

# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIV, No. 4

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

April 24, 2023



## Season of Service

Gerald Normand and Ronnie Link took on a big project at Maryhill Renewal Center. Their team replaced the aged footbridge across the dam across from the Youth Center with new timber. Also helping were Weston Link, Wyatt Link, Jeremy Landos, and Eagle Ranch. The team completed the project in a few hours.

Pictured: Knights of Columbus Council #2395,  
St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie.

### INSIDE

#### Whoever eats this bread will live forever.

In the Eucharist, Christ offers us the promise of eternal life. See pages 2 and 4 to ask yourself: “Do you allow Christ to communicate to you when you have received the Eucharist? Do you allow him to make a home in your heart?”

#### Season of Service

The Season of Service (S.O.S.) program is a coordinated effort to promote service and build community throughout the Diocese of Alexandria during the Lenten service. See pages... for pictures of projects completed over the past few weeks.

#### Retired educators returning to the classroom

There is a nationwide teacher shortage, impacting both public and private schools, including our Catholic schools here in the Diocese of Alexandria. See page 19 for more information.

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In the last chapter of this letter, we focused on the Eucharistic Prayer and how the basic elements of that prayer (thanksgiving, *anaphora*, *epiclesis*, and *anamnesis*) can enliven and inform our personal prayer. The central Scriptural reference in each of the versions of the Eucharistic Prayer is the “institution narrative,” an amalgamation of the four accounts of the institution of the Eucharist found in the New Testament (Matthew 26: 20-29; Mark 14: 17-25; Luke 22: 14-20; and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25). Though there are some variations among the accounts, they are consistent when it comes to Jesus’ words when holding the bread and when holding the cup of wine. At the Last Supper, Jesus refers to the bread as his Body and the wine as his Blood. As the incarnate Word of God, his words have profound meaning. By uttering those words, Jesus transforms ordinary bread and ordinary wine into his Body and Blood – and entrusts that same power to his Church. Yes, these accounts of the Last Supper are vital to our understanding of the sacrament, but there is one more Scripture passage that provides great theological insight into the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist – the “Bread of Life” discourse found in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John.

This chapter of John’s Gospel begins with one of the accounts of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fish – the miracle by which Jesus fed a large crowd with only five barley loaves and two fish, a feat so astounding that there were twelve baskets of fragments left over. Needless to say, the crowd was impressed – so impressed that they followed Jesus across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum seeking another “sign.” They had been dazzled by the miracle they had experienced and they wanted to see more. These people may have been on the road to faith, but at this point in the journey they could best be described as intrigued and curious. They wanted another sign. The satisfying meal that Jesus had provided from such meager offerings reminded them of how Moses had fed the people of Israel with manna in the desert (the “bread from heaven” as the Old Testament describes it). Jesus corrected the crowd – “[I]t was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life



*Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever*

## The Joy and Promise of the Most Holy Eucharist

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

# Whoever Eats This Bread Will Live Forever

to the world.” (John 6: 32-33). Still eager for a sign, the crowd begged Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always.” (John 6: 34). The response of Jesus startled them even more than the miraculous multiplication of loaves: “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (John 6: 35). The crowd was murmuring at this response – how can he have come down from heaven? Jesus restates his point more emphatically, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world. . . . Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.” (John 6: 51-55). Jesus continued, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (John 6: 56). The gospel tells us that many in the crowd found this concept, this truth too hard to believe. They walked away and returned to their former way of life. After they departed, Jesus asked the Twelve if they also wanted to leave. Simon Peter responds, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6: 68-69).

At the Last Supper, Jesus explicitly connected the Eucharist to his Death – “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.” (Luke 22:20). In the Bread of Life Discourse, he also connects the Eucharist to eternal life, that is, to his Resurrection. The Eucharist, therefore, is our perpetual memorial of the fullness of the

Paschal Mystery. At each Mass, the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ is made present for us, but not in a way that repeats the Sacrifice of the Lord. Rather, in our celebrations of the Eucharist we return again and again to the central mystery of our faith. We are the ones who are drawn again to the Upper Room and to the foot of the Cross and to the empty tomb. Christ does not repeat his death and resurrection, we are instead invited to encounter Christ – crucified and risen – as our spiritual nourishment and as the source of our redemption. With daily manna, the Lord God fed the Israelites in the desert until they came to the promised land. In the Eucharist, we ask the Father to feed us with the Bread of Life until we reach the promise of heaven.

The second part of the title of this pastoral letter is “The Joy and Promise of the Most Holy Eucharist.” The promise of the Eucharist is most effectively articulated in the Bread of Life discourse. Jesus promises us that if we eat this bread, if we eat his flesh and drink his blood, then we will have eternal life. The Eucharist, the deep and intimate Communion with Christ offered to us in this Sacrament, is our passage-way to eternal life. He does not promise us health or wealth, power or pleasure – he promises us that we will live forever. Jesus made that promise real in the Paschal Mystery, in his Passion, Death and Resurrection, but the promise was fully articulated in this passage from John’s Gospel and is most effectively celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. When Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him,” he gives us the hope to pray as St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle did – Live, Jesus, in our hearts forever. Indeed, St. de La Salle challenged his brothers and challenges us: “When Jesus Christ is in you, is he there as a

living bread? Do you allow him complete freedom to communicate his divine Spirit to your soul? Is he living in you to the extent that you can say it is no longer you who live, but that it is Jesus Christ who lives in you?” (Meditation 48.1). In the relationship – in the Communion – with Jesus Christ that is offered to us in the Eucharist, that is nourished in us through the Eucharist, we are offered an eternal dwelling with the God who is Love, and Christ seeks to make an eternal dwelling within us.

Yes, in the Eucharist, Christ offers us the promise of Communion, the promise of eternal life. The dilemma of our age challenges us: Do we continue to believe that Jesus is, as St. Peter confessed, “the Holy One of God,” and do we find joy in the Communion he offers us? Do we return to Mass again and again to re-connect with the One who saves us, who brings us joy? As humans, we are hard-wired for joy. As children of God, we are naturally drawn to God – indeed, only God can satisfy our basic needs, especially our quest for joy and happiness. Without a deep and abiding relationship with God, we try to satisfy our need for joy with earthly pleasures. We find this pleasure in so many different ways – some healthy and life-giving, some not. Some pleasurable experiences lead us to God, others expressly lead us away from him. Unless we have encountered God, encountered true happiness, then we will settle for something less, for simple pleasure. In the person of Jesus Christ – truly human and truly divine – we have the perfect guide to happiness and joy. In the sacraments – and especially in the Eucharist – we have been given the perfect opportunities to encounter Christ, to encounter happiness.

See BREAD, page 4

# Catholic governor calls on Louisiana lawmakers to abolish the death penalty as 'a pro-life state'

By *Kate Scanlon*  
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Gov. John Bel Edwards, D-La., called for an end to the death penalty in Louisiana during his final State of the State address, April 10, in an impassioned call for lawmakers to adopt legislative proposals reflecting its identity as a “pro-life state.”

“For the first time, I’m calling on the legislature to end the death penalty,” said Edwards, who is term-limited and cannot seek re-election to a third consecutive term in the governor’s mansion.

Edwards, a pro-life Catholic Democrat who signed into law the state’s six-week abortion ban and other strong protections for unborn children, told lawmakers that while he was “on the topic of being a pro-life state,” he wanted them to “look at the death penalty in Louisiana in 2023 with fresh eyes and an open mind.”

“In short: it is difficult to administer — one execution in 20 years. It is extremely expensive — tens of millions more spent prosecuting and defending capital cases, and tens of millions more spent maintaining death row over those same 20 years,” he said. “Our criminal justice system is far from perfect. Over the same 20 years there have been six exonerations from death row and more than 50 reversals of sentences and/or convictions.”

