

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIII, No. 12

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

December 26, 2022



Christ is King

For Christ the King Sunday, Our Lady of Prompt Succor church celebrated Mass and the first Eucharistic Procession at the parish in 25 years. Doing our part for the USCCB Eucharistic Revival.

INSIDE

Were not our hearts burning?

Are you comfortable reading Scripture or somewhat intimidated by all of the various books and types of literature? See page 2 for a letter from Bishop Marshall encouraging us in our journey through the Scriptures.

March for Life

The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Mary's Catholic School will host the second annual Natchitoches March for Life on Saturday, January 28, 2023. See page 4 for more details.

Catholic Charities sponsors Christmas Cheer Programs

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana sponsored several Christmas Cheer Programs throughout the diocese. See page 8 for more information on these programs and more ways that the CCCL is helping those in our area.

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TODAY

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In the final chapter of the Gospel of Saint Luke, we hear of two unnamed disciples who were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the afternoon of the first Easter Sunday. They were joined by a man they did not recognize. These disciples were troubled and confused. Their teacher and Lord had been crucified and now they learned that his body was missing. Their fellow traveler sought to ease their anxiety by explaining how the Scriptures had foretold the mission and ministry of the Messiah. Reaching Emmaus, the traveler joined the disciples at table. When the traveler took bread, blessed and broke it, the eyes of the disciples were opened and they realized that they had been in the company of Jesus for hours on the journey. Jesus suddenly disappeared, which left the disciples asking themselves, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Then they returned to Jerusalem and shared their news with the Apostles, describing how they recognized Jesus "in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24: 13-35).

The Emmaus account is familiar to us. We naturally focus upon the climactic moment at table when the disciples recognized Jesus. In the early Church, the celebration of the Eucharist was often referred to as the "Breaking of Bread." Yet the story of Emmaus is deeper than the "Aha!" moment at table. It has much to teach us about the structure of the Mass and our need to be nourished. Although the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass always invites us into Communion with God by sharing in the One Bread and One Cup of the Eucharist, we are also fed at each celebration by our reflection upon the Word of God. Scriptures are always proclaimed at each Eucharistic liturgy – selections from the Old and/or the New Testament and always a passage from one of the four Gospels. We do not celebrate the "Liturgy of the Eucharist" unless we have first celebrated the "Liturgy of the Word." The two parts are intimately joined together. The Emmaus story introduces us to this structure of the Mass – first, a reflection on the inspired Word of God and then on a sharing of the Lord's own Body and Blood.



Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever
The Joy and Promise of
the Most Holy Eucharist

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

Were Not our Hearts Burning?

Saint Luke begins the Emmaus story with two disciples who are wondering what the events of the preceding three days meant. Had everything they hoped for been dashed? Was the death of Jesus the end? When the traveler (Jesus) joined them on the road, they could have remained silent or engaged in small talk. Instead, the disciples were honest. They opened their hearts to the stranger, sharing with him the joy they had found in Jesus and their own pain and confusion over his death. Jesus responded to their openness by explaining the Scriptures to them – undoubtedly the best homily ever given! Yet, I suggest, the discussion with Jesus had such a profound impact upon them because they had been honest about their thoughts and feelings and were open to his input, his wisdom, his love.

How many times do we go to God in prayer and pretend that everything is just fine? Too often, we recite the same prayers – in the same order – when we are happy and when we are sad, when we need healing and wisdom and when we need to give thanks for God's blessings. As he showed the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus can cause hearts to burn with love – but only if those hearts are open and receptive, only if we are vulnerable enough to let God in. When we come before the Lord in prayer – before the Blessed Sacrament or in the quiet of our home – and especially when we come to Mass, it is important that we be open and honest with the Lord. We may not choose to share our struggles with everyone else in church, but in our quiet prayer we are invited to acknowledge the burdens that we carry, the wounds that need healing, the frustrations of our lives. Honesty before the Lord is vital. If we approach God with everything figured out – pointing out the sins of others

and convincing ourselves (and trying to convince God) that we are perfect, then it is likely that our hearts will not be moved. The Lord continually offers us healing, forgiveness and peace – but we are not likely to receive them if our hearts remain closed, if we cannot acknowledge our need for God's grace.

That grace often comes to us in our reflection on the Scriptures. Whether we meditate on a passage by reading it and praying with it several times, or we read a section of the Scripture and seek insight on that passage in a commentary, published reflection or from a related passage that we may find cited in the footnotes, our exploration of Scripture offers us a window (and sometimes a wide-open door) into the wisdom of God. Rather than centering our prayer only on our thoughts and feelings – telling God what we think, praying with Scripture helps to facilitate a dialogue with God, enables us to receive his perspective, his healing grace on the joys and sorrows of our lives.

In the celebration of Mass, we hear at least three Scripture passages (counting the psalm) each day and four passages on Sunday. The homily might focus on one or two of them. We can take what we heard in the homily to prayer if it is pertinent to our lives, but we may find that one of the other passages – a psalm or second reading, for example – touched our heart more deeply. We can pray with that passage, read and re-read it, reflect on it, quietly open our heart to God and reveal to him why that Scripture touched us so deeply at this particular time.

If you were touched by one of the readings at Mass, but do not remember the exact part of Scripture you heard, you can always look it up after Mass. The readings for the entire liturgical

year can be found at www.bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading. If you are a day or two behind, click on the "View Calendar" button to find the date you were looking for. Of course, you could also use this resource to prepare for Mass by reading the Scriptures of the day before Mass begins. That practice may enable you to open your heart to the Lord more fully, knowing what is going on in your life and how the readings address that longing. Jesus nourishes us at each Mass in Word and Sacrament. May we allow him to set our hearts aflame in our reflection on the Scriptures and through our reception of Holy Communion.

Questions for Reflection or Discussion:

- When was the last time your heart was "burning within you"?
- Are you comfortable reading Scripture or somewhat intimidated by all of the various books and types of literature?
- If you are reading a Gospel passage, for example, do you take the time to read the introduction to that Gospel found in your bible?
- Have you ever participated in a Bible study – in person or online? A focused reflection on a particular book of the Bible or a wider survey of Bible history or a particular genre of the Bible (Psalms, Prophets, Epistles, etc.)?
- Have you prayed with Scripture in the practice known as "Lectio Divina"? Here is an introduction to the practice if you are interested: <https://bustedhalo.com/ministry-resources/lectio-divina-beginners-guide>

During COP15, Catholic activists urge action to protect biodiversity

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) -- With scientists warning that the loss of nature is accelerating at dangerous speeds, Catholic activists are urging nations at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Montreal to act to protect life on earth at all levels.

From forests to oceans, animal species to tropical plants, unprecedented human activity is currently threatening biodiversity around the world. As consequence, the earth is currently facing a triple crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, says the U.N. Environment Programme.

Prince Papa M’Kowiti, director of the African chapter of the Laudato Si’ Movement, said the findings underlined the urgency with which Catholics -- guided by the teaching of the church -- must act in caring for the common home.

“We must act to protect biodiversity so that we can protect our lives,” he told Catholic News Service. “Millions, if not billions, of organisms need us to stand up for them in the context of global climate discourse.”

Leaders from nearly 200 nations are meeting for the Dec. 7-19 biodiversity conference known as COP15.

“The meeting in Montreal provides an avenue to find avenues where nature’s role in combating climate change is likely to be realized,” the international Laudato Si’ Movement said in a statement.

M’Kowiti urged the world leaders at the conference to protect the most vulnerable in each community.

“We must ensure that the voices of Indigenous people are heard and given attention” during negotiations, said M’Kowiti. “Learning from the outcomes of the climate COP27 in Egypt, we must prepare to address the loopholes and the lack of political will that has often stalled the climate discourse.”

