

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LIV, No. 11

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

November 27, 2023

Welcome sisters!

Diocese welcomes Teresian sisters from South America

On the morning of Friday, Oct. 27, Bishop Robert Marshall was honored to celebrate Mass in the chapel of the convent at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria with the Teresian sisters who will be working in our diocese and will be in residence there. Story on pg. 4.



INSIDE

Catholic Charities to host multiple events in November and December

Community outreach events are the crux of the Catholic Charities of Cenla ministry - charitable works for people who are homeless or marginalized in our diocese. See page 2 for ways to help this holiday season.

Living liturgically during Advent

Advent is, by its very nature, a season of waiting and anticipation, not a destination. See page 6 for specific ideas on how to live the season more liturgically and prayerfully.

Opportunity for Teen Scouts to participate in St. George Trek 2024

The National Catholic Committee on Scouting is encouraging high-school aged Scouts in a Boy Scouts of America program to apply for the 2024 St. George Trek. See page 8 for more information on this exciting opportunity.

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ANNUAL BLUE MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the 34th annual Blue Mass today, Monday, Nov. 6, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. We remembered those First Responders who have died in the past year. We also prayed for law enforcement personnel, firefighters and EMTs who put their lives on the line to protect and rescue us. Bishop Marshall is pictured with the leaders of local law enforcement agencies: the heads of the Pineville Police Department, Alexandria Police Department, Rapides Parish Sheriff, Grant Parish Sheriff, Louisiana State Police, mayors of the cities of Pineville and Alexandria and city marshalls for each as well.

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Catholic Charities November and December events

November and December are Catholic Charities months for increased community giving. Part of our strength in serving people in Central Louisiana is the large number of partners doing similar work.

We are blessed to have a thriving Rapides Parish Healthy Initiatives Coalition comprised of several local professionals who come together to network, share resources, and give back to the community on their own time. This regular collaboration keeps those working in the field up to date on services, making them a valuable source of information.

On November 16, coalition members supported Volunteer of America’s Homeless Outreach program by providing a chili meal to attendees. Brown bag lunches were also prepared to cover a small meal later in the day. Catholic Charities provided tarps and hygiene kits and other organizations brought helpful items such as clothing, blankets, and backpacks.

Coalition members will repeat this outreach on Thursday, December 21, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Emmanuel Baptist Church on Jackson Street. Gumbo will be prepared and served to attendees and Catholic Charities will be providing tarps and socks.

On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, Lunch on the Levee volunteers will gather to serve red beans and rice to anyone who would like to attend. This event takes place from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the City of Alexandria Amphitheater on the river. Many groups participate and provide socks, hats, hand warmers, and other giveaway items.

If you would like to participate, we would be glad to have you with us! Please email info@ccenla.org to let us know which event. Lunch on the Levee can be found on Facebook. Check their page for updates and changes due to weather.

May God bless you and your families this Christmas season!



Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 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.

Lector Formation Workshops

Saturday, Dec. 9, 12:30 p.m.
 St. Augustine Church,
 Isle Breville, LA

More information, dates and sign up are available at www.diocesealex.org.

*Lord, make us turn to you;
 let us see your face and be saved.*

Psalm 80: 4 | Responsorial Psalm for December 3
 First Sunday of Advent

Priest explains what's allowed, what's not in Catholic funeral and burial practices

By Kurt Jensen
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Father Patrick Carrion, a priest for more than 40 years, has headed the Office of Cemetery Management for the Archdiocese of Baltimore for the past 15 years. And he always knew he'd eventually be described as someone who has seen and heard it all when it comes to questions about Catholic funeral and burial practices.

That doesn't faze him. He's more than happy to share what he's experienced, and to clarify expectations for Catholic burials, handling of remains and ashes, and the pesky matter of eulogies.

Burying the dead is a corporal act of mercy. Everything centers on the belief in the intact body, since baptism makes individuals temples of the Holy Spirit. Catholic belief is that upon death, the soul meets God, and God gives incorruptible life to bodies by reuniting them with their souls.

Burials as they have been done in the United States for the past century — embalmed body, sealed casket in a concrete vault — are accepted, although Father Carrion points out that billions of coffins take up a lot of land and cemetery “perpetual care” means the land will never have another use.

His own preference — something he's chosen for himself — is what's called a “green” burial, in which coffin, remains and shroud decompose into the soil, with no embalming of the body.

It's permitted and regulated in Maryland, and used to be the only kind of burial in family graveyards and churchyards, although most cemeteries now don't permit it out of concern for contaminating



TENSAS PARISH IN THE EASTERN DEANERY. On Thursday, Nov. 2, All Souls Day, Father Taylor Reynolds, pastor of St. Joseph Church in St. Joseph, LA celebrated Mass in the Legacy Cemetery in Newellton and then blessed the graves.

groundwater.

“It's what our ancestors did,” said the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Shrine of the Little Flower, St. Dominic, St. Anthony of Padua and Most Precious Blood, all in Baltimore. “It's not irreverent to bury someone on top of someone else.”

So-called “composting burials” are legal in just seven states, but not Maryland. In these, the body is converted to soil after first being placed in a sealed chamber with water and chemicals which are then heated in a process called alkaline hydrolysis. This reduces the body to bone fragments.

This is “just totally unacceptable to us,” Father Carrion told the Catholic Review, Baltimore's archdiocesan news

outlet. “It's just dissolving the body. At least with ashes, there's something to bury.” A composting process “is saying that the body never existed.”

Which brings us to cremations and urns.

Cremated remains are considered the same as intact bodies — cremation was first permitted by the Vatican in 1963 and part of canon (church) law since 1983.

But urns are to be placed in mausoleums or columbariums, not kept at home, and cremated remains are not to be scattered or split up.

It's a question that often comes up, Father Carrion said.

“Sometimes people want to put parts of the ashes into earrings or necklaces,” he said. “You're treating the deceased as if it is a possession of yours. You don't possess people.”

