads, "an ancient form of construction prevalent in the Mississippi Valley during the 18th and early 19th centuries."

Preservation

In 1979 the St. Augustine Historical Society was formed to preserve our historic treasures, in particular the Badin-Roque House. The founding members of the Society were all members of St. Augustine Catholic Church. The following year, Badin-Roque house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the composition and frailty of the building, the Badin-Roque House is now listed as one of the most endangered properties by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation.

A generation has followed, and in 2017 the SAHS renewed its efforts to continue preservation of Badin-Roque. A GoFundMe page was started which made possible

donations from across the country. Funding occurred from individual donations as well as from organizations. Contributing financially organizations included: Cane River Creole National and Historical Park (CRCNHP) \$22,000; Cane River National Heritage Area (CRNHA) \$20,000; and the Louisiana Daughters of the American Revolution (LSDAR) \$80,000.

In 2019 the Louisiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) adopted as its state project for 2020-2021 fundraising for the restoration of Badin-Roque House. State Regent Charlotte Hodge White was instrumental in promoting the project among the 43 chapters throughout the state. Louisiana DAR chapters have raised over \$80,000 as of this date. The St. Augustine Historical Society President, Dr. Mark Guidry says, "I humbly and gratefully thank everyone for their talents, treasure, and prayers which has made possible the start of this restoration." Furthermore, he gives thanks and praises to God "for witnessing the preservation of the legacy of faith in St. Augustine's parish, a one-of-a-kind structure in Louisiana, and a historical piece of American History."

Visit www.masstimes.org to find Catholic Mass times near you,
with directions, and contact information.
Get to Mass on time or find a new parish near you!



*a slice
of summer*

NUNCIO VISITS MANY, LOUISIANA. Bishop Robert Marshall travelled to Many, LA on June 27 to join in the 150th Anniversary celebration of St. John the Baptist Church. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, and concelebrated by Bishop Francis Malone of Shreveport, Bishop Marshall and Father Francis Kamau, FMH, pastor. The parish was established by Bishop Auguste Martin, the First Bishop of Natchitoches and is located in the Diocese of Shreveport now.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. Lizbeth [redacted] and Harper [redacted] received their First Communion on May 16 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Pictured with them is pastor, Fr. Brian Seiler.

OLL SENIOR SUNDAY. Clay [redacted] and Guadalupe [redacted] were honored on (High School) Senior Sunday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Winnfield. Fr. Brian Seiler, pastor, congratulated the high school graduates.

MAY CROWNING, WINNFIELD. May Crowning was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield on May 2 with the CCD youth participating. Lizbeth [redacted] crowned the Blessed Mother.



(LEFT) BUNKIE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #2395. The Knights of Columbus Council #2395 of Bunkie conducted the installation of officers for 2021-2022 on July 6, 2021. Pictured: (First row): Michael Leduc, Michael Tanner (Grand Knight), Ronnie Link; (Second row) Bill Longoria, Gerald Normand, Richard Mayeaux, Cecil Morace; (Back row) Ed Gremillion (District Deputy), Gerald Adams, Alden Juneau, Jr.; not pictured, Shawn Hart, Thomas Roy, and Stephen Gremillion, Sr.





View more photos on the photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org.

(LEFT) SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE offered their Vacation Bible School on June 21-25. The theme this year was "TREASURED Discovering You're Priceless to God." Over 60 kids attended!



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield had their Vacation Bible School the week of June 13-17. The church's youth group assisted for the week.

SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. Sacred Heart in Moreauville held their Vacation Bible School from July 11-15. The theme this year was "Rocky Railway-Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through."

(RIGHT) ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA offered their Vacation Bible School from July 12-16. The theme this year was "ROCKY RAILWAY -- Jesus' Love Pulls Us Through." Over 70 kids from grades PreK to 6th attended.

(LEFT) SACRED HEART, PINEVILLE. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville recently held a Knighting Ceremony for their Knights of the Altar. Pictured with the newly knighted are Fr. Dale Meade (visiting); Fr. Walter Ajaero, pastor; Deacon Mike Young; and, Lee Moreau, deacon candidate.



they looked to Him and were radiant; and their faces will never be ashamed. // psalm 34: 5

No Limit 4 Recovery

Robert Williams Jr., Founder, President and CEO of No Limit 4 Recovery Clubhouse created this nonprofit organization in 2019 with a vision of providing service to the local community. Williams and his wife, Tracey are parishioners and trustees of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Boyce, LA. They founded the Clubhouse, located in the Sonia Quarters near Bolton High School, to provide counseling and spiritual support for people addicted to drugs and alcohol. However, the vision of the Clubhouse expanded after the Covid-19 Pandemic to offering services to the elderly, opening a food pantry, a clothing thrift store as well as workshops for empowering families as well as activities for children and youth.

