

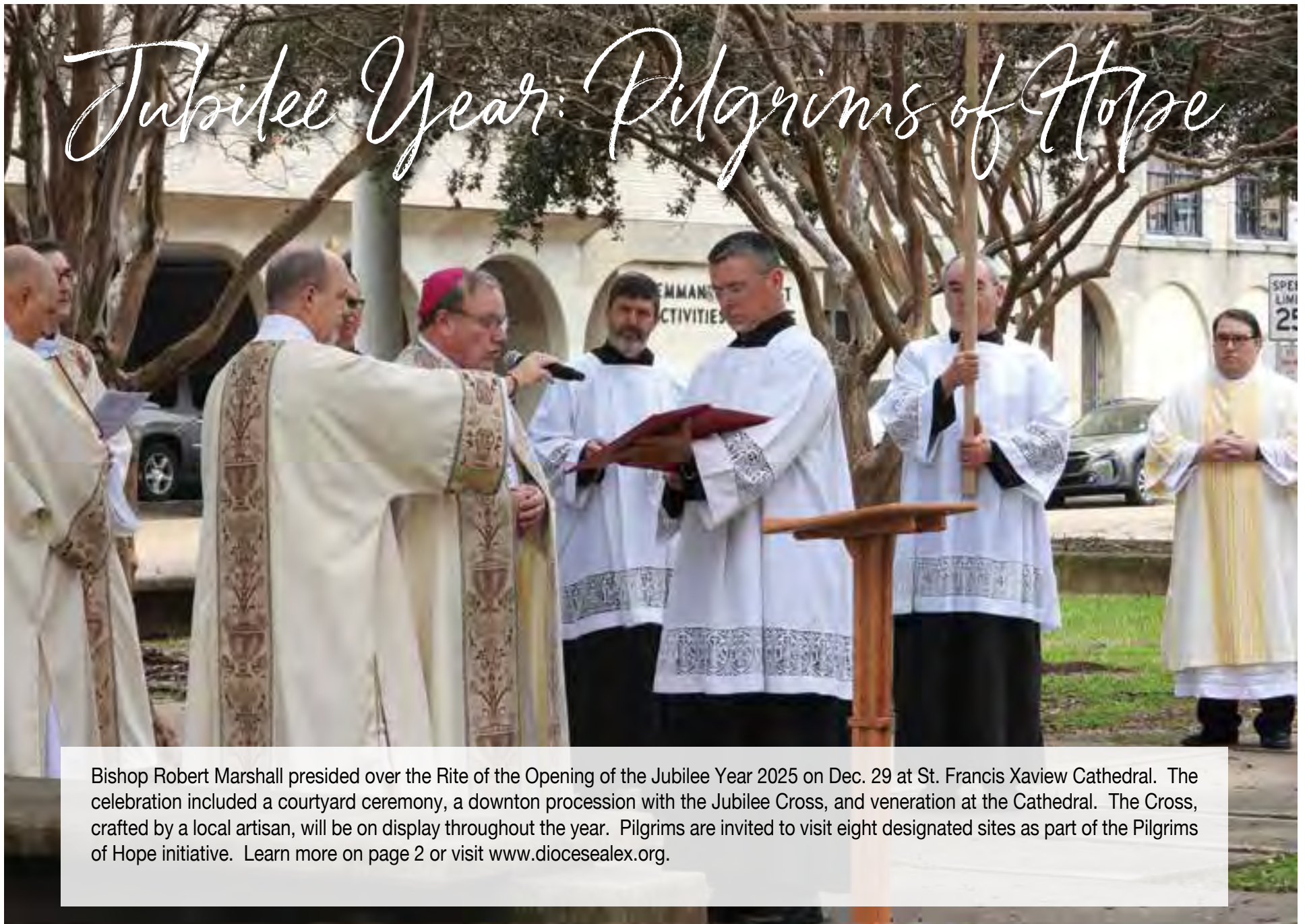
# CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 1

[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

January 27, 2025



## *Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope*

Bishop Robert Marshall presided over the Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 on Dec. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. The celebration included a courtyard ceremony, a downtown procession with the Jubilee Cross, and veneration at the Cathedral. The Cross, crafted by a local artisan, will be on display throughout the year. Pilgrims are invited to visit eight designated sites as part of the Pilgrims of Hope initiative. Learn more on page 2 or visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

### INSIDE

#### **Twenty-five things to know about the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope**

This Holy Year calls the faithful to deepen their relationship with God. See page 3 for 25 things to know about the Jubilee Year of Hope.

#### **Fullness of Truth Conference: March 7-9, 2025**

Join us March 7-9 at the Randolph Riverfront Center for a weekend of inspiration and practical strategies for evangelization and the Eucharistic Revival. See page 5 for more information.

#### **Saint Anthony Church, Bunkie completes extensive renovation**

Bishop Robert Marshall consecrated a new altar and tabernacle at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie, during Epiphany Sunday Mass, celebrating a seven-month renovation and preparing for the church's centennial. See pages 10-11 for more details.

INDEX

Diocesan News ..... 2  
 National / World ..... 3  
 Features and Local News... 4  
 Feature ..... 8  
 Vocations and Burses ..... 9  
 Picture Spread..... 10  
 Social Ministries ..... 12  
 Marriage/Family..... 14  
 Schools / Youth..... 16  
 Diocesan Briefs ..... 18  
 Calendar ..... 19

CHURCH TODAY



Volume LVI, No. 1  
January 27, 2025

P. O. Box 7417  
Alexandria, LA 71303  
318-445-6424

Publisher:  
 Most. Rev. Robert Marshall  
 Publication Manager / Editor:  
 Cari Terracina, ext. 255,  
 cterracina@diocesealex.org  
 Multimedia Manager /  
 Advertising:  
 Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;  
 joanferguson@diocesealex.org  
 Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;  
 starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS  
 393-240) is published by the  
 Catholic Diocese of Alexandria,  
 once a month, free of charge to  
 members of the parishes in the  
 Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.  
 Out of diocese subscriptions are  
 \$20 a year.

The office is located at  
 4400 Coliseum Blvd.,  
 Alexandria, LA 71303.  
 Periodicals postage paid at  
 Alexandria, LA.

Postmaster:  
 Send address changes to  
 The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box  
 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306  
 Website: www.diocesealex.org  
 To receive a free subscription,  
 call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or  
 e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

# Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year

The Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year 2025 was held on Sunday, Dec. 29 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding.

The event began with a ceremony in the courtyard of the Cathedral. A portion of the Pope's Papal Bull declaring the Year of Jubilee was read aloud and then a procession began.

A section of the Jubilee Cross led the procession that made its way around the streets

of downtown Alexandria.

At the entrance of the Cathedral, the procession paused and Bishop Marshall turned to the faithful to invite them to venerate The Cross.

The rite ceremony continued into the Cathedral and the section of the Cross was placed back into the main Cross that will remain on display at the Cathedral through 2025. The Cross was custom made for the Diocese of Alexandria by a local artisan.

The Rite of Opening kicks of a year long observation of the Jubilee Year 2025.

One of the main activities for our diocese is the Pilgrims of Hope pilgrimage taking place all year. Pilgrims can visit up to 8 pilgrimage sites designated by Bishop Marshall in our Diocese.

Pilgrim Passport booklets are available at each site as well as stickers to commemorate visits to each site. Once a Passport has all the stickers it can be sent in to

the Bishop's office to receive a certificate of completion.

There is also a Junior Pilgrim guide that can be completed which includes activities and a coloring page.

Please visit [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org) for more information about the Jubilee Year and the Pilgrims of Hope pilgrimage going on now in the diocese.

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 OPENING RITE.** (left) The procession led by a section of The Cross. (bottom left) The section being set back into the main Cross on display in the Cathedral. (below) Bishop Marshall with Deacons, Seminarians and the Cathedral Altar Servers.



*Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!*  
 Psalm 24:8 | Responsorial Psalm for February 2 | Feast of the Presentation of the Lord



Diocese of Alexandria Website  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org)



Diocese of Alexandria Facebook  
[facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria](https://facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria)



Diocese of Alexandria Instagram  
[@dioceseofalexandria](https://dioceseofalexandria)

# Twenty-five things to know about the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

By Rose Coleman  
Originally published  
at [blessedishe.net](http://blessedishe.net)

The 2025 Jubilee Year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, invites Catholics around the world to embark on a journey of profound spiritual renewal. Rooted in the theme of hope, this Holy Year calls the faithful to deepen their relationship with God.

Below are twenty-five things to know about the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

## 1. Biblical and Historical Origins of Jubilee Years

The Jubilee Year has its origins in the Old Testament (see Leviticus 25), where every fiftieth year was a time of forgiveness and renewal for the Israelites. The Catholic Church adapted this tradition, with Pope Boniface VIII instituting the first Christian Jubilee in 1300. Originally celebrated every hundred years, the frequency was later adjusted to every twenty-five years.

## 2. A Year of Hope

The central theme of the 2025 Jubilee is hope, inspired by Romans 5:5: “Hope does not disappoint.” Pope Francis reminds us that this hope is rooted in God’s eternal love, making it a time for all Christians to renew their trust in God’s promises.

## 3. A New Beginning

The Jubilee Year marks a new beginning for the Church. It is a time to rekindle devotion, reflect on one’s faith journey, and embrace the mission of spreading hope to others.

## 4. The Two-Thousandth Anniversary of Christ’s Redemption

The 2025 Jubilee is part of a larger preparation for the 2033 commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## 5. The Opening of the Holy Door

The Jubilee Year officially began on December 24, 2024, with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. This door symbolizes Christ as the gate to salvation and offers pilgrims the chance to receive the graces of the Jubilee.

## 6. Pilgrimages

Pilgrimage is at the heart



of the Jubilee. Catholics from around the world are invited to journey to Rome and other holy sites. Pilgrims who enter through the Holy Doors will receive graces from the Jubilee.

## 7. Indulgences

A key feature of the Jubilee is the granting of indulgences. By fulfilling spiritual conditions—such as pilgrimage, prayer, and penance—Catholics can receive remission for the temporal punishment for sins.

## 8. The Eucharist at the Heart of the Jubilee

The Eucharist is central to the Jubilee. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to approach the altar with renewed reverence, recognizing Jesus as the source of hope.

## 9. The Jubilee Prayer

A special Jubilee Prayer will unite the faithful in prayer during the Holy Year.

## 10. Celebrating the Family

Pope Francis emphasizes that families are a source of hope and invites them to rediscover the beauty of their vocation, with grandparents serving as bearers of wisdom and faith.

## 11. The Blessed Virgin Mary as a Sign of Hope

Mary will be a central figure during the Jubilee. Pope Francis invites the faithful to turn to Mary for intercession, as she embodies unwavering trust in God’s plan.

## 12. The Role of Youth

The youth have a vital role to play during the Jubilee celebrations. Pope Francis encourages the Church to support young people, empowering them to see the Church as a place of hope for their future.

## 13. A Call to Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a key theme of the Jubilee. Pope Francis urges the faithful to seek forgiveness, both through the Sacrament of Penance and through personal acts of reconciliation with others.

## 14. Commitment to Peace

The Jubilee calls for a renewed commitment to peace. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to advocate for diplomacy, reconciliation, and an end to violence, becoming agents of change in a divided world.

## 15. Hope for the Future

The Jubilee is an invitation to look forward with hope. Pope Francis reminds us that in Christ, hope is eternal. Even in times of difficulty, God’s love remains constant.

## 16. Catholic Art and Architecture

The 2025 Jubilee offers an opportunity to appreciate the rich Catholic art and architecture that have shaped the Church’s history. Pilgrims visiting Rome will experience the beauty of sacred spaces and artworks that reflect the glory of God.

## 17. A Global Celebration

The 2025 Jubilee is a global event. While the heart of the celebrations will be in Rome, Catholics worldwide will join in the festivities in their local communities, with bishops encouraging specific pilgrimage sites for those who cannot travel to Rome.

## 18. Pilgrimages on the Digital Continent

For those unable to travel to Rome, the Church will offer digital pilgrimages to allow Catholics to participate in the grace of the Jubilee Year by viewing key sites and participating in virtual Masses, prayer services, and reflections.

## 19. The Jubilee Hymn: “Pilgrims of Hope”

A special Jubilee hymn, “Pilgrims of Hope,” will be sung at liturgies and events throughout the year. This joyful anthem serves as a reminder of the hope that guides all pilgrims.

## 20. Jubilee Volunteers

Volunteers will play a critical role in the Jubilee celebrations. Those interested in serving can apply to assist in various capacities.

## 21. The Jubilee Logo

The official Jubilee Logo symbolizes unity and hope, featuring four figures embracing each other, with one holding a cross that doubles as an anchor.

## 22. Calendar of Major Events

The 2025 Jubilee will feature numerous major events throughout the year. Here are a few of the Jubilees the calendar includes:

*Jubilee of the World of Communications*

*Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police, and Security Personnel*

*Jubilee of Artists*

*Jubilee of People with Disabilities*

*Jubilee of Entrepreneurs*

*Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents, and the Elderly*

*Jubilee of Ecclesial Movements, Associations, and New Communities*

*Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers*

*Jubilee of Consecrated Life*

*Jubilee of Marian Spirituality*

## 23. The Jubilee Churches

There are several Jubilee Churches in Rome that will serve as special gathering points for pilgrims.

## 24. Canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonized as Saints during the Jubilee Year. Acutis, known for his love of the Eucharist and his digital evangelism, will be canonized on April 27, 2025, during the Jubilee for Adolescents (April 25-27) in Rome. Frassati, celebrated for his devotion to the poor and joyful faith, will be canonized during the Jubilee of Young People (July 28–August 3).

## 25. Jubilee Pilgrims

An estimated thirty-five million pilgrims are expected to gather in Rome for the 2025 Jubilee. If you are considering attending, be sure to book your accommodations early.

The 2025 Jubilee Year is an invitation for the Church to deepen her hope. As Pope Francis has said, “We must fan the flame of hope,” and this Holy Year offers an unparalleled opportunity to do so. Visit the official Vatican Jubilee page for more information. Let’s embark on this beautiful journey together as Pilgrims of Hope!

## What is VIRTUS? Who needs it? Is it mandatory?



VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the United States with a “Protecting God’s Children” component that combats sexual abuse of children in the Church. It is currently used in over 80 dioceses in the U.S. and is mandatory for anyone working or volunteering with children.

Think about this... Is CPR training or active shooter drills able to prevent church, school, or workplace violence? No, but it can help prepare everyone for the unimaginable. This is why the VIRTUS program is so important! VIRTUS training is one component of child protection which includes safeguards like background checks, employee screenings, and victim assistance hotlines to help identify and report cases of abuse.

The goal of the VIRTUS program is primarily to be proactive instead of reactive when dealing with child sexual abuse.

VIRTUS focuses on educating anyone in the Catholic church, Catholic schools, or affiliated organizations, who have substantial contact with minors, by providing them with information to help prevent abuse. This takes place in VIRTUS “awareness sessions” led by trained facilitators. The awareness sessions consist of videos, worksheets, and discussions. The videos incorporate interviews with both victims and convicted perpetrators.

Thousands of people each year, employed or volunteering in any capacity, such as priests, deacons, religious, teachers, coaches, school staff, parish personnel, field trip chaperones, room mothers, or cleaning up the church grounds on weekends with the youth, are first required to undergo a criminal background check, attend the three-hour VIRTUS training class, and

complete the monthly Virtus online bulletins.

The “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, implemented VIRTUS “Protecting God’s Children,” education for adults, and VIRTUS “Empowering God’s Children,” education for our children. The Diocese of Alexandria’s Safe Environment Office and randomly chosen churches and schools are audited yearly to ensure all measures are taken to keep our children safe.

For more information about VIRTUS, visit the Diocese of Alexandria website: [www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

If your church, school, or organization needs a VIRTUS class, please call to reserve a date by contacting Kecia Coco, Director of Safe Environment: [kcoco@diocesealex.org](mailto:kcoco@diocesealex.org) or 318-445-6424 (ext. 213).