Human remains, he pointed out, are “for the whole people of God.”

Each November, the month of All Souls, the archdiocese, through the Ministry of the 14th Station of the Cross, buries urns in a single vault at Holy Cross Cemetery in Anne Arundel County. There is a minimal fee of \$350.

This mass inurnment — each urn is handled individually in the rite — comes from many sources other than families, since authorities call Father Carrion's office when urns are found in abandoned houses, and on one occasion, in the trunk of a car that was about to be demolished at a scrap yard.

Twice a year, Father Carrion's office also holds services for collective burials, in a marked gravesite, of miscarried babies, provided by hospitals upon request of the parents.

“It says to us as Catholics that this was a person from the moment of conception,” Father

Carrion said. “It gives families some closure.”

Eulogies are always a contentious matter. Simply put, they're not part of the funeral Mass, and they're “what most priests will talk about as a difficult hurdle,” Father Carrion said.

“That's not what our ritual is meant to be,” he explained, noting that the ritual says that those activities should occur at the wake, although most people still want them at the church.

If families strongly desire eulogies at the funeral Mass, Father Carrion asks them to take place before the body is brought into the church, as an extension of the wake.

Father Carrion conceded that lengths of eulogies have crept up because of all the eulogies people see at state funerals and those of celebrities.

But they're not as easy to give as people who are not professional speakers think they are.

There's a way around that, though. When he's asked, the pastor sets a five-minute limit on a eulogy, which is easy to calculate. A full typed page, double-spaced, takes two minutes to read. So two pages is the max and Father Carrion usually limits the number of eulogists to two.

Kurt Jensen writes for the Catholic Review, the news outlet of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. The Catholic Scouting website: <https://catholicscouting.com>

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Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Psalm 85: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for December 10
Second Sunday
of Advent

Diocese welcomes Teresian Sisters from South America

By Dcn. Richard Mitchell
Director of Development
Diocese of Alexandria

In 2021, Catholic Extension announced they were accepting grant applications to fund a U.S.-Latin American Sisters Exchange Program. The program description from Catholic Extension states the grant “funds religious sisters from Latin American congregations who will come to minister among Latino immigrant populations in a “mission diocese” in the United States and be provided opportunities to develop as leaders and increase their impact and visibility as ministers to marginalized populations.”

A “mission diocese” may be defined as one which (typically) operates in a rural area with very limited resources. Limited resources may include the number of available clergy to serve in church parishes, the demographics of the area the diocese geographical boundaries, and the reliance on grant funding and other creative ways to pay for diocesan and/or parish ministries.

The goal of this initiative is to have ten participating Catholic Extension dioceses that will each host a group of three or four sisters from a particular Latin American congregation that the local bishop has vetted and approved. The sisters will live together as a community and focus their



NUNS FROM SOUTH AMERICA ARRIVE IN ALEXANDRIA. Monday, Oct. 23, we welcomed to Alexandria three Sisters of St. Teresa of Jesus (Teresian sisters) who will be working with Hispanic communities in our diocese for the next five years. Their presence is made possible through a generous grant from Catholic Extension. The three sisters who will remain were accompanied by three other sisters who hold leadership positions in the Teresian order. They are here for a couple of weeks to assist with the transition. We are so delighted to welcome all of these sisters!

ministry on providing human development services to those that are most in need.

After consultation with the priests who work with our Hispanic community, Bishop Marshall gave me the green light to submit an application to Catholic Extension for consideration. Thankfully, we have a very good working relationship with Catholic Extension. Each year they support many of our programs with grant funding, so they are aware of our

work and commitment to providing the best ministry available to our community. We were optimistic, but knew there are other dioceses who would equally benefit from this opportunity.

On August 19, 2022, we received notification that our diocese was selected as one of the final ten and approved for grant funding of \$500,000 for the 5-year program. Our representatives at Catholic Extension paired us with a religious order they researched

and believed would be a good fit for both the order and our diocese. We “interviewed” via a Zoom call with Sr. Giselle Gomez, the Provincial of the Teresian Province of Our Lady of Peace and Sr. Maritza Hernandez (where is Sr. Hernandez based?). The call went well and Sr. Giselle and Sr. Maritza scheduled a trip to Alexandria for a face-to-face visit and tour of the parishes we were proposing for the sisters’ ministry.

Sister Giselle and Sr. Maritza arrived to our diocese on December 17, 2022 for the preliminary meeting. We made sure to give them a nice “Louisiana Welcome”. They toured our diocese and met with Bishop Marshall and others to discuss our needs and how much of an impact a small group of sisters could have in our parish communities. Though we felt good about our meeting, Sister Giselle informed us she was visiting another diocese for a similar meeting/tour and would make a final decision soon.

On Christmas Eve 2022, Santa Claus delivered a very special email to me. The email was from Sister Giselle informing me: “after praying, discerning, and consulting with my sisters, we feel that the Spirit is moving us to go to Alexandria...” We were all excited about the news, but the excitement quickly turned to anxiety as we now had to find a place for the sisters to live, a vehicle to drive, and a plan for their ministry.

It has been my experience when working on projects for the Church, things always work out for the good. Preparing for the sisters’ arrival was no exception. Successfully getting the sisters to Alexandria and equipped for ministry has taken a team of people. A special “Thank You” is extended to Fr. Rusty

My soul rejoices in my God.

Luke 61: 10b | Responsorial Psalm for December 17 | Third Sunday of Advent

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Rabalais, Julie Bayone, the staff, and parishioners of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria for going over-and-beyond all expectations with the offer to renovate the convent on their church grounds and offer it to the diocese to rent for the sisters. Their team spent months cleaning and repairing the building to bring it back to a place worthy to be called a convent. The Diocesan Facilities' Director assisted with

purchasing and assembling new beds and furniture and coordinated delivery of appliances for the convent. The space is now perfect for them and includes a beautiful chapel for prayer and Mass.