The Clubhouse has hosted such events as “Bringing Unity Back to Cenla” in September of 2020 as well as “The Funeral is Cancelled” event in March 2021, teaming up with local pastors and community leaders to emphasize non-violence in the community and empowering youth to think on broader horizons.

With community support and No Limit 4 Recovery Clubhouse founding board members, they’ve been able to provide resources to people in need, including substance



NO LIMIT 4 RECOVERY. Community members pose for a picture at the No Limit 4 Recovery Clubhouse, located near Bolton High School.

abuse education and counseling services. The group is focused on empowering families, especially children.

Williams tells the Church Today that “when you come into this building, there’s no limit. You can express how you feel. You can be who you are. We’re going to give it all back to Cenla. Whatever we can do to help Cenla, to make it a better place

and become more unified, we’re willing to make sacrifices and do that.”

Williams Jr. states that his Catholic faith has impacted his journey and vision to start this non-profit. “My mother was a Catholic and my father was Baptist. My Catholic faith has impacted me through the Word of God which has encouraged me to give back to the community as

a whole.”

Williams Jr. said that a person’s past can be their greatest asset, because others can see that they lived through a

situation or set of circumstances, and that they can make it through similar situations too.

“We make people feel a part of the process, and not apart from it. When I founded this organization I kept asking myself: Why can’t we feed the hungry? Why can’t we help clothe those in need. We deliver services and meals for the elderly. We are working to unify and build our community and provide services that make a difference in people’s lives. I look around myself and ask: How can I make a difference? I grew up in this neighborhood. What can we do to revive this community through the power of the Word of God. I believe it can happen.”

You can visit No Limit 4 Recovery Clubhouse at 2403 Harris Street, on Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Robert Williams Jr. at 318-277-0203 or visit during their operating hours.

Sacred Heart Church, Pineville, offers multiple ministry opportunities

• Thrift Shop

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church St. Nicholas Thrift Shop is now open on Fridays in addition to Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The Thrift Shop is located at 616 Lakeview Street, Pineville. For more information call the church office at 318-445-2497 or the Thrift Shop during operating hours at 318-442-2072.

• Grief Support Group, Pineville

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville will begin a Grief Support Group, every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center. For more information, please contact the church office at (318) 445-2497 or Robin Graham at (318) 229-6466.

• Adoration Chapel

The Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, in the Community Center. Visit the church office to receive the code to enter.



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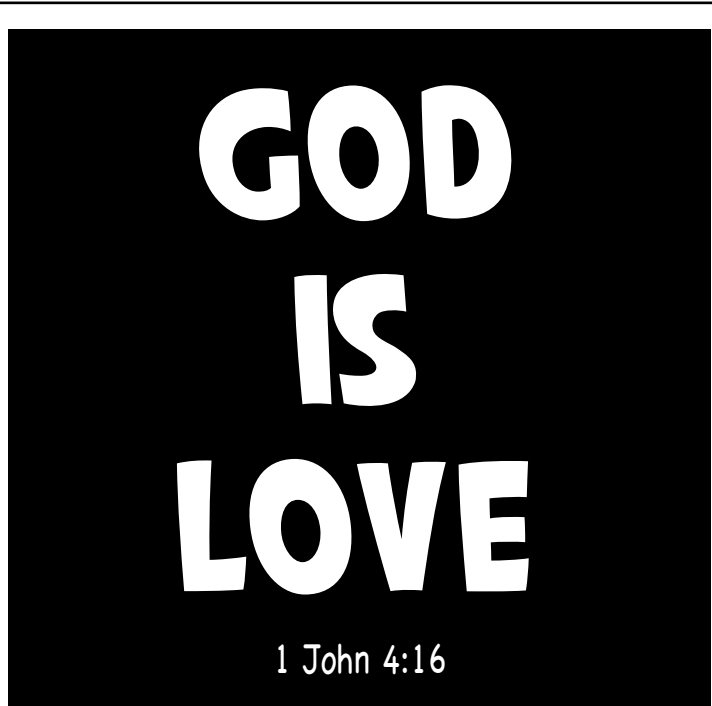
If you want to change the world, go home and love your family.

mother teresa

save the dates

Tentative dates for the following conferences to be held in our diocese. More information to come soon!

- **Genesis of Eve Women's Conference**, Alexandria: April 29-May 1, 2022
- **Steubenville South High School Youth Conference**, Alexandria: June 24-26, 2022
- **National Tekakwitha Conference**, Alexandria: July 20-24, 2022



GOD IS LOVE
1 John 4:16

GOD'S LOVE

Even though our Father
Is in heaven above,
We can rest assure
He sends down His love.

He sent His son
Down to earth
Giving us hope
By Jesus' birth.

He loves us so much
As we have seen before,
He then sent His spirit
To open another door.