In the Western Hemisphere,



DURING COP15, CATHOLIC ACTIVISTS URGE ACTION TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY. A bald eagle is pictured perched in a tree in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, in this file photo. With scientists warning that the loss of nature is accelerating at dangerous speeds, Catholic activists are urging nations at the U.N. Biodiversity Conference in Montreal to act to protect life on earth at all levels. From forests to oceans, animal species to tropical plants, unprecedented human activity is currently threatening biodiversity around the world. As consequence, the earth is currently facing a triple crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste, says the U.N. Environment Programme. Prince Papa M’Kowiti, director of the African chapter of the Laudato Si’ Movement, said the findings underlined the urgency with which Catholics -- guided by the teaching of the church -- must act in caring for the common home. “We must act to protect biodiversity so that we can protect our lives,” he told Catholic News Service. “Millions, if not billions, of organisms need us to stand up for them in the context of global climate discourse.” Leaders from nearly 200 nations are meeting for the Dec. 7-19 biodiversity conference known as COP15. “The meeting in Montreal provides an avenue to find avenues where nature’s role in combating climate change is likely to be realized,” the international Laudato Si’ Movement said in a statement. M’Kowiti urged the world leaders at the conference to protect the most vulnerable in each community. “We must ensure that the voices of Indigenous people are heard and given attention” during negotiations, said M’Kowiti.

Ima Célia Vieira, a researcher and adviser to the Brazilian branch of the Pan-Amazonian Church Network, or REPAM, struck a similar chord.

“We hope that COP15 ends with a strong and ambitious global agreement so that we can safeguard the biodiversity that we still have on the planet. The loss of species and ecosystems has been very sharp and rapid, and species extinction is forever,” she said.

Vieira said COP15 should guide actions aimed at biodiversity conservation until 2030. One of the main points is

the guarantee of conservation of at least 30% of land and marine areas until 2030.

“The Amazon region has a prominent role in conservation because it has a third of the world’s biodiversity,” said Vieira, while recalling that more than half of the world’s remaining tropical forests were in the Amazon biome.

“We hope that a pact comes out (of COP-15) that can really save humanity from the irreversible loss of species and ecosystems,” Vieira told CNS.

The impacts of biodiversity loss are grave in Africa. A recent

study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature indicates that more than 6,400 animals and 3,100 plants in Africa are at risk of extinction. In 2014, the World Wide Fund for Nature said the population size of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish had declined by 52% in 40 years.

At the U.N. conference, the Laudato Si’ Movement and a coalition of faith-based partners screened “The Letter,” the movie based on Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical after which the movement was named.

On Dec. 12, the Laudato

Si’ Movement was presenting the U.N. conference’s executive secretary a petition for a healthy planet, signed by 200,000 Catholics and 430 partner organizations. According to the organization, the appeal -- collectively representing hundreds of thousands of Catholics from across six continents -- supports Pope Francis’ call for urgent action on “our common home.”

The same day, the movement was distributing a letter from the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar, or SECAM. In the June letter, SECAM, the Laudato Si’ Movement and the Ecclesial Network for the Congo River Basin, or REBAC, called for the protection of the Congo Basin and an end to the construction East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline.

The letter said the Congo Basin was facing pressure from, among other things, conflict, illegal logging, land grabbing and industrial agriculture.

“We know that destroying even a quarter of the remaining untouched lands or polluting the oceans would remove the critical necessary carbon sink that is -- without any cost to society -- helping us avert the worst effects of a runaway crisis,” South African Bishop Sithembel Sipuka, SECAM first vice president, said in the letter.

Bishop Sipuka said the bishops were joining civil society in calling for “no biodiversity loss and for nations to commit to protecting half of the earth ... to avoid the worst effect of the climate crisis.”

According to activists, the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline threatens important ecosystems from western Uganda to Tanzania’s Indian Ocean port of Tanga.

“We must say no to the proposed massive investment (by multinationals) in the oil and gas sector ... which are displacing and wrecking the lives of the local people,” said M’Kowiti.



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Contributing to this story was
Lise Alves in Brazil.



2nd Annual Natchitoches March for Life

The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Mary's Catholic School will host the second annual Natchitoches March for Life on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The keynote speaker for the event will be Abby Johnson, an outspoken pro-life advocate and author of the book, "Unplanned". The Josh Blakesley Band will perform prior to the Rally and March.

The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the Riverbank Stage in downtown Natchitoches.

"We're excited about the opportunity to celebrate the gift of life with our Natchitoches community and look forward to a joyful event," said Fr. Irion St. Romain, pastor of the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and Chancellor of St. Mary's Catholic School.

The national March for Life began in Washington, D.C. in January, 1974. Every year, tens of thousands of pro-life supporters, march in support of life. This has

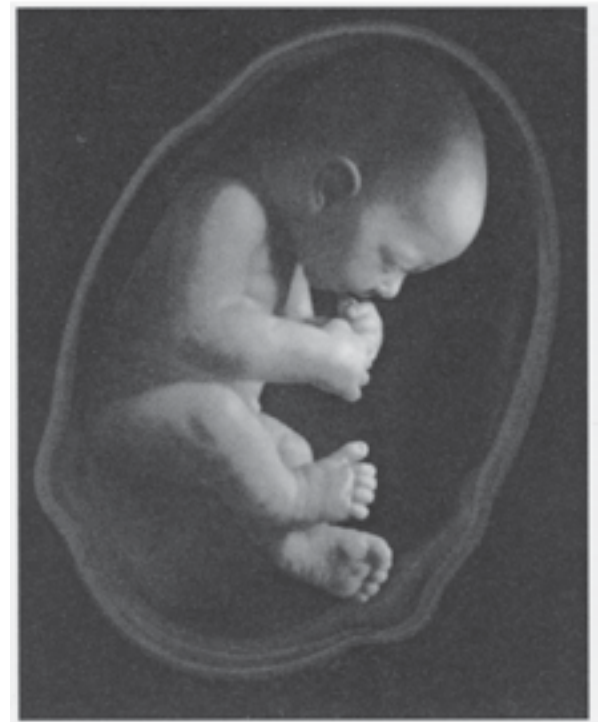
become the largest human rights demonstration in the world. The national March for Life "is an inspiring, peaceful, vibrant, and joy-filled rally of women, men, young people, and children from all across the country." (See www.marchforlife.org). Together, they "gather to celebrate life, from the moment of conception, to the moment of natural death, and every moment in between." (See www.marchforlife.org).

Local marches began to occur in cities throughout our nation to further expand this celebration of life into our communities. In Louisiana, rallies occur in major cities during the month of January. This is the second year for Natchitoches to host a Pro-Life Rally and March. More detailed information will be announced as plans develop.

"The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of

our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning embryonic stem cell research, and the use of the death penalty. The intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks is always wrong. Catholic teaching also calls on us to work to avoid war. Nations must protect the right to life by finding increasingly effective ways to prevent conflicts and resolve them by peaceful means. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person." Source: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

Please contact Jessica Spear (St. Mary's Religion Teacher, jspear@smstigers.org) or Lisa Guillet (Director of Development, fundraiser@smstigers.org) for more information.



The Little One

I hear a voice, a voice from above.
I wonder who, and if there will be love.
As I sleep here in my mother's womb,
I wonder if it will be my tomb.

My heart aches, and sometimes I cry;
Just from not knowing if I live or die!
I plead with my mom to have mercy on me,
And I pray to God that she may see.

For I have a soul - I am full of life,
And I don't wish to die via a blade of a
knife.

I wish to be born and give glory to God.
And woe the man struck by the rod.
For when all is said and all is done,
He must pay - pay for the death
Of the little one!

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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.

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40-Hours Devotion continues in Natchitoches Deanery in January

In support of the National Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Robert Marshall asked for each of the four deaneries in the Diocese of Alexandria to host a 40-Hours Devotion at some point during the months of November 2022 through February 2023.

The Central Deanery was the first to host their 40-Hours Devotion on Nov. 3-6 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral and the Eastern Deanery held theirs Dec. 8-10 at St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA.

The devotions begin with an opening Mass on Thursday, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and conclude with Mass and Benediction on Saturday.

Throughout this event, it is estimated that over 500 people participated in Adoration, Mass, Eucharistic Talks by clergy, Divine Mercy, Morning and Evening Prayer, and/or the Holy Rosary. The comments from participants have all been very positive and many graces were received from spending time with our Lord.

The next 40-Hour Devotion is scheduled for the Natchitoches Deanery at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches from Jan. 12-14. If you would like to participate, please visit www.diocesealex.org for more information or



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

to sign up. Though we ask that you to sign up online, it is not necessary in order to participate. It is just a way for us to assure there will be at least one person present at all times during adoration. We hope to see you there.