A special thanks also goes to our Immigration attorney who assisted the sisters and diocese with immigration visas, passports and other documents and forms which were required and this process took quite a lot of time to



(top) Sisters are welcomed to their new home by some of the local Hispanic community.

(bottom) A welcome dinner with Bishop Robert Marshall, Fr. Rusty Rabalais, Fr. Peter Faulk, Deacons Jason Lavergne and Richard Mitchell.

Meet the three Sisters!



Sister Carolina Larios, STJ

Sr. Carolina Larios is from Nicaragua and is an experienced teacher who also has a diploma in professional nursing from Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN).



Sister Modesta Rocha, STJ

Sr. Modesta Rocha is from Nicaragua and received a B.A. degree in Social Work and Development Management from Universidad Centro Americana (UCA).



Sister Daira Figueroa, STJ

Sr. Daira Figueroa is from Colombia and is a trained social worker from Universidad de Antioquia (UdeA).

complete.

On October 23, 2023, Bishop Marshall, and a few others met the sisters at the Alexandria International Airport and were finally able to welcome three Sisters (along with Sr. Giselle, Sr. Maritza and Sr. Beatiz who stayed temporarily to assist the sisters in getting settled) from the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus religious order to the Diocese of Alexandria. Sr. Daira, Sr. Carolina, and Sr. Modesta left their homelands of Nicaragua and Columbia and now live in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Their new mission is to minister to our Hispanic communities throughout the diocese for the next five years. This is a tremendous blessing for us, and we are certain they will have a great impact on our communities as they assist our clergy and lay leaders in preparing individuals for receiving the sacraments, offering faith formation programs, and developing lay leaders to evangelize and minister to their community.

It was a special moment to see the excitement when the

sisters saw their new “home” for the first time.

From volunteers to parish staff members, migration attorney to diocesan staff (including Bishop Marshall), this program highlights the great work we can do when we work together for a common good!

A little about the Society of St. Teresa of Jesus:

Their website (www.stjteresianas.org) states they were founded on June 23, 1876 by Enrique de Ossó, a Catholic priest, who discovered in Teresa of Jesús the strength of her spirituality and the capacity of women to evangelize and transform society. Teresa of Jesus, teacher of life and prayer, is the great gift that guides their spirituality and charism. Their mission: “to know and love Jesus and make him known and loved by everyone.”

They are present in 22 countries in Africa, America and Europe, where they live their educational evangelizing mission in a many forms. The Church endorses the charisma of the order and recognizes it as an apostolic religious institute of a pontifical right.

I look forward to periodically reporting on the great work the sisters accomplish. Please keep them in your prayers as they commit the next five years to the Diocese of Alexandria.

Una traducción de esta historia está disponible en español aquí: <https://www.diocesealex.org/latest-news/teresianas>

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Living liturgically during Advent

By Lisa Kurk
Blessed Is She

Advent is, by its very nature, a season of waiting and anticipation, not a destination. But to me this year, it does have a sense of being a “grand finale.” It was after last Advent, after all, when a month of festive celebrations, a handful of extra “Christmas mornings” to accommodate different family travels, and Advent candles that were just as tall when we packed them up as they had been when we pulled them out of the box led to a post-December 25th burnout... and the conviction to spend the following year paying attention to the liturgical calendar.

Advent was where it all went wrong for me last year, and this Advent, I’m anxious to find out if all we’ve been doing this year has been worth it.

But even before Advent begins, I know deep in my heart that it has been.

In the Rhythm of the Church

Being mindful of the liturgical calendar, commemorating feast days, truly fasting and truly feasting, and digging into the rich history, legacy, and universality of our Faith has drawn me to Jesus this year in a way I never anticipated. As an adult, a wife, and a still-somewhat-new mother, I needed a path for my personal faith life that didn’t rely on my parents guiding me or my university providing the



Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery.

saint charles borromeo

resources.

This, the very calendar the Church has used for centuries, has been it. I hope and pray liturgical living will continue to be a lifelong adventure for my family (and for you, too).

How to Live Liturgically During Advent

Perhaps you’re nodding your head as you read this, heart filled with slightly nervous anticipation to celebrate a “real” Advent. One that doesn’t just look like Christmas arrived too early.

Or perhaps you’re where I was last year, when I first heard the concept of saving Christmas traditions for actual Christmas...

and that sounds anything but appealing.

Wherever this Advent finds your heart, my invitation to you is to bring it to Jesus. Prayerfully ask Him what He is calling you to this Advent, in your specific season of life, and in this moment of your faith journey.

Whatever traditions you end up adopting, setting aside, or rearranging, start with a simple surrender and the offering of your days to the Lord. Allow Him to guide you toward Him this Advent season, just as He guided the shepherds to the side of His manger. He longs for your presence and will never deny this request.

Take Responsibility

In my own family (and I know each is beautifully unique!), I’m the one who decorates our home. I’m the one who either fills our calendar or intentionally carves in blank space. With the full support and unbridled enthusiasm of my husband, I’m the one who has been leading our family’s celebrations of the liturgical year. It would be easy for me to, consciously or unconsciously, “blame” him if our Advent doesn’t look the way I hope it will. But right out of the gate, I’m refusing to do that.

If your specific role in your family, your gifts and talents, your time availability, or whatever the case may be mean that guiding your family through Advent is largely your responsibility, take ownership of that and thank God for this opportunity! Trust that He will equip and use whatever you can offer Him. No matter how DIY-challenged you may be (hand raised over here).

Adopt Advent-Specific Traditions

Let’s resist the temptation to believe that observing Advent means we’re missing out on something. Time and time again, throughout our lives as Catholics, we are called to purposefully wait on something (even something as joyful, good, and beautiful as Christmas celebrations) in order to experience it in its fullness at the specific time God appoints.