The Holy Spirit
Is the name we call,
He is a blessing for us
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NOTE: Sessions typically last 2.5-3 hours. Seating will be one (1) person per table - at least 6 feet apart. Spouses may sit together. Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions.

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A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/.

Finding a pilgrimage site wherever you go

By Susanna Parent
Blessed Is She Ministry

One of my favorite things to do to prepare for a trip is to make a list. This list includes beautiful places to sightsee and to hike, restaurants to sample the local cuisine, and places to remain prayerful while traveling.

On an upcoming summer trip to Bermuda, I was excited to find several churches in the area, offering plenty of options for where to go for Mass. But upon closer examination, I had to be careful to differentiate between the Anglican churches and the Roman Catholic churches. Being a British Territory, Bermuda has many Anglican churches, and it took a bit of digging to determine which Churches offered valid Sacraments. Once I did, a few new Catholic pilgrimage sites were added to my travel list. One includes the oldest Catholic Church on the island.

Finding a Pilgrimage Site Wherever You Go

Sometimes it might take some sifting through, but I have yet to visit an area that doesn't offer a Catholic church in close proximity. Whether you are making an international trip this summer, or sticking closer to home, chances are there will be a Catholic site for you to visit.

Here are a few places to start.

Out East

One unexpected site that I came across while accompanying my husband on a work trip to Boston was inside a shopping mall! Tucked inside a corner of Boston's Prudential Center is the Saint Francis Chapel, which was built in 1969. The chapel is staffed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.

The mission of the chapel is to provide a place of refuge for those to find peace in the middle of a busy day, in a busy world. Inside of this little chapel of a massive mall are relics, including a bone of St. Faustina, as well as pieces of hair from both Pope St. John Paul II and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

This chapel not only offers a quiet place to pray, but also offers three Masses every day during



so that souls might come to know Jesus and obtain salvation (making this site an especially perfect place for you to pray for strength in your vocation if you are a religion teacher).

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin was named a National Shrine by Bishop David Ricken on the Feast of the Assumption in 2016.

The West Coast

A few girlfriends and I traveled to Napa for a wine-tasting weekend a few months before my wedding. Through word-of-mouth and a little bit of research, we were able to find a resort which had an on-site chapel and was connected to a vineyard and wine cellar owned and operated by a Catholic family.

Also serving as a retreat for visiting priests who are willing to say Mass, it was such an awesome experience to wake up and go to daily morning Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of Grapes. And it was just a short walk from our hotel room!

Heading South

As mentioned, there always seem to be wonderful Catholic places to visit, from an approved Marian apparition site to a small chapel inside of a resort. Of course, there are also more well-known places to visit as well, like in Sante Fe, New Mexico. You can visit the Loretto Chapel

which is home to a miraculous wooden staircase believed to be built by Saint Joseph, patron of carpenters.

This staircase has two 360 degree turns with no visible means of support.

Jet-Setting Across the Sea

If you are looking for a pilgrimage site to visit in another country, visit Catholic Passport, a website created by one of Blessed is She's very own writers. This website was created by Rose Coleman in order to help others plan their own Catholic pilgrimage, whether it be a solo trip or one with friends and family. On her site, she has a 12-step list for planning your pilgrimage, as well as an extensive list of countries where she offers ideas for visiting. For instance, if you are going to Paris, check out the beautiful Sacre-Coeur and the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, perhaps say a prayer at the ruins of Notre-Dame. If you're heading to Florence, don't miss the Basilica de Santa Croce.

When it comes to traveling, be it near or far, there are countless places to pray. It may take a little time to find a Catholic site in a remote village. But even there, there's hope of finding a gem. Find your next destination and pencil it into your calendar!

Have you ever been to one of these pilgrimage sites?

the work week. There are seven Mass times offered on Sunday, including one in Spanish, as well as daily Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Saint Francis Chapel is surely a breath of fresh air in a busy, fast-paced mall.

The Midwest

Did you know that near Green Bay, Wisconsin, you can

find the only approved Marian apparition site in the United States? The apostolate of this shrine draws from the heart of its visionary, Sister Adele Brice, who began seeing visions of the Blessed Mother in 1859.

Sister Adele received from Our Lady a twofold message: the first was a mission of prayer for the conversion of sinners, and the second was to teach the catechism



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John Paul II, Jubilee Year 2000

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Psalm 45: 10
Responsorial Psalm for August 15

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Catholic prayer, meditation app Hallow sees huge increase in popularity

By Ian Alvano
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- When the developers of the Catholic meditation app Hallow launched it in 2018, they hoped to attract young Catholics, but what is now the country's No. 1 Catholic app has a bigger reach than that.

"It started as this focus on young adults but actually we've seen a lot more. ... Parents and retired folks get really excited about it and start using it," said Hallow's CEO and co-founder, Alex Jones.