What is the 40-Hours Devotion?

The 40-Hours Devotion is an opportunity to gather as a community before the Blessed Sacrament and to pray before the Lord in solemn adoration. It gives us time to deepen our appreciation of the importance of the mystery of the Eucharist in our lives. Traditionally, it begins with a celebration of Mass. At the end of this opening Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and over a period of a few days the faithful are given the opportunity to assemble in prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. The form

of prayer to be prayed can be done in diverse ways. The celebration then normally ends with the celebration of the Mass.

In the celebration of the 40-Hours Devotion, we are able to witness a fuller expression of our theology of the Eucharist. It is first and foremost about our participation in the Paschal Mystery through our celebration of Mass. In the celebration of Mass, we participate directly in the saving acts of Christ and by the grace of the Holy Spirit unite the sacrifices of our lives with the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross. It is in this way that we give praise and thanksgiving to God for Jesus and participate in the true worship of our God by which we are sanctified as His holy people. This leads us then to live out our lives more fully in Christ. This devotion also gives an opportunity to give voice to our belief in the

Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharistic elements. As the community gathers in prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, it witnesses to our belief, as a Church, that what is before us is bread no longer but truly the Body of Christ.

Why are we celebrating the 40-Hours devotion now?

The Holy Father has designated this year as the Year of the Eucharist. With this, Pope Francis is presenting the Church with a wonderful opportunity to explore, develop, and deepen our appreciation of the Eucharist. The primary setting for the promotion of a life centered in the Eucharist is, of course, the celebration of Mass, but the Church also offers other means of deepening a Eucharistic-centered faith. One such practice is adoration, where we gather to pray before the Lord as his presence is

revealed to us in the mystery of the eucharistic bread which is truly the Body of Christ. The 40-Hours Devotion gives us the opportunity to come as a community to pray before the Lord in solemn adoration.

The remaining dates of the celebration within each deanery are listed below. You can sign up for an hour or more by visiting the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.diocesealex.org.

Again, though we do not require you to sign up online in order to participate, it is a way for us to assure that at least one person will be present at all times during the event, especially overnight.

Dates of the celebration within each deanery:

Sign up now!
Natchitoches Deanery
• Jan. 12-14, 2023
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches

Sign up coming soon!
Avoyelles Deanery
• February 23-25, 2023
St. Joseph Church, Marksville



40 HOURS DEVOTION IN THE EASTERN DEANERY. Saturday, Dec. 10, Bishop Marshall traveled to St. Joseph, Louisiana for the 40-hours devotion for the Eastern Deanery, and to celebrate the closing Mass for Gaudete Sunday. Thank you to Father Taylor Reynolds, Pastor; Father John Pardue, the Dean of the Eastern Deanery; Father Luke LaFleur, the Vocation Director; Deacons Jason Lavergne and Sam Jones, and the people of St. Joseph Church and others in the Deanery who supported these hours of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for January 2023

For educators //

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all!

Amen.

*May God
bless us in
his mercy.*

Psalm 67: 2
Responsorial Psalm for
January 1
The Octave Day
of Christmas
Solemnity of the
Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Mother of God

How can my wounds speak to my calling?

Blessed is She Ministry

As I approach my college graduation, more and more conversations have begun circling around this certain topic: what am I supposed to do with my life? What is my vocation? And as someone who desires to serve the Lord in some form of ministry, the question frequently becomes: how can I serve God with the gifts and talents He has given me? What is my calling?

This is a beautiful question to ask. Uncovering the best path for our future is very important to all of us. We are all eager to find our own unique calling in life which will bring us the most joy and fulfillment. And when we find that sweet-spot of our calling, it can be one of the most exciting and satisfying moments for our heart.

How do we go about this? Frequently, we take personality tests, look at our strengths, assess our desires and wants, or even follow the suggestions of our families and friends. We try to find the niche of ministry that best suits us.

But what if I were to suggest that sometimes it is not our talents and gifts which point us in the right direction to help serve others?

What if I told you the answer might lie in your wounds?

Wounds can become wellsprings of grace

We all have experienced hurt and pain throughout our lives, and much of our experience has contributed to wounds in our hearts. Maybe this wound comes from you experiencing a tragic loss of a loved one; maybe you seriously struggled with depression or self-harm at some point in your life; maybe you grew up within a broken family; maybe you have experienced deep and emotional heartbreak; maybe you have walked through periods of serious disease. There are as many different types of hurt as there are different types of people. We all have something that we can pinpoint as causing us deep pain, that has presented us with the opportunity to rely deeply on the Lord and His strength.

But no matter what your wounds are, those experiences



have uniquely equipped you to serve others going through similar situations.

In service to others

Saint Paul tells us:

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” // 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When we have received the Lord’s comfort in our afflictions, we are better able to turn and comfort others when they experience the same affliction. A mother who has experienced the suffering of the death of her child can walk with another mother through the same struggle, much better than a mother who has

never walked through it.

Are wounds a weakness?

With all this in mind, I have a challenge for you. Rather than viewing your wounds as a weakness, I dare you to swing your perspective and see your wounds as some of your greatest strengths. Not only can God reveal Himself to us within those wounds by providing us comfort and strength, but He can then use the witness of our wounds as an avenue for others to experience His consolation as well.

Someone else may be in need of your wounds.

Therefore, when we examine ourselves in an attempt to find the whisper of God’s call for us in our lives, I believe we cannot and should not overlook the wounds that we have experienced. God may be calling us in a unique way to serve Him and serve others

prudence here.

Rather, if you have experienced a wound in your life through which the Lord has brought healing and glory, consider that He might be calling you to walk with someone going through a similar struggle. If you can pinpoint a hurt in your life that you would never, ever wish upon another person, why not put that desire to work and help console those who are suffering the same way?

I saw your glory

Saint Augustine once said:

“I saw Your glory in my wounds and it dazzled me.”

God wants to bring His glory from our wounds. He wants to show His power, healing, and love from our wounds. He wants to dazzle us by bringing goodness out of those places of deepest hurt, both for ourselves and for others. After all:

“We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.” // Romans 8:28

Let us let Him use our wounds to bring about His glory.

particularly out of the wounds that have shaped our hearts.

Not the only consideration

A word of warning here: there are some wounds that may be too recent, or may simply be too personal and painful to share. If that’s the case for you, that is totally fine. None of this means we should be proclaiming our deepest struggles and hurts from the rooftops. As in all things, there is need for discretion and

*Lord, every nation on earth
will adore you.*

Psalm 72: 11 | Responsorial Psalm for January 8
The Epiphany of the Lord

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

Do you have a devotion to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha?

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

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

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

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

The “Heart of Saint Kateri” Circle meets:

2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.

Tekakwitha Conference National Center

2225 North Bolton Avenue • Alexandria, LA 71303

For more information, call (318) 483-3908 or (318) 471-2044

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MARYHILL GATE. You may have noticed the new fence and automatic gate being installed at the entrance of Maryhill Renewal Center. These improvements are intended for the safety and security of retreatants and guests staying overnight on the grounds. The gate will be set on a schedule to open and close automatically during the week, when staff is present. After hours access will be granted on an individual basis. There will be provisions to call staff from the gate, should access be needed when the gate is closed. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Luke White at 318-542-1707.



2023 Directory is now available online

The 2023 Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Directory is now available online to download.

Visit www.diocesealex.org/people-by-name/ and press the red button ("Download the 2023 Diocesan Directory") to view, download, and print.

Position available: Line Cook at Manna House

Manna House needs a Line Cook. Skills and qualifications required include:

- Knowledge of safety procedures, including safe temperatures at which ingredients must be stored and which food must be prepared to avoid food borne illness.
- At least 1 year of cooking or food experience.
- Excellent kitchen administration knowledge and ability to work as part of a team.
- Follows directions and instructions.
- Ability to stand in one place for hours at a time, handle extreme heat and work shifts.
- The ability to work on your feet for most of the day and lift 50 pounds at a time several times a day.
- Ability to place cases, pans, utensils, and plates on both low and high shelves.
- Manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination to handle tools, such as knife techniques for chopping, slicing, cutting, and dicing.
- Accuracy and speed in executing tasks.
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Catholic Charities sponsors Christmas Cheer Programs

'Tis the season of giving. Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana (CCCL) sponsored several Christmas Cheer Programs throughout our deanery. These programs benefited the Homeless of Central Louisiana, Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home, the VA (Veteran Affairs) Hospital Building 9, and the Natchitoches Community.