“It doesn’t deter crime,” he said. “It isn’t necessary for public safety; and more importantly, it is wholly inconsistent with



Louisiana’s pro-life values as it quite literally promotes a culture of death.”

At the start of a new legislative session, the governor also tasked lawmakers with being “good and faithful servants this session,” and argued that being a pro-life state also includes

passing paid family leave.

“One thing we can all agree on is that Louisiana is a pro-life state,” he said. “That’s something I’m proud of, and I know many of you are proud of it as well. But we have to ask ourselves what does that mean? Do the policies we’ve enacted support

the position we’ve taken? Do we truly support families? What does it mean if we let mothers and fathers work full time without being able to afford to feed and house their children?”

Louisiana is one of 27 U.S. states where the death penalty still exists at the state level, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Southern Louisiana also contains the largest Catholic population in the South, according to Louisiana State University’s sociology department.

“We applaud Gov. Edwards for calling upon Louisiana’s Legislature to stop perpetuating a culture of death and finally abolish the death penalty,” Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy, executive director of the Catholic Mobilizing Network, a group that opposes capital punishment, told OSV News.

“His public appeal is an important reminder that governors have an influential role to play in stopping executions and urging death penalty repeals in their states,” Vaillancourt Murphy said.

Vaillancourt Murphy noted that Louisiana’s use of the practice of capital punishment has “tapered off in the past decade.”

“The last lethal injection in Louisiana took place in 2010,” she said. “It is long past time for Louisiana to take capital punishment off its books.”

Virginia became the first Southern state to abolish capital punishment in 2021, Vaillancourt

Murphy noted.

“Louisiana could be the second to do so, sending an important signal to other Southern states that the death penalty is an archaic and inherently flawed relic,” she said.

“There is a growing awareness in the South that capital punishment is not consistent with pro-life values; it does not deliver justice and healing,” Vaillancourt Murphy said. “As Catholics, we uphold that every person is endowed with a God-given dignity, regardless of the harm one has suffered or caused. The repeal of Louisiana’s death penalty would be an important step toward protecting that sacred dignity of life.”

OSV News has reached out to the Louisiana Catholic Conference for comment.

Louisiana’s next gubernatorial election is scheduled for Oct. 14, 2023. Unlike Edwards, Shawn Wilson, the Democratic candidate, has shied away from running on a pro-life platform. He faces an increasingly crowded Republican field. The Cook Political Report, a non-partisan group that analyzes state, federal and presidential elections, has as of March ranked that race as “Lean Republican.”

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*Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington. Follow her on Twitter @kgscanlon.*

## HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS for May 2023

For church movements and groups //

We pray that church movements and groups may discover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Amen.

## LCCB Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops is having its Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day at the Capitol on May 3. Our goal is to continue educating and engaging Catholics on Catholic Social Teaching and legislation, LCCB positions, and to develop relationships with each other and legislators. We invite you to attend. It is going to be a great event! For questions or to sign up, please contact Susan Wolf at [swolf@laccb.org](mailto:swolf@laccb.org).



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**BREAD** cont. from pg. 2

Have we found that joy? Do we continue to search for joy or have we settled for only pleasure? Do we recognize in the Eucharist both joy and promise? As he did with the Twelve, Jesus asks us, "Do you also want to leave?" May we respond as St. Peter did, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

**Questions for Reflection or Discussion:**

- Please read one or more of the institution narratives: Matthew 26: 20-29; Mark 14: 17-25; Luke 22: 14-20; or 1 Corinthians 11: 23-25? Do you hear the same words you hear at Mass each week? Do you notice the slight differences? Can you picture yourself at the at the Last Supper hearing Jesus speak these words? Do they echo in your heart?
- Please read the sixth chapter of John's Gospel. Are you looking for a sign? Have you found that sign in the Eucharist? Jesus did not convince all of his disciples that he is the Bread of Life. Did he convince you? Why or why not?
- The promise of eternal life is described in the Bread of Life discourse and made real in the

Resurrection. Is that promise enough for you? Have you found the joy and promise of the Eucharist or are you still searching for more?

- Do you recognize the connection between the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the Paschal Mystery – the Life, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord? Do you think about that connection each time you participate in Mass? Why or why not?
- Please read again the questions posed to us by St. Jean-Baptiste de LaSalle that can be found in the next to last paragraph of this chapter. Do you allow Christ to communicate to you when you have received the Eucharist? Do you allow him to make a home in your heart?
- Do you find joy in your relationship with Jesus? Do you look for joy in your experience at Mass? In your reception of Holy Communion? Have you settled for pleasure and not true joy?
- Are you convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the "Holy One of God"? Do you believe that he has "the words of eternal life"? If so, how does that belief impact your life?



**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Pastor, Father Craig Scott and Deacon Tommy Robichaux celebrate Palm Sunday Mass at St. James Memorial Church on April 2, 2023.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** Bishop Robert Marshall celebrates Palm Sunday Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL.** Senior students at St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches performed the annual Living Stations of the Cross on Holy Thursday at a school assembly.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL PASSION PLAY.** Friday, March 31, St. Joseph High School held their annual Passion Play. The high school students did a remarkable job in their reenactment of Jesus' passion. All students as well as the community were welcomed to attend.



**ST. FRANCES DE SALES, ECHO.** First Communion was celebrated at St. Frances de Sales Church in Echo.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, CHENEYVILLE.** John [redacted] made his First Communion at St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville with Father Dwight DeJesus.

### Transitional Deacon Ordination May 20

Seminarian Donnie Kuzma (St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches) will be ordained a Transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All are welcome to attend.

### Priestly Ordination | June 10

Deacon Josh Burch (Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches) will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All are welcome to attend.



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

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

## Pilgrimages

### Egypt/Nile River

Join St. Michael the Archangel Church in Leesville on a pilgrimage to Egypt plus Constantinople! This pilgrimage includes a 4-night Nile River Cruise. Father Kenneth Michiels will be the spiritual director. Travel dates are November 7 - 19, 2023. For more information, visit [www.selectinternationaltours.com](http://www.selectinternationaltours.com) or call 1800-842-4842.

### Mexico/OLG Shrine

Join St. Mary's Assumption in Cottonport on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico! This pilgrimage is in honor of the life and ministry of Fr. Jose Robles-Sanchez. Fr. John Wiltse will be the spiritual director. Travel dates are November 13-18, 2023. For more information, visit [www.holytravels.org/frwiltsemexico](http://www.holytravels.org/frwiltsemexico) or call Magnificat Travel at 337-291-1933.



### Upcoming Retreats

**May 4 - 7**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Men's ACTS

**May 11 - 14**  
St. Augustine  
Men's ACTS

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

# What do people talk with a spiritual director about?

*By Ingrid Cannella  
Guest Contributor  
Certified Spiritual Director*

One of the most common questions asked about Spiritual Direction is “What do I talk about in Spiritual Direction?” Indeed, the question may be a result of some anxiety or curiosity. Then again, perhaps a result of God’s invitation, drawing someone to consider seeking Spiritual Direction.

Spiritual Direction discussions typically center on a person’s spiritual life and experiences of God. Frankly, there is not a prescribed format for the conversations. St. Ignatius was very clear about God’s ability to work directly with the person, and, using strong terms, he encouraged spiritual directors to “stay out of the way.”

The identified spiritual director is not a teacher or “drill sergeant” of the soul, but instead a person who is trained to offer a presence and “holy listening.” When needed, a spiritual director may offer some wisdom or provide helps to enhance prayer life. These descriptions are not to say the Director is stoically silent, but enters into conversation with

their directee regarding their relationship with God. A good spiritual director is aware that God speaks to us all in unique and varied ways.

