

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVI, No. 5

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 26, 2025



INSIDE

The beginning of Pope Leo XIV's papacy

Pope Leo XIV inaugurated his papacy with a powerful call for unity, urging a 'church of communion' that stands as a beacon of reconciliation in a world scarred by division, violence, and inequality. See page 3 for the full article.

Life in the Diocese of Alexandria

From graduations to confirmations and everything in between, this month's issue captures the joyful spirit of our diocese - see inside for photos and highlights!

Catholic Charities launches raffle to support families in need

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana invites you to join their raffle fundraiser - where every ticket sold helps uplift local families and offers a chance to win exciting prizes. See page 12 for how to enter.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS STATE CONVENTION. Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral for the participants in the Knights of Columbus State Convention being held in Alexandria May 3-4. Pictured are Dcn. Richard Mitchell, Fr. Jamin David, Fr. Vincente De la Cruz, Fr. Rusty Bruce, and Dcn. Jason Lavergne. After Mass, Bishop attended the Convention Banquet at the Randolph Riverfront Center. Many thanks to the Knights for their wide-ranging charitable works.



SHREVEPORT MARTYRS. The final process for the Shreveport martyrs is preparing documents to be hand-delivered to Rome in July. Onlookers witness Diocese of Shreveport's Bishop Francis Malone signing these documents. Alexandria priest, Fr. Taylor Reynolds (middle) was one of the witnesses.



WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT. Becky Eldredge led a spiritual weekend for women at Maryhill Renewal Center April 24-27. Walking through an abbreviated version of St. Ignatius's exercises, the retreat held in silence had truly spiritual impacts on the 21 retreatants.

CHURCH TODAY



Volume LVI, No. 5
May 26, 2025

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

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

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

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306
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Pope Leo XIV begins papacy calling for a 'united church' in a wounded world

by Justin McLellan
OSV News

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Launching his papacy with a call for reconciliation and communion, Pope Leo XIV formally began his ministry as the successor of St. Peter by calling for “a united church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a leaven for a reconciled world.”

“In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth’s resources and marginalizes the poorest,” the new pope said in his homily during his inauguration Mass May 18.

“For our part, we want to be a small leaven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world,” he told the estimated 150,000 people gathered in and around St. Peter’s Square. “We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: ‘In the one Christ, we are one.’”

The quote from St. Augustine is also the pope’s episcopal motto and is featured on his coat of arms.

Ecumenical and interreligious guests and more than 100 government delegations joined the new pope for Mass in St. Peter’s Square. The United States was represented by Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, both of whom are Catholic, and were accompanied by their spouses and senior White House aides.

Vance and the second lady, Usha Vance, visited Pope Francis’ tomb in the Basilica of St. Mary Major the evening before the Mass. “He was beloved by many Catholics around the world, and I hope you will join me in praying for the repose of his soul,” Vance wrote in a post on X.

Among the Christian leaders present was Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, along with other delegations from the Orthodox churches, the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist



POPE LEO XIV INAUGURATION MASS. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization under Pope Francis, places the papal fisherman’s ring on Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, as the pontiff celebrates his inauguration Mass at the Vatican May 18, 2025. (OSV News photo/Guglielmo Mangiapane, Reuters)

Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and various evangelical and Pentecostal communities. Representatives of the Jewish community as well as Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jain traditions also were in attendance.

Before the Mass began, Pope Leo rode through the square in the popemobile for the first time since his election May 8, greeting the faithful as cheers of “Viva il papa!” (“Long live the pope!”) poured out from the crowd. He then entered the basilica to pray at the tomb of St. Peter, accompanied by patriarchs of the Eastern Catholic churches.

Following the Gospel reading, three cardinals from the different orders within the College of Cardinals took part in the formal beginning of the Petrine ministry: Italian Cardinal Mario Zenari placed the woolen pallium on the pope’s shoulders, symbolizing his role as shepherd of the universal church; Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle presented him with the fisherman’s ring, evoking St. Peter’s mission to draw people into Jesus Christ’s net; and Congolese Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo offered a prayer invoking the strength of the Holy Spirit for the new pontificate.

Representing the universal church, 12 people — clergy, religious and laity from around the world — then came forward to offer their obedience to the new pope.

Reflecting on the Gospel reading from St. John — in which Jesus asks St. Peter three times to tend to his sheep — Pope Leo said

in his homily that the ministry of Peter is rooted not in authority for its own sake, but in love that serves and unites.

“Peter is thus entrusted with the task of ‘loving more’ and giving his life for the flock,” he said. “The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because



POPE LEO XIV, FORMERLY CARDINAL ROBERT FRANCIS PREVOST, raises the chalice as he celebrates his inauguration Mass at the Vatican May 18, 2025. (OSV News photo/Remo Casilli, Reuters)

the church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ.”

The successor of St. Peter, he said, “must shepherd the flock without ever yielding to the temptation to be an autocrat, lording it over those entrusted to him.” Instead, “he is called to serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them.”

