

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LV, No. 12

www.diocesealex.org

Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

December 23, 2024



New Orleans Saints and Pelican's owner, Mrs. Gayle Benson, was in Alexandria to spread some Christmas cheer. St. Mary's Residential Community and Services was honored to welcome Mrs. Benson during her annual Season of Giving campaign. During her visit, Mrs. Benson announced a generous donation of 200 tablets—one for each resident who lives on campus. Mrs. Benson's visit included an opportunity to meet residents and staff. Her thoughtful donation ensures that each resident has access to technology that can enhance communication, learning, and leisure activities tailored to their individual needs. (Photo courtesy of Candiloro & Co. Photography)

INSIDE

Together as One Church

Join Bishop Marshall in renewing our mission through prayer, dialogue, and hope. Visit www.diocesealex.org or see page 2 for details and his message.

Rome Transforms for Jubilee 2025

Jubilee 2025 opens Dec. 24, calling Catholics worldwide to renewal, reconciliation, and action. See page 3 for a list of 10 things you should know going into this Jubilee year.

Confession: A Family Journey to Freedom

Frequent confession transforms lives with God's mercy and healing. See page 4 for tips to make it a simple, regular part of your family's faith journey!

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CHURCH TODAY



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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Week after week, in large gatherings and small, people of faith all over the world and speaking a variety of languages gather around the altar of God to celebrate and receive the Holy Eucharist, the sacramental presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We come “Together as One Church” in the Lord’s great banquet and we are sent forth in mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost, suffering, and hungry world. Here in Central Louisiana, the roots of our Catholic faith run deep. Spanish and French missionaries first planted the seeds that have sprouted and grown for centuries. As people of faith, the Church has lived out its mission by bringing the blessings of our Catholic tradition to many towns, villages, and communities. The landscape has changed over the years, but the Gospel message remains unchanged.

Sisters and brothers, the world is vastly different than it was 100 or 50 or even 25 years ago. Through digital communication, we have become connected to every part of the world, but we have also become disconnected from our



Live, Jesus, in our Hearts Forever

By Bishop Robert W. Marshall, Jr.

Together as One Church: Embracing a future of Hope

neighbor, from our community, and too often from God. In many national studies, we learn that our younger generations may be culturally connected to their faith tradition, but too many lack a vibrant relationship with the living God. As disciples of the Lord, as the Church of Jesus Christ, we are called to read and respond to the signs of the times. We must bring the healing message of Christ to the hearts of all.

To face this new reality and to respond to the needs of our time, I am inviting you to participate in a process of pastoral planning, of prayer, dialogue, and discernment in which we can open our eyes to a new vision for the Church here in Central Louisiana. We

are calling this process “Together as One Church: Embracing a Future of Hope.” Each parish and mission will be asked to reflect upon the strengths of their church community, the challenges that confront it, and imagine how we might more effectively respond to Christ’s call to spread his message of Good News. We will seek to form a sustainable structure of vibrant, mission-driven parishes, schools, and ministries. We will be encouraged to support the health, holiness and the morale of our priests, as well as renew our commitment to support religious vocations from among our own parishes, schools and missions – and, yes, from our own families. And we will be challenged to seek

out and welcome others and to walk together, hand-in-hand, into a future of hope.

I look forward to these next months of prayer and discernment in which we seek to renew our mission as disciples. May we share with one another our hopes and dreams, our needs and our struggles in an effort to embrace a future of hope. I invite you to participate in the process in your parish or mission. Please visit our diocesan website – www.diocesealex.org – to watch a video message from me and to read more about the process.

Most of all, I humbly ask you to pray with me – seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our discernment. We stand on the shoulders of generations of faithful Catholics who accepted the task of discipleship in their own times and have handed the faith on to us. May we embrace this process, “Together as One Church” and recommit ourselves to a vibrant, mission-driven Church that witnesses the love of Christ to all.

Live Jesus in our hearts,
 Most Reverend
 Robert W. Marshall, Jr.
 Bishop of Alexandria

Celebrate the Opening of the Jubilee Year



Mark your calendar for the Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year on Friday, December 29 at 10:15 a.m. Join us in the Hotel Bentley lobby as Bishop Robert Marshall, Jr. blesses the Cross and reads the Papal Bull. From there, we will process together to St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria for the continuation of the rite and Mass. All are welcome to this special celebration as we embark on a holy year of grace and renewal. Don’t miss this momentous occasion!

It’s a Wrap: #iGiveCatholic 2024!

This year’s #iGiveCatholic Campaign concluded on December 10 with the Diocese of Alexandria raising an impressive \$14,958! These funds will support intentional goals, creating meaningful impacts across our participating parishes.

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral set a goal to purchase new liturgical vestments and exceeded expectations, raising \$10,190!

This remarkable generosity highlights the power of our faith community coming together.

Thank you to everyone who gave and made this year’s campaign a success. Mark your calendars for next year’s #iGiveCatholic on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Let’s continue to Give Thanks, Give Back, and Give Catholic!