Hallow -- <https://hallow.com> -- has seen a dramatic increase in popularity and getting more and more users each day.

The No. 1 rating is based on "Apple's algorithm, which they don't disclose," Jones told Catholic News Service in a July 21 interview. "It's based on how many people have reviewed it in the last few weeks, how many people are downloading it, how many have viewed. We started off on the bottom of the list, went to No. 3, then jumped to No. 1 about six months ago."

Hallow is based out of Chicago even though the company started off in California's Silicon Valley. Creation of the app is integrated with Jones' own faith journey. His family raised him as a Catholic, but he strayed from the faith in high school and college. He went to the University of Notre Dame but he was going through a "relatively dark time in life," he told Catholic News Service.

After he graduated from college, he wanted to figure out what he believed in. One thing that had always fascinated him was meditation. He noticed that whenever he meditated, his mind would be pulled to something spiritual.

He said he'd ask priests, nuns and others in religious life if there was a specific connection between meditation and faith. They told him that indeed there was a connection: It was called prayer.

When he was growing up, Jones said, he only thought of prayer as a way to ask for certain things or that it was just basic memorization of words. He only felt that he was talking to himself



HALLOW APP TEAM. Hallow app co-founders Alex Jones, Alessandro DiSanto and Erich Kerekes pose together for this undated photo. Hallow -- a Catholic prayer and meditation app -- has experienced a dramatic increase in popularity. (CNS photo / courtesy Hallow)

and going through the motions.

A priest friend encouraged him to listen more during prayer, Jones said, and he began to study the Catholic faith more and he tried "lectio divina," a meditative reflection on the Scriptures.

Jones said this process actually led him to tears and eventually brought him back to his faith.

"It was a beautiful combination of this deep sense of peace and love, deeper than any other secular meditation or mindfulness meditation. It was this deep sense of peace combined with this real purpose that calms our head space," he said.

Jones recalled meditating on the Lord's Prayer and the word that stuck out to him was "hallow" from the beginning of the prayer: "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name." He knew what hallow meant, to make holy or sacred, but he didn't know how it pertained to his life. He pondered if he should be helping others grow in holiness.

That's how the Hallow app came to be.

"If Headspace and Calm can be successful helping people learn secular meditation and (be) done through an app" he thought, "why can't the same thing be done and be done better through teaching Catholic contemplative prayer?"

Headspace is an app that teaches you how to meditate; Calm is a leading app for meditation and sleep.

"It's very important to us that everything on the app is 100% authentically Catholic and in line with church teachings," Jones told CNS about Hallow.

He said the app's developers have worked with priests, bishops and theologians to ensure they are conveying Catholic teachings correctly. He added that Hallow is a resource to people of all backgrounds, especially people who have fallen away from the faith. Its primary audience is Catholic, but users of the app include Protestants, Jews and even atheists.

It also is hard to ignore the impact of COVID-19 on Hallow's popularity. According

to Jones, there was a large increase in usage and downloads when Easter came around since everyone was advised to stay at home.

While the pandemic has been terrible and brought so much sadness to people's lives, with loved ones and friends dying from COVID-19, Jones said, it provides us with an opportunity to work on our spiritual lives from home. The app has a "Family" feature that allows users to connect with family and friends and share prayers, reflections and prayer intentions with them even while being physically separated.

It also has a feature called the "Daily Minute Prayer Challenge." Users are encouraged to build a habit of prayer by spending at least one minute in guided prayer with Hallow each day.

"The hardest part about

praying is just doing it. It's easy in the seasons of Lent and Advent when it's top of mind, but over the summer when you've got a lot of other things going on," Jones said, "it's easy to fall off that. We do a bunch of things. You can set goals on the app. You can add members of your family and friends to the app to hold yourself accountable. You can set daily reminders."

Hallow, which has over 5,000 five-star reviews, tries to be "an app that helps you disconnect from apps and technology," according to Jones, which he admitted sounds like a contradiction.

But he explained that while other religious apps have users glued to their screen to read the Bible, Hallow allows its users to press "play," close their eyes and listen to audio of a prayer.

4 Gospels. 30 Days.

Hallow, the Catholic prayer and meditation app, recently launched a 30-day Gospel challenge with Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*.

Hallow's Gospel challenge will guide listeners through all four Gospels in just 30 days.

Each day, Roumie narrates a few chapters of the Gospels for users to reflect on and meditate with.

Hallow is also offering a downloadable Study Guide for individual or group study of the Gospels to support reflection outside of prayer time. Users can also enjoy introductions and commentary for each Gospel from theologian and author Dr. Edward Sri, as well as speaker and biblical scholar Dr. Mary Healy.

The challenge was designed with flexibility in mind, and each session covers a few chapters in about 20 minutes.