Pope Leo also recalled the period of mourning following the death of Pope Francis, and he said that the conclave that followed the late pope’s death was “a moment of grace.”

“I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love, for he wants us all to be united in one family,” he said.

“With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary church that opens its arms to the world,” he said, calling for a church that “proclaims the word, allows itself to be made ‘restless’ by history and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.”

At the end of Mass, the pope called for prayers for regions afflicted by war: Gaza, Myanmar and Ukraine, which “finally awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was present for the Mass and was to have a private meeting with the pope later in the day, the Vatican press office said.

Immediately after the Mass, Pope Leo met with several government representatives including Vance and Rubio, as well as Peruvian President Dina Boluarte. The pope had spent more than 20 years in Peru as a missionary priest and bishop and has Peruvian citizenship.

Justin McLellan is a reporter for Catholic News Service in Rome.

Clergy Assignments

Priests

Pastoral planning impacts priest assignments for 2025

The Diocese of Alexandria is currently engaged in a pastoral planning project entitled, "Together as One Church: Embracing a Future of Hope." We are evaluating the current and future needs of our diocese. Because it is anticipated that some realignment will result from this project in 2026, all of our priests were asked to remain in their current assignment for one more year. Those whose terms are expiring will be appointed to a one-year term. The priest appointments listed were made to fill the position for Catholic chaplain for Rapides Regional Medical Center as Father Macgrace Onwumere, SMMM, was withdrawn by his order earlier this year.



Father Robert Johnson assigned as Pastoral Administrator of St. Mary Church, Winnsboro and St. John Chapel, Columbia



Father Jason Gootee assigned as Chaplain of Rapides Regional Medical Center Alexandria

Deacons

Several deacons retire after many years of serving

We have a few Permanent Deacons retiring after years of dedicated service for the Diocese of Alexandria. We give thanks for them and the work they accomplished in their parish assignments. Thankfully, we have ten men in formation to become Permanent Deacons in a couple of years. Please pray for the deacons who are such a valued part of the Clergy in the diocese.



Deacon LG Deloach reactivating and assigned to St. James Memorial Church Alexandria



Deacon Michael Young assigned to St. Augustine Church Isle Brevelle



Deacon Alex Mangini Moving out of the Diocese



Deacon Lawrence Feldkamp Retired



Deacon Doug Moreau Retired



Deacon Ted Moulard Retired



Deacon Tommy Robichaux Retired



Deacon Gary Schupbach Retired

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SEASON OF SERVICE, MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS, WOODWORTH. Knights of Columbus hold a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DUPONT, celebrated Mass on April 10 at Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home. The parishioners also distributed new bibs for residents at the nursing home.



ST. JULIANA CHURCH ALTAR SOCIETY ended their Season of Service projects on April 29 by paying visits to The Oaks Nursing Home and Hilltop Nursing Home. Snacks were delivered to residents and the 90th birthday of Lady Betty Ray was celebrated!

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The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth.
 Psalm 97: 1
 Responsorial Psalm for June 1
 Seventh Sunday of Easter

“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God: the one Savior, who alone reveals the face of the Father.”

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- Proficient using current versions of Microsoft Excel, Word, and Outlook software
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- Must be a team player.

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Deadline is June 23, 2025



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH IN ECHO organized a pilgrimage to Natchez, Mississippi, on April 10. During this spiritual journey, participants had the opportunity to visit several significant sites, including St. Mary's Basilica, Holy Family Catholic Church, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Vidalia. Fr. Dwight de Jesus led the group.

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Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.
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Sunday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

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

Psalm 104: 30
 Responsorial Psalm
 for June 8
 Pentecost Sunday



JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS FROM HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. On Sunday, May 4, a group from Holy Ghost Church in Marksville visited St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura with Dcn. Ted Moulard.



ST. JULIANA EASTER VIGIL. Dustin Roy was brought into the Church at St. Juliana during Easter Vigil, April 19, and received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Luke LaFleur.



NEW SIR KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER. Msgr. Henry A. Thompson, Grand Assembly 27, Alexandria, held an Exemplification at St. Juliana Catholic Church on Saturday, April 26. Supreme Navigator Reginald Auzenne and Past Supreme Navigator Stephen Randall conferred the Meritorious 4th Degree on Donald Collins (St. James Memorial Church), Mark Sampson (St. John the Baptist) and Ike Wilson (St. Juliana Church). Photo: left to right, standing: Sir Knight Donald Collins, Sir Knight Mark Sampson, Sir Knight Ike Wilson. Seated: Past Supreme Navigator Stephen Randall, Current Supreme Navigator Reginald Auzenne.



MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH YOUTH GROUP IN WOODWORTH volunteering at the Cenla Pregnancy Center on April 23. The kids filled blessing bags, prepped donation bottles, and learned more about services the Cenla Pregnancy Center offers.