See the latest news from around the Diocese at
www.diocesealex.org

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Psalm 72: 11 | Responsorial Psalm for January 5 | The Epiphany of the Lord



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10 Things to know about Jubilee 2025, the Holy Year that begins Dec. 24

By Maria Wiering
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Signs around the Eternal City declare “Roma si trasforma” — “Rome is transformed” as an explanation for the ubiquitous infrastructure projects underway, including the restoration of iconic sculptures and monuments, ahead of Jubilee 2025, a Holy Year that begins Christmas Eve.

While the metropolis is seizing the opportunity for renewal, that is ultimately the jubilee’s expectation for the entire church. “For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ ... of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope,’” Pope Francis wrote in the document that officially declared the year.

Here are 10 things to know about the upcoming Jubilee Year.

1. What is a jubilee?

A jubilee year, also known as a “holy year,” is a special year in the life of the church currently celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary jubilee was in 2000, with Pope Francis calling for an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015-2016. Jubilee years have been held on regular intervals in the Catholic church since 1300, but they trace their roots to the Jewish tradition of marking a jubilee year every 50 years.

According to the Vatican website for the jubilee, these years in Jewish history were “intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.”

2. When does Jubilee 2025 start?

Jubilee 2025 opens Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., with the rite of the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican immediately before Pope Francis celebrates midnight



HOLY YEAR 2025. The dome of St. Peter’s Basilica is seen over a cloth barricade reading “Rome Jubilee 2025” that surrounds a construction site at the beginning of the broad boulevard leading to St. Peter’s Square, Dec. 4, 2024. The city of Rome is preparing for the Holy Year with hundreds of roadwork and restoration projects. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Mass. Holy Doors will also be opened at Rome’s three other major basilicas: St. John Lateran on Dec. 29, St. Mary Major on Jan. 1, and St. Paul’s Outside the Walls on Jan. 5.

A Holy Door will also be opened Dec. 26 at Rebibbia Prison, a Roman prison Pope Francis has visited twice before to celebrate Mass and wash inmates’ feet on Holy Thursday.

The doors represent the passage to salvation Jesus opened to humanity. In 1423, Pope Martin V opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran — the Diocese of Rome’s cathedral — for the first time for a jubilee. For the Holy Year of 1500, Pope Alexander VI opened Holy Doors at Rome’s four main basilicas. At the end of a holy year, the Holy Doors are formally closed and then bricked over by masons.

3. Jubilee 2025 theme

The theme of the Holy Year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” The papal bull, issued May 9, that introduced the coming Jubilee Year is titled “Spes Non Confundit,” or “Hope

does not disappoint,” drawn from Romans 5:5. “Everyone knows what it is to hope,” Pope Francis wrote. “In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring.”

“Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt,” he continued. “Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope.”

Pope Francis also hopes the year draws Catholics toward patience, which he described in “Spes Non Confundit” as a “virtue closely linked to hope,” yet can feel elusive in “our fast-paced world, we are used to wanting everything now.”

4. Jubilee and reconciliation

Drawing on their Jewish roots, jubilee years emphasize the sacrament of reconciliation and restoring relationships with God. They also provide an opportunity for a special jubilee indulgence, which can remove the residual effects of sin through the grace of Christ.

5. Jubilee: A call to faith in action

The year calls Christians to action. Pope Francis called for “signs of hope” in the Jubilee Year, including the desire for peace in the world, openness to life and responsible parenthood, and closeness to prisoners, the poor, the sick, the young, the elderly, migrants and people “in difficult situations.” Pope Francis has called on affluent countries to forgive the debts of countries that would never be able to repay them, and address “ecological debt,” which he described as “connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment and the

disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.”

6. Pilgrimage for Jubilee 2025

Expect an influx of pilgrims in the Eternal City. Italy’s National Tourist Research Institute projects 35 million visitors in 2025, nearly triple of its 13 million visitors in 2023. Pilgrimage is a “fundamental” part of jubilee events, Pope Francis said in “Spes Non Confundit.” “Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life,” he wrote.

He noted that jubilee pilgrims are likely to visit Rome’s Christian catacombs and its seven pilgrim churches — the basilicas of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. Lawrence, Holy Cross and St. Sebastian — destinations St. Philip Neri popularized in the 16th century with a 15-mile walk. Twelve other Roman churches, including the Sanctuary of Divine Love in southeast Rome, are designated “jubilee churches” intended as gathering spots for pilgrims during the jubilee.

Experts in the travel and hospitality industries suggest anyone heading to Rome in 2025 — pilgrim or not — book accommodations, tickets and tours in advance. Visitors may also be expected to pay an increased tourist tax, depending on their type of accommodations.

7. Major events for Jubilee 2025

Major events are happening in Rome, including jubilee gatherings with liturgies, speakers and papal audiences to celebrate different groups within the church. The first is the Jubilee of the World of Communications Jan. 24-26, followed by the Jubilee of the Armed Forces, Police and Security Personnel

Guiding little hearts: The importance of taking your kids to confession

By Jenna Guizar
Blessed is She

“What is the point of going to Confession?” my daughter asked me as we drove to the church. “I feel so weird telling the priest my sins!”

