

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 3

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

March 24, 2025

75th Anniversary St. Frances Cabrini Hospital

Seventy-five years ago today, St. Frances Cabrini Hospital was dedicated and opened its doors to more than 7,000 people who came to their Open House. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass on March 19, 2025, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, and gave thanks for the mission and ministry of what is now CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. Pictured left to right: Monte Wilson, President of the Hospital; Deacon Bill Aldridge; Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy; Patrick Braquet, Vice President of Mission Integration at the Hospital; Bishop Marshall; Chris Karam, Senior Vice President of CHRISTUS Health; Father Joy Antony, Chaplain at the Hospital; Deacon Jason Lavergne, and Deacon Richard Mitchell.



INSIDE

Monsignor Bruce Miller remembered for a lifetime of service

Reverend Monsignor Bruce Miller, J.C.L., passed away on February 25, 2025. A devoted priest for over four decades, he faithfully served multiple parishes and held key diocesan leadership roles. See page 2 for more information.

Pilgrimage of Hope

The Diocese of Alexandria invites the faithful on a passport tour of churches across the diocese. See page 8 for one family's story.

Divine Mercy Sunday: A time of grace and hope

In this Year of Hope, Divine Mercy Sunday offers the faithful a powerful opportunity to receive God's mercy through a plenary indulgence and the devotions given to St. Faustina. See page 14 for more information.

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Rev. Msgr. D. Bruce Miller, J.C.L., 1951-2025

Reverend Monsignor Bruce Miller, J.C.L. died in the peace of Christ on February 25, 2025 after a battle with cancer. Monsignor Miller was a dedicated and accomplished priest, whose service spanned over four decades, with a deep commitment to his faith in Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church, and the local communities he served. Born on July 13, 1951 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Monsignor Miller was ordained to the priesthood on May 6, 1977 for the then-Diocese of Alexandria-Shreveport (later the Diocese of Alexandria).

Throughout his ministry, Monsignor Miller served in pastoral ministry at various parishes, including as Associate Pastor at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Natchitoches, and Pastor at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pineville, St. Martin Catholic Church in Lecompte, Mary, Mother of Jesus in Woodworth, St. Rita Catholic Church in Alexandria, and



Msgr. David Bruce Miller, JCL
 1951-2025

St. James Memorial Catholic Church in Alexandria.

In the Diocese of Alexandria, Monsignor Miller held numerous ecclesiastical offices, including Judicial Vicar, Episcopal Vicar for Administration, Moderator of the Curia, and Judge in the

Diocesan Tribunal. He also had extensive contributions in the field of canon law through his publications, translations, and presentations, in addition to his many leadership positions within the Canon Law Society of America, including serving as the society's president from 2016-2017.

Monsignor Miller's heart overflowed with compassion for the community. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Knights of Peter Claver, and the Order of the Fleur-de-Lis. His many initiatives, including the founding of The Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana, Caring People's Free Pharmacy, Inc., and Cane River Children's Services, Inc., showcase his unwavering commitment to helping those in need. He had a special commitment for the residents of St. Mary's Residential Community and Services, who honored him by naming one of their group

homes after him.

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Church, Pope Francis named him a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of Reverend Monsignor on May 8, 2019.

Monsignor Miller is preceded in death by his parents, Odis and Ethel Miller, and his baby brother, Kenneth. He is survived by his sister, Jennifer Martin and her husband Bruce Martin, his nephew and godson, Joseph Martin and his wife Tatyana Martin, his niece and goddaughter, Julie Martin-Peel and her husband Scott Peel, and grand-niece Caroline Peel.

In lieu of flowers, please continue Monsignor Miller's compassion for the community by making memorial donations to St. Mary's Residential Community and Services (6715 Hwy 1 North, Boyce, LA 71409).

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Priest influencer on evangelizing through humor, social media pitfalls, and advice to Gen Z

By *Lauretta Brown*
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Hitting 1 million followers on Instagram is an achievement often celebrated in creative ways by social media influencers, but when Father David Michael Moses marked that milestone on Ash Wednesday he used the occasion to remind his many followers that social media and this world are “all ashes” and “passing away,” and the things of Jesus Christ are what lasts.

The milestone video was perfect for Father David Michael, 31, who posts humorous videos about his life as a priest alongside simple explanations of different areas of Catholic teaching. His videos have earned millions of views on Instagram, YouTube and TikTok.

Father David Michael told OSV News recently that he started making videos when he was very young and has “always found it interesting as a means of conveying a message,” but “didn’t think too much about doing it as a priest.”

Documenting a priest’s day that changed five years ago when he was about six months into his priesthood, and it occurred to him that it would have been helpful in his own discernment to see a video of what priests do all day. “I thought I am a priest, so why not just make a little video about what we do all day?”

The day he chose for the video included joyful moments such as the baptism of quintuplets and a wedding.

“There’s a bunch of beautiful things that were pretty normal as a priest,” he said, “but I thought most people didn’t really get to see the behind the scenes and so I kind of just filmed it, posted



PRIEST INFLUENCER VIDEOS EARN MILLIONS OF VIEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. Father David Michael Moses, 31, who posts humorous videos about his life as a priest alongside simple explanations of different areas of Catholic teaching, is pictured in an undated photo. His videos have earned millions of views on Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. (OSV News photo/via Father David Michael Moses)

it and I was hoping it would be helpful for a few young guys thinking about priesthood.”

“What I found instead was that just in general people found it helpful, even atheists thought it was kind of interesting what priests did all day,” he said of the video which now has over 160,000 views. “So, I started making a video about once a month.” He gradually switched to short form content which better fits his busy schedule as parochial vicar at Christ the Good Shepherd Church in Spring, Texas.

“I’ve just seen so much fruit for evangelization from it

that I’ve been very affirmed to keep going in this direction,” he said. “What I think is especially unique about social media is you’re able to reach people who would not otherwise come in contact with the church.”