Taking time to examine our walk with God often brings insight, healing, and wholeness. St. Ignatius expressed that God is constantly speaking to us, reaching out to us in our daily lives. Sacred moments are often found in the mess of our daily lives, in everyday moments. Conversations during spiritual direction often center on exploring those experiences of God. Or conversely, discussions may focus on the difficulties one has noticing God in their lives. The discussions may include life experiences, dreams, healing of broken hearts, cares, concerns, interactions with family, friends, co-workers, feelings, prayers, and/or observations of the world around us.

Authenticity is essential in our conversations with God who knows our most intimate self. Spiritual Direction can be a catalyst for raising our awareness of ourselves, whether our insight is obvious or cast in shadows.

Are you feeling a pull to ask yourself these questions?:



“Where is God asking you to grow?”

“What intrigues you?”

“What is God revealing to me about Himself?”

“What is God’s will for me?”

Is God inviting you to explore your relationship with Him?

Spiritual direction may be provided in different settings

such as ongoing direction by “zoom meetings” or face-to-face or within a retreat setting. Some settings provide more intensive guidance and support. Usually, a retreat setting offers more frequent meeting with a director whereas ongoing direction is primarily once monthly. In a retreat setting, direction may be offered as individual meetings with a retreatant or as a “preached retreat” where in a group, participants may receive reflections and/or topics for prayer. In both settings, retreatants are generally provided the opportunity for questions, and/or private meetings to discuss spiritual issues.

A trained spiritual director has been taught to keep all sessions confidential. The confidentiality is important in supporting the freedom to be open with a director about their spiritual lives.

If you have an interest in obtaining a Spiritual Director, please visit [www.diocesealex.org/ou-faith/spiritual-direction](http://www.diocesealex.org/ou-faith/spiritual-direction) to learn more about spiritual direction as a whole, and to contact certified spiritual directors in our diocese.

## ROOTS

(continued from pg. 7)

suffer the excruciating pain it would have caused Him to pull Himself up by the nails in His hands to utter these words....

### ‘Behold your Mother’?

These words He speaks to the Beloved Disciple are words He speaks directly to you and me, dear sister. He gives us the most precious thing in the world to Him, His Mother, to not just to honor but take as our own loving Mother. In accepting this great gift, we not only gain a relationship with our Mother, but in doing so, draw infinitely closer to Jesus Himself.

I hope you will read this book if you are curious about Mary and I hope you will welcome the Lord’s invitation to get to know His Mother, accepting her as your own. In the words of Pitre,

when it comes to learning more about Mary:

...you will discover something amazing and precious. She is already there waiting for you. You will find that Mary was loving you long before you ever learned to love her. Such as it is with mothers. When a mother gives birth, she can see her child long before the child can even open its eyes to see her.

What questions do you have about Mary, the Mother of God? Find a priest or knowledgeable teacher you can ask and get your answers!

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*Shelby Hennen is a Catholic young professional who hails from the Midwestern metropolis of Kansas City, MO. She loves a good book, a good chat with a friend, and a good taco joint.*



## 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](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-faith/healing) (visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://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.”

# Praying with Mary through May: Meeting Mary

By *Angie Windnagle*  
*Blessed is She*

There was a time when I didn't like Our Lady. I thought she was unrelatable, perfect, and far removed from me. The idea of her maternity seemed symbolic at best. So the thought of any type of true love or devotion of her was not on my agenda.

Our Lady, however, had other plans for me.

About 14 years ago, I remember laying in bed trying to fall asleep. Out of pure habit, I mindlessly prayed a Hail Mary.

And abruptly stopped.

In a somewhat terrifying moment, I was suddenly in a battle with myself and reality. Who was I talking to? If she was symbolic, why I am doing this? If she is real, what is she like? I had to then decide what I believed and if I would let this Lady I knew little of into my life.

That summer was a series of events that made her presence so undoubtedly known in my life, I was sure I was being stalked from heaven. I even had a lifelong family friend mistakenly call me



Mary and then apologize saying it must have been because I remind her so much of Our Lady! There was no question then, she was as real as my own mother and definitely chasing after me.

That moment of truth led to a lifestyle change initiated by

Mary. I was able to fearlessly hand my sinful and self-serving life over to God as a young lady knowing she was there with me as a true and good mother. I later did the Consecration according to St. Louis de Montfort deepening my commitment to Jesus and Mary.

In short, Mary saved me from myself.

I honestly hate to think of where I would be if grace and Our Lady hadn't stopped me in my mindless prayers that night. As a mother, I see it even better now. The way I love my children

is unknown to them. It's hidden, always watching, gently guiding, and fervently praying them to the right path. All they can really feel is my presence and how I'm acting around them. I never saw Mary's love until I woke up to her action in my life and admitted her presence.

When my boys hand me a wilted weed flower to express their love for me, they'll never know the joy it brings me. It's enough to know that even if they don't know all the details of my love for them, they notice. And they love back. There aren't words for the love I now have for Our Lady - though I suspect simply admitting that is enough for her.

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*Angie Windnagle is wife to Jake, mother to three wildly hilarious boys, and loves her coffee strong. She has a degree from Franciscan University, and worked as a youth director before becoming a mom.*

## Jesus and the Jewish roots of Mary

By *Shelby Hennen*  
*Blessed is She*

Like many cradle Catholics, my introduction to Mary came at an early age. I was given a beautiful Rosary on my first communion, learned the Hail Mary in Kindergarten and my parents have a statue of Mary on our front lawn. But also, like many Catholics, I would say my understanding of Mary and her role in both the Church and my life personally did not come until much later in life.

For many non-Catholics and Catholics alike, Mary can seem like a bit of a conundrum. Non-Catholics will often argue that the focus of our spiritual lives should be Jesus alone and that honoring anyone else distracts from Him. Many Catholics struggle with the idea of relating to the perfect woman who gave birth to the Son of God. I'll be the first to admit, it can be difficult from her limited appearances in Scripture to understand who

exactly she is.

### *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary*

Enter Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary by Brant Pitre. It is rare to find a book where your mouth is literally hanging open in awe at the end, but I promise you that this is that book. With extensive research and a clear personal love for Our Blessed Mother, Brant masterfully guides the reader through Catholic Marian doctrine. Looking back to Scripture, ancient Jewish writings and the Catechism, Brant leads the reader on a journey throughout history to shed light on who Mary is in God's plan and why she should matter so much to us today.

### *Mary in the Old Testament*

Mary's role in Salvation History can be traced back to the very beginning and our fathers in faith. First and foremost, Mary is the new Eve. Her fiat and her yes to the Father directly contrasts

the disobedience of Eve in the Garden. In this yes, she, like Eve, becomes the mother of all the living—namely those who have been brought to new life by the death of her Son.

Pitre also points to the Old Testament to show us that Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant, the vessel that is home to the living God. Perhaps the most striking comparison Pitre makes, however, is the least well known: the idea that Mary is the new Rachel.

Rachel was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, the favorite wife of Jacob. After bearing Joseph, Rachel goes on to deliver Benjamin and dies in labor. Not to spoil the most impactful part of the novel, but when you look at the story of Joseph, contrasting him to Jesus and Rachel to Mary, there becomes an interesting connection one can make between the younger son, Benjamin, and the beloved disciple. As many Biblical

scholars have pointed out, the author of John's Gospel refers to John as the Beloved Disciple, so that the reader may imagine themselves in that role. If this is the case, seeing Mary as a new Rachel and ourselves as a type for Benjamin provides an incredible look at who she is as our own Mother.

### *Why it Matters*

The second half of the story dives into Marian teaching, fleshing out why Catholics believe certain teachings about Mary that, at first glance, may not seem to have roots in Scripture. Pitre focuses on three main teachings: the perpetual virginity of Mary, the painless birth of the Messiah, and Mary's role in the Kingdom of God as Queen Mother.

This section is particularly helpful for dispelling common misconceptions about Our Lady. After all, Scripture directly references Jesus' "brothers", so how could Mary have been a

virgin all her life? To find the answer to this and other popular Marian questions, Pitre forces readers to look backwards into the Old Testament. While some might question the importance of these different pieces of doctrine, Pitre reminds his readers that the truth matters. The more we learn the truth about Our Lady, the more we know and understand about Jesus.