Through community funding, CCCL purchased gift cards and a traditional Christmas dinner for 35 families in need. On Wednesday, Dec. 14, Father John O'Brien, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches, picked up the food baskets at the Diocese of Alexandria. He will deliver them to the families being sponsored by the project.

On Thursday, Dec. 15, Heidi Wampler and Jennifer Gilchrist, employees at CCCL, participated in the H2O Event



CCCLA BLANKETS AND SOCKS DRIVE. Catholic Charities had a successful sock and blanket drive in early December. Items will be distributed to the Homeless Coalition of Cenla, the VA Hospital, and Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home.

at Emmanuel Baptist Church. They handed out hygiene bags, socks, and blankets. Lunch was served to individuals in need. During this event, organizations throughout Central Louisiana came together to bring Christmas cheer to the homeless.

CCCL partnered with the VFW Post & Auxiliary 1736 of Alexandria for Caroling and Bingo on Dec. 18. In addition to singing Christmas Carols and helping residents play Bingo, CCCL handed out holiday socks and sodas to residents of Building 9.

In the spirit of continuing to spread Christmas cheer throughout Central Louisiana, hygiene bags and socks were delivered to Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Bags included shampoo, conditioner, combs, brushes, and other personal care items.

On Dec. 24, CCCL staff members, Heidi, and Jennifer, along with the Rapides Parish Healthy Initiatives Coalition,

will hand out the remaining socks, blankets, and tarps at the levee in downtown Alexandria as well as help serve a gumbo Christmas meal to attendants.

These projects would not be possible without sponsorship and donations from people and organizations throughout our Diocese and beyond. Thank you for your generosity during this season of giving. A special thanks to our CCCL Board of Directors who placed boxes for donations throughout the community to collect the socks and blankets given out for these projects and to Catholic Charities of Acadiana who donated tarps and additional hygiene kits.

If you are interested in helping or supporting CCCL projects visit ccenla.org for more information. Upcoming projects include a Celebrity Clergy Dinner to be held on Feb. 20, 2023, at Tunk's Cypress Inn. Be on the lookout for more information about attending or sponsoring the event.

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."

*Here am I, Lord;
I come to do your will.*

Psalm 40: 8a and 9a
Responsorial Psalm for January 15
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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PRIEST JUBILEE MASS. On Friday, Dec. 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Priests' Jubilee Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Pictured left to right front row: Fr. Martin Laird, Fr. Dutch Voltz, Fr. Rusty Rabalais, Msgr. Steve Testa, Fr. Anthony Dharmaraj, Bishop Robert Marshall. Second row: Fr. Rick Gremillion, Fr. Jose Palliparath, Fr. Joy Antony, Fr. Christian Ogbonna, Fr. Jacob Thomas, Fr. Bino Jacob, Fr. Abraham Pallikkattuchira. Third row: Fr. Abrahama Varghese, Fr. Peter Faulk, Fr. Craig Scott. Back row: Fr. Dwight DeJesus, Fr. Scott Chemino, Fr. Bill Gearheard, Fr. John Pardue, Fr. Paul LaPalme, Fr. Paul Kunnumpuram and Fr. James Ferguson.

Seminarian Burses

November 2022 Donations

Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Brian Seiler Burse	
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Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
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Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco	\$100.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
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Belgian American Club of Louisiana	\$225.00
Father John Cunningham Burse	
Mr. Dwight E. Beridon	\$250.00
Monsignor John timmermans Burse	
Mr. Dwight E. Beridon	\$250.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse	
Johnson's Loving Children	\$1,000.00
Leonard E. and Marjorie V. Johnson Burse	
Total	\$2,175.00

Thinking about becoming a deacon?

Now is the time to contact diocese to learn more

Do you have a desire to serve the Church in a deeper way? Do you have the heart for serving others? If so, you may be interested in learning more about becoming a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Alexandria.

Deacon Richard Mitchell, director for the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, is now taking contact information and fielding questions from men who may be interested in discerning this ministry.

If interested, contact Deacon Mitchell at (318) 445-6424, ext. 206 or email: dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org.

The qualifications for the permanent diaconate include: must be at least 35 years old at the time of ordination, must have wife's consent (if married) and can be married, but can't marry or re-marry after ordination.

The four dimensions of formation -- Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral -- are learned throughout the five-year formation process that consists of Aspirancy, Candidacy, and Post-Ordination.

In the Aspirancy and

Candidacy stages, the men and their wives are required to attend classes. One weekend a month, an instructor from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans comes to Alexandria to teach the aspirants philosophy and the theory of ministry. A psychological exam will also be done at this time.

The next four years include the formal study of theology for the Candidates. Church history, the Sacraments, Preaching, Moral Theology, and Scripture are some of the courses the men and their wives will study in classes held from September to July.

After the Candidate passes the theology curriculum and the psychological exam, the Bishop makes a final determination of his readiness for ordination.

Just as priests and bishops are ordained, a deacon is the third order in the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

After ordination, the deacon becomes incardinated into the Diocese of Alexandria. The Bishop assigns the deacon to a parish or charitable ministry.

serra club of alexandria invitation

Serra Club is an international lay apostolate of men and women whose goal is to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and show appreciation to priests, deacons, religious, and especially seminarians. Serra Club members each "adopt" a seminarian to pray for daily and acknowledge on special occasions throughout the year. An annual end of summer BBQ and Christmas party are hosted by Serra Club for the seminarians and their families. For more information about joining, contact Billie Flynn at billieflynn5@gmail.com.

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.

11 prayer for priests

Parish Spotlight: Mary, Mother of Jesus in Woodworth established 2008

Records show that in July 1908, Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven blessed a chapel in the area of Woodworth, which is believed to have been St. Joseph Chapel located where Mary, Mother of Jesus Church stands today. The chapel was a mission of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

In 1926, Woodworth was a thriving sawmill town. But after all the trees had been cut down and there was nothing more to harvest, the sawmill relocated to Bessmae, Texas and so did many of the Catholic people.

By 1927, St. Joseph Chapel had ceased its services, forcing the remaining Catholic families to attend Mass at nearby St. Martin Church in Lecompte or St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria. Sadly, some did not continue



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH, WOODWORTH.

with their faith in protest at the dismantling of St. Joseph Chapel.

In 1953, Father Gerard J. Ducote, the second pastor of Cabrini Church, wrote to Bishop

Charles P. Greco and petitioned that there had been no Catholic services in Woodworth since 1927. The letter mentioned by name 21 families in the area

who were actively attending Mass in nearby parishes, as well as 20 more previously inactive Catholic families in the area, who all promised cooperation and attendance in a Catholic Church in Woodworth. Father Ducote and Bishop Greco were energized at the prospect of doubling participation. Later in 1953, a used military building from Camp Claiborne was moved on to a property located one lot from Hwy 165 and Robinson Bridge and St. Catherine was established as a mission of Cabrini Church.

In 1962, with the backing of Msgr. Ducote and under the direction of Father Joseph LeSage Tisch, plans were made to build a larger church at the location of the former St. Joseph Chapel. The new church was completed

in 1963, re-named Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, and became a mission of St. Martin Church in Lecompte. Father Peter Norek was its first pastor. St. Catherine mission closed in 1969 and the property was sold to the town of Woodworth.

Additional property at MMJ was obtained on July 14, 1976 on which a hall was later constructed. The new hall was completed in 1987 and dedicated as "Cumella Hall" in honor of Father Anthony Cumella, one of its former pastors. In the late 1990s, the population of Alexandria (of whom many were Catholic) shifted in great numbers to the Woodworth area. Attendance at MMJ increased and in 2008, Mary, Mother of Jesus was dedicated as a church parish by Bishop Ronald Herzog.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:00 p.m.
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Church Hall)
Natchitoches

Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center
Alexandria

NOTE: Minors are not allowed to attend because of the adult content of the videos and discussions. To register, go to www.virtus.org. For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

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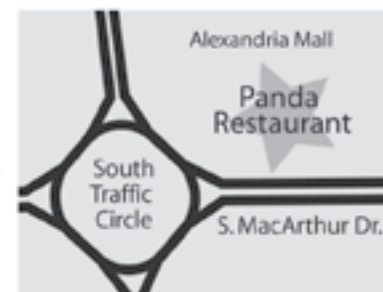


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Sunday:
11 a.m. - 9 p.m.