Listeners can pray at the same time each day with Hallow's recently launched Routines functionality, or

whenever they get the chance while on vacation or with family and friends. Overall, the Hallow team hopes this Gospel challenge reignites daily prayer routines this summer through listening and meditating on the Word of God.

Hallow has partnered with Jonathan Roumie several times in the past, including to record the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Sacred Heart novena, and the Lord's prayer in Aramaic. Roumie is a trained narrator and experienced actor; his voice is described as captivating yet calming.

The app has over 2,000 sessions including several novenas, the Rosary, daily Examens, litanies, music, Bible stories, "Praylists" focused on themes like love and humility.

In need of a spiritual refresh? Use the Hallow app to examine your heart and focus your mind, as we all prepare to join in community together again.

#cometothetable

World Day for Grandparents and Eldery: A time for small acts of kindness



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERLY. An elderly woman reacts as she meets Pope Francis during his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in this March 22, 2017 file photo. The pope has chosen the theme "I am with you always," for the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated July 25. (CNS photo / Paul Haring)

*By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Try a little tenderness. That's basically how Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, 73, summarized Pope Francis' vision for what older people, their grandchildren and friends should do to change the world after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The cardinal, prefect of the Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, used the word "tenderness" nine times when he presented to the press the pope's message for the celebration July 25 of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Pope Francis did not use the word at all in his 1,800-word message, but it came through as he acknowledged the suffering, loneliness and fear many older people experienced during the worst of the pandemic, and also when he reminded older Catholics that, like him, they still have a vocation to share the faith and care for others.

The Vatican as a whole,

not just the pope or Cardinal Farrell's office, are making a big deal out of the world day. Pope Francis will celebrate Mass with older people, his message -- as a text and as a video -- was available in eight languages by June 23 and the dicastery has published a 43-page pastoral kit with suggestions for homilies, for prayers of intercession and for action.

The action focus is all about tenderness, too: Visit your grandparents and any older person living alone. Offer them a ride to Mass. Take them a flower. And, for those who cannot go to church, take them the Eucharist.

"In places where health emergency measures still make it impossible to visit in person, love can use imagination to find ways of reaching lonely elderly people by phone or social media," the pastoral kit says.

That is precisely what Maria Sofia Soli has been doing since March 2020 when Italy initiated its first COVID-19

lockdown.

Soli, who is 88, volunteers with the Community of Sant'Egidio in monitoring the situation of about 6,500 people who are over 80 and living alone in Rome. The project involves regular telephone calls and home visits, but also organizing outings and celebrations. Since Soli could not make her regular phone calls from the Sant'Egidio offices during lockdown, she told reporters June 22, younger community members set up her computer so she could keep track of the calls from home.

At the presentation of Pope Francis' message, Soli said she and her peers are on board with the pope's focus on helping humanity come out of the pandemic better off.

"We must try to direct humanity toward a better future with less selfishness and conflict and more fellowship. Yes, the future," she said. "The elderly do not only look to the past. Neither fatigue nor frailty can prevent us from dreaming for the sake of

our grandchildren and for the generations to come."

Calling Catholics around the world to mark the day after "dramatic months of difficulty," Cardinal Farrell told reporters, Pope Francis invites people to embrace tenderness, especially toward the elderly, who suffered so much during the pandemic.

But, he said, the day also is about "the tenderness that grandparents show toward their grandchildren, of the solid guide that the elderly can be for many disoriented children, especially in a time like the one we are living in, in which personal interaction has become rare."

"Tenderness is not just a private feeling, one that soothes wounds, but a way of relating to others, which should also be experienced in public," Cardinal Farrell said.

"We have become accustomed to living alone, to not hugging each other, to considering the other as a threat to our health. Our societies, the pope tells us in 'Fratelli Tutti,' are now fragmented."

"Tenderness has a social value," the cardinal insisted. "It is a remedy we all need, and our elderly are those who can provide it. In a frayed and hardened society emerging from the pandemic, not only is there a need for vaccines and economic recovery -- albeit fundamental -- but also for relearning the art of relationships. In this, grandparents and the elderly can be our teachers. This is also why they are so important."

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The Family - The building block of society and hope of the world

By Caitlin Sica
Life Teen Youth Ministry Blog

Throwing rocks into a still lake on a summer evening is a surprisingly satisfying experience. The perfect sound of kerplunk as the rock breaks through the smooth surface of the water; the concentric circles that ripple outwards, all because of one stone being thrown, are mesmerizing to watch.

“As the family goes, so goes the nation, and so goes the whole work in which we live,” Saint John Paul II prophetically said in a homily given in Perth, Australia, on November 30, 1986. Thirty-five years later and these words continue to ring true. But what exactly did St. John Paul II mean? How could a family impact the entire world?