Bringing the Gospel to social media

His humor often plays off of social media trends and puns. One video he recently posted with over 9 million views on Instagram begins with him complaining about soggy French fries and being told he needs a fryer, he then hands the fries to a bewildered looking Franciscan Friar of the Renewal, Father

Mark-Mary Ames. In another video with over 13 million views, Father David Michael quips that “people ask why priests always wear black” and it’s “because every day is a funeral for the haters.”

He has found a lot of success using humor in his videos, he said, because “it’s a universal language” and if a video is funny enough people will show it to their friends “and all of a sudden somebody is watching a video of a Catholic priest.”

“Humor in so many ways in this little culture of social media, is the way to connect so let’s learn the language, let’s learn the culture and let’s bring the Gospel there,” he said, “the church has an ancient tradition of doing that.”

He often gets feedback from people who have been away from the church or who are atheists who “thought the videos were kind of funny, so they followed and then next thing they know they’re watching a video about going back to confession or they’re watching a video about the Virgin Mary or about the Rosary and about Catholicism. And that’s really a touch point for them to start to either go back to the church or to start to rev up their spiritual lives.”

His more serious videos include simple explanations of Catholic observances during Holy week, confession, transubstantiation and addressing questions like “how late can a Catholic be to Mass?”

Father David Michael said that two people in the process of entering the church at his parish, began attending church events after seeing his videos which gradually led to their decision to convert. He was also told of a young man entering seminary who mentioned his videos as a

help in his discernment process.

“Not everybody gets the social media stuff,” he said, “but when you see the concrete fruit like that from it, this is what we’re trying to do as a church and this is helping us do it.”

He is also very conscious of the pitfalls of social media including how addictive it can become and how much of the content can pose threats to purity.

He likened social media to “a bad neighborhood,” saying “I think I would tell people to be very cautious in a bad neighborhood, but I do think every bad neighborhood needs the church and every bad neighborhood should have a priest.”

“We should have certain people who know how to deal with the danger and are properly trained in it and are intentional and are trying to really bring the Gospel there,” he emphasized.

Regarding Catholics who might struggle with balancing social media use in their lives, Father David Michael said he would tell most people that “if they’re not sure, just to get off social media, just delete it, get

see HUMOR, page 4



Psalm 126: 3
Responsorial Psalm
for April 6
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lenten Regulations

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and we have only one full meal.

The other Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood meal is not in keeping with the spirit of Lent.

HUMOR

Cont. from page 3

rid of it.”

“For most Catholics, I’d say especially for parents with children, keep your kids away from social media,” he said, “I use it as a tool for evangelization. Otherwise, I’m not sure necessarily what the value is.”

He called social media “morally neutral” saying “it’s all about how you use it,” but added that “social media has a natural way of kind of tending toward the negative in terms of the effects on people’s lives” and cited studies suggesting social media “makes you less happy when you have it.”

He said if people have “a healthy relationship with it. If it’s helpful for them in terms of business or education or

whatever, I think it’s okay for them to use it, but if you’re on the fence, I would say, just get off it.”

Struggles of youth today

In his time as a young priest ministering to young people online, Father David Michael addressed some of the common troubles that he sees youth face in today’s culture.

“I think there’s a misconception among young people that if God loves you then you won’t have to suffer,” he said. “It’s not scriptural, it’s not in the tradition of the church, but the enemy kind of pushes that, he takes something that’s true which is God loves you and he wants what’s good for you and he has a plan for you. That’s all true. And then he kind of whispers ‘so you won’t have to suffer.’ And then that’s not true, right? That’s the opposite of the whole Gospel.

Jesus says take up your cross and follow me.”

“When you suffer for something then that’s how you love,” he emphasized.

He added that young people sometimes are “missing a real desire for greatness,” saying, “one of the gifts that young people actually offer to the world, to the church, is a zealous — maybe a little over the top sometimes — desire for greatness.”

“A lot of young people have decided they can just kind of settle for less. They don’t need an incredible marriage, they don’t need to live a life of heroic sacrifice,” he said. “They don’t need to be a priest” and they think “‘I’m just going to coast along and try to feel good’ and I think that’s very dangerous and ultimately then people are

missing out on all the good that God wants to do in their lives.”

As someone who was ordained at age 25, Father David Michael believes “it’s all about just saying yes when he (God) calls.” He said that while some people advised him that he didn’t need to enter seminary at such a young age, he recognized his calling.

“I think people can be scared of commitment young sometimes, but, for me, when you go about it in a discerning way and deliberately, intentionally, commitment is actually very freeing,” he said, “to actually focus your entire life on the one thing that you committed to, the thing that you value most. And so, I’m just super grateful to have been called young.”

“Where joylessness reigns,
where humor dies,
the spirit of Jesus Christ
is assuredly absent.”
popae benedict xvi

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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.

Diocese of Alexandria financial information for the year ended June 30, 2024

<u>Balance Sheet</u>		<u>Revenue and Expense Statement</u>	
<u>Assets</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	
Cash	4,583,708	Parish Assessments	1,760,234
Accounts Receivable	1,023,894	Priests Benefit Charge	467,525
Pledges Receivable	155,648	Contributions / Grants	1,744,426
Other Receivables	5,975	Maryhill	264,808
Prepaid Expenses	4,542	Church Today	25,034
Investments	8,579,413	Investment Income	323,901
Interest in Trusts	1,400,287	Market Gain on Investments	1,255,784
Land/Bldgs/Equipment	3,489,717	Insurance Premiums	3,855,032
Equity in Workers Comp Pool	1,580,971	Steubenville Conference	440,213
Other Assets	15,000	Women's Conference	240,068
Total Assets	20,839,155	Land/Timber Sales	265,593
		Other Income	434,280
		Total Revenue	11,076,898
<u>Liabilities</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Accounts Payable	384,119	Spiritual Development	827,150
Loan Debt	9,763	General Missions	130,299
Accrued Payables	7,452,345	Vocations	376,236
Insurance Reserves	236,475	Infirm / Retired Priests	597,754
National Collections	117,786	Social Ministry	143,281
Insurance Reserves	236,475	Educational Ministry	408,087
Deferred Revenue	24,989	Pastoral Services	779,459
Total Liabilities	8,225,477	Communications	214,058
		Tribunal	264,709
		Insurance Programs	3,569,998
		Youth	147,061
		Steubenville Conference	269,552
		Evangelization	128,960
		Administrative	2,167,813
		Development	254,194
		Interest expense	454
		Diocesan Buildings / Properties	456,025
		Total expenses	10,735,090
<u>Net Assets</u>		Net Income	341,808
Unrestricted – Undesignated	2,430,668	Net Assets – Beginning of Year	12,271,870
Unrestricted – Designated	6,389,880	Net Assets – End of Year	12,613,678
Restricted	3,793,130		
Total Net Assets	12,613,678		
Total Liabilities / Net Assets	20,839,155		