### *"Behold your Mother"*

Pitre takes us to the end of the journey, where we meet Mary at the foot of the Cross. It is here that he challenges the reader, now knowing all that they do about the Blessed Mother, to enter into a personal relationship with her. And he is able to give a very compelling reason why you should:

Why would Jesus willingly

# Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana hosts “Hole Lotta Fun” Golf Tournament

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is excited to announce our “Hole Lotta Fun” Golf Tournament.

The tournament will be held on May 19, 2023 at Tamahka Trails Golf Course at the Paragon Casino Resort in Marksville, Louisiana. The event will start off with lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Shotgun Start at 1:00 p.m.

This will be our second fundraiser for 2023, and we are hoping for lots of participation to enable us to continue our mission of helping those in the communities around Central Louisiana. All proceeds from the event will stay local.

Your support in 2022



helped us to provide utility and rent assistance to families in need, to help families who lost their homes to fire, to give care packages to people in nursing homes and the VA hospital, to provide Christmas dinner to 35 families in Natchitoches, and most especially, to help us to support the local homeless population in many ways.

We are looking for teams to participate in the tournament. The cost for a team of 4 is \$500. Each participant will receive a round of golf with a cart, lunch, two beverage tickets, and a swag bag. There will be four specialty contests, include the Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hole in One, and Putting Green.

We are also still looking for a variety of sponsors including the beverage cart and lunch sponsor, as well as hole sponsors.

Sponsorships range from \$150 - \$2,000, and will be recognized through prominent event signage, website recognition, and/or acknowledgement in swag bags.

Thank you to Walker Automotive, our Hole in One Sponsor!

Sign up to participate or sponsor a team by May 12 by visiting [www.cccenla.org](http://www.cccenla.org), or calling Kevin Switzer at 318-308-8055 or Heidi Wampler at 318-445-2401, ext. 510. You're sure to have a HOLE lotta fun!



**SEASON OF SERVICE, DEACONS.** Several deacons served at Manna House as part of the Season of Service program.



**SEASON OF SERVICE, ST. JULIANA, ALEXANDRIA.** (ABOVE and BELOW) The Ladies of St. Juliana's Altar Society pose with Fr. Luke LaFleur as they create goody bags to deliver to the shut-ins of their church family. This was done as part of The Season of Service (SOS) Program. The Season of Service is a coordinated effort to promote service and build community throughout the Diocese during the Lenten Season.



**SEASON OF SERVICE AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL.** The Knights of Columbus spent every Friday during Lent, frying fish for the annual Lenten Friday Fish Fry.



**SEASON OF SERVICE, ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT.** Porch Time with Jesus - Ladies in the St. Mary's Assumption community gathered together once a week and prayed for others.





# Black or grey? Distinguishing between a priest and permanent deacon



In the first centuries of Christianity, the clergy wore the same clothing as other people. It wasn't until around the sixth century that, as society changed to embrace more extravagant styles, clergy remained with more muted, conservative colors and styles of dress. This split of styles would be the first clerical dress the clergy wore.

As the Middle Ages gave rise to the universities, lay scholars began dressing more like the clergy. The Church responded to this trend at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 by decreeing that the cassock, a long flowing garment, would be the daily wear of the priest. This change distinguished clergy from lay scholars.

With the advent of the Reformation came a change in clergy dress. While Roman Catholic clergy kept the cassock, Protestant clergy began to change their dress to distinguish themselves. At first, Protestant

clergy adopted the attire of university academics. Later, in the 17th century, they added wearing a cravat, a neck scarf tied around the neck to resemble a yoke.

The origins of the modern clerical shirt are in the 19th century. Before then, Protestant clergy tended to wear a higher collar and cravat. As it became fashionable to turn the collar down, so it became the trend in clergy wear as well.

While the cassock was the traditional wear of the priest since the Fourth Lateran Council, a change in priestly attire came in the United States in the 20th century. Priests began to limit wearing of the cassock, opting instead for clerical shirts similar to Protestant clergy with a black suit.

The priest traditionally wears a black shirt, symbolizing his choice for a simpler life. Black also symbolizes death: The priest is reminded and called by the very

clothes he wears to die to self and seek to serve those around him.

For permanent deacons, it is left up to each diocesan bishop to choose the attire a deacon is to wear. In the Diocese of Alexandria, deacons are permitted to wear a gray clergy shirt with a black suit. This is primarily so that they may be identified quickly and easily as a permanent deacon.

The other major clergy shirt color is white. White is typically worn by clergy when ministering in areas where the weather is excessively warm, making wearing the color black excessively burdensome.

There are other colors of clergy shirts as well. A religious order may adopt a certain color of clergy shirt for their priests and brothers, or go with the default black. Otherwise, Catholic clergy normally wear the black shirt for the priest or the gray shirt for the deacon.

## Seminarian Burses

### March 2023 Donations

<b>Knights of Columbus Council #9217</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Silton Innerarity</b> .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
Father Blake Deshautelle Burse	
<b>Ms. Elizabeth R. Holmes</b> .....	<b>\$50.00</b>
Father Daniel Hart Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Marion French</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
<b>Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco</b> .....	<b>\$100.00</b>
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen Burse	
<b>Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vanderlick</b> .....	<b>\$200.00</b>
Monsignor Julius G. Walle Burse	
<b>Mr. John Vandersypen</b> .....	<b>\$250.00</b>
Jerome and Audrey Vandersypen Burse	
<b>Drs. Marlon and Nina Holmes</b> .....	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>\$5,750.00</b>

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. A Seminary Burse may be names of anyone - bishop, priests, religious, or lay person - chosen by the original donor, and may be added to and allowed to grow. A burse is completed when it reaches \$15,000.00 but another burse of the same name can be started. 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 M. Craig Scott

*Let all the earth  
cry out to God with joy.*

Psalm 66: 1 | Responsorial Psalm for May 14  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

### *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.

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.

### *// Prayer for priests*

# The Lost Parishes: Odenburg, Louisiana

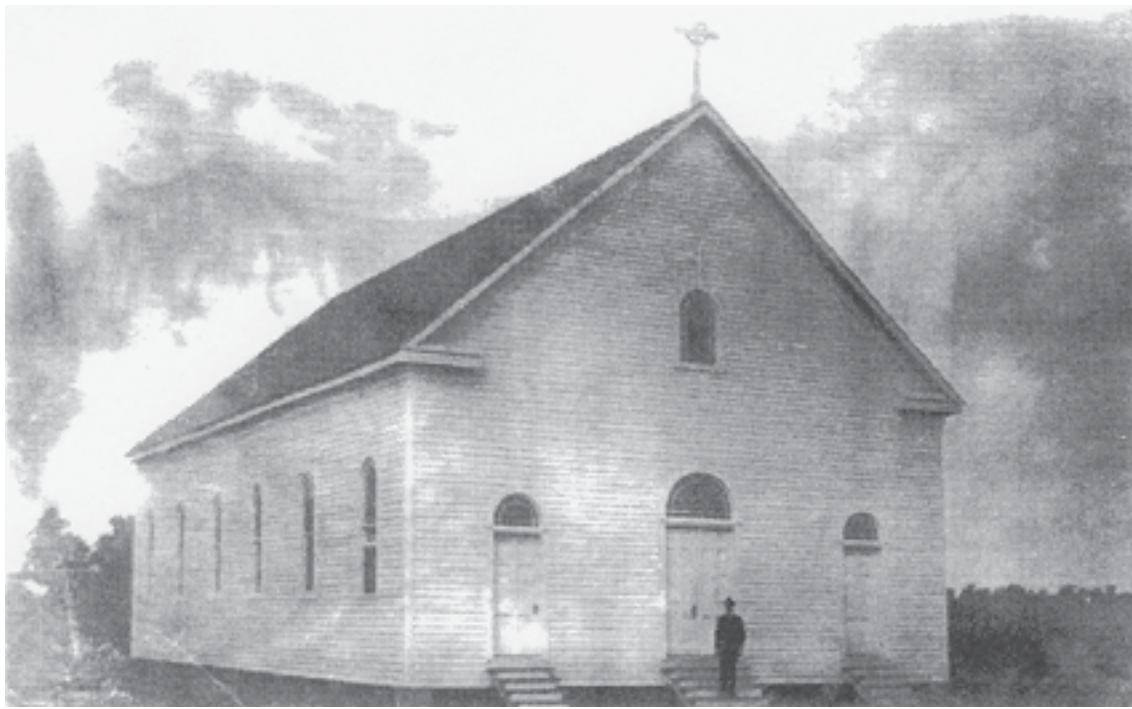
By *Father Chad Partain,*  
*Archivist for the*  
*Diocese of Alexandria*