The waiting may not always be easy, but that doesn’t mean it is empty. On the contrary, the USCCB says “Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight” (source). Delight? Yes, that is something I desire more of.

To set Advent apart from Christmas, it needs its own traditions, prayers, and sources of holy delight. Ones you look forward to in their own way, but that always orient your heart toward the celebration to come. Here are a few to consider:

Decorate your home in a special way.

Especially if you’re a visual person, refreshed decor can serve as a powerful reminder of a new liturgical season. Don’t hesitate to “deck the halls,” but intentionally differentiate your decorations from what you’ll use for Christmas. This will look different for everyone. But for me, it means focusing on greenery,

twinkling lights, and candles (while ornaments, stockings, and pretty much anything red stays packed up until Christmas Eve).

Another easy twist: set up your Nativity, but leave the manger empty until the appropriate day.

Include your family.

If you have children, consider setting up a Jesse Tree, adding a few Advent-specific storybooks to your shelves, or letting your kids “earn” hay for baby Jesus’ manger in your nativity set by doing good deeds for one another.

If you’re engaged or married, pray the St. Andrew Christmas Novena out loud with your husband/fiancee.

If you’re single, invite family members or friends to attend extra daily Masses or Holy Hours, or to work on a service project with you. The Christian life is even more beautiful when we walk through it in community!

Decide what to save for Christmas.

Yes, this part is challenging in our culture and in our hearts that so longingly crave the joy of Christmas. But sisters, the wait will be so worth it. Prayerfully consider what you feel called to reserve for the specific season of Christmas and commit to waiting on those things. Maybe that means holding off on certain movies, not listening to Christmas music, respectfully declining invitations to Christmas parties during Advent, not baking cookies or special treats until Christmas Eve, etc.

Note:

I cannot emphasize enough that living Advent in such a counter-cultural way may not always be popular amongst loved ones. So we must approach delicate situations with charity and gentleness. This isn’t about a set of rules. It’s about prayerfully and appropriately anticipating the celebration of our Savior’s birth. Stirring up a family feud because you decline to attend the 20th annual Christmas cookie exchange probably won’t help cultivate your peaceful season of prayer. So use your best judgment and discernment when needed.

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ST. PATRICK CHURCH (FERRIDAY) had two workdays recently to spruce up the yard and plant flowers. Pictured above are Sheila Alwood, Judy Quimby, Richard & Patty Prescott, & Diane Martin.



ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL, LEESVILLE. The Fatima Holly Rally Crusade was held Oct. 14 at the church grounds of St. Michael the Archangel Church. The Fatima Holly Rally Crusade was held Saturday, Oct. 14 at the church grounds of St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville. This year saw 40 adults in attendance with some children.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. Sacred Heart School held its annual Blue Mass on Sept. 29 to honor law enforcement, fire fighters and other first responders.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WINNFIELD. Members of the CCLM (Caring Christian Ladies and Men) received the Spirit of Myrtis Allen Award at the Winn Chamber of Commerce Banquet. The CCLM is the former CCL (Crazy Catholic Ladies). Pictured with the ladies is Fr. Lous Sklar, pastor of OLL Church, Winnfield.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
for December 2023

For persons with disabilities | We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



Upcoming Retreats:
January 4 - 7, 2024
St. Rita, Alexandria
Men's ACTS Retreat

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

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Morgan Newton, Owner

Opportunity for Teen Scouts Exploring Religious Vocations to Participate in St. George Trek 2024

Rociada, NM –The National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) is encouraging high-school aged Scouts in a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) program to apply for the 2024 St. George Trek. The Trek is a 16-day adventure, including 11 days of backpacking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Teens experience the sacraments and the Church’s life of prayer as they explore the majesty of God’s creation – and their vocation. The next St. George Trek is July 3-18, 2024. All eligible teens need to do to get started is apply online.



PHILMONT RANCH, NEW MEXICO. Boy Scout Troop 6, sponsored by St. Frances Cabrini Church, poses for a group photo during their annual trek to New Mexico in 2021.

“Catholic Scouting encourages young people to dig deeper into their faith and form a real relationship with Jesus, truly discerning what God is calling them to do in their life. Sometimes this leads to a religious vocation,” said NCCS Chair John Anthony. “We know of 12 St. George Trek participants who have entered seminary formation over the

past decade – and three have been ordained to the priesthood. We also know of several Trek participants who have begun formation with religious orders.”

Due to NCCS sponsorship and the generosity of supporters, the 16-day St. George Trek only costs \$1,575. Scouts are responsible for transportation from their home city to Albuquerque. View eligibility requirements and additional details, plus access the participant application form at: <https://nccs-bsa.org/saint-george-trek/>

Catholic Scouting offers more than 50 Religious Activities as well as a range of Religious Emblems programs. Catholic Scouting supports service projects that help young people learn about the value of volunteering and leadership in service of their community, school, Scouting and the Church. Catholic Scouting welcomes boys and girls starting in kindergarten and features whole family activities.

The Catholic Scouting website: <https://catholicscouting.com>.

start the saint andrew christmas novena on november 30 and end on christmas eve:

hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, o my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.
hallow.com/blog

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Chancery Office,
 Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417.
 --- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

Our religious daughter's blessed annual visit

*By Silvio Cuellar
Our Sunday Visitor*

It was a summer evening in early August, and we were anxiously awaiting the visit of our daughter, Sister Juan Maria of the Holy Spirit (Emily Rose), who was about to begin her final year of novitiate with the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal at Our Lady Queen of Angels Convent in New York.

It had been more than a year since she had last spent time with her family and friends in Providence, Rhode Island.

It was finally time for her to come home. We greeted each other with a big hug and shared a delicious family dinner. My children had lovingly prepared her room and made a very nice sign that said, "Welcome home Sister Juan Maria."