## Stay focused on the calling

By *Cari Terracina*  
Publications Manager

Resolutions and new beginnings often encourage us to reflect on our goals, but staying focused on your calling is a daily commitment, not just a seasonal one. Whether in your vocation, career, or ministry, the challenge is to remain steadfast in your purpose and open to growth.

Think back to when you first started out. Do you remember the enthusiasm you had? That eagerness to learn, to contribute, to serve? At that time, you were driven by a desire to make a difference and grow in your role. That hunger and willingness weren’t just admirable qualities; they were the foundation of your success and fulfillment.

The challenge for all of us is to reignite that same spirit of hunger and willingness in our lives today:

- Be that person who strives to grow through every stage of life, embracing new opportunities with the same energy you had when you started.
- Be that person who

remains humble and curious, even as experience and accolades accumulate.

- Be that person who perseveres through challenges, trusting that each season of life brings lessons and growth.

- Be that person who adapts gracefully to changes in leadership or circumstances.

- Be that person who seeks renewal within, recognizing that transformation is a lifelong journey.

Remaining hungry to learn and willing to serve is not just the hallmark of effective leadership—it’s the essence of faithful discipleship. True leadership doesn’t rest on titles or achievements but is reflected in our openness to serve others, our readiness to embrace change, and our commitment to live with purpose and humility.

Resist the temptation to settle into a comfortable routine. Comfort can lead to complacency, and complacency stifles both personal and spiritual growth. Instead, renew your commitment to being hungry for new challenges, new lessons, and new ways to make

a difference.

Equally important is the willingness to respond to God’s call in the moment. This requires flexibility, courage, and faith. Being willing means embracing what is asked of us—even when it’s outside our comfort zone—and trusting that God’s grace will provide what we need.

As Catholics, we are called to be both leaders and servants, following the example of Christ. Leadership is not about power or prestige; it’s about stewardship and service. Success, too, is redefined in light of our faith. It’s not measured by worldly standards but by how well we love, serve, and grow into the people God created us to be.

Consider this: How can you remain hungry and willing in your journey of faith, leadership, and service? Commit to leading and living with the same passion, humility, and openness that first inspired you. This mindset, this heart, is what truly transforms lives and communities, one step at a time.

### FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE

**PETER J. LEMOINE**

### Social Security Disability Law

*Recipient of Social Security Disability Leadership Award:  
National Top 100 Social Security Disability Law Firms*

**MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives**

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

**(318)717-1995**

# Go make disciples!

## Fullness of Truth Conference: March 7-9, 2025

We are all called to sainthood. Yes, but since we're fallen, that just not going to happen on its own. It requires a process.

All are called to spread the Good News of Jesus - yes, all of us. Evangelization is not an option, but Christ's express command! But most Catholics feel ill-prepared to take up the challenge. So, on March 7th thru March 9th at the Randolph Riverfront Convention Center in Alexandria, LA, Fullness of Truth presents its 4th Annual Diocesan Lenten Catholic Family Conference entitled, "Go Make Disciples!: The Eucharistic Revival & the Call to Evangelize". Equip yourselves with the expertise of renown convert scripture scholar & prolific author, DR. JOHN BERGSMA, the dynamic Louisiana-native & veteran Catholic apologist DR. KARLO BROUSSARD, the spunky Catholic convert "evangelista"

& author SONJA CORBITT, and the hilarious comedian & evangelist PAUL J. KIM. Sacred music will be offered by NOLA-based & Hallow App's THE VIGIL PROJECT throughout the weekend as well. By definition, to be a Christian is to be an evangelizer. The good news is - you can do it - and you don't need esoteric knowledge. Our Conference will be your guide to what the "New Evangelization" is, and to the next chapter in the National Eucharistic Revival; a new Pentecost!

The crisis in the Church is painfully obvious in the sharp declines in Catholic marriages, infant baptisms, Sunday Mass attendance, and the number of priests. Meanwhile, the number of semi-active and ex-Catholics is skyrocketing! Many "millennials" notoriously consider themselves "spiritual, but not religious". The Catholic laity must now decide

whether they will be passive onlookers or choose to act. Recent popes have challenged all Catholics to participate in the "New Evangelization". But what does "evangelization" mean for today's Catholics? This Conference is designed to light a fire under every Catholic and to inspire an active response of faith. Our speakers have diagnosed the common problems average Catholics face when it comes to sharing the Faith, and they will offer simple but profound strategies to overcome these problems. Believe it or not, you can learn the skills needed for evangelization, starting today! No matter what your specific gift or walk of life, you have a role to play in revitalizing Catholicism in America. This is a new moment in the life of the Church. Don't miss it!

### Fullness of Truth Conference Schedule (Subject to change)

#### Friday, March 7:


- 5:30 p.m. Opening Remarks and Opening Session
- 9:00 p.m. Closing Remarks

#### Saturday, March 8:

- 7:30 a.m. Opening Remarks and Holy Mass
- 9:45 a.m. Presentation #1: Dr. Karlo Broussard
- 11:00 a.m. Presentation #2: Paul J. Kim
- 11:50 a.m. Lunch Break
- 1:00 p.m. Praise and Worship Concert
- 2:00 p.m. Presentation #3: Sonja Corbitt
- 3:10 p.m. Adoration and Eucharistic Procession
- 4:15 p.m. Presentation #4: Dr. John Bergsma
- 6:00 p.m. Benefit Dinner with Keynote Dr. Bergsma


#### Sunday, March 9:

- 8:00 a.m. Presentation #5: Sonja Corbitt
- 9:20 a.m. Presentation #6: Dr. Karlo Broussard
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. Presentation #7: Dr. John Bergsma
- 2:30 p.m. Presentation #8: Q&A Panel: Dr. Karla Broussard
- 3:30 p.m. Adoration, Eucharistic Procession and Benediction
- 4:15 p.m. Conference Conclusion



Matt. 28: 18-20

Fullness of Truth



## Go Make Disciples!

The Eucharistic Revival & The Call to Evangelize


# March 7-9, 2025

**Randolph Riverfront Center**  
707 Second St. | Alexandria, LA


[fullnessoftruth.org/ALX25](http://fullnessoftruth.org/ALX25)

*4th Annual Lenten Fullness of Truth Catholic Family Diocesan Conference*


In Cooperation with the Diocese of Alexandria




**Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr.**  
Bishop of Alexandria, LA




**Dr. John Bergsma**  
Theology Professor and Author




**Dr. Karlo Broussard**  
Apologist and Author



**Paul J. Kim**  
Comedian, Musician, Author



**Sonja Corbitt**  
Podcaster, TV Host & Author; Catholic Evangelista



**Music by The Vigil Project**

**FEATURING A SATURDAY YOUTH TRACK, HOLY MASS, CONCERTS, MOVIE & MORE!**

For tickets and more information call 281-358-9195 or visit [www.FullnessOfTruth.org](http://www.FullnessOfTruth.org)

# Why some don't believe in God

By Gregy Wasson  
Guest Contributor

“Another reason why some do not want to know God is because they would have to change their life.” - Youth Catechism (YouCat) #5

In his 2005 book *Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures*, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, later Pope Benedict Emeritus XVI, asks: “Is faith truly an attitude worthy of a modern adult?” This question isn’t new. It has existed at least since the beginning of the “modern” period in the 17th century, when French mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal developed “Pascal’s Wager.” His goal was to provide unbelievers with a reasonable foundation for belief in the Christian God.

Pascal’s Wager considers whether God exists (and

Christianity is true) or does not exist. If God exists and you choose not to believe, you lose everything. But if God exists and you choose to believe, you gain everything. This framework, although simple, remains one of the most well-known arguments for approaching belief as a rational choice.

Ratzinger explores similar themes, critiquing agnosticism (the claim not to know if God exists) as akin to atheism (the outright denial of God’s existence). Both, he argues, lead to the same practical outcome—a life lived without belief. “If you don’t know that God exists, then you end up living as an unbeliever,” Ratzinger writes, emphasizing that uncertainty does not exempt one from making a choice.