I smiled to myself because to be honest, sometimes, I do, too. Confession is a Sacrament in our beautiful Catholic Church that I have struggled with for most of my adult life. (I didn’t struggle as a kid with it because I wasn’t taken.)

I had a hard time for years because I had debilitating habitual sin in my life that I felt a ton of shame about and never felt safe to express in the confessional. My friend Beth is the one who helped me realize that this Sacrament is precisely where God’s mercy is poured out into the great crevice in my life that I constantly dig deeper through my habitual sin. His mercy is poured out even more because of the depths of my sin.

His mercy has changed my life.

Now, going to the Sacrament of Penance is a frequent occurrence in our family culture. My husband and I go at least once every two weeks, and we have experienced



immense freedom from the attachments we always thought we would be bound to forever because of our fallen human nature.

Because I’ve experienced this freedom from frequenting this beautiful Sacrament, all I want to do is offer this same opportunity to my children.

I handed my phone to my daughter and said what I frequently say whenever any questions about Christianity or Catholicism come up in family conversations: “I bet Father Mike Schmitz has a video on that!”

And yes, yes he does. Multiple, in fact.*

We finished the video from Father (thank you, Father!), and I looked at my daughter.

“Did that help?” I asked.

“Yes,” she sighed.

“Sweet, let’s go in!”

We headed into the church to get in line for Confession, and I handed her an Examination of Conscience for Kids.

Over the years, I have realized five important factors that have helped our family make the Sacrament of Reconciliation a frequent and normal thing we do.

1) Make It Simple and Easy, Not Scary and Hard

We can sometimes make Sacraments feel heavy and hard to face. And yes, of course, receiving the forgiveness and grace of Jesus is a very big deal and something to take seriously. It is life-changing. It is soul-saving. It has eternal consequences.

But as we’ve started frequenting this beautiful Sacrament, I’ve noticed that when I am easy-breezy about going, then my kids are more inclined to be relaxed as they prepare to share their intimate sins to a man in persona Christi. This can feel scary if you think he’s probably judging you, memorizing your face or voice, or surprised by your sin. It can feel scarier the more intensely you act about it.

I’m not saying to minimize the importance and the beautiful reality of the Sacrament of Penance. I’m saying that if you act like going to Confession is simply a part of your family culture, something that Mom and Dad also do, and something on our calendar as opposed to a punishment or a shameful experience, then it will bring beautiful fruit into your family.

There is a beauty to humbly saying, “This isn’t a yucky experience of shame, it’s a beautiful experience of healing and love.”

2) Put Frequent Confession on Your Schedule

As I said, if the Sacrament of Reconciliation is written into your family calendar, then it is less likely to be skipped. Instead it is something that the whole family can be involved in and benefit from. If the whole family goes to receive together, then the truth of “We sinned, and we ask Your forgiveness for hurting each other and for hurting You, Lord” becomes a part of your family’s DNA.

It’s incredibly important for your children to see you receiving God’s mercy as well as being a support to them as they enter into receiving His grace as well. Plus, when you have children too young to go, spouses can take turns watching them outside the confessional, and they anticipate their own First Confession with excitement.

It is a mutually beneficial act to be with each other on the drive, in the Confession line, in the chapel afterwards, and

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Why protect life?

We protect life because science is conclusive on when life begins.

Louisiana Right to Life works to protect unborn life because we know that life begins at the moment of fertilization and that an unborn child has a heartbeat only 18 days after conception.

The unborn child is arguably the most vulnerable member of our society because he or she cannot speak for themselves. We believe it is our responsibility to be their voice.

Science is conclusive on when life begins, and remarkably we can see for ourselves the development of a baby inside the womb through ultrasound technology. In the womb, unborn babies are known for smiling, sucking their thumb, and even hiccuping before making their grand entrance into the world.

We protect life because we love women and children.

We also protect life because we know that killing unborn babies in abortion is never a good option for women. Unfortunately, legalized abortion has led to the abuse of women by the abortion industry and showed us how far they will go to make profit.

From botched abortions that lead to physical complications to post-traumatic stress and years of regret, abortion continues to wound women by destroying their most valuable gift, their own child. You can read about the lucrative abortion industry on our website by visiting prolifelouisiana.org/learn/abortion-industry/.

We protect life for the betterment of our society.

Regardless of the social situation a woman finds herself in or a baby's prenatal diagnosis, we believe that every human deserves a lifetime.

Recent proponents of abortion have argued that women should have the right to decide if babies with a genetic abnormality, such as Down syndrome or Cystic Fibrosis, get the chance to live.

However, in every situation, we believe that choosing life is a choice that will lead to the betterment of our society. When we kill babies in abortion that some believe are unwanted or imperfect, we take a step toward a dark future where the value of a person's life is not intrinsic; instead, their value is in what they can or cannot do.

prolifelouisiana.org/learn/why-protect-life/

Cenla Life March set for Feb. 1

In 2025, Louisiana will march for moms and babies and proclaim that Every Life is Worth Living!

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 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! The

Cenla Life March is sponsored by Louisiana Right to Life, Louisiana Christian University, Louisiana Black Advocates for Life, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, United Pentecostal Church of Louisiana, Louisiana Family Forum, the Knights of Columbus, and Concerned Women for America of Louisiana.