ST. JAMES MEMORIAL. On Sunday, Nov. 20, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Christ the King Sunday with the parish family of St. James Memorial Catholic Church in Alexandria. Pictured with Bishop Marshall are the altar servers and Deacon Tommy Robichaux.



(Above) MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

The Knights of Columbus Natchitoches Council #1357 recently hosted the Silver Rose Prayer Service at The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church. The Silver Rose program demonstrates the unity between Knights of Columbus in Canada, the United States and Mexico, through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pictured front row (l-r): Susan Hilton, Terrie Poehl, Cheryl Stoker, Grace Lemoine, Tara Barnes and Mike Menou. Second row: Kathleen Hicks, Ray Ponthieux, John Scott, Gwen Ponthieux, David Bouchie, Sammy Scruggs, Michael Yankowski, Ted Duggan, Janice Ebarb, Rose Menou and Harriet Guillet. Third row: Ellen Mathis, Joe Roque, Fr. Derek Ducote, Fr. Irion St. Romain, Deacon Chad Thibodeaux, Fr. Jose Pallipurath, Diane Vienne, Lisa Guillet and Mike Scott.



ST. PATRICK, FERRIDAY. The St. Patrick Altar Society gifted each parish family with the book "Holy Moments" by Matthew Kelly. Above Anne Maxwell is gifting Clare Meng & Angie Lancaster with the books. Assisting with this project were Richard & Sheila Alwood.



(Right) ST. MARYS ASSUMPTION, COTTONPORT.

Four hundred and twenty eight candles burned at the Grotto at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport for All Soul's Day. A project of the Catholic Daughters Court Padre Pio #2141, candles were labeled with the names of loved ones. The candles were blessed the Saturday before and burned every night until after All Soul's Day. After that day, the purchasers could bring home their candles or they were put in the Church in front of the Holy Family. Special globe candles were donated by the Court for the Deceased Priests that served our parish and the Deceased members of the Court. Both places served as a beautiful Memorial to loved ones.



OLPS, ALEXANDRIA. On Christ the King Sunday, Our Lady of Prompt Succor held the first Eucharistic Procession in 25 years. Bishop Robert Marshall attended and walked with the people. (Photo by Phil Brocato).

Off Campus Mass Schedule

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville would like to share their off campus Mass schedule for the following locations:

- Tuesday of the 1st full week of the month:** Hilltop Nursing Home at 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday of the 2nd full week of the month:** The Oaks Care Center at 9:00 a.m.
- Tuesday of the 3rd full week of the month:** St. Christina Nursing and Rehabilitation Center at 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday of the 4th full week of the month:** Pine Grove Apartments at 9:00 a.m.



SANTA MAKES AN EARLY VISIT AT ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL IN BUNKIE! Santa Claus visited SAS on Thursday, Dec. 14, in honor of the feast day of Saint Nicholas.



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA, BUNKIE. St. Anthony Church's Children of Mary group went Christmas caroling at the Bailey Place and Bayou Vista Nursing Homes on Saturday, Dec. 10.



DOA STAFF PROVIDES GIFTS TO CLASS FAMILIES. The Staff of the Diocese of Alexandria adopted a family with 5 children from Central Louisiana AIDS Support Services (CLASS) and provided Christmas gifts, clothing, and groceries. Receiving the gifts are Ann Lowrey and Ethan McManus from CLASS. The DOA Staff was represented by Rev. Craig Scott, VG and Sandi Tarver. Many thanks to all who helped in this effort!



CHRISTMAS AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS COMMUNITY HOME. Knights of Columbus Council #3200 hosted a Christmas party for the Our Lady of Sorrows community members on Dec. 13.



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION IN COTTONPORT. St. Mary's Assumption Junior High and High School youth groups have been meeting twice a month. This is the junior high group. They enjoyed a talk about the bible by Father John Wiltse, pastor of St. Mary's Assumption.

our lady of guadalupe, patroness of all the americas // pray for us



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FOREST HILL. Sunday, Dec. 11, Bishop visited the Guadalupe Festival of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe) Mission in Forest Hill. There was food, entertainment and fellowship for several hundred parishioners and visitors. Bishop said, "I got a photo with the cast of the Reenactment (dramatizing the story of St. Juan Diego and his encounter with Our Lady). I am in black - standing next to the "bishop" in the mitre." Thank you to Father Marc Noel and all of the Guadalupanos for their welcome!



What wisdom can we gain from the wise men?

By John Bergsma
Franciscan University

The word “Epiphany” comes from two Greek words: *epi*, “on, upon”; and *phaino*, “to appear, to shine.” Therefore, the “Epiphany” refers to the divinity of Jesus “shining upon” the earth. In other words, it is the manifestation of his divine nature.

The Feast of the Epiphany has an interesting history and arose from the commemoration of various events in the childhood or early ministry of Our Lord, in which his divinity was revealed. Three events in particular were identified by the early Church: the visit of the magi, the baptism of the Lord, and the changing of the water to wine at Cana. In various local churches, days to remember these events were set aside shortly after the Feast of the Nativity. To confuse the situation further, some local churches used the term “Epiphany” to refer to the commemoration of the Nativity itself. However, in time, the Latin rite placed the Nativity on December 25 and settled on the Visit of the Magi as the event to be commemorated as the “Epiphany” twelve days later, on January 6. This gave us the traditional “Twelve Days of Christmas,” that is, the time between Christmas and Epiphany.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the magi secretly and



ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way. (Matthew 2:1-12)

The Gospel Reading is the account of the arrival of the magi (wise men) to worship the child Jesus. The magi were learned men, the academics or scientists of their day. Their knowledge base would have included the fundamentals of astronomy, which was not distinct from astrology in antiquity. Different constellations were associated with various ethnic groups, and there was a certain interpretive “language” that identified astronomical phenomena with historical events. Providentially, the astronomical events around the time of Our Lord’s birth indicated a new royal line among the Jews in the interpretive schema employed by

these eastern sages.

The character of Herod in our Gospel Reading fits the personality of Herod as recorded by ancient historians. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, Herod was a brutal tyrant, perhaps partly insane, who executed large numbers of political opponents as well as members of his own family, including several of his wives and sons. A Machiavellian before Machiavelli, Herod’s primary goal in life was to maintain his own power, and he was constantly vigilant against possible threats to it, especially from those who claimed to fulfill the royal prophecies of the Jewish Scriptures. He was supremely paranoid, and his erratic behavior inspired fear among those who had to govern the nation with him. No doubt much of the city and his court were not pleased at the arrival of the magi with their “politically incorrect” inquiries about a newborn king. These inquiries would provoke Herod’s paranoia; and if Herod became disturbed, people would die.

The gifts that the magi bring are rich in biblical symbolism. As stated above, frankincense and myrrh are only mentioned together in the Old Testament in the Song of Songs, where they are nuptial perfumes employed by Solomon and his bride to prepare for their marriage. Here in Matthew, Jesus is being marked out as Bridegroom King from his birth.

At the same time, “gold and frankincense” are only mentioned together in the Scriptures in the prophecy of Isaiah 60:6, part of our First Reading. So, there is an obvious association of Jesus with the “light” predicted by Isaiah, which is associated with the miraculous star that brings the magi to the Christ child.

Speaking of this star, numerous suggestions—some quite intriguing—have been made over the years for the identification of this celestial object. However, some of the Church Fathers (e.g., Origen) already pointed out that the star in question had to be a supernatural object, since natural stars do not move or stand still, nor are they able to mark a terrestrial location as small as Bethlehem, much less an individual house. Without being dogmatic on the issue, I believe the star was a supernatural appearance to these magi. God communicated to them using a language they understood: the language of the stars.