Pascal, a pioneer in decision theory, sought to persuade

unbelievers to decide for God. He distinguished belief in God, which reason can reach, from faith in Christianity, which requires Revelation. Neither Pascal nor Ratzinger attempts to prove Christianity’s truth solely through reason but instead provides a reasonable basis for belief in the Christian God. They argue that faith is not irrational but a complementary path where reason and Revelation meet.

Why, then, do some reject belief? Benedict points to the bad example of Christians who claim to believe yet live “as if” God does not exist, undermining faith. St. Paul provides another explanation: “Ever since the world’s creation, his invisible nature... has been perceived in the things that have been made” (Rm 1:19-20). Yet, some suppress this truth through wickedness (Rm

1:18). According to St. Paul, the evidence for God is evident in creation, but immorality blinds people to it.

Pascal echoes St. Paul, suggesting that persistent unbelief stems from irrational obstacles, which he calls “noxious” pleasures. These are distractions or sins that cloud judgment and prevent individuals from making the rational choice for God. According to both thinkers, unbelief is rooted not in reason but in immorality. Unbelievers often reject God and Christianity because they are unwilling to abandon sinful behaviors.

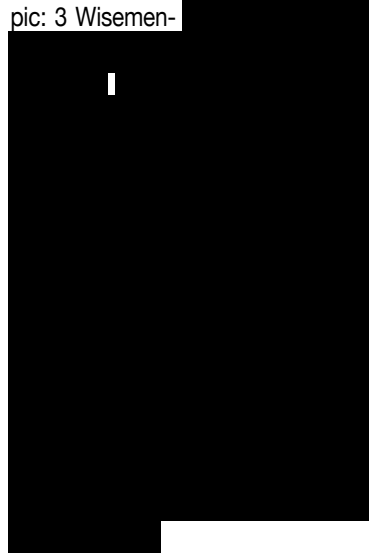
What about today’s unbelievers? Benedict emphasizes that bad example among Christians—a form of immorality—significantly spreads unbelief. Similarly,

unbelievers’ immorality hinders faith. Both groups, living “as if” God does not exist, share a common issue—immorality. This shared failure demonstrates the need for Christians to witness authentically to their faith, as their actions either inspire belief or reinforce doubt.

The Pope concludes with Pascal’s advice to non-believers: try living “as if” God exists. This fosters moral responsibility, and through this experience, one may discover the truth of faith. Faith, Ratzinger argues, is not simply about intellectual assent but about how one lives. When someone begins to live as if God exists, they open themselves to the transformative power of grace. “This is the wager, and the winnings are salvation.”



SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. Christmas Eve Mass Nativity Performance group pic: 3 Wisemen-



‘We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart, and a far-sighted vision.’

*Pope Francis on the Jubilee Year of Hope*



Brigitte Kelso  
Owner/Agent  
2918 S. MacArthur Dr.  
Alexandria, La. 71301  
Phone: 318.448.2226  
Fax: 318.448.2280  
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com

Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

### HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 2025

*For vocations to the priesthood and religious life:*

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life.

## PEST AID CO.

We Sell  
Do-It-Yourself  
Pest Control  
Supplies



Termites • Ants  
Ticks • Roaches  
Mice • Fleas

COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.

473-0228

pestaide@bellsouth.net

www.pestaideola.com

2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA



## 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



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL ALTAR SOCIETY.** The SFXC Altar Society presented a donation of \$1,000.00 to the "I Give Catholic" to purchase new vestments for Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral.



**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** Fr. Bino blessed the new statue of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane at the church.



**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT.** Knights of Columbus Council #10564 led a procession carrying Christ, the King, around the courtyard of Christ the King Catholic Church, in Simmesport, prior to mass on November 24, in celebration of The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.



**ST. PAUL'S LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY** was held on Dec. 11. The Altar Society sponsored a family from the Family Justice Center in Marksville. This organization helps single women with children who have been abused and need a place to stay, clothes, household goods, etc. The family sponsored is a single mother with three children. Almost \$800.00 worth of items were donated. Pictured with the Altar Society is pastor, Fr. Blake Deshautelle.

**NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT**  
SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS, WORKERS COMPENSATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY CLAIMS.



**SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY ?**



**318-561-2500**    RICHARD J. ARSENAULT    ALEXANDRIA, LA    WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM    LA-23-14823



visit us at **DESPINOTIRE.COM**





**STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN**, Bible study group made gift baskets for the elderly and shut-ins in the Parish.



**(photos on the left) ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.**

Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Christopher Court #302 distributed 3 food baskets for Thanksgiving to needy families in the community. Grand Lady, Audrey Keller thanks all members for their generous contribution.

Top photo: From left to right: Dorothy Washington, Annie Brown, Grand Lady Audrey Keller, Marjorie Williams, Patricia Green

Middle photo: From Left to Right: Patricia Green, Marjorie Williams, Grand Lady Audrey Keller and Dorothy Washington.

Bottom photo: Left to Right: Patricia Green, Marjorie Williams, Grand Lady Audrey Keller, Dorothy Washington, sitting Verna Bacon.



**(above) ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA.** Pictured: the St. Joseph Children's Choir Christmas Eve program.

Telephone 318-445-1446  
Fax 318-445-1449

Certified Gemologists  
Registered Jewelers

Under the clocktower

**Schnack's**

FINE JEWELRY  
Established 1965  
1438 Dorchester Drive  
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408  
www.schnacks.com

American Gem Society

**SABINE STATE BANK**  
& Trust Company

Member FDIC

Call your local branch for information.  
**(318) 256-7000**

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

**Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions**

**Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m.**  
St. Joseph Catholic Center,  
4400 Coliseum Blvd.  
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](http://www.virtus.org). For more information, call 318-445-6424, ext. 213.

*In the sight of the angels,  
I will sing your praises,  
Lord.*

Psalm 138: 1  
Responsorial Psalm for February 9  
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**SERRA CLUB SEMINARIAN CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.** The Serra Club held a Christmas Party for the Seminarians and their parents on Wednesday, Dec. 18 in the St. Juliana Church Activity Building, Alexandria. Pictured are Seminarians Gabe Dowden, Graham Descant, Jacob Cass, Blaine Phillips, Matthew Kramer, Matthew Bonner, Will Brittain, Blake Bernard, Bishop Robert Marshall and Fr. Luke LaFleur, director of Vocations.

## Seminarian Burses December 2024 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 Brian Seiler Burse                      |                   |
| <b>Mr. Venson R. Aymond, Jr.</b> .....         | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Father Wade DeCoste Burse                      |                   |
| <b>Mr. Venson R. Aymond, Jr.</b> .....         | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Father Daniel O'Connor Burse                   |                   |
| <b>Mr. Venson R. Aymond, Jr.</b> .....         | <b>\$50.00</b>    |
| Father Rusty Rabalais Burse                    |                   |
| <b>Mr. and Mrs. Dan Vanderlick</b> .....       | <b>\$100.00</b>   |
| Monsignor Julius G. Walle Burse                |                   |
| <b>Ms. Patricia Vandersypen-Basco</b> .....    | <b>\$100.00</b>   |
| Jerone and Audrey Vandersypen Burse            |                   |
| <b>Deacon and Mrs. L.G. Deloach</b> .....      | <b>\$500.00</b>   |
| Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr. Burse           |                   |
| <b>Deacon and Mrs. L.G. Deloach</b> .....      | <b>\$500.00</b>   |
| Father Rickey Gremillion Burse                 |                   |
| <b>Total</b> .....                             | <b>\$1,400.00</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:

Chancery Office,  
Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA  
71306-0417.

--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman



**Upcoming Retreats:**

**February 13 - 16**  
**Women's ACTS Retreat**  
hosted by  
**St. Alphonsus Church**

**February 27 - March 2**  
**Men's ACTS Retreat**  
hosted by  
**St. Rita Church**

All retreats are held at Maryhill  
Renewal Center.