Here's how to make a Seven Churches Visitation on Holy Thursday

by *Katie Yoder, Peter Pinedo*
Catholic News Service

Every Holy Thursday, groups of Catholic faithful across the country and world embark on what's known as the Seven Churches Visitation.

In this special tradition, pilgrims adore Christ in seven different altars of repose while praying and reflecting on the passion of Christ.

At the end of each Holy Thursday Mass, the priest strips the altar and removes the Eucharist from the tabernacle to place it in repose on another nearby altar.

The Seven Churches Visitation (or Pilgrimage) is credited as beginning in Rome with St. Philip Neri in the 1500s. Neri would lead groups of faithful to visit each of the seven basilicas of Rome on Holy Thursday night as a way of keeping watch with Christ as though at the Garden of Gethsemane before his passion.

Today, the devotion is primarily practiced in Latin America, Italy, Poland, and the Philippines.

Each visit calls on the faithful to reflect on the seven final places Jesus went from his arrest on Holy Thursday to his death on Good Friday.

At each church, pilgrims kneel before the altar of repose, meditate on a scriptural excerpt, and offer prayers and adoration.

How do pilgrims going on this seven-church journey meditate on the passion of Christ? Here are the Scripture excerpts to reflect on at each church:

- 1) Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Lk 22:39-46)
- 2) Jesus before Annas (Jn 18:19-22)
- 3) Jesus before Caiaphas (Mt 26:63-65)
- 4) Jesus before Pilate (Jn 18:35-37)
- 5) Jesus before Herod (Lk 23:8-9; 11)
- 6) Jesus before Pilate again (Mt 27:22-26)
- 7) Jesus's crucifixion and death (Mt 27:27-31)

Reflecting on the passion of Christ

At the first church, the faithful recall Jesus going from the upper room, where he celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples, to



SEVEN CHURCHES VISITATION ON HOLY THURSDAY. During Lent 2024, Bishop Robert Marshall completed the Seven Churches Visitation at these churches in the diocese (left to right, top to bottom): St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward; Holy Ghost Church, Marksville; Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria; St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria; St. James Memorial Church, Alexandria; St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura.

the Garden of Gethsemane, where he earnestly prayed and sweated blood in his agony over what was about to take place.

In the second church, the pilgrims meditate on Jesus being taken from the Garden of Gethsemane by the armed crowd to the house of Annas, the father-

in-law of Caiaphas the high priest, where he was interrogated and slapped in the face.

In the third church, the prayer focuses on Jesus being brought to the house of Caiaphas, where he was beaten, spat upon, insulted,

see SEVEN, page 15



Allon Souper a Lourdes at Our Lady of Lourdes, Fifth Ward

Who would have ever thought that the spirit of the Irish was alive in Fifth Ward, Louisiana?

With its deep Cajun French culture rooted in family and faith, on March 15, Our Lady of Lourdes celebrated *Allon Souper a Lourdes* (Let's have dinner at Lourdes) draped in the green and gold of St. Patrick's Day.

This is the 12th year that Our Lady of Lourdes hosted the event which was held to raise funds to

support the ever growing expenses for the church.

It was a packed crowd. Deacon Darrell Dubroc was busy setting up additional tables and chairs under the covered entrance of the hall to accommodate the overflowing crowd. All those that attended enjoyed twenty stations of various dishes. Each team's dish highlighted their skills in the kitchen and included crawfish corn bisque, meatball stew, brisket

and so many various desserts.

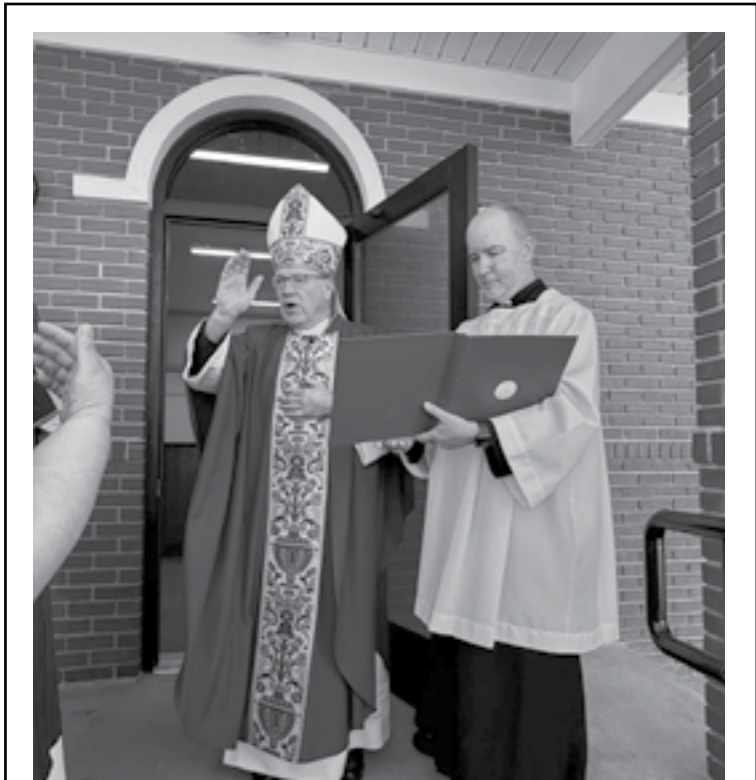
The evening ended with a live auction of items donated by members of the church parish and included a delicious looking chocolate cake, beautiful handcarved ducks, a multi-season wreath and much more.