Her visit was only for nine days, so for the first three days, we rented a rather large house in the middle of the woods near the Divine Mercy Shrine in Stockbridge, Connecticut.

With our seven children, my daughter-in-law and granddaughter-in-law, we put the cellphones in a corner and played board games. We also celebrated my oldest son Alex's 30th birthday and received the news that his second baby on the way was a little girl. And we reconnected, sharing everything that is going on in our lives.



The second night, we did a talent show where each of us shared a song or a poem. It was a very funny and emotional moment with many smiles and some tears.

We prayed the Liturgy of the Hours with our daughter, and she shared more about her life in the convent. Every day, we also had the chance to go to Mass at a nearby church that was close to where we were, which was a convent of cloistered nuns.

These were unforgettable moments, and we plan to make it a family tradition every time our daughter visits for two weeks

each year.

My wife, Becky, and I feel very blessed that God has called one of our daughters to religious life. In this day and age when vocations are so scarce, we really admire her determination to answer this call.

as parents and mentors in our communities, the best thing we can do is to support our young and encourage them not to be afraid to accept that call from God, to enter that process of discernment toward the priesthood or religious life.

What factors can influence a young person to listen to God's call for their lives? I believe that God continues to call many to serve Him as priests or religious, but we may not be hearing God's voice or getting enough of the support we need from family members and our community.

From a very young age, our daughter showed a lot of talent for music and sports, getting involved in youth groups and serving in parish music ministries. As parents, we never pressured her. She simply grew up in an environment where there were many retreats and opportunities to develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Participating in the youth retreats and also the Steubenville East regional conferences could have influenced her. She also had opportunities to go on mission

trips to the Dominican Republic, organized by our pastor Father James and the school chaplain. On those trips, she saw firsthand how much poverty there is in the world and developed a love for serving the poor and needy.

When it was her turn to go to high school, she went to a rigorous public school, which required a test to get in. I was worried that she might be a bit influenced by secular culture, but instead, she founded a worship club and organized a shoe box drive, collecting many gifts for poor children.

She then went to Salve Regina University, where she also organized opportunities for worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She met her best friend Raquel, who would end up marrying my oldest son Alex and now they form a beautiful Catholic family.

The biggest challenge to get into the convent was the enormous debt she had upon graduating from college, which exceeded \$50,000.

habit.

As parents and mentors in our communities, the best thing we can do is to support our young and encourage them not to be afraid to accept that call from God, to enter that process of discernment toward the priesthood or religious life.

It may require several people to tell the young man or woman that we believe he or she has a call to the priesthood or religious life before they decide to accept this challenge.

It is very important that, as parents, we prepare that ground, creating homes where there is an atmosphere of prayer and service, which is like a fertilizer to prepare the fertile ground where a vocation can emerge.

Finally, we must be open to God's call and support our children and young people when God calls them and continue to pray for them during the process of their discernment and formation.

Silvio Cuellar is a writer, liturgical music composer and journalist. He was coordinator of the Hispanic Ministry office and editor of El Católico de Rhode Island newspaper in the Diocese of Providence.

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

We did a fundraising campaign and some concerts. I was a little doubtful that we could raise what we needed, but she said: "Dad, when God wants something to happen, he has all the money in the world."

Her faith and determination were teaching me not to doubt and to have confidence in God.

After three months of fundraising, thanks be to God, she reached her goal, paid her debts and entered the convent as a postulant and later as a novice.

We now look forward to her monthly phone call to hear about her life and the different ministries she is doing.

We also look forward to next summer, to visit the convent for the ceremony when she will take her first vows as a religious woman and exchange the white veil for a black veil over her gray

Extraordinary Minister Workshops

NEW DATE/LOCATION!

December 9, 2023

St. Augustine Church
Isle Brevette

February 10, 2024

Minor Basilica of the
Immaculate Conception
Natchitoches

April 6, 2024

St. Francis de Sales, Echo

July 27, 2024

St. Patrick Church, Ferriday

More information and dates will be available at www.diocesealex.org.



REV. CHARLES RAY INSTALLED AS PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION (COTTONPORT). Pictured L to R: Rev. Dwight DeJesus (Vicar Forane of the Avoyelles Deanery), Fr. Charlie, and Deacon Doug Moreau.



WHITE COAT MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall was honored to celebrate the annual diocesan White Coat Mass and the Feast of St. Luke the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 18 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Many health care professionals including members of the local Catholic Medical Association were in attendance. Please pray for all of those who work each day to heal and care for the sick.



ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. St. Joe's Holy Mass celebration for All Saints' Day included some very recognizable saints. Students who participated this year ranged from grades Pre-K3 to Seventh. Many friends and family flocked to the pews to catch a glimpse of their favorite saint and to recognize all of those before us who fought the good fight for Christ and left a legacy of holy lives for us to reflect upon.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. PreK3 and PreK4 students at Cabrini School dressed as Saints on the Feast of All Saints for the annual Parade of Saints.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. Students represented and made presentations on their favorite saint for All Saints Day.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHE. Wednesday, Nov. 1, First grade students at St. Mary's Catholic School participated in their annual Parade of Saints in honor of All Saints Day on November 1st. Students dressed as their favorite saint, paraded around the gym and gave clues for Bishop Robert Marshall to guess what saint they were dressed as.

thanks and giving



CABRINI FEST 2023. Bishop Robert Marshall visited Cabrini Fest 2023 on Sunday, Oct. 28. The annual festival benefits St. Frances Cabrini School. Bishop Marshall remarked: "I enjoyed watching all the fun - especially the determination shown by the children looking for a needle in a haystack! It was great to see Father Chad Partain, Sister Nina Vincent, OLS, and Sisters Elizabeth Ann and Stephanie, SSF."