As we ponder the meaning of these sacred readings, we are struck first by the fulfillment of the prophecies of the gathering of the nations to Christ. Now at the beginning of the third millennium, one in three inhabitants of the globe identifies himself or herself as a follower of Christ, a total of 2.4 billion, of whom about half are Catholics. Even when the last New Testament writer wrote, the population of Christians was, at best, in the tens of thousands,

mostly Greek-speaking and concentrated in the eastern part of the Roman Empire. The incredible expansion of this “Jewish cult” to lands unknown would have seen absurd in those ancient days.

In modern times, the faith has exploded in areas that were once closed to the Church. Sub-Saharan Africa, in which the numbers of Christians were negligible even a hundred years ago, is now around 60 percent Christian. Though there is always and at all times an ongoing spiritual battle, it is true that a multitude from all nations has gathered to the Light.

On another level, we see in the magi representatives of the scholars and academics, those who give their lives to learning, to the acquisition of wisdom. These magi, however, are not “wise guys” but wise men; that is, they demonstrate a true wisdom. In some way (we do not know how clearly), they saw in the child Jesus a gift of God to mankind, a sign of the love of God for humanity. True wisdom recognizes wisdom’s limits. There is something higher than wisdom, and that is love (1 Cor 13:1-13). Love is the ultimate wisdom. These intellectuals get down on their knees and bow before something greater than themselves: the Love of God, a Love which is as humble and unthreatening as a baby in his mother’s lap. Far from detracting from their wisdom, their humility in the face of Love enhances it.

Those who give their lives in pursuit of learning need to avoid the trap of intellectual pride in order to be of any good to their fellow human beings. The magi are scholars who bow the intellect before the reality of love and humility. We should follow their example.

John Bergsma is Professor of Theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. A former Protestant pastor, Dr. Bergsma has authored several books on Scripture and the Catholic faith, including The Word of the Lord series.

See the Diocese of Alexandria website at www.diocesealex.org, or your church bulletin for more information on upcoming Advent and Christmas events.

“My little son, there are many I could send. But you are the one I have chosen.

// our lady of guadalupse to juan diego

Adoration Chapel // Daily

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville, Perpetual Adoration Chapel will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in the Community Center. You will need to call the office during office hours to obtain the code to the chapel: 318-445-2497.

Insights Prayer Group // every Tuesday

The Insights Prayer Group (formerly Tuesday Afternoon Prayer Group) has resumed its weekly meetings every Tuesday at 12:45 p.m. in the **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church Community Center, Pineville**. Anyone interested in gaining insight into the role of Sacred Scripture and power of prayer as tools to navigate Catholic life in the present is invited to attend. For more information, contact Melba LaCaze at 318-445-6851 or Rhonda England at 318-452-9739.

St. Nicholas Thrift Shop // Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Church St. Nicholas Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The Thrift Shop is located at 616 Lakeview Street, Pineville. For more information, call 318-442-2072.

Food Pantry Distribution, Pineville // Wednesdays

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 600 Lakeview Street, Pineville. Distribution bags are for “cook” and “non cook,” bread, sandwiches, personal hygiene items (when in supply) will be available. Food distribution will be every other Wednesday, from 8:00 a.m. until noon, in front of the church office. Please call Linda Boniol for more information at 318-623-1492.

Book Study on Saints // every Wednesday

Every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., Father Taylor Reynolds will lead a book study on his recently published book titled, “*No Longer Strangers*.” Discussion will follow 5:00 p.m. Adoration and confession, and 6:00 p.m. Mass at **St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA**. For more information or to acquire a book, contact Fr. Taylor at stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com or 318-766-3565.

A Guide to Catholic Devotions series // every Wednesday

Father Thomas Kennedy invites you to join him for this weekly series of presentations titled, “Lord, Teach Us to Pray: A Guide to Catholic Devotions.” Meetings will take place every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Madonna Room at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria. Reinvigorate your prayer life through this reintroduction to devotional practices.

Maryhill Real Presence Prayer Group // every Wednesday

The Real Presence Prayer Group will meet every Wednesday evening at **Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville**. Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m. with Charismatic Praise and High Worship at 7:20 p.m. and Healing Prayer at 8:00 p.m. (Closing by 11:00 p.m.). Wheelchair accessible. Directed by Jim Gootee. For more information, call Joey LaFossee at 318-332-2234 or Bob Weeks at 318-442-1794.

Food Pantry // every 2nd and 4th Thursday

The St. Francis of Assisi Food Pantry is open every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. It is a walk-in style pantry, located on the backside of **St. Francis of Assisi Church in Waterproof, LA**. All are welcome to come and receive or to donate.

Divine Mercy Hour // every Friday

Sacred Heart Church of Moreauville has a weekly Divine Mercy Hour at 3:00 p.m. on Fridays. There will be adoration with benediction, recitation of the divine mercy chaplet, and confessions available. Everyone is invited.

Discalced Carmelites Meeting // every 2nd Saturday

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

St. Timothy Food Pantry // last Saturday every month

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria conducts its St. Timothy Food Pantry distributions on the last Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the St. Timothy Center, 409 21st Street. Anyone in need of food is welcome to come. For more information, contact Chris Bayonne at 318-955-1222.

Holy Hour with Benediction, Moreauville // every weekend

Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville has Holy Hour with Benediction every weekend before Mass. The times are: before Saturday Vigil Mass, starting at 3:00 p.m., and before Sunday evening Mass starting at 4:00 p.m.

National Eucharistic Revival - sign up for the newsletter!

The Diocese of Alexandria is participating in the National Eucharistic Revival. The mission of this three-year revival is “To renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.” Stay current with the National movement by registering to receive the weekly “Heart of the Revival Newsletter.” To do so, visit eucharisticrevival.org, and provide your name and email address.

Students in Cenla attend Pulse Immersion

*By Abby Rose Nichols
Right to Life Louisiana*

Several weeks ago, high school and college students gathered at Louisiana Christian University for a time of pro-life education, inspiration, and fellowship! Cenla Pulse Immersion was a day packed with education on topics such as fetal development, abortion procedures, the impact of abortion, current Louisiana pro-life law, and how to have effective and compassionate conversations about abortion.

Students had the opportunity to hear from guest speakers who shared their stories and answered questions on adoption, foster care, women's resources, and the impact of abortion. With interactive games and small groups, students were able to connect with other pro-life students in the state and discuss what activism they hope to bring into their high schools

and college campuses in the near future. One student said, "Pulse Immersion was full of educational experiences turned into fun! We were given valuable information on things such as foster care, adoption, human trafficking, and learned more on what women may face and how to help them in a particular crisis.

There's so many things I loved about Pulse Immersion but one of my favorite parts was learning how to have a respectful conversation with someone who may view things differently from you. I believe that's very important in our time. One of the missions of the pro-life ministry is to everyone with kindness no matter their situation and Pulse Immersion Day proved that those involved in pro-life activism are achieving that."



Louisiana Life Marches

In 2023, Louisiana will march because Everyone Deserves a Birthday! In June, after 49 years, Roe v. Wade was overturned and babies are protected by law! But we MUST continue to march so that EVERY unborn child can have their own birthday.

In a time of misinformation being magnified by the media, we must continue to march, unified in defense of every precious unborn baby with a strong commitment to support moms in a post-Roe Louisiana. No matter the circumstances of a person's conception, or whether a child is disabled or not, every human person deserves their own birthday, and a chance at life.

Please join us and spread the word as we march!

The secret to happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.

*// saint gianna
beretta molla*

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Psalm 27: 1a | Responsorial Psalm for January 22
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



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FILIPINO COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CE. The Filipino community of Saint Frances Cabrini Church held their Christmas celebration on Saturday, Dec. 3. Father Dwight DeJesus led the day in prayer.

The Filipino community gathers the first Sunday of each month for Mass at 3:00 p.m., followed by fellowship in the school gym. Everyone is welcome for Mass, food, and fellowship.

The Filipino community also gathered for the traditional Simbang Gabi devotion - a nine-day novena of Masses celebrated in anticipation of Christmas Day and to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. DeJesus celebrated three of the Simbang Gabi Masses on Wednesday, Dec. 21, Thursday, Dec. 22, and Friday, Dec. 23, each at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

For more information concerning the Filipino community here in Central Louisiana, please contact Fr. DeJesus or Ian Kho.