Fr. Kenneth Obiekwe, pastor, kept the raffle drawing honest by randomly drawing winners from the ticket tumbler. The raffle prizes included two very nice wooden rockers, art pieces and money prizes. Everyone who won a money prize gave the money back to the church!

The event has been so successful over the years, there are plans in the making to do it again with a twist to benefit the youth of their parish.

There may not have been a rainbow that night in Fifth Ward but there truly was a leprachaun's gold pot of spirit and community at Our Lady of Lourdes.

If you would like your parish event highlighted contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org



(above and below) ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH NEW OFFICE BUILDING. A blessing and dedication of the new office building at St. James Memorial took place on Sunday, Mar. 16. Along with Bishop Robert Marshall were Deacon Richard Mitchell, Deacon Tommy Robichaux, Fr. Craig Scott (pastor) and the parishioners of the parish.



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8 a.m. Sunday Mass

7 a.m. Sunday Mass



ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE. On Sunday, Feb. 23, Bishop Marshall traveled to Cane River to visit and celebrate Mass in another of our diocesan Pilgrimage Churches - St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle. Thank you to Father Bill Gearheard and the parishioners for their warm welcome to him and other pilgrims.



ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH, MANSURA. Saturday, Feb. 22, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass in another of our eight diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage sites - St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Mansura. Thank you to Father Blake Deshautelle and the parishioners for welcoming him and the many other pilgrims who are traveling in our diocese.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, VIDALIA. On Sunday, Mar. 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Vidalia, one of our diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites. Thank you to Father Dan O'Connor and the parishioners of OLL for welcoming him, Deacon Richard Mitchell and all of the other pilgrims who joined their parish for Mass today. The season of Lent will give you some additional opportunities to visit and pray in the pilgrimage churches - Stations of the Cross, additional hours for adoration.



Palm Sunday – April 13
Easter Sunday – April 20
Divine Mercy Sunday – April 27
visit www.diocesealex.org for schedules

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Our Passport Journey Begins at Home

by Scott and Jennifer Gilchrist

With 2025 came the Jubilee Year of Hope and our passport tour of the Diocese of Alexandria Churches. It only seemed fitting to begin at our home parish, the seat of the Diocese, and the first church on the itinerary, St Francis Xavier Cathedral.

What a blessing this parish has been to us! Our three youngest children were fully initiated in the Catholic faith, receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral, and our son served at the altar until it was time to leave for college. Scott remembers the many times he attended Mass with his grandmother, and we have fond memories of Sunday Mass with our mothers during their senior years and Funeral Masses for family members when they pass.

Parish life for us is in the basic simplicity of the Sacraments. We are spiritually nourished by Monsignor Ferguson, our deacons, and the committed men who serve as acolytes for weekend Masses and Diocesan celebrations. Our liturgical music is beautiful and holy and is indeed a prayer in itself.

Scott has found particular consolation and peace at Mass during the week. Being in this world, he finds strength in the Sacrifice of the Mass to not be "of this world." For our special passport devotion, Scott requested



JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE. (below) Scott and Jennifer Gilchrist in front of the Jubilee Year Cross at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. (above) Scott learns about the history of the stained glass windows in the Cathedral.

a tour of the church and stained-glass windows. To think we have been parishioners for years and yet had so much to learn about our Cathedral.

Visiting St Francis Xavier Cathedral is a wonderful way to start this exciting passport journey to the many beautiful churches in the Diocese of Alexandria. Enjoy!



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL ALTAR SOCIETY had a pilgrimage to St. Augustine (Isle Brevelle) on February 1st. The First Saturday Mass was truly a spiritually enriching experience, and the entire day was filled with blessings. Father Bill Gearheard's generosity in giving us a personal tour of the grounds was greatly appreciated. His insightful commentary brought the history and beauty of St. Augustine to life, enriching our understanding of its significance. The subsequent lunch in Natchitoches was a delightful conclusion to the day, providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and conversation amongst our group. It was a truly memorable occasion for all who attended. Front row left to right: Charlene Elliott, Arlene Ryder, Father Bill , Shirley Flavin. Back row left to right: Frankie Carver, Genny Kelley, Janet Marchantel.

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My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?
 Psalm 22: 2 | Responsorial Psalm for April 13
 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER LOUIS SKLAR! Father Louis Sklar celebrated his 58th birthday on Feb. 16 at Our Lady Lourdes Catholic Church, Winfield. Family and friends enjoyed cake and punch following Mass.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL RITE OF SENDING. For 2025, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral has witnessed a significant increase in those enrolled in the OCIA program. Meeting every Sunday since the fall, 20 youth and adults are seeking to enter into the Catholic Church at the upcoming Easter Vigil. On Mar. 9, Msgr. James Ferguson celebrated the Rite of Sending of both Catechumens and Candidates to the Bishop for the Rite of Election that was celebrated later that day at the Cathedral.



BISHOP ROBERT MARSHALL VISITED ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY COLLEGE, Thursday, March 16, for the meetings of the respective Boards of Trustees of SJSC and Notre Dame Seminary. Pictured with Bishop Marshall is seminarian, Will Brittain. Seminarians Blake Bernard and Matthew Kramer were not available for a photo. Please pray for all of our seminarians.

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.