**MSGR. BRUCE MILLER.** Following a retreat in New Orleans with the bishops of Region V (Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee), Bishop Robert Marshall drove to Covington to visit and have lunch with Msgr. Bruce Miller, retired priest of the Diocese of Alexandria. Msgr. Miller sends his regards to his many friends in our diocese.

**Budget Blinds**  
a style for every point of view™

Custom Window Coverings  
Shutters • Draperies • Blinds

Huge selection of the best brands!

**(318) 443-9730**  
**FREE In-Home Consultation & Estimates**

Professional Installation • Low Price Promise  
Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)

Signature Series • Lafayette Interior Fashions  
Exterior Window Screens

YOU GET IT ALL AT

**WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM**

Alexandria: 318.448.4225 • Ville Platte: 337.363.6322 • Toll Free: 800.766.4819

**OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES**  
**PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS • BREAKROOM & FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES**  
**JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT • PRINTING**

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.

# St. Anthony in Bunkie completes extensive renovation

Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie for Epiphany Sunday, Jan. 5. In solemn ceremonies, the bishop consecrated the church's Carrara marble altar and new tabernacle, and rededicated the structure following an extensive seven-month renovation. The improvements were completed in anticipation of an upcoming centennial celebration of the church.

In his homily, Bishop Marshall highlighted the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh presented by the Magi to the Christ Child. He explained that the Sacred Chrism applied to the top of the altar during the ceremonies contained fragrances including myrrh; that pure frankincense would be burned in the brasier placed on the altar, and that the new gold tabernacle reflected the congregation's gift to Christ present in the Holy Eucharist.

The marble altar, though never consecrated, was installed in 1965 following the Second Vatican Council. With renovations and new marble flooring throughout the sanctuary, the altar was removed, polished, and relocated directly in front of



**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH IN BUNKIE UNDERGOES MAJOR RESTORATION.** Completely new solid wood pews, marble flooring, a custom, handmade tabernacle and restoration of the Stations of the Cross pieces were part of the major renovation that took place over the last year. Bishop Robert Marshall consecrated the altar and tabernacle and rededicated the church during Epiphany Mass on Jan. 5. The refreshed sanctuary is much different from the "before" picture shown below, left. The mosaic behind the altar was taken down, the carpet removed and the wood floors beneath restored and refinished. The Stations of the Cross were repainted for a more realistic appearance. The restoration of the Stations was done by a Louisiana artisan.



the newly designed reredos and tabernacle.

The new tabernacle is the focal point of the church and was manufactured by Molina Quality Silversmiths of Madrid. The company is famous for manufacturing of fine ecclesiastical art. It is designed in the "Baroque" style. Artisans first designed pencil drawings of the details of the piece. Silversmiths executed its creation by hand, giving shape to the metals used to create the sacred chest. The

process of chiseling, embossing, hand engraving, and fire enameling the various designs of the exterior was a five month process. The parapet of the tabernacle features an embossed dome surmounted by the cross; the corners feature four statues of the Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

A new reredos in classic Romanesque style was designed by Avoyelles architect, Wayne Coco. The reredos rises in the rear-center of the sanctuary to cradle a large window of Saint Anthony

in Adoration of the Christ. This window was the first stained-glass installed in the church and was present when the church was dedicated in 1926. Restoration of this treasure was completed in 2024 by the Emil Frei Studios of St. Louis, Missouri. The company determined that the window is an original creation of Emil Frei who immigrated from Germany to establish this leading art glass company in America. Of note, Frei Studios have verified several additional Frei windows in the church.

Monsignor Scott Chemino, pastor, explained that there are several additional furnishings for the church to be installed. These include specialized lighting for the sanctuary, baptistry, and vestibule. Murals are also being created for spaces above the doors of the transept. They will depict miracles of Saint Anthony and will be installed in Spring 2025. Woven rugs are being designed and are set for installation in Summer 2025. Monsignor expressed compliments to every business involved in the renovation, but stressed heartfelt gratitude for the leadership of M.D. Descant, LLC, general contractors. "Our entire project has been blessed from beginning to end," he said.

Saint Anthony has recently received the distinction of being

Story continues on next page.



One of the restored Stations of the Cross. Before the restoration, the backgrounds obscured. For the restoration, the artist repainted the backgrounds to bring out the detail and creatively expressed the progressive darkening of the sky.



Bishop Marshall consecrates the altar. (Photo courtesy Gina Juneau)

listed on the United States Department of Interior National Register of Historic Places. Ceremonies for this event are forthcoming.

In closing comments at the Mass, Bishop Marshall announced that Saint Anthony is among several churches of the diocese that are designated Jubilee Year 2025

Pilgrimage Churches. This will bring spiritual pilgrims throughout the year to this truly beautiful church. A welcome banner and pilgrimage information, passports, and guest register await all who visit. Special tours may be arranged by calling the church office: 318-346-7274 or emailing: [saintanthonybunkie@outlook.com](mailto:saintanthonybunkie@outlook.com)



(top) Bishop consecrating the Tabernacle. (bottom) Close up detail of the Tabernacle, handmade in Spain.



**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, SIMMESPORT.** Children of Christ the King in Simmesport enacted the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL (MOREAUVILLE) USO CHRISTMAS SHOW.** The USO Christmas Show incorporated secular and religious music from every grade, PK3-8, with comical personalities like “Bob Hope” and “Private” soldiers, the “Andrew Sisters”, and singing movie stars who introduced each act with a USO flair. Actual USO flags were used in the patriotic set. The 8th grade portrayed “The Nativity” characters to complete the importance of the Christian Christmas season. Over 800 people attended the performance. Thank you to The Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana for sponsoring the event at the Mari Convention Center. Written and Directed by Karen Moreau. Choreographed and music selections by Carmen Necaise and Lauren Ford. Thank you to the students, faculty, and staff of SHS who worked so hard in making the production a success.



**OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER.** OLPS School Beta Club paid a visit to Lexington House nursing home and entertained by singing Christmas Carols and visiting with the residents.

View more photos  
on the galleries at  
[www.diocesealex.org](http://www.diocesealex.org).

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p><b>Jeansonne's Millworks<br/>&amp; Cabinet Shop</b></p> <p>* Architectural Millwork<br/>* Custom Cabinets &amp; Moulding</p> <p>Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276</p> |
|  | <p>GUY JEANSONNE<br/>Owner</p> <p>1843 Sterkx Road<br/>Alexandria, LA 71301</p>  |



## Clergy Waiter Dinner and Fundraiser

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana will be hosting their first fundraiser of 2025 at MaryHill Retreat Center on Lundi Gras, March 3rd! We invite you to join us for a night of Mardi Gras fun with the bishop and clergy of our Diocese as we raise funds for the good work of this organization.

There will be a delicious meal, a silent auction, and of course fun with our wait staff!

There are two sponsorship levels available as

well as individual tickets. Purchases can be made either online at [cccenla.org](http://cccenla.org) or by check payable to Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana and mailed to 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA 71303.

For more information, please contact Heidi Wampler at [hwampler@cccenla.org](mailto:hwampler@cccenla.org) or call (318) 445-2401, extension 510.

Thank you for your support! We look forward to seeing you on March 3, 2025!



### TERRY'S D.J. SERVICE

Music & Light Show  
Country, Rock, Zydeco, Oldies, Rap

#### The Cajun D.J.

Terry Laborde  
(318) 253-8949

Cell (318) 305-7186

E-mail: [terrylaborde77@gmail.com](mailto:terrylaborde77@gmail.com)



2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA

Ph: (318) 767-8596

Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu  
or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet.

#### CLOSED TUESDAYS

Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.

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.

## Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit [cccenla.org](http://cccenla.org) to access a variety of services. Appointments are required and can be made online.