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL (NATCHITOCHES) recently held their annual Pink Out T-Shirt sale for Breast Cancer Awareness. Funds were raised in honor of Mrs. Carol Garcia-Rachal, a high school faculty member. A gift of \$3,300 was given to Mrs. Garcia who then chose to share this gift with a family in need of assistance. Pictured are (l-r): Lisa Guillet (Director of Development, St. Mary's), Jessie Rachal, Carol Garcia-Rachal, Morgan ██████████ Principal Stephen Wren and Chancellor Fr. Irion St. Romain.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL FALL FAIR IN MOREAUVILLE. Saturday, Oct. 21, many parishioners and visitors from far and wide, as well as Bishop Robert Marshall, were enjoying the great food, games, music, silent auction, motorcycle gathering, Bingo, and much more at the annual fair that benefits Sacred Heart School. Pictured with Bishop Marshall is principal, Sister Sandra Norsworthy.



ST. RITA FALL FESTIVAL. On Sunday, Oct. 28, after enjoying Cabrini Fest earlier in the day, Bishop Robert Marshall went to the Fall Festival at St. Rita Church in Alexandria. Bishop's remarks: "I had a great bowl of chicken and sausage gumbo, was entertained by the children's costume contest, visited the trunks for 'Trunk or Treat,' and viewed the silent auction items. There was a sweet shop and what I suspect will be a full night of Bingo. Thank you to Fr. Raj Dharmaraj and the parishioners of St. Rita for a great time!" Pictured above is Luke Noel and his family, participating in Trunk or Treat.



BISHOP ROBERT MARSHALL SAID: "I PASSED A GOOD TIME THIS EVENING AT THE ST. JOSEPH ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL FAIR IN PLAUCHEVILLE. Great food, entertainment, games, Bingo, and fun for all! All proceeds help to continue the 124 year tradition of Catholic education at St. Joseph School. Many of the folks I met told me that four generations of their family had been educated at St. Joseph. Thank you to Father Martin Laird, Principal Mrs. Rhiannon Moreau, all the faculty, staff, students, parents and parishioners for their dedication to this legacy of faith."

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Our Lady of Guadalupe ACTS Community in Forest Hill will raffle off a brand new, 2024 Chevrolet Equinox RS vehicle, valued at \$40,000.00.

The drawing will take place on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. at

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Raffle tickets are \$100 each. Call the church office at (318) 776-9480 for more information.

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ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the annual Mass for indigenous peoples at Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe) Mission in Forest Hill. The Mass traditionally invokes the intercession of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, but this year was celebrated on the Memorial of St. Martin de Porres, a Dominican of mixed race including native Peruvian. Both saints were invoked. The parishioners of OLG joined with the Native North Americans to celebrate the indigenous peoples of both American continents. Thank you to those who organized the celebration, Father Marc Noel, the Aztec Dancers who entertained after Mass, and all who prepared the delicious food.

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.

Visit the sign-up form at www.diocesealex.org, or email starver@diocesealex.org with your name and mailing address to receive the Church Today FREE of charge!

50-year reunion for class of 1973 raises \$3000 for Maryhill Renewal Center



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1973.

The Holy Savior Menard Class of 1973 held their 50th Reunion the weekend of Oct. 28 at the Maryhill Renewal Center.

“It was a beautiful Saturday and the facilities were beyond our 55 participants expectations,” said Jeanne Rabalais Mathews.

Billy DeKeyzer led the cooking team and noted that “The Greco Pavilion was perfect for cooking, serving and enjoying our dinner and refreshments ... and easy to clean up”.

Ned Voelker led efforts for the Friday night Homecoming party and Patrick Moore helped plan the Saturday Mass and Remembrance Service.

“I don’t think it could have been possible for us to have had a better time. We are still talking about our time together and laughing

really hard”, says Chuck Wale (Communications Leader).

“We kept things really simple ... ‘Country Casual’ was the theme and we only asked folks to contribute what they could to cover the costs. Everything over that would be donated to Maryhill. We were astounded to end up with a bit over \$3,000 gifted to Maryhill.” noted the ‘73 Planning Team.

“Our Class of ‘73 is openly challenging all 50-Year reunion classes going forward to meet or exceed that amount of donation to Maryhill or Menard,” says Jeanne Mathews. “And our class is not finished giving yet!”

The Team agreed with Deacon Luke White, that these funds would go toward new heavy-duty fans for the Greco Pavilion.



(above and below) OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, MANSURA. Sunday, Oct. 22, Bishop Robert Marshall was honored to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Mansura on the occasion of their 85th anniversary. Afterward, they had a wonderful meal in the Ugandan Martyrs Center. Thank you to Father Blake Deshautelle, Father Martin Laird (former pastor who returned to concelebrate), the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, and all of the parishioners who made the celebration so special.



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Psalm 89: 2a
Responsorial Psalm
for December 24
Fourth Sunday
of Advent

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CDA REGINA PACIS #1372, NATCHITOCHEs. The Catholic Daughters of America Regina Pacis 1372 celebrated National Catholic Daughters of America on Sunday, Oct.15 at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Church in Natchitoches. Pictured left to right, front row: Paula Hall, Beatrice Owsley, Kathleen Hicks, Mary White, Sandi Sharplin and Father John Cunningham. Second row: Cindy Johnson, Sarah Ahrens, Jacky Jacoby, Cathy Ingram, Judy Kinburger, Dottie Mims, Pat Melder, Brenda Melder, Juanita Henry, Elaine Bacon, Barbara Roberts, Adele Scott and Laura James. Third row: Lisa Guillet, Tonny Rachal, Brenda Powell, Sue Keller, Pam Walker, Deanna Hickman, Jennifer Arthur, Alice Barrios and Marie Soileau. Fourth row: Jean Gill, Margaret Kilcoyne, Diane Vienne, Marteel Henry, Laura Soloman, Carolyn Benefield, Cissy Picou, Father Irion St. Romain, Anna Airhart, Mary Jane Wright, and Ashwini Weber.