JOIN US MARCHING FOR UNBORN BABIES AND THEIR MOTHERS AT THE

CENLA LIFE MARCH

PINEVILLE-ALEXANDRIA • FEB. 1

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: SEAN CORCORAN | FATHER IMPACTED BY ABORTION

LALIFEMARCH.COM



ST. ANTHONY CHURCH, BUNKIE. St. Anthony Church, Bunkie, High School Youth Group got a sneak peek of the beautiful church renovations at their youth group kick-off event. Pictured above are students in grades 8 - 12.

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JUBILEE

(continued from pg. 3)

Feb. 8-9. The jubilee also includes gatherings for artists (Feb. 15-18), deacons (Feb. 21-23) and even marching bands (May 10-11). Some of these special gatherings will coincide with major canonizations, such as the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis during the Jubilee of Teenagers April 25-27, and the canonization of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati during the Jubilee of Young People July 28-Aug. 3.

Expect some events to highlight the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, from which Christians received the Nicene Creed. This year, despite different liturgical calendars, the dates for celebrating Easter align in the Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church, leading some, including Pope Francis, to call for a “decisive step forward towards unity around a common date for Easter,” which was discussed in 325 at the Council of Nicaea.

8. Preparations in Rome for Jubilee 2025

Expect Rome to sparkle and shine. Many famous sites and artworks in Rome and at the Vatican have been cleaned or restored for the jubilee, much to the chagrin of many tourists in 2024, who found major monuments obscured by fencing, scaffolding and tarps. Many of those projects are expected to be completed with a fresh-face reveal in time for the jubilee. In October, St. Peter’s Basilica revealed its newly restored baldacchino, designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini in the 1600s,



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after 10 months of work. Also receiving cleaning or restoration are Michelangelo’s Pietà, Bernini’s Fountain of the Four Rivers in Piazza Navona, and Bernini’s angels on the Ponte Sant’Angelo.

9. Ways to participate in the jubilee at home

While many jubilee events will take place in Rome and at the Vatican, it’s a celebration for the whole church. On Dec. 29, diocesan bishops are expected to open the Holy Year locally with Masses at their cathedrals and co-cathedrals. Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their cathedral during the year, and should watch diocesan communications for local events. While Pope Francis encouraged bishops to designate Holy Doors for their own cathedrals during the Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015, there will only be Holy Doors at the Vatican and in Rome

this year.

10. Closing of Jubilee 2025

The Jubilee Year concludes with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 6, 2026, on the feast of the Epiphany. However, the Holy Doors at Rome’s other major basilicas will close Dec. 28, 2025, the same day dioceses are to end local celebrations of the Holy Year.

The Jubilee Year also looks ahead to 2033, when the church will mark the 2,000th anniversary of Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection, which Pope Francis called “another fundamental celebration for all Christians.”

Maria Wiering is senior writer for OSV News.



ST. MARY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY DONORS' APPRECIATION.

Tony L. “Bo” Vets II, St. Mary’s Administrator (right), receives one of the first holiday donations from Anthony Babin, a St. Mary’s donor representing the Knights of Columbus (left), during the annual Donors’ Appreciation event on Dec. 4. The event celebrated St. Mary’s Residential Community donors’ contributions toward achieving this year’s goals and provided a glimpse into their plans for the future.

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rites of entrance into the catechumenate and welcoming of the candidates for confirmation. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the combined Rites of Entrance into the Catechumenate and Welcoming of the Candidates for Confirmation at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on the First Sunday of Advent. These individuals will continue their faith journey, learning about the Catholic Church in preparation for their full acceptance into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass in 2025.



BLESSING OF THE GRAVES. Parishioners at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Campti prepare the cemetery and church grounds for the annual Blessing of the Graves.



PRAYING TO END ABORTION. Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield displayed 64 crosses in their churchyard during October and November, each representing one million babies lost to abortion since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Additionally, two local billboards encouraged the community to "Pray to End Abortion."

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HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR JANUARY 2025

For the right to an education:

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, TIOGA. On Friday, Sept. 20, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church joined the tailgating festivities at Tioga High School before their football game against rival Pineville High School. Deacon Roger Christopher, his wife Rhoda, and church volunteers handed out brochures, rosaries, hot dogs, and drinks, offering both spiritual and physical nourishment to the community. It was a joyful opportunity to connect and share blessings!



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH WOMEN'S RETREAT. On Saturday, Dec. 7, St. Joseph Church, St. Joseph hosted a women's retreat at Luke Bruin, led by speaker and songwriter Laura Huval. Centered on the theme, "Tend Your Soul," participants engaged in prayer through songs, Scripture, Adoration, Confession, and Mass.

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.



NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS WEEK. On Wednesday, Nov. 6, clergy and religious from various orders and communities across the state gathered at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport to celebrate National Vocations Awareness Week. The event included daily Mass, breakout sessions on vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and concluded with a "meet and greet" for attendees and a meal for panel members. The evening was sponsored by St. Mary's Vocations Support Ministry.