Vocational discernment during Lent

As we journey through the season of Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are invited to draw closer to the Lord and listen attentively to His voice. In this Sunday's reading, God reveals Himself to Moses, declaring, "I AM sent me to you" (Exodus 3:14). Just as He called Moses to lead His people, the Lord continues to call men and women today to serve Him in the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

Could God be inviting you to proclaim His name and lead others to Him? Lent is a season of deep reflection and renewal - an ideal time to open your heart to His call. Take time to pray, seek guidance, and consider how He may be calling you to a life of service. If you feel the stirrings of a vocation or simply want to explore God's plan for your life, reach out to Father Luke LaFleur, Director of Vocations, for guidance and support.
 • 318-445-6424 | frllafleur@diocesealex.org •

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.”
saint john henry newman

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CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH. On Saturday, Mar. 15, the 2025 Confirmation season began with Mass at St. Frances Cabrini parish in Alexandria. Bishop Robert Marshall confirmed three young disciples. Thank you to Father Chad Partain and the parishioners of Cabrini parish for their welcome and support of the Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH. On Sunday, Mar. 16, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Second Sunday of Lent as well as the Sacrament of Confirmation with one young parishioner. Thank you to Father Craig Scott, Deacon Tommy Robichaux and the community of St. James for their welcome, assistance, and their support of their Confirmand.



CATECHUMENS. The Rite of Election was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria on Mar. 5, the first Sunday of Lent. Over 90 individuals were presented to Bishop Robert Marshall as they continue on their faith formation journey to be brought into full communion of the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil.



CANDIDATES. The Rite of Election was held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria on Mar. 5, the first Sunday of Lent. Over 90 individuals were presented to Bishop Robert Marshall as they continue on their faith formation journey to be brought into full communion of the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil.



NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CHURCH, CAMPTI. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated Blake and Brooks (pictured with pastor, Fr. Gus Voltz) baptism on Sunday, Feb. 23.



(right) ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH "TASTE FROM THE COUNTRY." A sold-out crowd attended Taste From the Country on Saturday Feb 15th at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Brouillette. Following the 4pm vigil mass, those in attendance were treated to almost 30 different sampling of dishes. This annual fundraiser for the church has been a success for many years. And ho could it not be with dishes such as fired catfish, hot cracklins, chicken stew and I think my favorite smoked pork loin. And I do not want to leave out the homemade blackberry cobbler and the pineapple/caramel pecan cake along with other deserts.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL. We are thrilled to announce that Caleb L. (Kindergarten), Ruby W. (2nd Grade), Ivy D. (4th Grade), and Adalyn H. (5th Grade) have won the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) awards at the school level! Caleb colored the American Flag. Ruby drew the American Flag. Ivy illustrated a historical event. Adalyn wrote an inspiring essay on "How I Honor Veterans". A special shoutout to Ruby W. for winning 1st place overall at the district level and to Ivy D. for her district and state achievements!



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, BUNKIE. On Saturday, Feb. 15, the Children of Mary Congregation of St. Anthony of Padua, Bunkie, celebrated their Mardi Gras and Lent preparation meeting.



KOLIN MARDI GRAS. Sts. Francis and Anne's Krewe of Christ Youth Mardi Gras Ball.

(below) ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL MARDI GRAS PARADE.



SEASON OF SERVICE, SACRED HEART SCHOOL. One of our Sacred Heart School 4th grade classes spent time one morning recently cleaning the church cemetery as an SOS project.



(above and left) SEASON OF SERVICE PROJECTS - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GROUPS. Members of the Knights of Columbus, St. Alphonsus Council #3088 (Hessmer) volunteered their weekend and installed the signs for the new rosary walk at Maryhill Renewal Center. It is an extensive path through the wooded acreage.

The Knights of Columbus Charles P. Greco Council #1134 (St. Rita Church, Alexandria) freshened up the exterior of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store on Bolton Avenue in Alexandria by giving it a coat of blue paint.



Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana Awarded Three Year Tobacco and Vaping Education and Cessation Grant

by Cynthia Upton
Manager of Coaching,
CCCenla

The mission of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is “to be good stewards of life by empowering individuals, families, and communities to become self-sustainable, recognizing the dignity of all people.” This mission is supported by three pillars of service: Disaster Relief, Basic Needs, and Mental Health.

Catholic Charities has strengthened its Mental Health Services by providing resources for individuals struggling with nicotine addiction. Studies show that quitting smoking and vaping can lead to significant improvements in mental health. Evidence supports that individuals who quit smoking experience reduced anxiety, depression, and stress levels.

Teen vaping rates in Louisiana are notably high.

According to recent data, about one in three high school students and one in five middle schoolers in Louisiana vape. Louisiana ranks the third highest for youth vaping in the nation. Efforts are being made to address this issue, including educational programs in schools to inform students about the dangers of vaping. However, easy access to vaping products remains a significant challenge.

In response to this pressing issue, Catholic Charities received a three-year Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program Grant funded by The Rapides Foundation to continue its work in this public health domain. The goal of this initiative is not only to educate youth on prevention strategies but also to establish sustainable cessation avenues in Rapides, Grant, LaSalle, and Avoyelles Parishes for youth and adults caught in the nicotine trap.

Cindy Upton joined Catholic Charities in February to lead

the programmatic efforts and community outreach full time. Previously, she served as a Catholic Charities volunteer, working with youth and adults who desired cessation assistance. She holds a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice (NCTTP) and was trained through the University of Mississippi ACT Center for Tobacco Treatment. Ms. Upton is a certified facilitator for the American Lung Association programs, Intervention for Nicotine Dependence: Education, Prevention, Tobacco and Health (INDEPTH) and Not on Tobacco (N-O-T), both of which address youth vaping. Additionally, Cindy is an Associate Certified Coach (ACC) credentialed through the International Coaching Federation.

Ms. Upton has worked with adults since 2016, successfully partnering with adults with a desire to stop smoking. The rate of Louisiana cigarette users is significantly higher than

the national average, but with education and cessation programs, the numbers are improving. Catholic Charities is proud to be part of that effort.

The Rapides Foundation Grant funding covers all services for tobacco prevention and cessation so that they are at no cost to participants. Ms. Upton hopes that this movement to educate youth will show a decrease in the rates of vaping in our Central

Louisiana Parishes and continue the downward trend of adult cigarette use. These services are an opportunity for Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana to embody the mission statement, by empowering individuals to create sustainable changes for their long-term betterment.