In his administrative diary, Bishop Cornelius Van de Ven recorded a trip he made on April 2, 1923 to Simmesport and Odenburg. There he met with a representative from the area and determined to build a new parish church at Odenburg where four acres of land were available. The new parish would include Yellow Bayou, where a chapel already existed, Simmesport, Odenburg and the whole country to the St. Landry Parish line.

For those of you scratching your heads, Odenburg was a stop on the Texas and Pacific railroad at the point where Yellow Bayou flowed into the Atchafalaya River. The four acres of land were purchased by Bishop Van de Ven from Samuel J. Norwood for the sum of \$400 on May 15, 1923. On May 18, the bishop assigned Fr. Martin Sice as administrator of the new parish and placed it under the patronage of the Holy Family.

Fr. Martin Bernard Sice was born in Port Deposit, Maryland on August 25, 1872 and studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's in Baltimore where he was ordained on June 17, 1897 for work with African Americans. He served as a pastor and teacher in Delaware before coming to Louisiana. He served as an assistant at St. Joseph Church in Marksville from 1912 till his assignment to Odenburg in 1923.

The former chapel at Yellow Bayou was moved to the Odenburg site and enlarged under the direction of Mr. Zimmer of Marksville and on Sunday, August 19, 1923, Bishop Van de Ven blessed the



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, ODENBURG, LA.** The first church at Odenburg, LA was the precursor to Christ the King Church currently in Simmesport.

work. At the time of the bishop's blessing only the shell of the building had been completed at a cost of \$2,500 – the cost of the painting was donated by Fr. Sice. Bishop Van de Ven noted in his diary, "There was an immense crowd, fine music and much enthusiasm." A large bell was donated by the Vincent Salario family. On February 14, 1924, Bishop Van de Ven secured \$1,000 from the Catholic Extension Society to build a rectory.

Disaster struck in May of 1927 when the levee along bayou des Glaises near Moreauville broke causing other collapses above and below Bordelonville near Hamburg. Odenburg, like most of southern Avoyelles parish, was under water. Holy Family Church was repaired and Fr. Sice continued as pastor for 12 years during which time

he baptized 679 children and adults and married 132 couples while conducting 61 funerals.

In 1928 a new railroad bridge over the Atchafalaya was opened at Simmesport and the town began to grow. In June of 1934 heavy winds and rain damaged the church. Bishop Daniel Desmond decided to relocate the church to Simmesport. The church building was dismantled and reassembled at its new location, a four acre tract purchased from Mrs. A. A. Mayeux for \$450. An anonymous benefactor provided funds for the rebuilding project through the Catholic Extension Society with the stipulation that the church be renamed in honor of Christ the King. Bishop Desmond appointed Fr. Vincent Couvillion as the first pastor in 1935

Fr. Sice retired in October

of 1935 and lived out his days in the former rectory at Odenburg until his death at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria on November 16, 1953. Fr. Sice is buried at the Priests' Cemetery at Maryhill.

## Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

**Tuesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.**  
**St. Joseph Catholic Center**  
**Alexandria**

**Wednesday, May 3,**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Minor Basilica of the**  
**Immaculate Conception,**  
**Natchitoches**

**Monday, May 8, 6:00 p.m.**  
**St. Paul the Apostle Church,**  
**Mansura**

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

**St. Michael the Archangel**  
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"The Church (like so many other things in life) is not so much something we inherit from generations past or take over from our predecessors as it is something on loan to us from future generations."

*// matthew kelly*

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

**KLIL 92.1**

**KZLG 95.9**

**8 a.m. Sunday Mass**

**7 a.m. Sunday Mass**



**SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD.** Saturday, March 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches with the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Father Chad Partain, Father Jacob Thomas, and Father Derek Ducote concelebrated.



**LADIES AUXILIARY.** The Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, St. James Memorial Church, Alexandria participated during the Confirmation Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16.

## Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville Church Fair

This year's Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Pineville, Parish Fair will be held on May 5 - 7. On Friday, beginning at 5:00 p.m., we will have music, crawfish, hotdogs and chips, along with the Silent Auction. Saturday will be all about our children and youth of the parish. There will be games, a concession stand, a sweet walk, and the silent auction will continue. All games will be free - we want our children and youth to all enjoy the day! Sunday we will conclude with a Chicken Dinner and closing out of the silent auction.

### 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 after the first Sunday of the month:**  
10:00 a.m.

Hilltop Nursing Home,  
336 Edgewood Dr. Pineville

**Wednesday after the second Sunday of the month:**  
10:00 a.m.

The Oaks Care Center  
50 Pinecrest Dr., Pineville

**Tuesday after the third Sunday of the month:**  
9:30 a.m.

St. Christina Nursing and Rehabilitation Center  
122 Hillsdale Dr., Pineville

**Tuesday after the fourth Sunday of the month:**  
9:00 a.m.

Pine Grove Apartments  
60 Pinecrest Dr., Pineville

### 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.

**FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE**  
**PETER J. LEMOINE**  
**Social Security Disability Law**

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Adjunct Professor, Southern University Law Center

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

PUBLISHED ARTICLES: "The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited," "Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function Under §12.05C," "Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner," "Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Disability Hearings," "An Unsolved Mess: Analyzing the Social Security Administration's Methodology for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers."

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confirmation

“On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them...” // acts 19: 5 - 6



**CONFIRMATION, DEVILLE.** Thursday, March 23, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville. Ten young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Albi Mulloth, the catechists and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



**ST. JULIANA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Saturday, March 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Juliana Church in Alexandria. Two young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Luke LaFleur, Deacon Luke White, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the catechists, choir and parishioners of St. Juliana for their prayers and support of these Confirmandi.



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS, PINEVILLE.** Sunday, March 26, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Fifth Sunday of Lent and confirmed 12 young disciples at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. Thank you to Father Dale Meade, Deacon Lee Moreau, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the catechists, sponsors and parishioners for their prayerful support of these Confirmandi.



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA.** Confirmation was held Friday, Mar. 31. Fr. John Pardue, VF Eastern Deanery, was the celebrant. Pictured with Fr. Taylor Reynolds, pastor, and Fr. Pardue are confirmandi [REDACTED]



**ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Sunday, April 16, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) with the community of St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria.



**ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER.** Monday, April 17, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Alphonsus Church in Hessmer and 23 young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez, pastor, the catechists, sponsors, parents and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** Wednesday, April 19, Bishop Robert Marshall confirmed six young disciples during Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie. Thank you to Father Scott Chemino, pastor and confirmation instructor, the parents, sponsors and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



**ST. PATRICK CHURCH, FERRIDAY.** The Altar Society hosted the St. Patrick Shamrock Shootout Golf Tournament on Saturday, March 11, at Panola Woods Country Club. All funds raised benefited St. Patrick's ACTS retreats and special projects.