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Louisiana Life Marches

• Festival de la Vie: Lafayette
Saturday, January 14, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Parc International

Life March Northeast:
Monre-West Monrie
Sunday, January 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
Meet at First West

Life March South:
Baton Rouge
Saturday, January 21, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Meet at the State Capitol Lawn

Life March Northwest:
Shreveport-Bossier
Saturday, January 21, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Meet at the grassy area near the
LA Boardwalk

Life March Southwest:
Lake Charles
Sunday, January 22, 2023
6:00 p.m.
Meet at Veterans Memorial Park

**Life March Cenla:
Pineville-Alexandria
Saturday, February 4, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Meet at Louisiana
Christian University**

*Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

Matthew 5:3 | Responsorial Psalm for January 29
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Nurture your teen toward maturity

By Kimberly Hahn
St. Paul Center

As parents we nurture our teens toward overall maturity as well-adjusted adults, servant leaders, and companions with us on our journey of faith. We set short-term goals for long-term growth, so our teens are prepared for the future. It takes time to

plant seeds, nurture growth, and weed out what is detrimental so that, at the right time, we can enjoy the fruits of our labor. We need wisdom, as do they. “Know that wisdom is [like honey] to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off” (Proverbs 24:14).



will not do.) Teens care about their appearance: their hair, complexion, and clothes. My children have uniformly chosen to do their own laundry, unsure I could be trusted not to shrink their jeans. My demotion(happily) means less laundry for me!

Privacy issues.

Is there a secluded place for girls who are developing physically to dress without sisters watching? Does everyone get enough time in the bathroom? If children share a bedroom, can boundaries be drawn so the room remains orderly? Do siblings honor requests for not disturbing each other’s music, clothes, shoes, or knick-knacks?

Self-knowledge.

Discuss with your teens the various types of personalities and temperaments. What impact does birth order have? What is your teen’s role with older and younger siblings? What are his strengths and weaknesses, and how can you help him augment strengths and diminish weaknesses? Is she aware of physical changes, sugar highs and lows, hormone surges, and adrenaline rushes? Self-understanding is an important component of maturity.

Intellectual skills.

Teens need good study skills for academic excellence. They hone skills in note-taking, researching, outlining, and analyzing so they can organize and synthesize their papers and speeches. They grapple with major ideas in independent

In what areas do our teens need maturity?

Personal hygiene.

This is an area of dramatic change from the child to the teen years. After Gabriel’s basketball practice, when he was just seven, I asked him to shower. “Shower now? I showered after my game last night.” “Yes. Now you’ve had a practice, and you need another shower.” Incredulous,

Gabriel asked, “Are you going to make me shower after every game and every practice?” “Yes, I am.” “I just may quit basketball!” I smiled, knowing this was a false threat. Fast-forward several years. Gabriel showered regularly with no requests from me. Most teens do. They are aware of body odor. (If yours is not, politely mention that a spray of cologne

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study. Amid major hormone shifts, they balance sports and activity schedules and develop a social life. Can they find a place to study away from distractions, especially the TV?

One parent insisted that his brilliant son run track so he might experience failure and develop character while living at home. We did not plan failures, but we did encourage sports, musical instruments, classes, and other activities that we knew would be difficult. Our children learned a lot; in some cases they surprised us with how well they did.

Sex education at home.

This begins when children are small. But it is important to remember to listen before we answer. A child might approach his mom with the question, "Where did Johnny come from?" A detailed biological answer might be met with "I thought he was from Chicago!" We sometimes assume children understand more than they do. Molly had a three-year-old, a two-year-old, and a baby when she discovered she was pregnant. She put the baby down for a nap and took the two older boys on a walk to share the good news. "Guess what Mommy has in her tummy?" She smiled. "A baby!" One child burst into tears. "I want to go home!" "Honey, what's wrong?" Molly asked. "You ate the baby!" Quickly my friend assured her little son that the baby was quite safe at home in his crib, and the baby in her "tummy" was a new sibling.

We also need to give information on a need-to-know basis. My mother found herself in a dilemma when my three-year-old brother, sixteen years my junior, burst into the room

asking, "Mom, what's in my pants?" She thought, Should I be the modern mother and give the anatomically correct name? Or should I do what I have done for years and be indirect? She decided it was time to use the technical term. He broke into an infectious grin. "No, it isn't. It's a penny!" He reached into his shorts and pulled out a penny, at which point my modest mother wished she could retrieve her words! When it comes to our teens, the focus of health education should be human development, not how to have sex. Most schools give too much information too soon. Mixed-sex classes give specifics on intercourse, contraception, and abortion. Yet they often lack essential information about the risks of premarital relations, especially venereal diseases, unwanted pregnancies, and possible sterility from abortion. Most of these classes do not address the beauty of chastity for the teens' well-being and their future families.

The goal of most sex education materials is clear: Break down a child's sense of modesty and form a wedge between the child and his parents. The teen is encouraged to trust the Planned Parenthood lecturer more than his parents. Can we provide something better? Absolutely! We honor our child's sense of modesty and genuine curiosity by private conversation about puberty and sex, dad to son and mom to daughter. We deepen our bond of mutual love and respect when we share the truth about love and life. Our openness allows for future conversations as needed.

For a son: Without giving details about sinful sexual

behavior, tell him that sperm should only go where it can be fruitful: in his wife. Acknowledge God's gracious gift of fatherhood and his responsibility to embrace chastity so as to honor the woman he will marry. For a daughter: Prepare her for God's design for puberty and the beauty of motherhood. Consider taking her to a "Maidens by His Design" workshop for mothers and their daughters on these themes. Explain the importance of modest dress and chaste actions, to honor the man she will marry. Encourage your daughter as she adjusts to her developing body and shifting hormones. Celebrate this change with a special dessert, discreetly acknowledging that she is now a woman. She may experience premenstrual syndrome (PMS). Help her accommodate that time of the month by lightening her schedule, getting more sleep, and avoiding foods that intensify difficulties. You can be understanding without indulging wrong behavior.

Financial skills.

Your teen can develop a good work ethic. Whether your teen works for you or others, expect timeliness and follow-through. Encourage him to request clarification if instructions are unclear. He should not take personal calls or texts while working and he must be honest about his hours and the work he has done. He could even explore career interests through apprenticeships. We require work time as part of a teen's

budget. When a teen begins college, we create a budget for all expenses. We provide two-thirds of the budget; the teen provides one-third through earnings and gifts from grandparents.

Social skills.

Teens' activities and conversations with the opposite sex can become interesting. They notice and enjoy the differences between them. Chapter five gives ideas for helping teens develop quality, healthy friendships without pressuring them prematurely into long-term romantic commitments. Ask your teen what qualities—serious and fun—he would value in a spouse. This provides an objective standard for him before he invests in a romantic relationship. Encourage him to review and update the list periodically.

My sophomore year at Grove City College, I wrote a song describing a list of qualities I wanted in my future spouse. After dates I would sing it as a reminder of my standard. The only men who heard it before I was engaged were my brothers and my dad. The night Scott asked me to marry him, I sang it for him in Harbison Chapel. Later I sang it at our wedding reception.

Kimberly Hahn is a Catholic speaker and author who, for decades, has shared her wisdom with other wives and mothers.

Married to Scott for more than forty years, they have six children and nineteen grandchildren. After homeschooling for twenty-six years, Kimberly now serves as Council-at-Large in Steubenville, OH, and hosts the St. Paul Center podcast Beloved and Blessed.



An ACTS retreat is a three-day and three-night Catholic lay retreat presented by fellow parishioners. The retreat begins on Thursday evening and ends the following Sunday at a Mass celebrated with the parish community. Retreats for me, women, and teens are given separately. The focus of the retreat is Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service, from which the ACTS acronym is derived. Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are the guides for the retreats.

A list of ACTS Retreat dates can be found at www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/acts/. All retreats are held at Maryhill Renewal Center.

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL THANKSGIVING MASS. Several of Sacred Heart School's faculty, staff, and students processed before school Mass on Nov. 18, with offerings of gratitude for all the gifts that have been bestowed upon them. Gifts of faith, family, talents, clubs, food, patriotism, and education.