Let's go back to the beginning - to Genesis. God creates man and woman in His image, thus establishing the dignity of every human being. But why create Eve? Why not just stop at Adam? God articulates an essential truth prior to his creation of Eve - “it is not good that the man should be alone” (Genesis 2:18). Here it is revealed that humans are social creatures in need of companionship and meaningful relationships. From Adam and Eve the covenant of marriage is established and the fruit of that covenant is children - a family - the basic unit of the social fabric of society itself.

For better, or for worse, the family is that single stone being thrown into a lake. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the family is an “institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it” (2202). In other words, the family must be recognized by societies and governments; all laws should work towards upholding the sanctity of the institution God has



established from the beginning of time. When human laws and decisions fail to respect this fundamental truth, the Church and the whole world suffers. But when the dignity of the family is upheld and protected, the ripple effects on the world can be profound - disciples are formed, vocations are born, saints are raised.

Like St. John Paul II, St. Mother Teresa seemed to comprehend the importance of holy families and their potential impact on the world. She said, “and so, my prayer for you is that truth will bring prayer in our homes, and from the foot of prayer will be that we believe that in the poor it is Christ. And we will really believe, we will begin to love. And we will love naturally, we will try to do something. First in our own home, next-door neighbor in the

country we live, in the whole world” (Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize transcript).

Because the family is the basic cell of society, and because we are called to be in relationship with one another, each Christian has the right and duty to participate in society, be an active member of one's community, and contribute to the good and well-being of all families. Especially those who are poor and vulnerable.

Call to family, community, and participation

The second theme of Catholic Social Teaching (CST)

is the Call to Family, Community, and Participation. Throughout Scripture, the duty to love one's family is emphasized countless times. From Genesis, where we are told to be our brother and sisters' keeper (Genesis 4:8-15), to Exodus, when we are given the fifth commandment - to honor one's mother and father, to the holiness of Noah, Abraham, and Sarah, Ruth, this theme is repeated. In the New Testament, these commandments are carried forth, but they are transformed. Your family, your neighbor, does not necessarily mean someone related to you by blood, or who lives next door to you. Instead, we are called higher, to love our brother and sister, to love our neighbor, as Christ loves us. And who is our neighbor? Any human being, because they too are created in the image of God.

If the family is the stone, then the concentric ripples would be local communities, state, nation, and the world. Thus, the love we receive at home must be carried forth - to the communities which we are a part - and in time - to the whole world.

That may seem like a daunting task, so where do we begin?

Answering the Call

1. Go home and love your family members. Honor your parents and grandparents, listen to the stories of your siblings, pray together, forgive quickly, be intentional about setting your phone aside and giving them your undivided attention. Peace begins at home.

2. Make a list of all the

communities you are a part of: your Church, school, clubs, sports, extracurricular, volunteer groups, friends, etc.. What role do you play in each of them?

3. What are you passionate about? The environment? Healthy and affordable food? Providing housing options for the homeless? Promoting racial justice? Fighting for the unborn? Helping expectant/young mothers? Caring for the sick? Visiting with the elderly? Helping those who do not easily have access to education? Volunteer where your heart is. What organization could you join that would allow you to minister to the needs of the vulnerable members of your community at large?

4. Inform your conscience, and when the time comes for you to vote, become an informed voter. Do not get swept away with propaganda or jargon. Research, read, ask questions. Recognize that the laws our representatives make directly impact families and communities. There is no perfect leader, but we are called to choose leaders who we believe will work to uphold the dignity and protect the rights of all people.

Caitlin Sica continues to learn to see God in the most unusual places, and in the most unexpected ways. She teaches theology at a Catholic high school, and received her MA in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. Follow Caitlin on Twitter @CaitlinSica.

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Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 34: 9 | Responsorial Psalm for August 22

The Cross Word

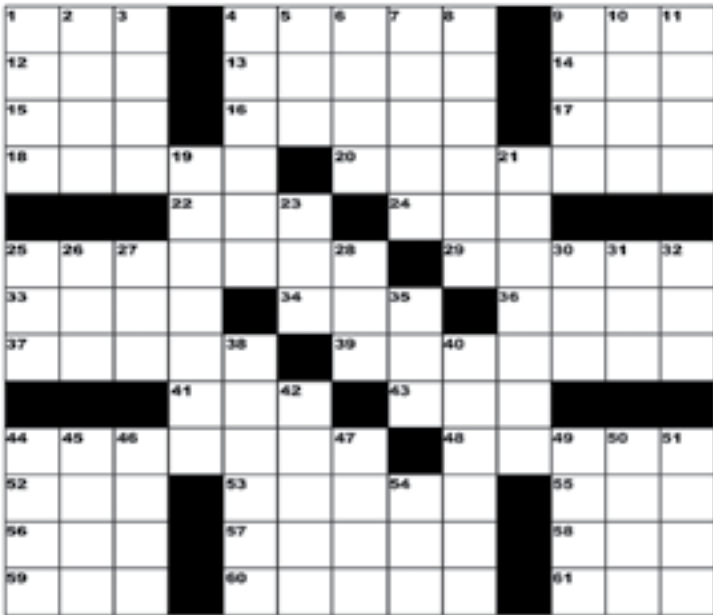
answers on pg 14

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- 27 "You ___ the loaves"
- 28 Parent
- 30 Kimono sash
- 31 West by north
- 32 "___ of redemption"
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- 40 Vowed religious woman
- 42 Trusty horse
- 44 Sirloin ___
- 45 Mined metals
- 46 God sent quail for this
- 47 Made music
- 49 Finished
- 50 Flexible metal thread
- 51 ___ of Egypt
- 54 Remind