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*The Lord will bless
 his people with peace.*

Psalm 29: 11
 Responsorial Psalm for January 12
 The Baptism of the Lord



2024 PRIESTS CONVOCATION. Diocesan priests gathered at Maryhill Retreat Center for their annual convocation, Dec. 2-3, fostering prayer, fellowship, and renewal.

Seminarian Burses November 2024 Donations

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Father MacGrace Onwumere Burse	
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Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Marion French	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. Dwight E. Beridon	\$250.00
Monsignor John Timmermans Burse	
Mr. Dwight E. Beridon	\$250.00
Harold and Lillie Beridon Burse	
Total	\$870.00

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2024 PRIESTS ANNIVERSARY MASS. Held on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Center,
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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.



ST. JOSEPH'S VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM. On Friday, Nov. 15, St. Joseph's Varsity Boys' Basketball Team had a once-in-a-lifetime experience, playing on the NBA court of the New Orleans Pelicans. The team triumphed over Hackberry High School with a final score of 34 to 24. A special thanks to Eagle Nation for covering the players' tickets to the NBA game and to Alumni Joseph Mayeaux for sponsoring a chartered bus. Coach Luke Mayeaux was also recognized for his dedication to planning and coaching. The event was a memorable experience for the players, cheerleaders, and supporters - truly a great day to be an EAGLE!



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ASSOCIATION. The Catholic Daughters of Court No. 968, St. Anthony, Bunkie, celebrated CDA Sunday Mass at their temporary church location, the KC/CDA Hall. The court looks forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary next year in their newly renovated church.



BEYOND THE LIMITS JR. HIGH CONFERENCE. (above and below) Over 200 middle schoolers attended the Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference on Saturday, Dec. 7 at LSU-Alexandria campus. Thanks to all who made it an amazing day!



2024 NATIVE AMERICAN MASS. The 2024 Native American Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Forest Hill, honoring faith and cultural traditions.





ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL CAROLERS. Cabrini School caroled at Naomi Heights on Dec. 11, spreading Christmas cheer to residents.

ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. Cabrini School's Christmas program was held on Dec. 10, 2024, bringing festive joy to the community.



ST. MARY'S RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MASS. On Thursday, Dec. 19, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Ave Maria Chapel of St. Mary's Residential Community and Services. The congregation rejoiced in the hope of the Advent season, and they looked forward to Christmas. The photo the left includes Father David Braquet, Chaplain; Mr. Tony L. "Bo" Vets, Administrator; and the newly formed Choir that sang for the liturgy. It was an uplifting experience!



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campti hosted its Annual Christmas Program this week, celebrating the birth of Christ through song and joy. *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

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

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana 2024 wrap up

As 2024 comes to an end, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana would like to take the opportunity to thank the many sponsors and donors who have helped us to help others throughout the year. "True worship is to work for justice and care for the poor and oppressed" (Isaiah 58:5-7)." We continue to assist with past due utilities and rent for families at risk of eviction, hold bi-monthly personal finance classes, support the local homeless community, feed the hungry, provide coats to the needy, and more. This year, we also received a grant from Catholic Charities USA that enabled us to provide backpacks with disaster relief supplies to residents in wildfire affected areas.

December was a very prosperous month for Catholic Charities. On Friday, December 6, we held our Holiday Progressive Dinner fundraiser. A debt of gratitude to our hosts for opening their homes to us. This event provided us the opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship and to share the many successes of Catholic Charities throughout the year. Over \$25,000 was raised that will be used to help many people throughout our community in the coming year. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Progressive Dinner such an enjoyable and successful event.

Thanks to funding from Healthy Blue and donations from Holy Savior Menard High School, we were able to give out Christmas dinner boxes to



ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER FUNDRAISER. This event provided us the opportunity to enjoy Christian fellowship and to share the many successes of Catholic Charities throughout the year. Over \$25,000 was raised that will be used to help many people throughout our community in the coming year.

fifty families in our community. In addition, Holy Savior Menard collected footballs and books, and Mary, Mother of Jesus Church in Woodworth collected footballs and baby dolls to give out to 21

families for Christmas.

On December 19, we participated in the H2O Homeless Outreach event. With the funding from Healthy Blue, we were able to give out take-home lunches to



TAKE HOME LUNCHES FUNDED BY HEALTHY BLUE were handed out to the homeless.

many homeless individuals in Alexandria.

Additionally, an anonymous donor from the Central Louisiana Community Foundation sponsored a grant submitted to the organization to financially support an Annual Service Project hosted by the St. Francis

Xavier Knights of Columbus, Council #3200, to provide love, acceptance, hope and joy at a Christmas event for the 50 residents of Our Lady of Sorrows Group Homes, community-based living for developmentally

(continued on next page)

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- **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** - ccenla.org/volunteer
- **Donate** - ccenla.org/hero-of-hope

Questions? Email info@ccenla.org

disabled adults. Remaining funds will be shared with St. Rita Church Knights of Columbus Council #1134 who provide a parallel event for the 190 residents of St. Mary's Residential Training Facility, also for developmentally disabled adults.