**SOS ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE.** Joseph Altar Society members volunteered to clean and organize the prep room in St Joseph Church Hall. Pictured in front row are Amie Chapman, Pam Mitchel, Dianne Dubroc, Nancy Desselle, and Joan Kalifej. On the back row are Georgiana Kendall, Kim Bennett, and Carol Gagnard.



**A LENTEN SEASON OF SERVICE PROJECT** was performed on Saturday, Mar. 4 by Team Texada Brick Project. The team laid and set some of the memorial bricks at Maryhill Renewal Center. Team members: BH and Grace Texada, and Lori Constantino Wehrle.



**SOS KC COUNCIL #2395 ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, BUNKIE.** Gerald Normand and Ronnie Link took on a big project at Maryhill Renewal Center. Their team replaced the aged footbridge across the dam across from the Youth Center with new timber. Also helping were Weston Link, Wyatt Link, Kyle Link, Jeremy Lanclos and Eagle Ranch. The team completed the project in a few hours.

(above and below) **SOS ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT.** Projects included the restriping of the church parking lot.



## Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana Services Offered

### SNAP Enrollment Assistance

(in person or by phone)

**By appointment only on Mondays and**

**Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Location varies - see website

**By phone: flexible days**

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

### Emergency Basic Needs Assistance

- Utilities, rent, fire, information and referral.

**By appointment only on Wednesdays and**

**Thursdays:**

9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**Location:**

No Limit for Recovery Clubhouse,  
2403 Harris Street, Alexandria, 71302

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

### Budget Class

Facilitated by Ramsey Solutions

Master Financial Coaches

**2nd Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m., Westside Library**

**4th Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m., Downtown Library**

**By appointment only**

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/basic-needs>

### Clothes Closet and Food Pantry

Monday through Saturday

No Limit for Recovery Clubhouse

2403 Harris Street

Alexandria, 71302

Call 318.277.0203

### Life Coaching

(for personal life changes)

**By appointment only**

**To schedule visit:**

<https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#COACHING>

### Peace in the Midst of Crisis

Divorce Support

**By appointment only**

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#SUPPORTGROUPS>

### Veteran's Support Group

(March 1 thru April 12)

\*A second session will begin in mid summer

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., Downtown Library

**By appointment only**

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#VeteransSupportGroup>

### Vaping/Tobacco Cessation

For teens and adults

American Lung Association evidenced-based

10 session program by Certified Tobacco

Treatment Specialist

Group or individual sessions: Dates TBD

**By appointment only**

**To schedule visit:** <https://cccenla.org/mental-health-services#VAPING-TOBACCO>

### Coming soon!

Grief/Loss Support

Families/Substance Use Support

### Disaster Relief

Catholic Disaster Preparedness Program:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/resource/cdpp/>

If interested in supporting preparedness in your parish, please contact Jennifer Gilchrist, at [jgilchrist@cccenla.org](mailto:jgilchrist@cccenla.org) or call 318.445.2401, EXT 533

### Volunteers

Help is needed in all service areas.

If interested, please contact Jennifer Gilchrist, at [jgilchrist@cccenla.org](mailto:jgilchrist@cccenla.org) or call 318.445.2401, EXT 533

“The more you spread veneration and love for the Immaculata, the more souls you win over to her, and through her, to the most Sacred Heart, who loved us unto death on the cross (KW 1094).”

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We picture God  
sitting on HIS throne  
Waiting for us to  
eventually come home.

As HE sits on HIS throne  
Looking down from above,  
HE will gather all HIS people  
Because of HIS love.

You can rest assure  
If you follow HIS way  
Trials and Tribulations  
Will come to you one day.

So, if you get down on your knees  
and look HIS way  
Hoping to be with HIM  
in heaven one day.

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“The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness.”

*// pope benedict xvi*

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### **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 // every other Wednesday**

**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](mailto:stjosephinstjoe@gmail.com) or 318-766-3565.

### **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.

### **Disalced Carmelites Meeting // every 2nd Saturday**

The Order of the Disalced 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 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](http://eucharisticrevival.org), and provide your name and email address.

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Please visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook, or your church parish’s website for the most up to date information on ministries and service opportunities.

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# Who plays Jesus in *The Chosen*?

By Angel Studios

In the hit TV show *The Chosen*, American actor Jonathan Roumie plays the lead role of Jesus. His performance of this biblical figure has been met with critical acclaim and millions of worldwide fans. Let's dive into everything we know about this lovable, talented actor.

## Before He Started Playing Jesus

Jonathan Roumie gets stopped on the street and noticed in public for his acting in *The Chosen*. But only a few years before landing the role, Jonathan was nearing what he called "rock bottom."

While living in Los Angeles, Jonathan was working six or seven jobs at a time, all while stressing about his checking account and lack of food. He didn't know if he was going to continue trying to act. During this discouraging and difficult period, Jonathan, relying upon his Christian background, turned to God for strength.

Jonathan opened up to Christian Film Blog about his experience. In his own words, he prayed:

"I'm going to leave all of these anxieties, all of these worries, all of these problems that I have. I'm going to leave them with you and I'm not going to worry about it and I'm just going



to trust you to take care of it."

After some immediate miracles, financially and otherwise, Jonathan booked the role of Jesus in *The Chosen* only three months later.

Jonathan had previously played Jesus for Director Dallas Jenkins on a short film Dallas had directed for his church. When Dallas conceived of the idea for a multi-season series about Jesus, Jonathan was Dallas' first and only choice for the role.

Jonathan's years of struggle also made him a well-loved actor on the set of *The Chosen*. While juggling those many jobs, he often worked as a location scout for big productions. It's because of this

experience that the crew of *The Chosen* really enjoys working with Jonathan, since he understands the invisible labor that goes into every day of filming.

## Portraying Jesus

As a self-proclaimed born-again Catholic, Jonathan is deeply touched to be playing the role of Jesus in *The Chosen*. Portraying these stories that help to honor God are meaningful to him and allow him to grow in his relationship. Jonathan is exceptionally grateful to be portraying such an iconic and influential historical figure and wishes to continue with these stories that God sends his way.

Jonathan's faith and role playing Jesus also affects

his personal life. During the pandemic, Jonathan started to lead a prayer at the same time every day on his personal social media, a practice that brought people of many faiths together in a very dark time.

His work playing Jesus even earned the notice of Pope Francis, who invited Jonathan to meet him at the Vatican.

Fans all around the world, from Evangelicals and Catholics to cinephiles and non-believers, love Jonathan Roumie's performance. Viewers love his

humor, relatability, and heart. *The Chosen* fans truly fell for this incredible actor by Season 1: Episode 3 when he works and talks with the little children.

## What He's Up to Now

While filming for Season 4 of *The Chosen* started in March 2023, Jonathan doesn't just act in the role of Jesus. He recently starred in *Jesus Revolution*, the true story of teenage hippies in Southern California in the 1970s that start a national spiritual awakening. It is true that his character, Lonnie Frisbee, is a Jesus-type figure, but it's a fun, new role that audiences have loved!

What's coming next for Jonathan once *The Chosen* has wrapped filming? We're not sure, but after his blazing success, we're positive it will be incredible!

## See More of Jonathan Roumie in *The Chosen*

Are you even a bigger fan of Jonathan Roumie now? Binge all three seasons of *The Chosen* today to watch his magnetic, heartwarming performance.

Have more questions about the role Jonathan plays and his character Jesus? Learn about where Jesus grew up and what was Jesus' last name as you dive further into His life and story.

God mounts  
his throne  
to shouts of joy;  
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of trumpets  
for the Lord.

Psalm 47: 6  
Responsorial Psalm  
for May 21  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
- Ascension

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## CLOSED TUESDAYS

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

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



# Synod's 'messy,' 'joyful' North American phase concludes with call to mission, moves to Rome

By Gina Christian  
Our Sunday Visitor

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — The final document of the latest phase of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality was released April 12, capturing a process of dialogue and discernment that two participants described to OSV News as “messy,” joyful and

unifying — like the synod itself. “It’s amazing what comes about when ... you invoke the Holy Spirit in the conversation,” said Julia McStravog, a theologian and co-coordinator for the North American team for the continental phase of the synod.