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Readings: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4: 17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35 and 1Kg 19:4-8; Eph 4: 30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51

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- 1 Annoy
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- 9 "___ by ___"
- 12 French "yes"
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- 15 Truss
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- 17 "___ Maria"
- 18 Blacksmith table
- 20 "___ in the spirit"
- 22 Manna looked like
- 24 Title of respect
- 25 Headed

29 They got into boats

- 33 Car
- 34 Obstruct
- 36 "Father" in Hebrew
- 37 Root vegetables
- 39 Your fate
- 41 "___ not important"
- 43 Roman seven
- 44 WWII fighters
- 48 Frown angrily
- 52 Anger
- 53 Respond to stimuli
- 55 "___ Dolorosa"
- 56 Legume
- 57 Locale
- 58 Gray sea eagle

Welcome back, students!

As of publication date, students' first day of school will be on the following dates:

- St. Mary's Assumption School, Cottonport: July 26
- Holy Savior Menard High School, Alexandria: August 9
- Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria: August 9
- St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria: August 9
 - Sacred Heart School, Moreauville: August 9
 - St. Anthony School, Bunkie: August 9
 - St. Joseph School, Plaucheville: August 9
 - St. Mary's School, Natchitoches: August 11

We welcome our parents and students back to our Catholic schools for a spirit-filled, strong academic year. See next month's issue of the *Church Today* for more information concerning the upcoming school year.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

If you know a teen you'd like to recognize, please fill out the form, found on the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

Catholic students in either junior high or high school, attending our Catholic schools or public schools will be considered. Help us to introduce some of our wonderful youth to the rest of our diocese! Once we receive your submission, we'll contact you (the adult leader) to ensure that the youth nominated is a good fit to be featured in this Church Today spotlight.

One who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Psalm 15: 1
Responsorial Psalm for August 29

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE. (RIGHT) Thomas Roque, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, with some of the principals of the Diocese during an appreciation dinner for them.

Heart of St. Kateri Circle - Aug. 12

On Thursday, August 12 our Heart of St. Kateri Circle meeting will be at St. Joseph Church Hall, Marksville at 5:30 p.m. We are meeting with Fr. Dan O'Connor and representatives of the Tunica-Biloxi tribe to plan a Native American Mass around November of this year. We will start with our regular meeting then the representative will be there to talk over the planning of the Mass. The meeting will be over an hour, but well worth the efforts put forth. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Scotty Durio at 318-483-3908 or finance@tekconf.org.

Discalced Carmelite Meeting - Aug. 14

The Order of Discalced Carmelites will hold its monthly meeting 9:00 a.m. Saturday, August 14, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer at 9:00 a.m. followed by Mass and then the community meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy (318) 346-6860 or (318) 481-9638.

Fete-Dieu du Teche Eucharistic Boat Procession - Aug. 15

The 7th annual 40-mile Eucharistic Procession will take place on Bayou Teche on Aug. 15 and begin with 8:00 a.m. Mass in French celebrated by Bishop Douglas Deshotel at St. Leo the Great Church, Leonville, LA. You are invited to register a family boat or gather as a family at one or more of the stops along the procession route. Boats will proceed down the Teche toward St. Martinville, LA, retracing the voyage made by the Acadians over 250 years ago. The boat procession will stop at churches in the towns along the Teche for Rosary and Benediction arriving at Old Market Street in St. Martinville at about 4:45 p.m. and finally process on foot down Main Street to Mater Dolorosa Chapel in St. Martinville for Solemn Vespers and Benediction at 6:00 p.m. Pope Francis has granted participants of Fête-Dieu du Teche a Plenary Indulgence.

If you have a boat, register now: <https://www.jesuscruified.net/events/fete-dieu-du-teche-2021/form>

For more information visit our website at www.jesuscruified.net, visit us on FB at www.facebook.com/CommunityofJesusCrucified, send us an email at fetedieuduteche@gmail.com, or call (337) 394-6550.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Men's Silent Retreat - Aug. 26 - 29

Men of the Diocese of Alexandria, please join us for a Silent Retreat at Our Lady of the Oaks Retreat House in Grand Coteau, LA. The retreat will be held Aug. 26 - 29. If you are looking to spend quiet time in prayer and reflection, please consider this wonderful opportunity. If you would like more information, please contact Jason Lavergne at 318-446-3097 or Gary Bonnette at 318-793-9063. More information and an online application for the retreat can be found at <https://ourladyoftheoaks.com>.