Additional information can be found on the Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana website, cccenla.org.

Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit 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!
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Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

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CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOSTS MARDI GRAS DINNER. On Monday, Mar. 3, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana hosted a Mardi Gras Dinner fundraiser at Maryhill Renewal Center. Clergy of the Diocese of Alexandria served as the waiters at the dinner. Thank you to Fr. John Brocato, Jennifer Gilchrist, Heidi Wampler, and all of the staff and volunteers of Catholic Charities, the St. Rita Knights of Columbus who cooked the dinner, the generous table sponsors, silent auction donors and all who came to the dinner in support of the mission and ministry of Catholic Charities. To learn more about our ministry or to offer your support, visit ccenla.org.



FULLNESS OF TRUTH CONFERENCE. Catholics from across the diocese gathered at the Randolph Riverfront Center for the Fullness of Truth Conference on March 7-9, embracing the call to evangelization and Eucharistic revival. Featuring renowned speakers Dr. John Bergsma, Dr. Karlo Broussard, Sonja Corbitt, and Paul J. Kim - along with music by The Vigil Project - the conference equipped attendees with practical tools to share the faith and reignite their missionary zeal.



“It is Finished”

**Our Lord and Savior was nailed to the cross,
For all of us sinners and those who were lost.**

**He looked down on each one of us.
Giving us hope and someone to trust.**

**His heart was grieved and He hurt so much,
Hoping one day we would keep in touch.**

**His side was pierced with a lance,
His pain was terrible, but it gave us another chance.**

**His arms stretched out, and His hands were nailed,
His feet were pierced, and I know He yelled.**

**He then died on the cross after He cried out,
“It is finished,” thus giving us a new route.**

lizdescant@gmail.com
Advertisement paid for by Marcus Descant.

St. Mary’s Community and Services

Thanks to the generous contributions of our supporters, the EKG machine on our manager’s wish list has become a reality for St. Mary’s Community and Services. This new equipment significantly enhances our ability to monitor heart health for residents like Jorden, who require regular assessments. Previously, residents faced the challenges of off-campus appointments, but with the EKG machine now on-site, we can deliver quicker assessments and earlier interventions, ensuring our residents receive the specialized care they need in a comfortable environment.

This story emphasizes not only the impact of new equipment but also the improvement in the quality of life for our residents. We express our gratitude for the generosity that continues to make things like this possible.

For more details, you can view the KALB story here: <https://shorturl.at/4YLYM>



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Divine Mercy Sunday in this Year of Hope

In this Year of Hope, Divine Mercy Sunday is a profound reminder that “God lavishes His mercy on us through indulgences.” On this day, the faithful can obtain one plenary indulgence, which may be applied to oneself or to a soul in purgatory. This extraordinary grace provides the opportunity to avoid purgatory or to relieve and release the holy souls in purgatory—the “Church Suffering”—especially on Divine Mercy Sunday when the gates of heaven are open.

The Divine Mercy devotions were given to the Church through St. Faustina Kowalska, the first saint canonized in the new millennium. These devotions encourage penitents to return to the Sacrament of Confession, renew prayers for the poor souls in purgatory, and give hope to the dying through the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. St. Faustina’s spiritual journal, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, offers comfort and courage for those seeking Jesus’ mercy, especially through the Sacrament of Confession.

Initially, the Divine Mercy message faced challenges. From 1958 to 1978, the Church placed a ban on St. Faustina’s Diary and the associated devotions due to concerns about translation errors and theological misunderstandings. The ban was lifted by the Archbishop of Kraków, Karol Wojtyła—who later became Pope St. John Paul II—paving the way for the widespread promotion of Divine Mercy worldwide.



The roots of this devotion run deep in Louisiana, particularly at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. The devotions were introduced by parishioners who had made pilgrimages to Medjugorje and were inspired by EWTN, which fueled a growing spiritual fervor among local Catholics. In 1986, a Divine Mercy prayer group began meeting every Sunday at 3:00 p.m., the Hour of Mercy. The group modeled its prayers after the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy, including the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and the

Stations of the Cross.

In 1987, Our Lady of Prompt Succor hosted its first Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour. This included Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and the opportunity for confession. When the Marians of the Immaculate Conception listed Divine Mercy Sunday services on their website, Our Lady of Prompt Succor became one of only two churches in Louisiana to be featured, drawing visitors from hours away. Initially, one priest heard confessions, but as attendance grew, additional priests were called upon to meet the increasing demand. “Some of these penitents had not been to confession for 20 or 30 years,” one group member recalled.

A pivotal year for the Divine Mercy group was 1993, when St. Faustina was beatified. At the time, the parish had a new pastor unfamiliar with the devotion. When 100 flyers were mailed to promote the Feast of Mercy service, the pastor threatened to cancel the event unless official Vatican documentation confirmed St. Faustina’s impending beatification. Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, the vice-postulator for St. Faustina’s cause for canonization, provided the necessary evidence, and the service proceeded as planned.

Over the years, the Divine Mercy prayer group has witnessed remarkable answers to prayer on Divine Mercy Sunday. Testimonies include healings from cancer, safe returns from

military deployments, and the return of fallen-away Catholics to the Sacraments. One Sister of the Sacred Heart was cured of a blood clot after entrusting her intention to the Lord during the parish’s Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour.

The Feast of Mercy service at Our Lady of Prompt Succor has evolved to include a procession with the Divine Mercy image, accompanied by the ringing of bells and the sprinkling of holy water. Each year, hundreds of people attend confessions starting at 2:00 p.m., continuing until the 3:00 p.m. service. This tradition endures as prayers rise to heaven, offering a source of grace for the salvation of souls.

In this Year of Hope, the Hour of Mercy remains a powerful time to place trust in Jesus’ infinite mercy and to echo the prayer, “Jesus, I trust in You!”