An unexpected additional blessing from Healthy Blue will provide us with \$12,000 to address food insecurity in our service area.

Several grants have been submitted and are in process

for award determination. Two possibilities are with CHRISTUS Fund – one to support our Assist. Educate.Elevate basic needs program and the other for a collaboration with CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Road to Healthy Living grant to provide food security and transportation assistance to their patients. Two other applications are under consideration by The Rapides Foundation and Louisiana Healthy Communities Coalitions. Your prayers for our work are

appreciated.

Because of the generosity of people and funders throughout Central Louisiana, Catholic Charities will be able to continue to make a difference in the lives of many individuals and families in need. If you are looking for opportunities to help Catholic Charities in 2025, save the date for our Mardi Gras Clergy Dinner, March 3, 2025, and our annual Golf Tournament TBA Fall 2025.

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4th January
9AM-9PM

SPEAKER
KARLA ALVAREZ

SPEAKER
FR. TAYLOR REYNOLDS

SPEAKER
DR. ALEX GOTAY

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church - Alexandria, LA

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Heart of Saint Kateri Circle

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

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

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CONFESSION

(continued from pg. 4)

on the way home. Beautiful, vulnerable conversations are had here in this fertile soil of humility and gratitude to the God of the universe Who heals with His sacramental grace.

3) Find a Good Examination of Conscience for Kids

I had a hard time finding an examination of conscience for kids I loved, so I asked Olivia Spears to write this one, which is now available to you as well! Some examinations of conscience are too surface level or aren't clear about what sin is. The one you can find right here is a great tool for our family that we use every time we go to Confession.

It works well for my kids, ages nine to fifteen, at this point, and it has actually spurred some really beautiful conversations. They examine their consciences before they enter the confessional, and they write down in their prayer journals which sins they have and will share with the priest before making their Act of Contrition.

But if this Examination of Conscience for Kids doesn't work for you, that's okay! Find one that works for you and your kids, because that's all that matters! It took around ten years for me personally to find an examination of conscience that I love, and I haven't strayed from it for a few years now.

Once you find one that clicks with your kids and your family, be consistent with it. Invite your kids to ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate their hearts and minds, to sit with the examination for a good chunk of time, and to write down whatever they need to do so when they go into the confessional they don't feel anxious or forgetful. They can feel fully prepared to offer a good Confession to our Lord.

4) Make It Fun with a Treat Afterwards

Right after we receive the Divine Mercy of Jesus in the grace of Confession and pray in thanksgiving for this gift, we walk out of the church and give each other high fives. "What a gift! His mercies are new every morning!" I remind the kids (and myself).

This is a beautiful celebration! A lamb has been returned to our Lord's flock! We are brought back into union with God our Savior, and this good news cannot be celebrated enough, in my opinion.

Time permitting, we head to our local coffee or ice cream shop and get a sweet treat. It is a fun tradition we do to mark the beauty of this moment: that our souls are made clean in the beautiful Sacrament of Reconciliation.

5) Always Say Yes to Confession

Our kids have gotten into the habit of asking to go to Confession if our scheduled time isn't soon enough for them. I will always say, "Yes." No

matter what I had planned for the day, I will drop everything for my child who is asking to be brought back into reconciliation with our Lord. That child needs His grace, and I trust that He will give me the grace and ability to get the tasks done that I need to complete.

There is never a time that I shame my children or make them feel guilty for asking to go to Confession. I simply will not do that. I will not huff or act like I'm being inconvenienced. No, I will swallow all of my "need" to get other things done and will drive them, stand in line with them, and receive our Lord's mercy myself as well with a peaceful, calm, and loving spirit.

Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life. (CCC § 2225)

My path to holiness is through my vocation. And my vocation is as a wife and mother to the family I've been given. That is my only job: to love. Of course, I will fail and I will fall, but thank God, His mercies are new. So I will get back up with His help and remind myself that this is the most important job—helping my family get to

Heaven.

And I want to live a life worthy of this call. I am sure you do too.

Be encouraged on this path to adding or remaining consistent in your commitment

to frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance in your family culture. This will plant beautiful seeds in your children that will last for eternity.

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Confession Resources

Videos by Father Mike Schmitz

Father Mike Schmitz has several videos on the topic of confession, including:

- Do I need to go to confession?
- Why confess my sins to a priest?
- Confessing the same sins over and over again.
- Are your sins the same story again and again? Rewrite the script.
- Going to confession for the first time in a long time.
- 3 reasons you still feel bad after confession.

The above videos and more can be found at ascensionpress.com/blogs/videos.

Examination of Conscience

Blessed is She women's ministry provides an Examination of Conscience for kids, available for free on their website, www.blessedishe.net. You can also find it in their Remain: Prayer journal for kids, if you'd like your kids to have a physical copy to use.



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marvelous
deeds to all
the nations.*

Psalm 96: 3
Responsorial Psalm
for January 19
Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of evangelizing their children. Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "first heralds" for their children. They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one's life.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2225



MBIC CDA HONORS MRS. ANNE TAYLOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTER OF THE YEAR FOR 2024. The award was presented at the annual CDA/ Knights of Columbus Christmas Social. This recognition is given every year to one member for their dedication and service to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis #1372 at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. Pictured are: Anne Taylor and Kathleen Hicks, Regent for The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Regina Pacis 1372.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SILVER ROSE SERVICE. Members of Alexandria and Natchitoches 4th degree Knights of Columbus assembly participating in Silver Rose Service on Friday, Nov. 22 at the Minor Basilica in Natchitoches.