“The synodal approach provoked a genuine appreciation and joyfulness on the part of



**SYNODAL LISTENING SESSION.** Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson J. Perez joins college students, other young adults, and ministry leaders during a synodal listening session at La Salle University, April 4, 2022.

the people of God to be able to engage in conversation, even if they were talking about difficult issues,” said team co-coordinator Richard Coll, who also serves as executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

Three key themes emerged from the continental phase of the synod: the implications of baptism, communion with Christ and one another, and missionary discipleship as a living out of the baptismal calling. Participants noted the need to reach out to marginalized groups, including women, youth, divorced and civilly remarried Catholics who have not received annulments, persons with disabilities, and those in the LGBTQ+ community. The wounds of the clerical and residential school abuse scandals also remain raw, and broader trends of social polarization also threaten church unity.

Yet Coll and McStravog stressed to OSV News the need for both hope and humility as the synod moves into its next phase.

“We don’t have all the answers, and none of this is pre-packaged,” said Coll. “You have to trust that the Spirit will be there to guide us despite the messiness — or maybe because of it.”

“Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration.”

*|| saint teresa  
of calcutta*

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The "Heart of Saint Kateri" Circle meets:  
2nd Thursday of each month 5:30 p.m.  
Tekakwitha Conference National Center  
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For more information, call (318) 483-3908 or (318) 471-2044

### St. Rita Church, Alexandria Vacation Bible School!

St. Rita Church in Alexandria would like you to save the dates for their Vacation Bible School this summer! This year's theme is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light" and is open to kids PreK - grade 6. Currently signing up teen and adult volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer contact cbrinkman@strita.org or call the church office at 318-445-7120.

"The Eucharist is the heart of the Church. Where Eucharistic life flourishes, there the life of the church will blossom."

*// pope saint john paul ii*

### Women's Silent Retreat July 14 - 16

Retreat Director, Claire Gallagher, will lead a weekend silent retreat where she will invite women to sit at the feet of Christ. The retreat will explore the spirituality of the feminine genius. Claire will draw on scripture, the wisdom of St. Therese of Lisieux and her own life experiences to help women grow in their spirituality and intimacy with Christ. Retreat location: Maryhill Renewal Center.

More information will be coming soon at the Diocese website and in the next edition of the Church today. In the meantime, for more information, please reach out to Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

### Married Couples Retreat August 18 - 20

Retreat Director Dr. Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist in practice for over 15 years, will lead couples in presentations and time for reflection during the weekend. Dr. Sacasa brings years of combined ministry to married couples and offers insightful, practical, and humorous ways that will encourage and bless your marriage. Retreat location: Maryhill Renewal Center.

More information will be coming soon, in the meantime, for more information, please reach out to Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

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# Retired educators returning to the classroom

## Experience impacts our Catholic Schools

There is a nationwide teacher shortage and here in Louisiana it was determined that the 2022-23 school year has been progressing while short statewide of about 2,500 teachers.

The teacher shortage impacts both public AND private schools, including our Catholic schools here in the Diocese of Alexandria.

Why is there a shortage? Nationwide, it is nothing new and has been getting more and more acute for at least a decade. As the nation experiences a population decline, so too will there be an even deeper decline in those entering the teaching profession. Baby boomers are retiring and taking their years of experience with them and out of the classrooms.

The pandemic accelerated the exodus of teachers who were already contemplating retiring. When schools shut down or went virtual, there were those who needed to find other sources of income and left the profession entirely. And currently, fewer individuals are choosing education as their vocation in college.

In this bleak outlook, Catholic schools across the nation must compete for teachers with public

schools which typically offer higher salaries.

If Catholic schools don't raise tuition or make sacrifices like new technology, "the only thing they can keep a lid on is teacher salaries," said Mike Oslance, a former Catholic school educator in St. Louis, most recently as principal of Holy Trinity in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

"In my 10 years as a grade school principal, any young teacher we hired would be gone the minute a public school job opening came up," Oslance said. "There are just no easy answers to this. Trying to keep all these schools open, that's now becoming financially unviable."

So how do Catholic schools lure qualified educators to their classrooms and keep them?

"The shortage has created an opportunity for Catholic schools to spread awareness of Catholic education in a whole new way," said Eric Haley, associate superintendent for the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Catholic Schools. "Often, Catholic schools are able to land quality candidates through word-of-mouth or connections through



parishes, ministries or community events, which strengthens bonds both within Catholic schools and the communities they serve," Haley said.

"Parochial schools with that little extra added benefit to help shape the little ones just makes a big difference," says Traci Smith, first grade teacher and former human resources trainer. "I also think I like the smallness – the family atmosphere with my colleagues; they are very understanding if you have a family emergency or anything like that."

Haley routinely hears similar sentiments from those drawn to work in Catholic schools.

"What I keep hearing is that people appreciate that the Catholic

identity is present," Haley said. "It is a joy to receive sacraments and watch children receive sacraments, and just over and over again people talk about the community. It's a place where they are receiving not only a paycheck, but also getting to experience a different reward from their vocation."

Other Catholic educators say "it's a calling." And more people are finding that calling through less conventional routes: as second careers, post-retirement jobs or as a means to fulfill a longtime desire to live and communicate the Catholic faith.

From early on in her career, Kolene Krysl liked the idea of teaching in a Catholic school. But first she felt God was calling her

to public schools in California before she returned to the Omaha, Nebraska area to teach in that area's public schools systems.

After 34 years of teaching in public schools, Krysl retired last year with the idea that she might continue a while longer as a substitute teacher.

Then a friend called.

"How serious are you about being done teaching?" asked the friend, a teacher at St. Mary School in the Archdiocese of Omaha Catholic schools. "We're looking for a hire."

Krysl now teaches STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) courses for kindergarten through eighth grade and social studies for sixth through eighth grade. But she also teaches religion to seventh-graders.

"I kind of felt I'd come full circle," Krysl said. "The thought of being able to teach openly about the faith" excited her, she said. "I am moving into a familiar territory, but with new challenges," Krysl said. "And God willing, I'll have the patience and zeal."

Within the Diocese of Alexandria, approximately 35% of teachers come from public schools (Avoyelles, Rapides and Natchitoches). Most of those who come from public schools are retired and are just not ready to stop teaching. They bring a wealth of knowledge, teaching styles, and classroom management to the classrooms and do an excellent job. A few of them were seeking something different and like the ability to incorporate God into all aspects of their curriculum.

If you are an educator, retired or currently teaching in the public school system and are seeking a change, or if you are in a totally unrelated field but feel a calling to teach, please reach out to a Catholic school near you and let them know. Or contact the Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Schools Office to help you explore the options and to learn more about how to achieve a challenging and rewarding position within one of our Catholic schools.

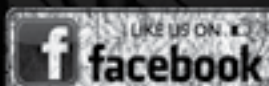
For more information about the Catholic Schools in the diocese, visit [www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools](http://www.diocesealex.org/our-diocese/catholic-schools)

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**SACRED HEART SCHOOL RELIGION FAIR WINNER.** Congratulations fifth grader Abigail [redacted] for winning Overall in Sacred Heart School's Religion Fair. The contest was held on March 23. Her project assignment was to depict one of the Stations of the Cross. She chose the fourteenth station, Jesus is Laid in the Tomb.