THE YOUTH AT ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH IN HESSMER held a car wash to raise funds to attend Steubenville South in June. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Kenneth Michiels.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop

July 26, 9:00 a.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

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July 26, 12:30 p.m.
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

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CONFIRMATION, MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE. Sixteen young disciples were confirmed on Thursday, April 10 at a Confirmation Mass at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville. Thank you to Father Martin Laird, Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took this photo), the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARKSVILLE AND ST. GENEVIEVE CHURCH, BROUILLETTE. On Thursday, April 24, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. Twenty-four young disciples (23 from St. Joseph and one from St. Genevieve in Brouillette) were confirmed. Thank you to Father Wade DeCoste, Father Abraham Palakkattuchira, Deacon Ken Primeaux, the parents, sponsors, catechists and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, FIFTH WARD. On Saturday, April 26, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Second Sunday of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward. Two young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Kenneth Obiekwe, Deacon Darrell Dubroc, Deacon Ted Moulard, the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, JENA. Sunday, April 27, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Mary Church in Jena. There were four young disciples confirmed. Thank you to Father Daniel Hart, the parents, sponsors, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi, and to Deacon Richard Mitchell for his assistance with the liturgy.



CONFIRMATION, MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, NATCHITOCHES. On Thursday, May 1, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. Eighteen young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Irion St. Romain, Father John Cunningham, Father Louis Sklar, Deacon Chad Thibodeaux, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the sponsors, parents, catechists, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES. On Friday, May 2, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches. There were ten young women confirmed (six high school students and four university students). Thank you to Father Jose Pallipurath, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the parents, sponsors, catechists, Focus Missionaries, and the parishioners for their prayers and support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, NATCHITOCHEs. On Sunday, May 4, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Third Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches. Nine young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father John O'Brien, Deacon Steven Newbury, the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners of St. Anthony for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT. On Wednesday, May 7, when Catholics around the world were praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Cardinal-Electors, Bishop Robert Marshall conferred the same Spirit on eleven young disciples at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport. Thank you to Father Charles Ray, Father Rusty Rabalais, Deacon Doug Moreau, Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took this photo), the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners who supported these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. LOUIS CHURCH, GLENMORA. On Thursday, May 8, For his first Mass in the pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, an American and a former Peruvian bishop, it was appropriate that Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated at Confirmation Mass in Spanish at St. Louis Church in Glenmora. Eleven disciples were confirmed, a combination of youth and adults. Thank you to Fr. Edwin Rodriguez-Hernandez and the entire parish community (Spanish- and English-speaking) for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, WINNFIELD. On Wednesday, May 14, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Winnfield. Sixteen disciples (youth and an adult) were confirmed. Thank you to Father Louis Sklar, Deacon Lee Moreau, Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took this photo), the families, sponsors, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Monday, May 19, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. Forty young disciples were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you to Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Thomas Kennedy, Father Luke LaFleur, Deacon Les Glankler, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the catechists, parents, sponsors, and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MISSION CHURCH, FOREST HILL. On Wednesday, May 21, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass in Spanish (more or less) at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe) Chapel in Forest Hill. Fourteen young disciples were confirmed. Gracias a Padre Marc Noel, los padres, los padrinos, y los parroquianos para su apoyo por los confirmados.



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, ALEXANDRIA, kicked off May with our traditional May Crowning! Our students presented lovely flowers to Mary, and 6th grade led us in heartfelt prayer. A special moment as our King and Queen of the court, Rhett W. and Margaret B., crowned Our Lady. Huge thanks to our dedicated teachers and staff who helped make this day so special!



OUR LADY OF LOURDES IN WINNFIELD celebrated May Crowning on May 4. Chloe S. was chosen to crown the Blessed Mother. The children from the catechism classes brought flowers.

MAY CROWNING AT ST JOSEPH CHURCH IN CHENEYVILLE. Peyton F. did a great job of crowning the Blessed Mother.



MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH/ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. May Crowning was held on May 3. Seniors Elizabeth S. and Ryan P. had the honor of crowning Mary. It was a beautiful day to celebrate Mama Mary!



SACRED HEART SCHOOL IN MOREAUVILLE held its annual May Crowning Mass and Ceremony on May 1. Pictured is the May Crowning Court. Back row: Margeaux F., Brooklyn P., Ava G., Branch'Lynn D., Ella L., Isabella L., Lillie Z., Gracie B., Brynn J. Front Row: Hayden D., Landry N., Emily F., Sophia R., Dallas M., Scheriah L.



(above) MAY CROWNING AT NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, CAMPTI.



BORDELONVILLE. On May 3, several young ladies from St. Peter in Bordelonville and St. Michael in Big Bend presented flowers to our Mother Mary and crowned her in thanks for her loving presence in our lives.



ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE. 8th grade May Crowning. Pictured are: Brayden J., Joel F., Ethan T., Caden P., Hayden H.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. On May 2, May Crowning was held. Pictured with Fr. Chad Partain.



SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. First row: CYLA Scholarship recipients Hudson C. and Marlee M. both graduating from Avoyelles Public Charter School. 2nd row: Tim Bordelon, Rodney Desselle, Geoffrey Bordelon, Steven Lemoine, David Boe, Heath Pastor, Fr Brian Seiler, Jay Soldani, Maurice Mayeux, Chris Lacour, Kyle Lemoine, Bruce Lemoine, Chris Rousseau, John Lacour.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD celebrated Mary, Queen of heaven and Earth with two representatives for each grade at a beautiful May Crowning ceremony.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES IN WINNFIELD celebrated Senior Sunday on May 28. Brian A., Aron G., Daniel P., and Caplan Y. were honored. Fr. Louis Sklar and Deacon Lee Moreau are shown with the honored graduates.



Graduation!



2025 GRADUATES OF HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA.



ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. St. Joseph held their high school graduation on May 16 at Mater Dolorosa Church.



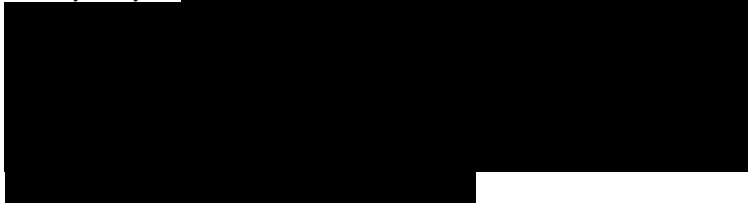
LSUA GRADUATION. Amelia Bordelon, coordinator of Campus Ministry for the diocese, with Spring '25 graduate, Sr. Lizbeth Gutierrez, and LSUA Catholics current student, Kimberly Bibbins.



2025 GRADUATES OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN NATCHITOCHE.



SACRED HEART/OUR LADY OF SORROWS BACCALAUREATE Sunday, May 4.



SENIOR MASS, ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



SENIOR MASS, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.



SENIOR MASS AT ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER. On May 4, Fr. Kenneth Michiels prayed over our Seniors during the Baccalaureate Mass. We wish them the best of luck in their further endeavors. Pictured left to right: Ava D [redacted], Arleigh A [redacted], Fr. Kenneth Michiels, Annalise D [redacted], Joscelyn N [redacted].

Catholic Charities of Central LA's annual Raffle Fundraiser

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana Raffle Fundraiser: Supporting Our Community One Ticket at a Time

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is excited to announce its upcoming Raffle Fundraiser, a special event where giving back to the community comes with exciting rewards! Every dollar raised through this fundraiser will go directly toward programs that support individuals and families in need throughout Central Louisiana.

Four Amazing Prizes Await!

With four prizes up for grabs, participants will have multiple chances to win something special while making a difference. Whether you're feeling lucky or simply want to contribute to a great cause, purchasing a ticket is a meaningful way to show your support.

This year's prizes are:

- *Paragon Casino Pkg:* Hotel Stay, \$50 dining credit, \$110 spa certificate and 1 day of unlimited golf

- *LSU corn hole set*
- *\$200 Visa Gift card*
- *Framed "Hokus Pokus" print* by Mr. Tommy Faulk

Where to Buy Tickets

Tickets can be purchased at select churches within our diocese, making it easy for community members to get involved. For added convenience, tickets can also be purchased online, allowing broader participation from those who may not be able to attend in person.

Join Us in Strengthening Our Community

This fundraiser is more than just a raffle—it's a way to uplift those in need, offering hope and assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community. Your participation will help Catholic Charities continue its vital mission of service, compassion, and care.

For more information, contact Heidi Wampler at 445-6424 ext. 510 or email hwampler@cccenla.org

Join the 35 for 35 Challenge!

For **35 years**, we've been serving our community, ensuring that those facing food insecurity have access to meals, support, and hope. Now, we need **YOU** to help us continue this mission!

We're challenging everyone to **donate \$35 or raise \$35** from friends and family to support our work. Every dollar helps provide food to those in need.

Here's how you can join:

- ✓ **Donate \$35** – Every contribution makes a difference.
- ✓ **Raise \$35** – Ask 3 friends to pitch in \$10 each!
- ✓ **Spread the word** – Share this post and invite others to take part!

Together, we can make a **HUGE** impact. **Are you in?**
 Donate now: givetomannahouse.com

#35for35Challenge #FeedingCommunity #JoinTheMission

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!
- **Volunteer** - cccenla.org/volunteer
- **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope

Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED:

If you have reason to believe that a child is being abused or neglected, and that the abuse is by a parent or caretaker, please first call the Louisiana Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline at 1-855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437) and/or your local law enforcement agency. If suspected abuse is related to a diocesan/church/school program, or if abuse occurred by anyone acting in Church services, a report should then also be made to the diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator, Dr. Lee Kneipp, Clinical Psychologist at 318-542-9805.

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O Lord, our God, how wonderful your name in all the earth!

Psalm 84: 2
 Responsorial Psalm for June 15
 The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity


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 Come to our aid with a helping hand,
 To pray and praise the best we can.