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**National Day of
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Legal Protection
of Unborn
Children
Jan. 22**

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*Your words,
Lord,
are spirit
and life.*

John 6:63
Responsorial Psalm
for January 26
Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Mrs. Donnan Brian honored as Teacher of the Year at St. Mary's Catholic School

Mrs. Donnan Brian was named the recipient of the Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award at St. Mary's Catholic School in Natchitoches for the 2024-25 school year.

This is the twentieth year that the Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award has been presented, and it is the highest honor given to a St. Mary's teacher. Mrs. Knipmeyer graduated from St. Mary's in 1941 and was a long-time educator who taught and was later principal at St. Mary's. Although she was unable to attend this year, the award is traditionally presented by Mrs. Joe Stamey, in honor of her sister, Em Knipmeyer. Mrs. Stamey is a 1952 graduate of St. Mary's and all of her children, and several grandchildren are SMS alumni. The recipient of the award exhibits the ideals of a St. Mary's teacher who goes the extra mile as Mrs. Knipmeyer was always known for.

Mrs. Donnan Brian graduated in 1999 from Northwestern State



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL NATCHITOCHEs, TEACHER OF THE YEAR. Pictured above are Principal Stephen Wren, Mrs. Donnan Brian, and Chancellor Father Irion St. Romain.

University, where she later obtained her alternative teacher education certification. Mrs. Brian is the technology teacher for the school, as well as the Director of Communications and Technology. She joined the staff at SMS in 2012 and also serves as the faculty sponsor for the computer club.

"Mrs. Brian is an exceptional

individual who goes above and beyond for the students, teachers, and our entire school community. She plays a role that touches every corner of our campus and is always willing to help anyone who needs it. She does not just teach students, but inspires them to create, innovate, and explore. From one end of the spectrum to the other, she helps students

create work that is a means of expression and discovery," said Principal Stephen Wren. "Mrs. Brian has also been instrumental in empowering our teachers. Through workshops and one-on-one support, she has transformed how we teach, ensuring our students are getting the very best education possible. Mrs. Brian exemplifies the spirit of

collaboration, innovation, and dedication."

The award was presented to Mrs. Brian by Principal Stephen Wren and Chancellor Fr. Irion St. Romain on November 20th after an All School Mass at the school, with Mrs. Brian's family in attendance.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. (above) Thank you SHS's 4-H Club for adopting this service project for our school. SHS will be donating gifts for The Cenla-Avoyelles/Miss-Lou Pregnancy Centers. Ornaments can be taken from the tree at school and returned with the tag taped to the gift.

(below) Sacred Heart School held its Student of the Year Competition on December 5. Fifth Grade Winner is Lane [redacted] Eighth Grade Winner is McKinley [redacted]. Both students will advance to the Diocesan level. Pictured: Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, Principal, Lane [redacted] McKinley [redacted] Mr. John Soldani, Director of Safety and Student Affairs.



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Steubenville South Youth Conference: A life-changing weekend for teens

For nearly 50 years, high school youth from across the United States and Canada have experienced a profound encounter with Jesus Christ at the Steubenville Youth Conferences. These events, organized by the Franciscan Center for Evangelization & Renewal at Franciscan University of Steubenville and their regional partners, aim to deepen the faith of young people through powerful talks, dynamic worship, and transformative prayer.

The Steubenville Youth Conferences are made possible through the collaboration of Franciscan University and seven partner organizations and dioceses across North America. Each summer, more than 40,000 teens attend conferences at 14 locations, with 18 individual events bringing Christ's love to youth in a way that leaves a lasting impact. The Steubenville South Youth Conference is one of these life-changing events, and it wouldn't be possible without the dedicated Group Leaders who guide teens to this experience.

Group Leaders, whether they are youth ministers, volunteers, or parents play an essential role in the success of the conference. Their commitment to bringing a group of teens to the event



helps make these transformative experiences a reality. These leaders echo the mission of St. Francis of Assisi: "Go, rebuild My Church." By leading teens to Steubenville South, they are helping to fulfill this divine call

and nurturing the young Church. This year's theme, Consumed, is based on Deuteronomy 4:24: "For the Lord, your God, is a consuming fire..." The theme invites teens to be fully enveloped by God's love,

allowing their hearts and lives to be set ablaze by His presence.

The weekend schedule includes:

Friday:

- Meet the ministry team.
- Engaging talks.
- Praise and worship.
- Small group time.

Saturday:

- Mass.
- Praise and worship.
- Afternoon and evening keynote sessions.

• Men's and women's sessions.

- Fun and games.
- Community-building activities.

• Processional adoration.

• Small group time.

Sunday:

- Praise and worship.
- Dynamic prayer.
- Mass.
- Closing remarks.