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHER. The members of the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem gathered for Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on Sunday, Oct. 15. We annually observe the memorial of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine - this year a more poignant moment for prayer in light of the war in Israel and Gaza. On Tuesday, Oct. 17, a Day of Prayer and Fasting for peace and reconciliation was observed and Bishop Marshall celebrated a Mass at the Cathedral.



CDA COURT ST. ANTHONY #968, BUNKIE. Each year in October, Court Saint Anthony #968 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, attends Mass for the purpose of remembering the work of the order and its deceased members. Our CDA organization is approaching its 100th anniversary and we are blessed to benefit from the continuous works and prayers of its membership. Sunday, Oct. 15, we welcomed our Catholic Daughters to the 10:30 a.m. Mass. As we bless them in their current endeavors, let us also remember the many deceased members of Court Saint Anthony.

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Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Psalm 128: 1
 Responsorial Psalm for December 31
 Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL, BUNKIE. St. Anthony Cheerleaders won 1st place in the 1st Annual Cheer Expo at the Avoyelles Parish Catholic League Basketball Jamboree. These girls have been practicing since July with their cheer coach Melise Newton! We are so proud!



THE MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN NATCHITOCHES began its youth group for middle school students with a Kickoff Social on September 24. The afternoon included games, food and a color war. The program is part of the Life Teen Series, "Edge", that is specific to middle school students and weekly sessions incorporate teachings from The Scriptures and The Catechism. The group is open to sixth through eighth graders in Natchitoches Parish. Dustin Dauzat leads the ministry with a team of volunteers. For more information, contact Dustin at 318-332-6367 or dustin.dauzat@gmail.com.



THE MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH IN NATCHITOCHES hosted its first Art of Prayer for middle and high school students, as well as adults. Guests spent time sharing their Catholic faith, learning about St. Therese' of Lisieux and creating an art project together.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: The Virtue of the Month for October was Faith. Students from St. Mary's Catholic School that displayed this virtue



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA SCHOOL, BUNKIE. On Saturday, Oct. 7, the Congregation of the Children of Mary at St. Anthony Church in Bunkie celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary as well as the due date of the babies they have spiritually adopted since January. We want to thank all of the parents and children for their generous donations to the Cenla Pregnancy Center. Also thanks to our St. Anthony Legion of Mary who also made a donation to our Children of Mary Congregation so we can celebrate this day and to Monsignor Scott Chemino for all of his continued support.

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."

LSUA Catholic Student Organization activities for October



(above) **LSUA WEDNESDAY LUNCH.** The KCs, St. Martin of Tours, Belledeau cooked hamburgers one Wednesday and the Catholic Daughters from St. Anthony Church, Bunkie provided a Wednesday free meal.



LSUA AWAKENING RETREAT. The annual Awakening Retreat was held Oct. 27-29 at Maryhill Renewal Center. This year's theme was "Run to the Father". We had talks throughout the weekend, as well as activities, celebrated Mass together, gave the students a chance to ask the priest questions, offered all those involved the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession and Adoration, and shared good food together. We hope each participant came away with a deeper relationship with our Creator knowing His immense love for each of us. Most attendees were from LSUA but we had students from LCU, SLCC, ULL, LSUE, LSU, LSUS, and BRCC.

(right) Three students bring appreciation gifts to employees of LSUA.



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

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evan.morley@focus.org

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

Christmas Extravaganza 2023 - Dec. 2

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 2 for a full day of activities, games for the children, pictures with Santa, Gumbo Cook-off, vendors, concessions, and much more in the Activities Building at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. For more information call (318) 445-2497.

Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference - Dec. 2 - 3

Calling all Jr. High students! Registration for this year's Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference is open!! "Outsiders" will be held December 2 - 3 at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria, featuring Dustin Bertrand as our keynote speaker and Ragan Savedra as the weekend's emcee. To register, please steubenvillesouth.com.

Pilgrimage to Italy: Informational Meeting - Dec. 6

Travel dates: January 20-29, 2025. Join us on a pilgrimage to Italy for the Jubilee Year in 2025! Spiritual Director Fr. Taylor Reynolds will also celebrate his 10th Ordination anniversary. Rome and the Vatican City, the Shroud in Turin, and Nettuno-the home of St. Maria Goretti - are included, and much more. Attend the Orientation Meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 919 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA. RSVP for the meeting at www.holytravels.org/FrReynoldsItaly or call Magnificat Travel at 337-291-1933.

Disalced Carmelite meeting - Dec. 9

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. **If you plan to attend.....Please call Mary Jo McCoy at the numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

Lector Formation Workshops - Dec. 9

The Diocese of Alexandria will be offering Lector workshops for those individuals who are interested in serving or who currently may serve as a Lector in their parish. To serve in this role, one must be of good standing with their Catholic faith and need the approval of their pastor. If you have any questions, please email or call

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org or 318-445-6424, ext. 207. All training workshops will present the same material and will last no longer than two and a half hours. Please sign up for the session that best fits your schedule at the Diocese website at www.diocesealex.org.

The next times and locations are: NEW! Dec. 9, 2023, 12:30 p.m. - St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshops • new workshop scheduled December 9

The next workshops for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be held on the dates, times and locations below. The average time for the workshop is about three hours so please plan accordingly. The same information will be presented at each session. If you would like to sign up, please visit www.diocesealex.org or contact Den Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Dates, times and locations are:

- NEW! Dec. 9, 9:00 a.m. - St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle
- Feb. 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches
- Apr. 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - St. Francis de Sales Church, Echo
- July 27, 2024, 9:00 a.m. - St. Patrick Church, Ferriday

Gulf Coast Faith Formation Conference - Jan. 12-13

Join us at the Pontchartrain Center in Kenner, LA. for "Encounter Jesus, Go with Joy!" The conference begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 12. With 24 breakout sessions to select from on Friday and 17 on Saturday, you are sure to find some topic of interest that fits you and your ministry. Conference Keynote speakers will be Mike Patin, ValLimar Jansen and Dr. Joe Paprocki

Conference pricing options:

Friday only \$105.00; with lunch \$120.00

Saturday only \$105.00; with lunch \$120.00
Fri & Sat \$150.00; with lunch \$180.00
<https://go4th.faith/>

Adoration Chapel - Open 24/7

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville possesses a hidden treasure of great worth, something that few other churches possess. We have an Adoration Chapel that is open to you 24 hours every day, 7 days every week. Jesus resides there, body and blood, soul, and divinity, and he is longingly waiting for you to visit. Call 318-445-2497 or visit the church office for the code, and don't keep Our Lord waiting.