- Mental Health Counseling
- Christian Life Coaching
- Christian Support Groups:  
Grief/Loss B.R.E.A.T.H.E.  
Peace in the Mds of Crisis Divorce Support
- Vaping/Tobacco Cessation (Youth and Adult)
- Disaster Preparedness Resources
- Financial Literacy Budget Class  
- in partnership with Red River Bank and OFMS
- Assist.Educate.Elevate.  
Emergency Basic Needs Assistance  
(For those at risk of utility disconnect and eviction, victims of house fires, and information and referral)
- SNAP Enrollment Assistance  
To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
- Volunteer - [cccenla.org/volunteer](http://cccenla.org/volunteer)
- Donate - [cccenla.org/hero-of-hope](http://cccenla.org/hero-of-hope)

Questions? Email [info@cccenla.org](mailto:info@cccenla.org)

## LEGLUE NISSAN INC.

NEW & USED CARS •  
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS

6400 COLISEUM BLVD.  
[WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM](http://WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM)  
**318-767-3300**



John Kramer & Son Funeral Home  
has proudly served central Louisiana for



We are deeply grateful to the community  
for trusting the Kramer family and our  
dedicated staff for five generations.



*Grief*

My soul is sad beyond belief,  
As I lay here crying in my grief.

I lost the person, my one true love,  
But, I can look to heaven and see them above.

My heart aches, and sometimes I cry,  
But, I know someday I too must die.

Our time is short, we do our best.  
I know with God's help, we can accomplish the rest.

He gives us graces throughout the day,  
Helping each other along the way.

As I close out with HIS words of love,  
You will be with me in heaven above.

Marcus Descant, Leesville, La.

[lizdescant@gmail.com](mailto:lizdescant@gmail.com)  
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant



**2025 JORNADA JUVENIL (Youth Day) DRAWS A LARGE ATTENDANCE.** The 2025 Jornada Juvenil, for Latino youth of the Diocese of Alexandria (along with some participants from neighboring dioceses). The bilingual conference included presentations, music, breakout sessions, adoration and Mass. Thank you to Our Lady of Prompt Succor parish for welcoming this gathering to the Divine Providence Center. What a great way to begin the new year! The event was held the weekend of Jan. 4. Speakers were Dr. Alex Gotay and Fr. Taylor Reynolds with music provided by Karla Alvarez. Pictured are Bishop Marshall and a portion of attendees.



**ST. LOUIS CHURCH, GLENMORA.** On Saturday, Jan. 18, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass in Spanish with an overflow congregation at St. Louis Church in Glenmora. The celebration was both joyous and reverent. Thank you to Father Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez, Teresian Sisters Carolina, Daria, and Modesta, and the leaders of the parish for their warm welcome.



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, FOREST HILL.** Sunday, Jan. 19, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at "la Mision de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe" (Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission) in Forest Hill. This is one of the eight pilgrimage churches for this Jubilee Year. It was an enjoyable liturgy with a more-than-full church, a commitment to prayer for vocations. Thank you to Fr. Marc Noel and the community of Guadalupe for their welcome this morning and their commitment to welcoming pilgrims throughout the year.



**We have 35 years of curating  
Custom International Travel for:**

- Families, friends & small groups
- Camino walks & Pilgrimages for church groups
- Culinary & Cultural Experiences for all ages

**Kristine Antoon**

318.792.4709

[kristine@freedomtravelllc.com](mailto:kristine@freedomtravelllc.com)

**Annie Collins**

504.606.4712

[annie@freedomtravelllc.com](mailto:annie@freedomtravelllc.com)

**Petrus**  
**FEED & SEED**

2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA

**442-2325**

# Retrouvaille: Hope for a better marriage

## Frequently asked questions concerning the Retrouvaille Marriage program

*Originally published at helpourmarriage.org*

### What does “marriage” mean to Retrouvaille?

In Retrouvaille, “marriage” refers to a covenantal relationship between one man and one woman.

### Whom is it for?

Retrouvaille is for couples who want to improve their marriages. We help couples in troubled marriages and couples with good marriages who believe their relationship can be even better. The primary requirement is a willingness to work on your marriage. Both husband and wife are required to attend the program.

### How much does the program cost?

Costs vary by location. A small, non-refundable registration fee is required to reserve your spot, with the balance due on the Sunday of your weekend. Post-sessions and ongoing monthly support meetings are included at no additional cost.

### How can we be sure our privacy is protected?

We take your privacy very seriously. The names of attending couples are never shared with any organizations, parties, or individuals outside the Retrouvaille community. Only your first names will be used

during the weekend. Sharing anything beyond that is entirely up to you.

### Will I be required to discuss my marriage or personal problems in front of other people?

No, personal sharing is not required, and there are no group discussions during the weekend. The experience is entirely between you and your spouse.

### What if one or both of us is no longer in love with the other?

Most people who feel they are no longer in love with their spouse mean they no longer experience the romantic love they felt early in the relationship. This type of love is meant to transition to a mature, deeper love that can be sustained. Retrouvaille can help facilitate that transition.

### I want to attend the Retrouvaille Weekend, but my spouse doesn't. What should I do?

You've already invested a great deal of time and energy in your marriage, so giving one weekend is a small investment. Assure your spouse there's nothing to lose by attending—only potential benefits for your marriage. If possible, print out information from this website or encourage them to read it online. You can also contact your local

registration couple for additional suggestions. The program is designed for both husband and wife to attend.

### How can I be sure Retrouvaille will save my marriage?

Only the two of you can save your marriage. Retrouvaille teaches skills that, if used properly, can help you get on the right track. Arrive with open minds, open hearts, and a willingness to work on your relationship. All volunteers in the program are couples for whom Retrouvaille has worked.

### Do we have to attend the community closest to us?

It's recommended but not required. Efforts will be made to find a location near your home for post-sessions and ongoing monthly support meetings. If that's not possible, online sessions are available.

### Do you offer childcare services during the Retrouvaille Weekend?

Unfortunately, we cannot provide childcare services during the weekends. However, some communities offer childcare for post-sessions and/or ongoing monthly support meetings.

### Can our children come on the weekend if we provide a babysitter?

The weekend requires a dedicated registration couple to answer questions about the Retrouvaille program. Select the community you're considering, and you'll find their contact phone number. They can provide all the details.

### Will marriage counselors be available at any of the Retrouvaille events?

No, Retrouvaille does not provide professional counselors. If professional help is needed, most communities maintain a referral list of local counselors. Retrouvaille and personal counseling are highly compatible.

### My spouse and I have agreed to attend an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend. What do we do? How do we get started?

First, register for a weekend program. Once registered, you'll be contacted by the registration couple from the community where you'll attend. They will provide additional information and answer your questions.

### We're still unsure about the Retrouvaille Weekend. Can we speak with someone?

Yes! Each community has

a dedicated registration couple to answer questions about the Retrouvaille program. Select the community you're considering, and you'll find their contact phone number. They can provide all the details.

### English is not my primary language. Will that be a problem during the Retrouvaille Weekend?

If you can read an English newspaper or understand most of a TV news broadcast, you should be fine. Don't worry about speaking fluently; if your spouse understands you, that's sufficient. Some communities offer programs in Spanish or other languages—check the list of dates and locations for availability.

### My spouse and I are very spiritual. Will there be religious services during the Retrouvaille Weekend?

Mass is offered Saturday morning and a closing Mass on Sunday afternoon. All couples are invited to participate, but attendance is optional.

### My spouse and I are not spiritual. Will that be an issue?

Not at all. The religious services are voluntary and will not affect the program's flow.

### One of us cannot forgive the other for what happened. Is



**COMPARE QUALITY - TASTE - QUANTITY - PRICE**  
**WE DELIVER!**  
WITHIN LIMITED AREA • CHECKS ACCEPTABLE

Everything from cheese to our "Full House"

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>#1 ALEXANDRIA</b><br>902 VERSAILLES BLVD.<br>448-4104 | <b>#2 BALL</b><br>6301 MONROE HWY<br>640-2983 | <b>#3 PINEVILLE</b><br>HWY 28E AT STILLEY RD<br>445-9249 |
|--|---|--|

---

VALUABLE COUPON

**Two Medium Pizzas \$22.99**  
Single Topping only

Additional Toppings Extra • Not valid with any other coupon  
All prices subject to change

Expires 2/24/25

Blessed  
are they  
who hope  
in the Lord.