This year's speakers include Host Oscar Rivera, Jr.; Worship Leader, Josh Blakesley; Team Priest, Father Brian Fallon; and speakers Jackie Francois Angel, and Paul J. Kim. The weekend promises to be a spiritually enriching experience that will leave teens with a deeper relationship with Christ.

Steubenville South 2025

will take place from June 20-22. Registration opens on Tuesday, January 14.

For more information, visit www.steubenvillesouth.com.

If you've never been involved in the ministry of the Steubenville South Conference, or it's been a while since you've been involved in youth ministry at your church parish, we welcome you to get back to it. Your efforts as a Group Leader or volunteer can make a lasting impact on the lives of young people, just as others have made a difference in the lives of countless teens throughout the years.

Let's geaux!

*"For the Lord,
your God, is a
consuming fire..."*
Deuteronomy 4:24



Upcoming Retreats:

January 2-4, 2025
TEEN ACTS Retreat
hosted by
St. Mary's Assumption Church

January 16-19, 2025
Women's ACTS Retreat
hosted by
Our Lady of Prompt Succor
All retreats are held at Maryhill
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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.

Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year - Dec. 29

Everyone is cordially invited to the Rite of the Opening of the Jubilee Year Dec. 29 at 10:15 a.m., St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The event begins at the Hotel Bentley lobby area where we will gather for Bishop Robert Marshall's blessing of the Cross and reading of the Papal Bull. We will process from there to the Cathedral to continue the rite followed by Mass. We encourage everyone; adults and youth to attend the opening ceremony and to participate in the Diocese pilgrimages beginning on January 6. We hope to see you there!

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Jan. 1

Wednesday, Jan. 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is a holy day of obligation. Please visit www.diocesealex.org for Mass times.

Bi-lingual Catholic Youth Rally - Jan. 4

The Diocese of Alexandria is hosting a Catholic Youth Rally at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church at the Divine Providence Center on January 4. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. for ages middle school through high school. Though the event is geared toward Catholic youth from the Hispanic Catholic community, all parishes are welcome and encouraged to attend. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Alex Gotay, D.Min who is a nationally renowned speaker and catechist. The co-host will be Karla Alvarex who is the Director of Multicultural Ministry for the Diocese of Shreveport. Mass and evening Adoration will be celebrated by Father Taylor Reynolds. All talks and workshops will be in English. The Mass will be bi-lingual. The themes and topics are: missionary discipleship and evangelization in the modern world as well as the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego for young people. There is no cost to attend the event. Lunch and dinner will be provided free of charge.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Blessing of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie - Jan. 5

Please join us for Bishop Robert Marshall's blessing of the renovated church, blessing of the new tabernacle, and consecration of the altar at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Bunkie on Sunday, Jan. 5 at 10:30 a.m.

Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting - Jan. 11

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.

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

Though the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. So, great prayer and advocacy is still very needed. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children": "In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion."

Confirmation Retreat - Jan. 25

The Diocese of Alexandria will hold a Confirmation Retreat for any young person that is being confirmed in 2025. This is an opportunity for parishes who do not host an in-parish retreat to attend a retreat focused on the Sacrament of Confirmation. Cost is \$10 per person, which

covers lunch and speaker. The retreat will take place at Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville, on Saturday, January 25, 2025. More details to come along with registration information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Holy Savior Menard Preview Day - Jan. 30

Come and see what HSM has to offer your family! Walk the halls, visit classrooms, and meet our community. For prospective 7-12 grade students and families. From 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the Library. For more information, contact Lynn Roy at lroy@holysaviormenard.com.

Cenla Life March - Feb. 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 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!

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - Feb. 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 as soon as possible at <https://www.diocesealex.org/pre-cana-marriage-prep-workshop/>. There is a fee of \$60 per couple.

SAVE THE DATE! Fullness of Truth Conference - March 7-9

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 and Make Disciples: The Eucharistic Revival & the Call to Evangelize." A full schedule of speakers and event timeline will be coming soon. For more information, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne at 318-445-6424, ext. 207 or dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Church Today News Deadlines

January 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Jan. 16

February 24
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Feb. 13



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January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>DECEMBER 30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER</p>	<p>JANUARY 1</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of MARY, the HOLY MOTHER of GOD (Holy Day of obligation)</p> <p>NEW YEAR'S DAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Bi-Lingual Youth Rally 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. OLPS Divine Providence Center, Alexandria</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Blessing and Rededication 10:30 a.m. St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie</p> <p>The EPIPHANY of the LORD</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY</p>
TEEN ACTS RETREAT --- MARYHILL						
<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>7</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. JONES</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Discalced Carmelite monthly meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>
<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p>14</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. A. MANGINI</p>
WOMEN'S ACTS RETREAT --- MARYHILL						
<p>20</p> <p>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL</p>	<p>21</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>22</p> <p>National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Maryhill Renewal Center, Pineville</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>
<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. B. MILLER</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Holy Savior Menard Preview Day 8:00-9:00 a.m. Holy Savior Menard High School Library, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 1</p> <p>Cenla Life March 10:00 a.m. Louisiana Christian University, Pineville</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD</p>



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