Help us to fight the enemy here,
 And let us know that you are near.
 Our flesh is weak,
 Our hearts seek to be strong,
 Please keep us from sinning
 And doing what's wrong.

Show us the way to the Father and Son,
 That we may worship God,
 Three in One.
 Blessed Trinity, the Name we call,
 A mystery from Heaven,
 For one and all.

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THE ANNUAL SPRING COME AND SEE WEEKEND was held April 11-13 at St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College in St. Benedict, LA. Pictured are two high school youth with Diocese of Alexandria seminarians, Will Brittain, Blake Bernard, and Matthew Kramer. Also pictured is Director of Vocations, Fr. Luke LaFleur.

Upcoming VIRTUS Sessions

Wednesday, June 4, 6:00 p.m.
 St. Joseph Catholic Center
 4400 Coliseum Blvd.
 Alexandria, LA

Saturday, June 7, 9:00 a.m.
 St. Michael the Archangel
 (Church Hall)
 Leesville, 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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Upcoming Retreats:

June 12-15
Men's ACTS Retreat
 hosted by Cenla ACTS (OLPS)

July 10-13
Teen ACTS Retreat
 hosted by St. Mary's Assumption, Cottonport

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IT'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TIME!

• **June 9-13: Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria**
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. "True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World" for kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade. Cost is \$30. Register at olpschurch.org

• **June 9-13: Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth**
8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Early drop off begins at 7:30 a.m. "True North, Trusting Jesus in a Wild World" Register online under the Faith Formation Tab at MMJChurch.org.

• **June 16-19: St. Rita Church, Alexandria**
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. \$10 per child up to 3. Max \$30. You will be able to pay after your registration is submitted. Deadline to register is June 9. For student in grades PK4 (school year '25-'26) through 5th Grade. To register your child or volunteer visit: <https://www.myvbs.org/stritavbs/>

• **June 16-19: St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie**
St. Anthony will host its annual Vacation Bible School from June 16-19. This year our theme will be "Cathletics - Training to be Champions for Christ." Contact Alicia Hamilton for more information (504) 559-7430.



• **June 23-27: St. Joseph Church, Marksville**
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Ages PreK-6th grades (4-12). A registration form is available at the church. Cost will be \$10 for one child, \$15 for 2 or more children per family.

• **June 23-26: St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches**
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at St. Mary's Catholic School. \$20 per child (includes T-shirt & snack) and \$5 sibling discount. For Preschool to 5th grade. Theme is "Come to the Table!" Register online at: <https://theminorbasilicaoftheimm.flocknote.com/signup/169331>



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS AT OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Saturday, May 3, fifty-four students received their First Communion. Pictured with Deacon Les Glankler and pastor, Fr. Rusty Rabalais.



FIRST COMMUNION, ST. RICHARD CHAPEL, HICKORY HILL. Sunday, May 4. Left to right: Rose Noel, DRE; Jayce A [redacted]; Fr. Joseph Desimone; Aaliyah U [redacted]; Jamal S [redacted]; Betty Augustine, teacher.

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ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Sunday, May 4, Journee E [redacted] and Lauran R [redacted] made their First Holy Communion. With pastor, Fr. Craig Scott, VG.

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ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE, MANSURA. First Holy Communion was celebrated on May 4 with pastor, Fr. Blake Deshautelle.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, TIoga. The Sacrament of First Holy Communion was celebrated on Sunday, April 27. Pictured with Dcn. Roger Christopher and Fr. Rickey Gremillion.



ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, BUNKIE. The Sacrament of First Holy Communion was celebrated on Sunday, April 27. Pictured with pastor, Msgr. Scott Chemino.



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL AND MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE, celebrated First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 4. Congratulations to all those who made their 1st Communion. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Martin Laird.



FIRST COMMUNION APRIL 27 AT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, DEVILLE. Pictured: pastor, Fr. Albi Mulloth; catechist, Sherry Schayot; DRE, LaDonna Floyd; co-coordinators Winona Jenkins and Sherri Alwell; 1st communicants: Eli B., Evan C., Brock F., Sydney T., and Presley S.



SACRED HEART AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS, MOREAUVILLE, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION.



FIRST COMMUNION, ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER. On April 26, St. Alphonsus Communion Class celebrated a beautiful milestone as they made their First Holy Communion. It was a joyful and sacred moment, surrounded by family, friends, and our parish community. Pictured with the First Communicants is pastor, Fr. Kenneth Michiels and Chelsi Dautat.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH IN WINNFIELD celebrated Communion Sunday on May 4. Allie Mae C., Audrey C., Isabella G., Marilyn F., Elisandro C., and Victor C. were members of the Communion Class. Reverend Louis Sklar and Deacon Lee Moreau are pictured with the class.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DUPONT. First Holy Communion Mass was held on Sunday May 11 at Immaculate Conception Church, DuPont. Pictured are Nicole Coco, teacher; Zoe D.; Briggs G.; Maci M.; Kamdyn S.; Magnolia v. and pastor, Father Abraham Varghese.

HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. Baptism for Lane E. happened on Easter Sunday, April 20. Pictured are Lane's large, happy family and Fr. Joseph Desimone, pastor of Holy Ghost Church.





ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Huge congratulations to the 2025-2026 Cabrini Panthers Cheer Team.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. Our 8th graders enjoyed a trip to Washington, DC during the Easter holidays.



FAITHFUL CITIZEN'S DAY AT THE STATE CAPITAL. Six Holy Savior Menard students attended Faithful Citizen's Day at the State Capital in Baton Rouge, representing Catholic students of the Diocese of Alexandria. Students learned more about the Democratic process through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and legislation.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL FIELD DAY. What a day! Although our Field Day turned into a rainy adventure, the fun never stopped! A massive thank you to all our incredible parents for their support! We couldn't have done it without you!

(below) **SENIOR RING CEREMONY, ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE.**



OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL. On Tuesday, April 15, OLPS 6th Grade attended Chrism Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. Pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall and Meredith Rhoads, principal.



8TH GRADE GRADUATES, ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, BUNKIE. 8th Grade graduation took place at St. Anthony School on Thursday, May 15. Pictured with pastor, Msgr. Scott Chemino.



SACRED HEART SCHOOL held its 8th Grade Graduation on May 15 at Sacred Heart Church in Moreauville. Back Row: Brooklyn P [redacted], Lane S [redacted], Brynn J [redacted], McKinley F [redacted], Margeaux F [redacted], Payton E [redacted], Isabella L [redacted]. Front Row: Colton T [redacted], Branch'Lynn D [redacted], Ava G [redacted], Axil J [redacted], Gracie E [redacted], Lillie Z [redacted], Charles H [redacted].



ATTENTION Parents!

Are you looking for an educational experience for your child and a more economical solution to daycare?

St. Frances Cabrini School offers both Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 classes! Our youngest students enjoy a newly built early childhood wing with a covered courtyard perfect for outdoor classes and picnics, along with updated playground equipment. The Pre-K curriculum is comprised of academics, spirituality, and enrichment. Pre-K students engage in letter/sound/number recognition, letter/sound relationship, Preschool math, counting, shapes, and Science/Social Studies units, to name a few! There are daily religion classes, weekly Mass with the rest of the school, Religious Feasts, All Saints Day Parade, and Service projects. Our PreK students also attend art, music, library, computer, and PE once a week.

For more information and/or to register, please visit our website: cabrinischool.com, or call 318-448-3333. You may also request a tour of the school. Come join our Cabrini family!

The Final Countdown: Steubenville South is almost here

by *Cari Terracina*
Steubenville South Coordinator



It's the most wonderful time of the year—not Christmas, but something just as joy-filled and life-changing: Steubenville South.

In just a few short weeks, thousands of teens, volunteers, religious, and group leaders will stream into Alexandria, Louisiana, for a weekend that pulses with the heart of the Church. Eucharistic adoration. Powerful worship. Dynamic speakers. And above all—Jesus.

We're in the final countdown.

What This Moment Means

For group leaders, the last few weeks are a flurry of paperwork, final payments, t-shirt orders, and triple-checking logistics. We see you. We know what you're carrying. And we're praying for you every step of the way.

For teens, the anticipation is building—some with excitement, some with nerves, and many who have no idea yet that their life is about to change. What a gift it is to walk

with them to the edge of that encounter.

And for us, the Steubenville South team, it's go time.

Every team is moving. Every prayer is intentional. Every detail—from the flow of the arena to the last name badge—is about creating space for grace to move freely.

This Year: An Overflow of Hope

This year's theme is Illuminate: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

It's more than a theme.

It's a declaration. In a world that feels overwhelmed by anxiety, confusion, and noise, our mission is to proclaim—through worship, through joy, through radical welcome—that Jesus is still the light. And no darkness can overcome Him.

We're not just putting on an event. We're throwing open the doors of heaven.

How You Can Join Us

If you're a parent, pray with us. Pray for open hearts, softened schedules, and safe travel.

If you're a parishioner,

intercede. Offer Masses. Fast. Invite the Holy Spirit to sweep through this gathering like never before.

If you're coming as a teen, come expectant. Come open. Come ready.

And if you're a leader—bless you. We know how hard you've worked. Let this month be covered in grace. Let every to-do point to the bigger story: God is not done with this generation. He is only getting started.

The Countdown Ends—and the Mission Begins

Steubenville South doesn't end when the lights go down on Sunday afternoon. That's just the beginning.

What starts in Alexandria goes home with every heart: into schools, families, friend groups, and parishes. Into confession lines and holy hours. Into quiet conversions and courageous conversations.

Jesus will be there. And He will shine.

Let's finish this countdown strong—on our knees, with our hearts open, and our eyes fixed on the One who is worthy.

We can't wait to see you.