Pictured below: Katherine Freeman, 8th grade teacher, and son Fitz Freeman and her daughter, Margot Freeman, stand in gratitude for the gift of family in Sacred Heart School's Thanksgiving procession.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL'S 4H hosted their annual cookery competition on Dec. 1 and the following SAS students placed: 1st place pecan dessert: April [redacted] 2nd place beef: Madden [redacted] 2nd place eggs dessert: M'Lee [redacted] 2nd place sweet potato other: River [redacted] 3rd place eggs dessert: Brees [redacted]. 1st and 2nd place winners will now move on to regional competition in the spring.



MASS AT ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHEES. Thursday, Dec. 8, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception with the students, faculty, administration, and staff of St. Mary's School, Natchitoches. Thank you to Father Irion St. Romain, Pastor; Mr. Jason Lachica, Principal; Father John Cunningham, a concelebrant; Mr. Thomas Roque, Superintendent, and the entire school family for their welcome and their prayerful participation at Mass. After Mass, Bishop visited a number of classrooms and enjoyed conversations with the students.

**Pray to protect human life!
January 19 - 27, 2023**

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life.

Sign up or find more information at respectlife.org/9-days-for-life.

5 sentences to repeatedly tell your children --- that are actually all Bible verses!

1. "You are a child of God." // 1 John 3: 1-2
2. "Hey, be strong + courageous for the Lord your God is with you *wherever* you go!" // Deuteronomy 31: 6
3. "We don't live for the approval of others --- only God." // Galatians 1: 10
4. We don't have to worry about anything, but we *can* pray about everything." // Philippians 4: 6
5. "Let your light shine." // Matthew 5:16



RITE OF ACCEPTANCE. Sunday, Nov. 27, Bishop Robert Marshall began the season of Advent celebrating Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Before Mass began, the Rite of Acceptance and Welcome was celebrated with two catechumens (those preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) and seven candidates (those already baptized who are preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist). Thank you to Father James Ferguson, Deacon Richard Mitchell, Deacon Jason Lavergne, and the whole team at Cathedral parish who are walking the journey of faith with these catechumens and candidates.



ACTS CORE. Congratulations for our outgoing St. Joseph (Marksville) ACTS Core members! Thank you for your time, talent, dedication, and support provided through your term. May God bless you! Pictured left to right: Kirsten Coco, JB Treuting, Vicki Ducote.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CHURCH, LEESVILLE. Fr. Kenneth Michiels, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville, and Deacon Steve Gramigna blessed the graves of parishioners at the VA cemetery after Mass for All Souls Day.



OLPS ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES. Fr. Thomas Kennedy's faith formation series "Lord, Teach Us How to Pray" was held on Wednesday evenings and averaged 80 attendees each week! A new series will begin in January.

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Louisiana College:
 Catholic Student Organization,
 318-447-2956

Bethlehem Bash on the Cane Natchitoches - January 2023

The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Mary's Catholic School are hosting several fundraising events during the Christmas season to benefit the Natchitoches March for Life and St. Mary's School.

The Avengers of the Holy Innocents event will be held Wednesday, Jan. 4 at St. Mary's Baseball Field from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Teens will engage in an interactive night game of Mission Impossible, with adult supervision, and end with a bonfire and smores. Ticket prices for the evening are \$25 each and includes dinner and refreshments.

A Taste of Petit Noel events for adults, celebrating the Epiphany, also known as "Little Christmas," will be held Saturday, Jan. 7 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and feature guest chef Henry Chandler of Henry's Louisiana Grill in Atlanta, Georgia. Various local restaurants and teams of chefs will offer samplings ranging from appetizers to desserts. Ticket prices are \$100 each and include food, open bar, and live music by Jenny and Kelli.

Tickets for both events are on sale now and may be purchased at Immaculate Conception Church Office, Immaculate Conception Gift Shop, and St. Mary's Catholic School. Sponsorships are also available. For more information on any of these events, please contact Lisa Guillet, Director of Development, at 318-471-0902.

Annual Burning of the Greens - January 8

The annual Burning of the Greens and Blessing of King Cakes will be held at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria on Sunday, Jan. 8, following the 6:15 p.m. Mass. All are invited for this Epiphany celebration.

40 Hours Devotion Natchitoches Deanery - January 12-14

The next 40 Hours Devotion will be held at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches. Thank you everyone who has participated in the 40-Hours Devotions so far! Signing up is not required, but allows us to ensure someone will be present at all times during Adoration, even overnight. This devotion is an opportunity for a community to focus its prayer on the Most Holy Eucharist. You may sign up for specific hours to participate in Adoration as well as talks on the Eucharist, schedules of Masses, Liturgy of the Hours, rosaries, and other periods of public prayer. Sign up online for an hour or more of your choosing. We hope you join us for this event. For more information, visit www.diocesealex.org.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Heart of Kateri Circle Meeting - January 12

Heart of Kateri Circle meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Jan. 12, at the Tekakwitha Conference Center, 2225 N. Bolton Ave., Alexandria. All are welcome to attend. We hope everyone has a joyous Christmas season. For more information contact Scotty Durio at finance@tekconf.org or 318-483-3908.

GO! Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference - January 13-14

Save the Date for the Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference to be held at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, LA. The GO! Conference offers those involved in catechesis and evangelization in the Catholic Church an opportunity to deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ through:

- Personal and professional development sessions with leaders in evangelization and catechetical ministry;
- Liturgical celebrations and a variety of prayer experiences;
- Formal and informal networking opportunities;
- Thought-provoking and inspirational presentation will feature many diverse and engaging presenters who will share their vision of renewal, healing, and hope in this vital ministry that God has called us to.

The conference is hosted and sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans in collaboration with dioceses in Region V of the Official Catholic Directory, which includes Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Laity, clergy, and religious from the Gulf Coast and throughout the United States attend this conference each year. In its 41st year, the conference continues its heritage inspired by its previous namesake, Fr. Johannes Hofinger, S.J., a world-renowned missionary, evangelizer, teacher, and catechetical leader. For more information and to register, visit www.Go4th.faith.

Nationwide Prayer Vigil - January 19-20

Catholics across the country are encouraged to observe a nationwide prayer vigil from Thursday, Jan. 19 - Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, to pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. "The National Prayer Vigil is a time to praise God for the great gift of the recent Supreme Court Dobbs decision, overturning the tragic Roe v. Wade decision made almost a half-century ago.

National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children - January 22

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or Jan. 23, when Jan. 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

2nd Annual March for Life Natchitoches - January 28, 2023

The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church and St. Mary's Catholic School will host the second annual Natchitoches March for Life on Saturday, January 28, 2023. The keynote speaker for the event will be Abby Johnson, an outspoken pro-life advocate and author of the book, *Unplanned*. The Josh Blakesley Band will perform prior to the Rally and March. The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the riverbank stage in downtown Natchitoches.

Life March Cenla - February 4

Join us for the Louisiana Life March Cenla in 2023 as we march in celebration for the reversal of Roe v. Wade but also in unity that every unborn child, even those given terminal diagnosis, deserves a birthday. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Louisiana Christian University and march to the Pineville Riverfront under the big American flag for a program with music, prayer, and speakers. Arrive at LCU's front lawn before 10:00 a.m.!

See page 15, your church bulletin, or the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org for additional Advent and parish activities.

Church Today News Deadlines

**January 23
Deadline for news:
Thursday, January 12**



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January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>JANUARY 2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Avengers of the Holy Innocents, 7:00 p.m. St. Mary's Baseball Field</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN C. PELTO</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN K. PRIMEAUX</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>	<p>7</p> <p>A Taste of Petit Noel, Knights of Columbus Hall, Natchitoches</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Burning of the Greens, Cabrini Church, 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>THE EPIPHANY of the LORD PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>
<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</p>	<p>10</p> <p>VIRTUS 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. K. SAYES</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Kateri Circle Meeting 5:30 p.m. Tekakwitha Conf. Center</p> <p>VIRTUS, 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Center, Alexandria</p> <p>GO! Faith Formation Conference -- Kenner, LA</p> <p>40 Hours Devotion -- Basilica of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>
<p>16</p> <p>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. IRION ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Nationwide Prayer Vigil</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>
<p>23</p> <p>National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Natchitoches March for Life</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD</p>
<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Life March Cenla 10:00 a.m. Louisiana Christian University</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE</p>
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