Psalm 40: 5  
Responsorial Psalm  
for February 16  
Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



**Flu Shots & Vaccinations**

**Many gifts including large selection of religious items:**

- My Saint My Hero religious jewelry
- Holy Medals
- Jesus Calling & other inspirational books
- Rosaries
- ACTS bracelets
- First Communion, Confirmation & Baptism gifts

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

**(318) 876-3665**  
Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm  
206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327  
**Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners**

**there hope for us?**

You'll discover during the weekend that nothing is beyond repair if both partners are willing to put in the effort. Many couples who attend Retrouvaille grow into a much stronger, healthier relationship.

**We've tried a Marriage Encounter Weekend, and**

**it didn't help. How is this different?**

Marriage Encounter is designed to enhance good marriages. Retrouvaille, founded by Marriage Encounter couples, was developed for struggling marriages. It builds extensively on Marriage Encounter concepts, focusing on moving marriages from misery to rediscovery.

**Retrouvaille enrollment now open!**

Enrollment is now open for the Retrouvaille Weekend, taking place March 21-23, 2025 at Grand Coteau Retreats in Grand Coteau, LA. Retrouvaille is a three-phase program designed to help couples navigate marriage challenges in a healthy and productive way. It begins with a weekend retreat, followed by post-weekend sessions and ongoing monthly marriage support. To register, visit [helpourmarriage.org](http://helpourmarriage.org), or call 1-800-470-2230. For more information, contact the Community Coordinator Couple, Randall and Robin Bellard, at 225-271-4092.



**THE JOY (JUST OLDER YOUTH) MINISTRY AT OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH IN ALEXANDRIA,** is a ministry for adult Catholics young at heart and seeking wisdom in a later season of life. The ministry has changed over the past 10 years to reflect the needs of the most devoted members. What started as a time to attend Mass and socialize has shifted to a place to grow in relationship with God along with others in the same season of life. Our current series is on Mary, our Blessed Mother. We will likely spend the rest of the year studying Mary throughout the Bible in a video series by Dr. Edward Sri, produced by Ascension Press. But our members are curious as well about the apparitions of Mary, how the church views them, where she is/has appeared and what she is trying to tell us. By the end of the year we want to understand the human and divine natures of Mary, so we can become more like her and discern her modern day messages. Group discussion is an integral part of the process. Joy Ministry is facilitated by Renée Aldridge, Certified Spiritual Director and meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Divine Providence Center from 10:00 a.m.-noon. Light refreshments are served. All are welcome to attend. Contact Renee for questions at [renee.aldridge1@gmail.com](mailto:renee.aldridge1@gmail.com)

**B.K. ROOFING, LLC**

**Call the Pros!**  
Residential Roofing Experts

[www.bkroofingllc.com](http://www.bkroofingllc.com)

**Brian Maddox, Owner**  
13 years experience  
Licensed & insured • References available

**"It doesn't cost any more to get it done right!"**

**Free estimates!**  
Most estimates in 2 days

Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies  
Let us handle the details!

**318-201-9065**  
17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460

**Emergency service available**

**Lacombe**  
**Floor Finishing**  
310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322  
Specializing in installation

- Floor Finishing
- Ceramic Tile Floors
- Hardwood Floors
- Reseal Tile Floors

**Ph: (318) 481-0950**  
Morgan Newton, Owner

**NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT**

**Need Social Security Disability Benefits?**

**561-2500**  
**NBALawFirm.com**

Richard J. Arsenault      2220 Bonaventure Court, Alexandria

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

Psalm 103: 8  
Responsorial Psalm for February 23  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. Congratulations to our students of the year. We are extremely excited for them to represent our school at the diocesan level. 12th grade winner, Bo [redacted] 8th grade winner, Braylon [redacted] 5th grade winner, Jarred [redacted]



(above and left) OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. On December 11, the catechism classes of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield presented the story of the first Christmas.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL (MOREAUVILLE) VFW POST #3139 CONTEST WINNERS. Pictured left to right: Ahnalise [redacted] 1st place for "Drawing A Historical Event"; Lillie [redacted] 3rd place and Brynn [redacted] 1st place for the "Patriots Pen Essay Award."



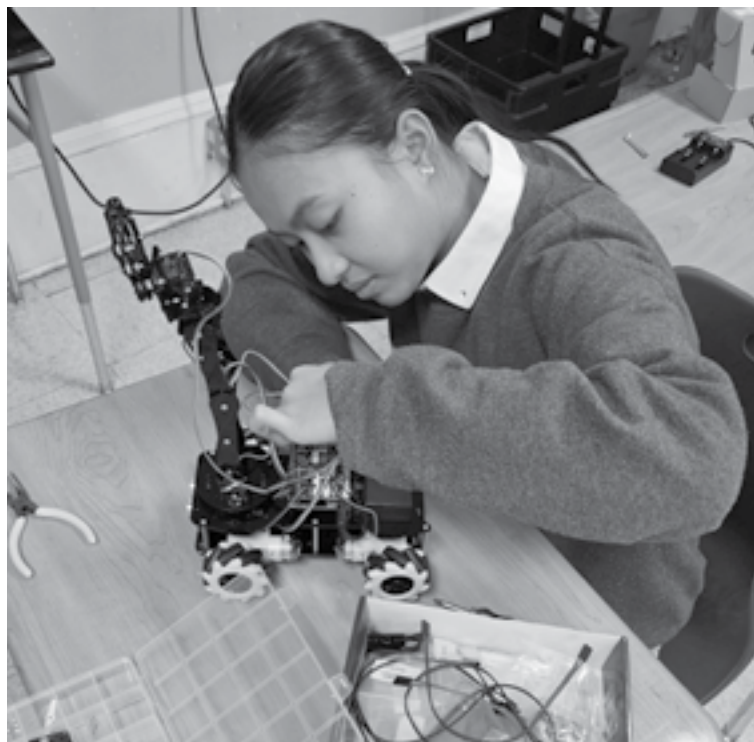
(below) CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL STUDENTS Elizabeth [redacted] (12th grade) and Natalie [redacted] (10th grade) for winning at the diocesan level of the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. Congratulations to Kade [redacted] (8th grade) for his participation. Elizabeth and Natalie's essays will now go on to compete at the state level.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD STUDENTS OF THE YEAR. Congratulations to Camryn [redacted] and Baylor [redacted] 12th grade and 8th grade Holy Savior Menard Students of the Year, pictured with HSM principal, Chris Gatlin.

**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.



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL (PLAUCHEVILLE).** Foreign Exchange Student, Flora working on the SR. BETA Robotics entry for the state convention. SR. BETA will be attending the state convention in Lafayette at the end of January.



**ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION TEEN ACTS RETREAT**, held Jan. 2-5 at Maryhill Renewal Center. The theme was "The glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Isaiah 60:1).



(above) **ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL MASS, NATCHITOCHEES.** On Sunday, Jan. 12, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in historic Natchitoches, one of the eight Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Alexandria. It was also the regularly scheduled Mass with the community of St. Mary's School.



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!  
Visit [www.steubenvillesouth.com](http://www.steubenvillesouth.com)  
or email [hello@steubenvillesouth.com](mailto:hello@steubenvillesouth.com)  
for more information.

**YOUR COMMUNITY STORES**

Refueling  
& Refreshing  
Communities  
Since 1970

**WWW.YNOTSTOP.COM**

P.O. Box 5624  
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751  
Fax: (318) 473-4045  
EMail: [DonaldJBaker@aol.com](mailto:DonaldJBaker@aol.com)

**Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF**  
CONSULTING FORESTER  
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

**Campus Ministry:**

**LSU of Alexandria:**  
LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @lsuacatholics

**Northwestern State University:**  
NSU Catholic Student Organization FOCUS Ministries. Contact Holy Cross Church: (318) 352-2615

**Louisiana Christian University:**  
LCU Catholic Student Organization "Wildcat Catholics" 318-447-2956. Follow us on Instagram @wildcatcatholics

## Cenla Life March - February 1

Join us and March for Life to protect unborn babies and their mothers at the Cenla Life March in Pineville-Alexandria on Saturday, Feb. 1. We will meet at Louisiana Christian University by 10:00 a.m. Keynote speaker, Sean Corcoran, a father whose son was lost from abortion, will share his powerful story of hardship and healing from abortion. You won't want to miss hearing his testimony! Visit us online at [www.LaLifeMarch.com](http://www.LaLifeMarch.com) for more information. Questions? Call Louisiana Right to Life at 1-866-463-5433. Please join us and spread the word as we march! The Life Marches are open to all!