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 Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @lsuacatholics

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

Louisiana Christian University:
 LCU Catholic Student Organization
 "Wildcat Catholics"
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You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Psalm 110: 4
 Responsorial Psalm for June 22
 Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje - June 2-10

Fr. Brian will be leading a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from June 2-10. If you are interested, please visit www.206tours.com/cms/frseiler/

Summer Camps at Holy Savior Menard

Holy Savior Menard High School will host several camps over the summer:

June 2-6: Baseball Camp 8:00 a.m.-12 noon with Coach Marks, college players and current varsity roster. Cost is \$125. Contact jmarks@holysaviormenard.com.

June 2-6: Softball Camp 8:00 a.m.-12 noon coached by varsity coaches and current varsity roster. Cost is \$125. Contact btorney@holysaviormenard.com.

June 3-6: Robotics Camp 1:00-4:00 p.m. Space is limited to 10. "Before care" is available from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Cost is \$150. Contact tshepherd@holysaviormenard.com.

June 23-26: Soccer Camp 8:00-11:30 a.m. for boys and girls ages 6-14. Cost is \$125. Contact ccampbell@holysaviormenard.com.

Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting - June 14

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.

Steubenville South Conference

- June 20-22, 2025 | Registration is FULL!

We are completely blown away - registration for the 2025 Steubenville South Conference is officially FULL! Over 2,100 teens and adults from across the Gulf South will be gathering in Alexandria this June for a powerful encounter with Jesus Christ.

Our hearts are on fire with anticipation as we prepare to welcome them into a weekend of grace, worship, sacraments, and transformation. The theme, Consumed (Deuteronomy 4:24), reminds us that "The Lord, your God, is a consuming fire." We believe He's ready to move

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

in mighty ways.

Now, we need you.

We're inviting every parishioner to be part of this mission through prayer. There's two ways to get involved:

- Pray on-site in the Chapel (Holiday Inn Ballroom): We're seeking individuals, families, priests, deacons, and religious to sign up for a one-hour time slot of intercessory prayer in our adoration chapel just steps from the conference.
- Can't come in-person? You can still commit to one hour of prayer during the weekend - from your home, church parish, or anywhere you are. Your prayers can change hearts and open the doors to grace. Sign up today at www.steubenvillesouth.com to choose your hour of prayer. Thank you for lifting up this generation of young Catholics. Your prayers matter. Your presence matters. And together, we believe God will do something amazing. Let's geaux.

Religious Freedom Week - June 22-28

Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. This year, beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to pray, reflect, and act to promote religious freedom. For more information please visit: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week>

EMHC Workshop - July 26

The next workshop for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion will be held on July 26 at the St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura. 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, July 26 – 9:00 a.m. – St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

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!

Lector Formation Workshop - July 26

The Diocese of Alexandria is offering Lector Formation workshops for those individuals who are

interested in serving or who currently may serve as a Lector in their parish. To serve in this role, one must be of good standing with their Catholic faith and need the approval of their pastor. All training workshops will present the same material and will last no longer than two and a half hours. If you would like to sign up for the next workshop, please complete and submit the form below or contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Saturday, July 26 – 12:00 p.m. – St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mansura

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!

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - August 2

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.

Registration for the August 2 workshop is now open.

There is a fee of \$60 per couple. You may pay online after submitting the registration form.

You can also pay the day of the workshop via check, money order or cash. Or you can prepay by mailing your check or money order (payable to Diocese of Alexandria) and mail to: Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne in the Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207

Save the date: Empower Youth Ministry Training - August 9

The Steubenville South Office is excited to offer a foundational training day for parish youth ministers and volunteers - designed to equip your adult volunteers for long-term success. Whether you're just getting started or strengthening an established team, this day is for you.

Mark your calendar! Saturday, August 9 at Maryhill Renewal Center. More information coming soon at www.steubenvillesouth.com.