Grief Support Group Meeting - every first Wednesday

We will begin meeting once a month, on the 1st Wednesday of each month. We will begin a new series on "Coping With Loss." It is an eight-part series. Our meetings will be held in the Community Center at 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. This meeting is open to anyone who would like to join us. For more information, call Tammy Magnano at 318-229-7455.

High School Youth Bible Study - every Thursday

St. Rita Church Youth Group holds a High School Youth Bible Study every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Moreau Room of the Holy Family Center. All high school students are invited to join us.

Job Opening: Line Cook, Manna House

Have a passion for cooking, making a difference in the lives of others and teamwork? We are hiring! Line Cook position, 3 days per week. Contact us for more details at 318-445-9053.

"Mary's Tea" tea party - Feb. 10

You're invited to an afternoon tea party for "Mary's Tea" at the Divine Providence Center at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria. Wear your finest tea party attire - #Sunday best! Bring a friend and join the ladies of the Alexandria Diocese for a wonderful afternoon of fun, fellowship and food. Our speakers will be Fr. Thomas Kennedy, Lacy Guimaraes and Lynn Raia. Tickets are \$15 each. Ladies, teens, children are all welcome! Full meal, tea, coffee, desserts. For more information contact Lynn Raia at (318) 625-8242.

Church Today News Deadlines

**December 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Dec. 14**



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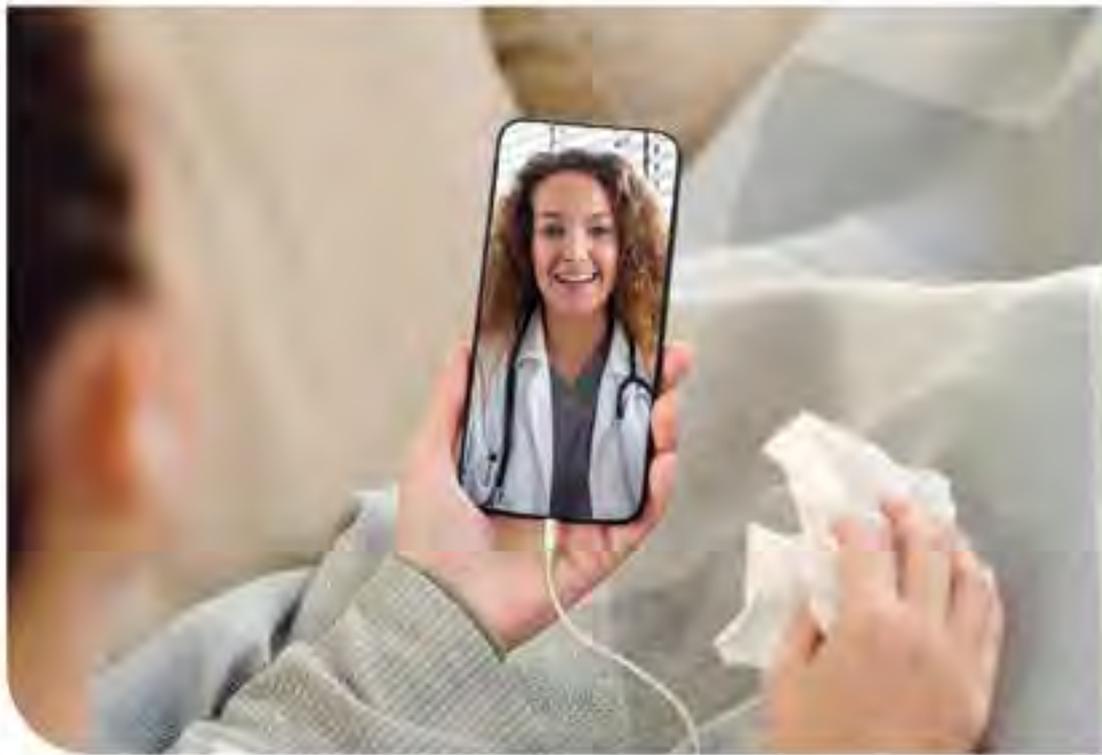
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December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>NOVEMBER 27</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</p>	<p>28</p> <p>#iGiveCatholic Visit: https://alexandria.igivecatholic.org</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. K. SAYES</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH</p>	<p>DECEMBER 1</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Christmas Extravaganza Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville</p> <p>Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>
<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. SIERRA-POSADA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>Grief Support Meeting 6:00 p.m. Sacred Heart, Pineville</p> <p>Italy Pilgrimage Meeting 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. SKLAR</p>	<p>7</p> <p>High School Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. I. ST. ROMAIN</p>	<p>8</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Holy day of obligation) PRAY FOR MSGR. S. TESTA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Discalced Carmelite Christmas Social 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville.</p> <p>Lector Formation & EMHC Workshops 9:00 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX</p>
<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</p>	<p>14</p> <p>High School Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p>17</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE</p>
<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>21</p> <p>High School Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE</p>
<p>25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY PRAY FOR FR. JOY ANTONY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Sharing Your Faith Series 6:30 p.m. OLPS, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>28</p> <p>High School Bible Study 6:00 p.m. St. Rita, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NEW YEARS EVE PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO</p>



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