## Taste of Echo - February 1

Join us at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo for our "Taste of Echo" event being held Saturday, Feb. 1 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 per ticket. Tickets available by called Millie Chelette at (318) 359-3660. Limited seating so hurry!

## St. Joseph Winter Festival - Feb. 2

St. Joseph Winter Festival will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2 beginning at 11:30 a.m. All activities will be in St. Joseph Family Center, Colfax. Chicken and sausage gumbo, cake/cookies, nachos and soft drinks will be available for sale. Sixteen games of bingo will be played at cost of \$20 for three cards. There will also be a silent auction and a live cake auction. Raffle tickets will also be for sale at \$2 per ticket or 3 for \$5. The prizes are 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$100, and 3rd - \$50. Please join us for food, and fun! For more information contact Lou Brown at 318-729-1283.

## History of Catholicism Abridged

### • February 5

Join Fr. Thomas Kennedy at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (in the church) for a 4-part series on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 5. Fr. Kennedy will provide an abridged introduction to the history of Catholicism.

## Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - February 8

These one-day workshops will be at the St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. The workshop will end at approximately 3:00 p.m. and lunch will be included. Space will be limited, so please register for a workshop

# DIOCESAN BRIEFS

as soon as possible at <https://www.diocesealex.org/precana-marriage-prep-workshop/>. There is a fee of \$60 per couple.

## Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting - February 8

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

## Catholic Charities Clergy Waiter Dinner - March 3

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana will be hosting their first fundraiser of 2025 at Maryhill on Lundi Gras, March 3! We invite you to join us for a night of Mardi Gras fun with the bishop and clergy of our Diocese as we raise funds for the good work of this organization.

There will be a delicious meal, a silent auction, and of course fun with our wait staff!

There are two sponsorship levels available as well as individual tickets. Purchases can be made either online at [ccenla.org](http://ccenla.org) or by check payable to Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana and mailed to 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA 71303.

For more information, please contact Heidi Wampler at [hwampler@ccenla.org](mailto:hwampler@ccenla.org) or call (318) 445-2401, extension 510.

## 4th Annual Fullness of Truth Conference - March 7-9

The Fullness of Truth Conference will be held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. The theme of this year's conference is "Go Make Disciples: The Eucharistic Revival & the Call to Evangelize".

Equip yourselves with the expertise of renown convert scripture scholar & prolific author, Dr. John Bergsma, the

dynamic Louisiana-native & veteran Catholic apologist Dr. Karlo Broussard, the spunky Catholic convert "evangelista" & author Sonja Corbitt, and the hilarious comedian & evangelist Paul J. Kim. Sacred music will be provided by NOLA-based & Hallow App's The Vigil Project and a special youth track as well. Our Conference will be your guide to what the "New Evangelization" is, and to the next chapter in the National Eucharistic Revival; a new Pentecost! Don't miss it!

To register, room reservations, see the event schedule or to learn more details, visit our website: [www.fullnessoftruth.org](http://www.fullnessoftruth.org) or call: 877-218-7884 / 877-21-TRUTH.

## Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop - March 11

The next workshop for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be held on Mar. 11 at the St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria. The average time for the workshop is about three hours so please plan accordingly. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org).

Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. No need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

## Day trip to Natchez, MS • April 10

St. Francis DeSales Church in Echo is planning a Day Trip to Natchez, Mississippi via Motor Coach and will include visits to St. Mary's Basilica, Holy Family Catholic Church, an Antebellum Home and lunch.

April 10 - Depart St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo at 8:00 a.m.

Motor Coach capacity is 55. Cost is \$75 inclusive. Please RSVP early. If you are interested please email: [stfrancisdesalescatholicchurcn@outlook.com](mailto:stfrancisdesalescatholicchurcn@outlook.com)

SUBJECT LINE: NATCHEZ or Call Janis at (318) 452-5821

## SAVE THE DATE! Women's Silent Retreat - April 24-27

A women's silent retreat will be held at Maryhill on April 24-27. The retreat will be led by author, podcaster and Ignatian Spiritual Director Becky Eldridge. Registration and details will be coming soon. For more information, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207 or [dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org](mailto:dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org)

## Church Today News Deadlines

**February 24**  
Deadline for news:  
**Thursday, Feb. 13**

**March 24**  
Deadline for news:  
**Thursday, Feb. 16**



Anne M. Oestrieher, CPA, CFP®  
Chris Daigrepoint  
Will Whisenant

**Oestrieher Financial Management Services**  
Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.

4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303

(318) 448-3556

[www.o-fms.com](http://www.o-fms.com)

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC



# February 2025

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>JANUARY <b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>        | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p> | <p><b>29</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL</p>  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p>Holy Savior Menard<br/>Preview Day<br/>8:00-9:00 a.m.<br/>Holy Savior Menard<br/>High School Library,<br/>Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p> | <p><b>31</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU</p>                            | <p><b>FEBRUARY 1</b></p> <p>Cenla Life March<br/>10:00 a.m.<br/>Louisiana Christian<br/>University, Pineville</p> <p>Taste of Echo<br/>5:00-7:00 p.m.<br/>St. Francis de Sales,<br/>Echo</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY<br/>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>         | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Winter Festival<br/>11:30 a.m.<br/>St. Joseph Church,<br/>Colfax</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU</p> |
| <p><b>3</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD</p>                 | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>VIRTUS Training<br/>6:00 p.m.<br/>St. Joseph Catholic<br/>Center, Alexandria</p> <p>History of Catholicism<br/>Series<br/>6:30-7:30 p.m.<br/>OLPS Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY</p>  | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL</p>               | <p><b>8</b></p> <p>Pre-Cana Marriage<br/>Prep Workshop<br/>8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.<br/>St. Joseph Catholic<br/>Center, Alexandria</p> <p>Discalced Carmelites<br/>Monthly Meeting<br/>9:00 a.m.<br/>Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE</p> | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN</p>   |
| <p><b>10</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR</p>                | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA</p>  | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>History of Catholicism<br/>Series<br/>6:30-7:30 p.m.<br/>OLPS Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA</p>  | <p><b>13</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPARAMBIL</p>  | <p><b>14</b></p> <p>ST. VALENTINES DAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. J. PALLIPURATH</p> | <p><b>15</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. PARDUE</p>   | <p><b>16</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. PARTAIN</p>  |
| <p><b>17</b></p> <p>PRESIDENTS DAY<br/>PRAY FOR FR. T. PAUL</p> | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. PELTO</p>   | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>History of Catholicism<br/>Series<br/>6:30-7:30 p.m.<br/>OLPS Church,<br/>Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. K. PRIMEAUX</p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. RABALAIS</p>   | <p><b>21</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. RAY</p>                                | <p><b>22</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. REYNOLDS</p>   | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. ROBICHAUX</p>   |
| <p><b>24</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. E. RODRIGUEZ-HERNANDEZ</p>     | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. K. SAYES</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>History of Catholicism<br/>Series<br/>6:30-7:30 p.m.<br/>OLPS Church, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. SCHUPBACH</p>   | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. SCOTT</p>  | <p><b>28</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. SEILER</p>                             | <p><b>MARCH 1</b></p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY<br/>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. SHOURY</p>  |



You only have one heart.  
We only have one purpose:  
to keep it healthy and strong.



SCAN HERE TO  
FIND A PROVIDER.

At CHRISTUS Health, we never stop working to make heart care better. With us, you have easy access to innovative diagnostics, rehabilitation, and the latest in heart surgery advancements – delivered with genuine thoughtfulness and compassion by our skilled cardiology team. To learn more about one of the area's most comprehensive heart care programs, or to find a provider close to you, visit [CHRISTUShealth.org](https://CHRISTUShealth.org).

Your heart. Your life. Our purpose.