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This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 118: 24
Responsorial Psalm for April 20
Easter Day

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ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. St. Joseph's Altar on Sunday, March 16. Monetary donations and all food from the altar was donated to the Manna House.



ECUMENICAL ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR COMMUNITY POTLUCK. On Sunday, Mar. 16, a St. Joseph altar for the entire community of St. Joseph, LA was hosted by St. Joseph Catholic Church. It was an ecumenical potluck and pastors and churches from all over St. Joseph brought food, sang, spoke and prayed. It was a wonderful event.



ST. CHARLES MISSION CHURCH ST. JOSEPH ALTAR. Parishioners from St. Charles Church, Goudeau, along with Father Ramji Shoury, celebrated the Feast of Saint Joseph on Sunday, Mar. 16. Following Mass, the Altar was offered and blessed by Father Shoury. All were welcome to attend.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL. On Wednesday, Mar. 19, St. Joseph School, Plaquemine celebrated the Feast of their patron saint. The day was marked with a reconsecration of the school to the TWO Hearts and a blessing of the St. Joseph Altar.

SEVEN

Cont. from page 5

and endured a painful night in captivity.

The focus of the reflection for the fourth church is the first time Jesus was brought before Pilate, the

Roman governor of the region. There Jesus was accused by the Jewish religious authorities of being a rival king to Caesar.

In the fifth church, the pilgrim follows the Lord as he is taken to King Herod, who along with his guards mock him.

The sixth church recalls Jesus being taken from Herod and brought before Pilate for the second time and then scourged, crowned with thorns, mocked, and condemned to death.

The last church commemorates Christ carrying the cross on his shoulders from the Praetorium, where Pilate yielded to the crowd's demand for his crucifixion, to Mount Calvary where he suffered excruciating pain, died, and was laid to rest in a nearby tomb until his resurrection from the dead on Easter Sunday.

This article was originally published on CNA on April 14, 2022, and was updated April 5, 2023.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Psalm 118: 1
Responsorial Psalm for April 27
Divine Mercy Sunday

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SACRED HEART SCHOOL PRO-LIFE RALLY AND MARCH was held on February 7 organized by Mrs. Jamie Gaspard. Harlee Barbier from the La. Right to Life Organization spoke to the students about the "Sanctity of Life" and "Everyone is Entitled to Dignity." Photo: 5th Grade teacher Mrs. Jenni Smith and Sr. Sandra Norsworthy, principal, with the SHS 5th grade class. Back row: Aubree Williams, Scarlett Lemoine, Harper Moreau, Jolie Gaspard, Jadyne Marcotte, Lucy Soldani, Luby Meche, Aubrey Spinner, Jayce Daigrepoint, Eli Schexnyder, Front Row: Asher Wyble, Lane Gauthier, Emma Tucker, Kneeling: Carter Couvillion, La'Kaveon Patton.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL SPELLING BEE WINNER is eighth grader, Margeaux [redacted] daughter of Rob and Allyson [redacted] of Mansura.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S RELIGION FAIR. Winner is Lane [redacted] son of Lance and Rhonda [redacted] of Hessmer. "Corporal Works of Mercy"

HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL. Recently, the "Game of Life" day was held for seniors in which students were able to learn about "real world" decisions such as budgeting and financial planning. Over 40 businesses represented that day between the Game of Life and Career Day presentations to our seniors!



LIVING ROSARY, ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. On Wednesday, Jan. 29, St. Joseph Elementary and High School in Plaquemine started the day as with the Novena to St. Joseph. In celebration of our students, we prayed a Living Rosary after. It was a wonderful way to begin the day.




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Upcoming Retreats:

April 24 - 27
 Men's ACTS Retreat
 hosted by
 St. Mary's Assumption Church

May 1 - 4
 Men's ACTS Retreat
 hosted by
 St. Augustine Church

All retreats are held at Maryhill
 Renewal Center.



LSUA CATHOLIC STUDENT ORGNAIZATION. Students and Wednesday lunch cooks with Fr. Mac Onwumere after a 11:05 Wednesday Mass.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL ARCHERY TEAM. Exciting news! The Cabrini School Archery Team competed in a thrilling 3D shootout sponsored by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries! It was an incredible experience for the students filled with skill and teamwork.

Consumed by the love of the Father: A call to encounter at Steubenville South

As summer approaches, excitement builds for the Steubenville South Conference, where thousands of young Catholics will gather for a powerful encounter with Christ. This year’s theme, Consumed, is drawn from Deuteronomy 4:24: “The Lord, your God, is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Through the sacraments, worship, inspiring talks, and community, our hope is that every young person who attends will experience the personal love of the Father, be transformed by Christ’s saving actions, and be empowered to live in the Holy Spirit.

Today’s young people have more access to information than ever. They are bombarded with

messages shaping their identity, worldview, and understanding of God. Our culture offers an endless stream of things to consume—entertainment, social media, trends—but in turn, it also consumes them, defining their worth and seeking their attention. Yet, deep within their hearts, a longing remains—an invitation to give themselves completely, not to a fleeting idea or movement, but to a Person: Jesus Christ.

Jesus alone satisfies. He is worthy of consuming our time, thoughts, and hearts. On the cross and in the Eucharist, He offers Himself completely so that we, in turn, can be consumed

by the Holy Spirit and the all-encompassing love of the Father. In this love, we find our true identity, become fully alive, bear abundant fruit, and hold fast to the hope of heaven.

Join us for this incredible weekend of faith, renewal, and transformation. We are already about one-third full—register soon to secure your teen’s spot! For more information, visit www.steubenvillesouth.com. Above all, we ask for your prayers—for the youth of our diocese, for those who will encounter Christ, and for the continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our Church.

Host a VIRTUS Training Class at Your Church or School!

Is your church parish or Catholic school facing the challenge of having four or more individuals needing to complete VIRTUS training? If so, you might be interested in hosting a VIRTUS class right at your location!

Organizing a VIRTUS training session on-site can significantly ease the process for your employees and volunteers. This will eliminate the need to travel or juggle schedules to attend. By bringing the training directly to your community, you can ensure that everyone who needs to complete the program can do so conveniently and efficiently.