**Graduates dates and times**

**Baccalaureate**

**Holy Savior Menard High School**  
 Sunday, April 30  
 7:00 p.m.  
 St. Francis Xavier Cathedral  
 Alexandria

**St. Joseph High School**

Friday, May 5  
 8:15 a.m.  
 Mater Dolorosa Church  
 Plaquemine

**St. Mary's Catholic School**

Sunday, May 7  
 1:00 p.m.  
 Minor Basilica of the  
 Immaculate Conception  
 Natchitoches

**Graduation**

**St. Mary's Catholic School**  
 Sunday, May 7  
 5:30 p.m.  
 St. Mary's Catholic School  
 Gymnasium  
 Natchitoches

**Holy Savior Menard High School**

Tuesday, May 9  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Sanctuary at The Pentecostals  
 of Alexandria

**St. Joseph High School**

Wednesday, May 10  
 7:00 p.m.  
 Mater Dolorosa Church  
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**Application: May 1, 2023**



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**CATHOLIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD.** Knights of Columbus Council # 9418, of Fifth Ward/Moncla, recently presented its 2023, Catholic Youth Leadership Award winner. The purpose of this award is to give encouragement, and public recognition to Catholic seniors for their outstanding leadership in their church, community, and school. This year the council recognized, Tristen [redacted] a senior at Louisiana School for the Agricultural Sciences. His parents are Scott & Tammy [redacted]. Shown making the presentation to Tristen is Fr Kurian Zachariah, council Chaplin, Bishop Robert Marshall, CYLA chairman, Ken Ducote along with Grand Knight Marc Bordelon.



**LSU-ALEXANDRIA LUNCH PROGRAM.** Knights of Columbus Councils from around the diocese have helped to prepare, cook, and serve lunches at the Catholic Student Center on the LSU-Alexandria campus., including councils from Marksville, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, and Tioga.

*Lord, send out your Spirit,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

Psalm 104: 30 | Responsorial Psalm for May 28  
Pentecost Sunday

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**Northwestern State University**  
Catholic Student Organization FOCUS Ministries:  
<https://nscatholic.org/focus> | [evan.morley@focus.org](mailto:evan.morley@focus.org)

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

**Refuge** MT 11:28

Join us at this summer's Steubenville South Conference for a life-changing encounter. Registration is still open!

<b>Host Chris Padgett</b>	<b>Jason Evert</b>	<b>Bishop Joe Espallat, II</b>
<b>Jackie Francois Angel</b>	<b>Chris Mueller</b>	<b>Worship Leader Josh Blakesley</b>

Open to students in grades 8 - 12. Visit [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com) to register, or email [info@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:info@steubenvillesouth.com) for more information.  
Follow along on Instagram for updates!

*"Come to me all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."// Matthew 11: 28*

**Special Collection - April 30**

On the weekend of April 29-30, Catholics across the United States are invited to give to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) when their dioceses take up the appeal. This annual collection supports dioceses in the United States and its territories where it is difficult to sustain basic, essential ministries because of challenges posed by geography, population, or economy. These basic pastoral services include Mass, the sacraments, religious education, and training for clergy and lay people to minister to the local faithful.

**LCCB Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day - May 3**

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops is having its Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day at the Capitol on May 3. Our goal is to continue educating and engaging Catholics on Catholic Social Teaching and legislation, LCCB positions, and to develop relationships with each other and legislators. We invite you to attend. It is going to be a great event! For questions or to sign up, please contact Susan Wolf at [swolf@laccb.org](mailto:swolf@laccb.org).

**Parish Fair, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville - May 5-7**

This year's Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville, Parish Fair will be held on May 5-7. On Friday, beginning at 5:00 p.m., we will have music, crawfish, hot dogs, and chips, along with the Silent Auction. Saturday will be all about our children/youth of the parish. There will be games, concession stand, a sweet walk, and the silent auction will continue. All games will be free, we want our children/youth to all enjoy the day. Sunday we will conclude with a Chicken Dinner and closing out of the silent auctions.

**Discalced Carmelite meeting - May 13**

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. \*\*If you plan to attend.....Please call Mary Jo McCoy at the

**DIOCESAN BRIEFS**

numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

**Hole Lotta Fun Golf Tournament - May 19**

The "Hole Lotta Fun" Golf Tournament benefitting Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana will be held Friday, May 19 at Tamahka Trails Golf Course at Paragon Casino in Marksville. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m., and the shotgun start begins at 1:00 p.m. For more information, visit [www.cccenla.org](http://www.cccenla.org) or contact Heidi Wampler at 318-445-2401, ext. 510 or email [hwampler@cccenla.org](mailto:hwampler@cccenla.org).

**Transitional Deacon Ordination - May 20**

Seminarian Donnie Kuzma (St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches) will be ordained a Transitional Deacon for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All are welcome to attend.

**Priestly Ordination - June 10**

Deacon Josh Burch (Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches) will be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on Saturday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. All are welcome to attend.

**Vacation Bible School - June 19-23**

St. Rita Church in Alexandria would like you to save the dates for their Vacation Bible School this summer! This year's theme is "Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light" and is open to kids PreK-6th grade. Currently signing up teen and adult volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer contact [cbrinkman@strita.org](mailto:cbrinkman@strita.org) or call the church office at (318) 445-7120.

**Steubenville South Conference - June 23 - 25**

Calling all high schoolers! In our ever-changing world, Jesus is the answer to the longing of our hearts for meaning, fulfillment, security, and love. Join hundreds of Catholic teens at Steubenville South on June 23 - 25 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is our refuge and never wears out of loving us.

All rising freshmen in high school through rising freshmen in college are invited to attend this weekend retreat. Learn more at [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com), or contact your youth minister for more information.

**Women's Silent Retreat - July 14-16**

Retreat Director, Claire Gallagher, will lead a weekend silent retreat where she will invite women to sit at the feet of Christ. The retreat will explore the spirituality of the feminine genius. Claire will draw on scripture, the wisdom of St. Therese of Lisieux and her own life experiences to help women grow in their spirituality and intimacy with Christ. More information will be coming soon at the Diocese website and in the next edition of The Church Today. In the meantime, for more information, please reach out to Dcn Jason Lavergne @ [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org). Sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

**Women's Silent Retreat - August 18 - 20**

Retreat Director, Dr. Mario Sacasa, a licensed marriage and family therapist in practice for over 15 years, will lead couples in presentations and time for reflection during the weekend. Dr. Sacasa brings years of combined ministry to married couples and offers insightful, practical, and humorous ways that will encourage and bless your marriage. Retreat location: Maryhill Renewal Center. More information will be coming soon, in the meantime, for more information, please reach out to Deacon Jason Lavergne at [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org). Sponsored by the Diocese of Alexandria.

**Calling all graduates of the Christos Encounter Course!**

If you are a graduate of the Christos Encounter Course, facilitated by Jim and Christy Gootee, please email Jim Gootee at [jimgootee3@gmail.com](mailto:jimgootee3@gmail.com) with your name, mailing address, and phone number. Thank you in advance!

Please visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org), the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook, or your church parish's website for the most up to date information on ministries, parish activities, and service opportunities.

**Church Today News Deadlines**

**May 22**  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, May 11

**June 26**  
Deadline for news:  
Thursday, June 15



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# May 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p><b>MAY 1</b></p> <p>Application deadline NSU Advance Program</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>LCCB Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Graduation for St. Mary's Catholic High School 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's School Gymnasium, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</p>
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MEN'S ACTS RETREAT - MARYHILL						
PARISH FAIR: SACRED HEART OF JESUS, PINEVILLE						
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Graduation for Holy Savior Menard High School 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary at The Pentecostals of Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Graduation for St. Joseph High School 6:00 p.m. Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Heart of Kateri Circle meeting 5:30 p.m. Tekakwitha Conference Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Discalced Carmelite meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>
ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH MEN'S ACTS RETREAT - MARYHILL						
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Hole Lotta Fun Catholic Charities Golf Tournament 11:30 a.m. Tamahka Trails Golf Course, Marksville</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Transitional Deacon Ordination 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>PENTECOST PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY</p>	<p>JUNE <b>1</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>

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