Church Today News Deadlines

June 23

**Deadline for news:
Thursday, June 12**

July 28

**Deadline for news:
Thursday, July 17**



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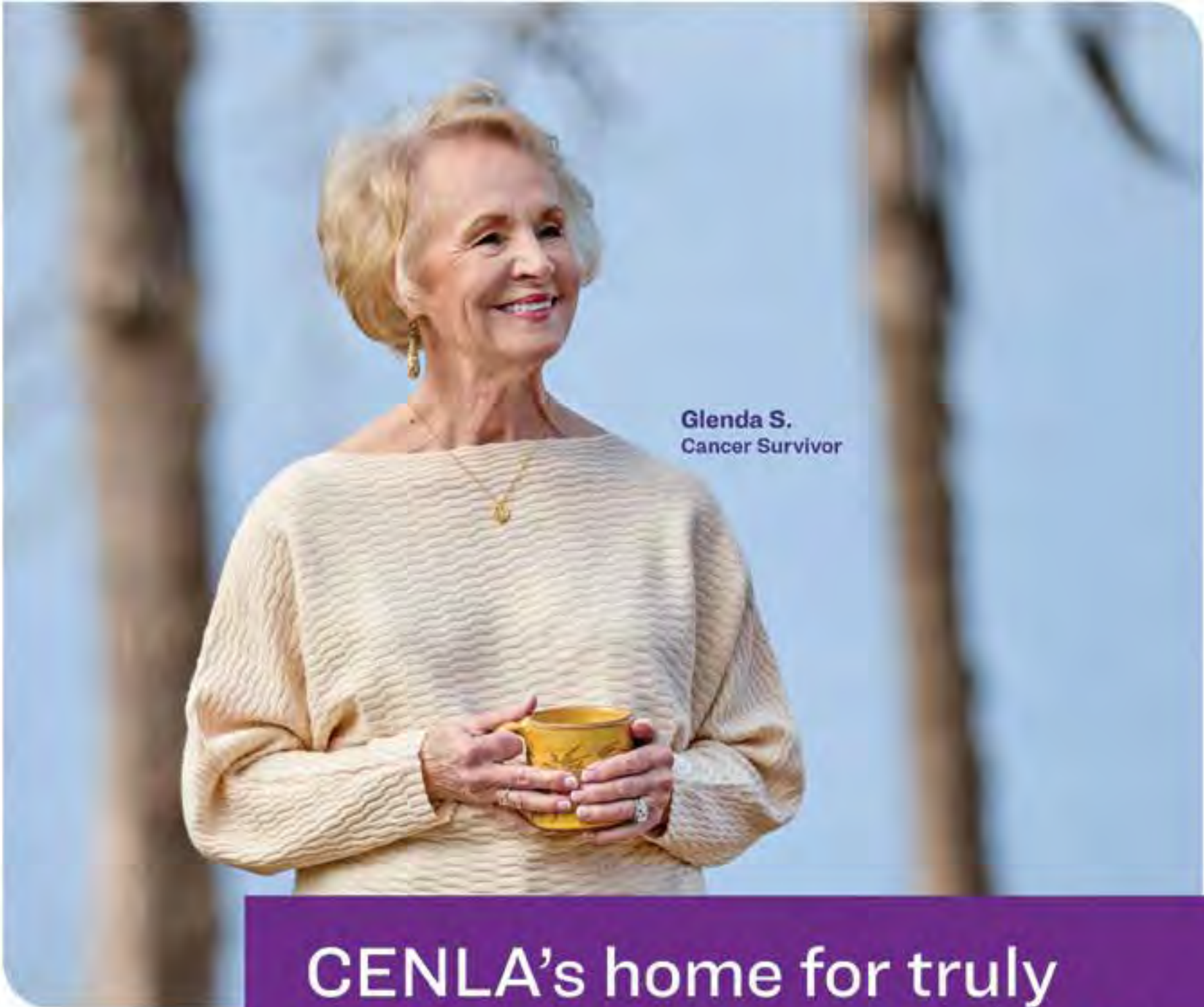
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June 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
MAY 26	27	28	29	30	31	JUNE 1
MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR FR. H. IMAMSHAH	Holy Savior Menard Basketball Camp					SOLEMNITY of the ASCENSION of the LORD PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL
2	3	VIRTUS Training 6:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria	4	5	6	7
	Holy Savior Menard Robotics Camp					VIRTUS Training 9:00 a.m. St. Michael the Archangel Church (Church Hall), Leesville
	Holy Savior Menard Softball Camp					
	Holy Savior Menard Baseball Camp					
PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD	PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME	PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE	PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR DCN. A. MANGINI	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL	PENTECOST SUNDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Vacation Bible School -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth					Discaled Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center	Father's Day
Vacation Bible School -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria						SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY TRINITY PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL
PRAY FOR FR. R. MATHEWS	PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER	PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE	PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER	PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK	PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Vacation Bible School -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria					STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE -- Alexandria	
Vacation Bible School -- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie					SOLEMNITY of the THE MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (Corpus Christi) PRAY FOR DCN. S. NEWBURY	
PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN	PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU	PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU	JUNETEENTH PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD	PRAY FOR FR. A. MULLOTH	PRAY FOR FR. C. NAYAK	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Religious Freedom Week						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville						
Vacation Bible School -- St. Mary's Catholic School/Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches						
Holy Savior Menard Soccer Camp				SOLEMNITY of the MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA		
PRAY FOR FR. M. NOEL	PRAY FOR FR. K. OBIEKWE	PRAY FOR FR. J. O'BRIEN	PRAY FOR FR. D. O'CONNOR	PRAY FOR FR. C. OGBONNA	PRAY FOR FR. A. PALAKKATTUCHIRA	PRAY FOR FR. B. PALLIPPARAMBIL



Glenda S.
Cancer Survivor

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When advanced cancer care is close, you can get a screening or treatment and still make it home for dinner. And that's exactly what CHRISTUS Health offers – exceptional care delivered with exceptional caring, close to your home and your life. Learn more about our cancer health risk assessments and screening programs at CHRISTUShealth.org.

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