If you are interested in setting up a personal VIRTUS class at your church or school, please don’t hesitate to reach out! You can call or email me, and I will be happy to assist you in coordinating this essential training session. Together, we can create a “Safe Environment” for our children.

Kecia Coco, Director of Safe Environment
kcoco@diocesealex.org • 318-445-6424 (ext. 213)

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Monday, April 14, 6:00 p.m.
 St. Joseph Catholic Center
 4400 Coliseum Blvd.
 Alexandria, LA

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

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 Follow us on Instagram
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Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshops - March 29

The next workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on the following date. 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.

Saturday, March 29 - 9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Church, Marksville

There is 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!

Family Fun Day Moreauville - March 30

Join us for Family Fun Day and SHS Spring raffle drawing at Sacred Heart Church on Sunday, March 30 from 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. There will be free jambalaya courtesy of the SHC Knights of Columbus, inflatable slides, music, door prizes, and the drawing for the side-by-side and cash prizes at noon.

Silent Lenten Retreat - April 3-6

This Lent, set aside time for a profound spiritual renewal. We invite you to experience the grace of silence and solitude at our Silent Lenten Retreat at Maryhill Renewal Center, designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus. Spend a weekend in:

- Guided prayer tailored for you by an individual Spiritual Director.
- Fast from the noise and distractions of your busy life by embracing the silence.
- Give of your time and self and reconnect to the heart of the Lord.

Let this be a time of spiritual growth as you journey towards Easter. Space is limited. Open to everyone. To register or for more information, contact: Charlotte Wasmer at 318-730-1025 or cwasmer@diocesealex.org; Ingrid Cannella at 318-792-3331 or icnewell@yahoo.com.

Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting - April 12

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

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

Seminary Come and See Weekend - April 11-13

St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College is scheduled to have its Spring Come and See weekend from April 11-13. This is a great opportunity for any male 16 years old or older to come and see the seminary campus and what seminary life is like. For more information, please contact the Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur at frllafleur@diocesealex.org.

Annual Chrism Mass - April 15

All are welcome to join us for the annual Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 15, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria. Bishop Robert Marshall will be the principal celebrant.

St. Rita Church Golf Classic - April 21

Join us for the 5th Annual St. Rita Church Golf Classic benefiting our Youth Program. The St. Rita Golf Classic is a fundraising opportunity for our Youth programs. All funding will go toward the formation and catechization of all youth participating. Such opportunities may include, but not limited to weekly meals, activity fees, and travel funding for our yearly summer camp trip to Covecrest in Tiger, Georgia. Lunch and registration begin at 12:00 noon at Links on the Bayou. Shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m. Participants must be 21 years or older. For more information contact etta@strita.org.

Faithful Citizenship Day at the Louisiana State Capitol - April 30

Please join Catholics from around the State at our Fourth Annual Catholic Faithful Citizenship Day on Wednesday, April 30 at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops are sponsoring this event for the education and formation of our Catholic faithful.

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage sites: January 1 - December 31, 2025

Sites include: St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria; Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches; St. Augustine Church, Isle Brevelle; Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Church, Forest Hill; St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie; St. Paul the Apostle Church, Manusra; Holy Ghost Church, Marksville; Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vidalia.

Pilgrimage participants can pick up a Pilgrim's Passport at any of these locations to begin the pilgrimage. Stickers to place in the passport booklet are available at each site. Each location has a different sticker, collect all stickers and send in a completed passport to receive a certificate from Bishop Marshall. You have until December 31 to complete your passport. There is also a youth's Junior Pilgrim Guidebook sheet available at each site.

Visit www.diocesealex.org/jubilee-year-2025/ for more information about the Jubilee Year, the Pilgrimage, the Junior Pilgrim events, and other events throughout the year.

If you or youth family are participating in the Jubilee Pilgrimage and have visited one of the Pilgrim Sites, we invite you to share your story! Submissions will be considered for publication in the Church Today in the new featured article series, Pilgrimage of Hope: Journey through the Jubilee Year. This series will run throughout the 2025 Jubilee Year, with a different individual or family from our Diocese featured each month. For more information and submission details, please email hmorgan@diocesealex.org.

Steubenville South Conference - June 20-22, 2025 | Register now!

The Steubenville South Conference is fast approaching! This powerful weekend for high school teens offers an opportunity to encounter Christ through the sacraments, worship, inspiring talks, and fellowship. This year's theme, Consumed, comes from Deuteronomy 4:24, "The Lord, your God, is a consuming fire, a jealous God."

Our world offers countless distractions, but only Jesus truly satisfies. He desires to consume our hearts with His love and transform our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Spots are filling fast - we're already over two-thirds full! Don't wait to register your teen for this life-changing experience. For more information, or to register as a volunteer, visit www.steubenvillesouth.com.

Please keep the youth of our diocese in your prayers as they prepare for this incredible encounter with Christ!

Church Today News Deadlines

April 28
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Apr. 10

May 26
Deadline for news:
Thursday, May 15



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April 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>MARCH 24</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>29</p> <p>EMHC Workshop 9:00 a.m. St. Joseph Church, Marksville</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Lent Family Fun Day All day Sacred Heart Church, Moreauville</p>
Men's ACTS Retreat hosted by Sacred Heart Church -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
<p>31</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p>APRIL 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>
Silent Lenten Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center						
<p>7</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>
Come and See Weekend -- St. Joseph Seminary, Covington						
<p>14</p> <p>VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>EASTER MONDAY PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Chrism Mass 12:05 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>HOLY THURSDAY PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>18</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>20</p> <p>EASTER PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>
<p>21</p> <p>St. Rita Golf Classic 12 noon Links on the Bayou, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>25</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>27</p> <p>SUNDAY of DIVINE MERCY PRAY FOR FR. M. LARID</p>
Women's Silent Ignatian Preached Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center						



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We only have one purpose:
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