Series of Talks on the Second Coming of Christ - Every Thursday in September

This series of talks will shed light on THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST based on THE BOOK OF REVELATION. Fr. Ramji Shoury, Pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Evergreen, will present the talks every Thursday in September. Where: Church of the Little Flower, Evergreen. When: September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to join in this series of talks and prepare spiritually for the Second Coming of Christ. Time is short, Christ is coming. COME LORD JESUS COME - MARANATHA.

Scholarship available for Catholic Laity

Catholic laypeople pursuing a graduate degree in theology or religious studies, who serve their church in a professional capacity may be eligible for a \$2000 scholarship awarded to candidates in need of tuition assistance. Applications for the Rev. Msgr. Larry J. Droll Scholarship must be submitted by September 13, 2021.

"Today, many dedicated Catholics who are not ordained clergy or women religious, serve parishes as Parish Coordinators or Administrators, as Pastoral Associates, Directors of Religious Education, Youth Ministers, Liturgists, and many other roles," said Msgr. Droll. "This scholarship can help provide the funds to earn an advanced educational degree in theology or religious studies that is often required for these positions." Applications and detailed information about who is qualified may be found online at www.cliu.com under the "Giving Back" tab and then by clicking on "Faith-Based Scholarships."

Gift of Life Banquet - Sept. 14

Join the Cenla Pregnancy Center this September for our 3rd Annual Gift of Life Fundraising Banquet. The banquet will be held Tuesday, September 14 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in downtown Alexandria. Our featured guest will be Abby Johnson, former Planned Parenthood facility director. Come celebrate life with us as we enjoy a delicious meal and hear Abby's story of conversion. We will also hear from a client who has benefited directly from your donations. Learn how your contributions support life in Central Louisiana and beyond! To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit www.cenlapc.com.

Marriage Help - Oct. 8-10, 2021

Retrovaille (pronounced retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you, too. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program, beginning with a weekend on October 8-10, call 985-232-5963 or email retrovibrcomcoor@gmail.com or visit www.helpourmarriage.com.

Positions Available

Sacred Heart School, Moreauville and St. Frances Cabrini School, Alexandria have openings available for lunchroom (cafeteria) technicians to start immediately. If you are interested, please contact the Child Nutrition Office at 318-445-2401.

Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration, Marksville

St. Joseph Church in Marksville is holding a weekly Tuesday Eucharistic adoration from 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. in the church. Everyone is welcome. Please wear a face mask and practice social distancing during this time of prayer and worship.

Outdoor Lighted Rosary, Marksville

St. Joseph Church in Marksville will have its weekly outdoor lighted rosary every Thursday from now through October, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the rosary is held in St. Joseph Church. The rosary begins at 8:00 p.m. in the parking lot next to the church hall. Participants may bring chairs to sit outside or remain in their vehicles. The lighted rosary is sponsored by St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Council #1217.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issues:

August 30

Deadline for news:
Thursday, August 19

September 27

Deadline for news:
Thursday, Sept. 16



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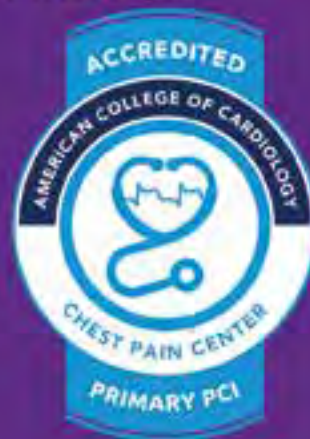
August 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>AUGUST 2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER</p>	<p>4</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica Immaculate Conception Natchitoches</p> <p>Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Anthony of Padua Church Brother Francis Center, Bunkie</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p>7</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>
<p>9</p> <p>First day of Classes Holy Savior Menard OLPS School St. Frances Cabrini School St. Joseph School Sacred Heart School St. Anthony School</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>11</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. SJCC, Alexandria</p> <p>Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville</p> <p>First day of Classes St. Mary's School, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. MOULARD</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Heart of Kateri Circle meeting 5:30 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Discalced Carmelite Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Fete-Dieu du Teche Eucharistic Boat Procession, Bayou Teche</p> <p>Dispensation is lifted</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>
<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIKWE</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p>
<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO</p>	<p>Men's Silent Retreat -- Grand Coteau</p>		<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>
<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Adoration 6:30-7:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p>1</p> <p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>Grief Support Group 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Outdoor Lighted Rosary 8:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>
<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>					

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