

CHURCH TODAY

Volume XLIX, No. 2

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

February 19, 2018

ON THE INSIDE

40 Days of Lent

It's Lent -- 40 days of Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting. 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal.

What does Pope Francis have to say about Lent? (See pg. 3) What are some of the services, missions, and special Lenten events going on around the diocese? (See pg. 5). What Bible Study groups can I join during Lent? (pg. 7). Find out more on the inside.

2-year Spiritual Director program to begin

For those men and women who have a special gift and are trained to guide the People of God on their faith journey, the Diocese of Alexandria will soon partner with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program in offering a certification in Spiritual Director Ministry. See pg. 7 for details.

Survey on CT Readership & Use of Social Media

Fill out the Survey on pg. 10 about the Church Today and your use of Social Media to let us know what you think! Survey is also available online at www.diocesealex.org. Don't delay! -- the deadline to return it is Friday, March 30.



Prayer



Almsgiving



Fasting

2018 LENT

Bishop Talley on EWTN during Catholic Social Ministry Gathering

WASHINGTON --The Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, which brought together more than 500 Catholics who work in social justice ministries, was held Saturday, Feb. 3 through Tuesday, Feb. 6 in Washington, DC.

Still, speakers addressed issues of immigration, race and the environment in keynote presentations, while community and policy workshops covered poverty, hunger, housing, the opioid crisis, Native American issues, domestic violence, criminal justice issues, nuclear war and labor, as well as international issues.

The event ended with an advocacy visit to Capitol Hill.

Bishop David Talley, as a member of the USCCB Committee of Justice, Peace and Human Development, attended the event.

He was interviewed on EWTN News Nightly about his work and commitment to social justice issues?

News Nightly anchor Wyatt Goolsby asked Bishop Talley what issues were being addressed during the gathering.

"Our focus is on the Dignity of all Human Life -- from the moment of conception, to end of life issues, and all issues in between," he said. "Life, immigration, dignity of life, racism, and housing -- these are all issues of the social fabric of our country."

Organized by the USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, along



BISHOP DAVID TALLEY ON EWTN NEWS. Bishop David Talley, as a member of the USCCB Committee of Justice, Peace and Human Development attended the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering Feb. 3-6 in Washington. He was one of 500 Catholic individuals from more than 100 dioceses and 45 states who work in social ministries, that attended. On one night of the gathering he was interviewed live on EWTN News Nightly.

with 16 other departments and agencies, this year's gathering brought together individuals from over 100 dioceses and 45 states. The attendees are a mix of young students and seasoned social activists who have worked for Catholic-related causes for years.

A walk through the exhibitor's hall was evidence the range of affiliated groups who participate in the event: A mix of climate change activists, immi-

gration rights workers, pro-life and anti-death penalty organizations, and everything in between. Teenagers wearing "Black Lives Matter" t-shirts brush up against nuns in full habit wearing buttons in support of immigrants, next to folks wearing shirts from this year's March for Life. In some respects, it's a visible witness of Pope Francis's call in *Laudato si'* to see that "everything is connected."

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, president of the USCCB, said he hoped the gathering would bring together factions within the Church that often found themselves labeled as "social justice Catholics" or "pro-life Catholics" in a unified witness.

"If you've given your whole life and you want the death penalty ended, you'll do anything to do that, and I say that's good, just recognize that's one angle," said

DiNardo. "Then, you'll find other people who really fight to close abortion clinics or to give help to those with unplanned pregnancies."

"We can be good Catholics together," he said.

Immigration was the focus of the first day of the gathering and perhaps one of the hottest debates.

In his keynote address, "Where is Your Brother?" Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio Elizondo of Seattle spoke after a video address by Pope Francis about migrants and refugees, and our call as Catholics to welcome, protect, promote and integrate the strangers in our midst.

"After hearing Francis' message, I was just tempted to sit down and shut up," Elizondo quipped, to much laughter.

Skipping the policy debate, he spoke as pastor of an imperfect flock that must seek always to become better disciples. Noting that discipleship is the work of a lifetime, he encouraged those present to see immigration work not as "work" but rather as "a mission to encounter our brother and sister."

While the three-day immersion in Catholic social teaching took up the largest block of the conference, the conference's crescendo is "Hill Day," when activists journey up to Capitol Hill to introduce their Catholic concerns to lawmakers.

VIRTUS™

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• Feb. 22 -- Thursday, 6 p.m., Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Natchitoches (Church Hall)

• March 15 -- Thursday, 6 p.m., Sacred Heart School, Moreauville.

To register, go to
www.virtus.org

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom

Wisdom is the highest and most privileged Gift of the Holy Spirit. It is like an overflowing of the Uncreated Wisdom. St. Bernard calls it the "supernatural Gift of the Holy Spirit which enables us to know God and to rejoice in perfect love". Wisdom not only illumines the mind, but it inflames the heart with love for God, gives us a relish for divine things, and an ardent desire for heavenly treasures—especially a longing to possess God and to see Him face to face. It detaches our hearts from the goods of this world and removes us from everything opposed to our last end. In its light, we see more and more clearly the nothingness of things created.

Excerpt from *Devotion to the Holy Spirit*, TAN Books, Charlotte, NC

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Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at
Social Security Disability Hearings."

318-717-1995

Lent is time to become aware of false prophets, cold hearts

Pope gives remedy for strengthening these ills during Lent

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholics should use the season of Lent to look for signs and symptoms of being under the spell of false prophets and of living with cold, selfish and hateful hearts, Pope Francis said.

Together with "the often bitter medicine of the truth," the church -- as mother and teacher -- offers people "the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting," the pope said in his message for Lent, which began Feb. 14 for Latin-rite Catholics.

The pope also invited all non-Catholics who are disturbed by the increasing injustice, inertia and indifference in the world, to "join us then in raising our plea to God in fasting and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need."

The pope's Lenten message, which was released at the Vatican Feb. 6, looked at Jesus' apocalyptic discourse to the disciples on the Mount of Olives, warning them of the many signs and calamities that will signal the end of time and the coming of the son of man.

Titled, "Because of the increase of evil-doing, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt. 24:12), the papal message echoes Jesus' caution against the external enemies of false prophets and deceit, and the internal dangers of selfishness, greed and a lack of love.

Today's false prophets, the pope wrote, "can appear as 'snake charmers,' who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave



SOOTHING REMEDY OF PRAYER, ALMSGIVING & FASTING. An usher uses a collection basket during Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral in Newark, N.J., March 1, 2017. Together with "the often bitter medicine of the truth," the church, as mother and teacher, offers people "the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving and fasting," Pope Francis said in his message for Lent, which began Feb. 14 for Latin-rite Catholics. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

others and lead them where they would have them go."

So many of God's children, he wrote, are: "mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness"; enchanted by money's illusion, "which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests"; and convinced they are autonomous and "sufficient unto themselves."

"False prophets can also be 'charlatans,' who offer easy and

immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless," he wrote. People can be trapped by the allure of drugs, "disposable relationships," easy, but dishonest gains as well as "virtual," but ultimately meaningless relationships, he wrote.

The pope asked people to examine their heart to see "if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets" and to learn to look at things more closely, "be-

neath the surface," and recognize that what comes from God is life-giving and leaves "a good and lasting mark on our hearts."

Christians also need to look for any signs that their love for God and others has started to dim or grow cold, the pope said.

Greed for money is a major red flag, he wrote, because it is the "root of all evil" and soon leads to a rejection of God and his peace.

The remedy for these ills can be strengthened during Lent with prayer, almsgiving and fasting, he wrote.

Praying more enables "our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers," he said in his message.

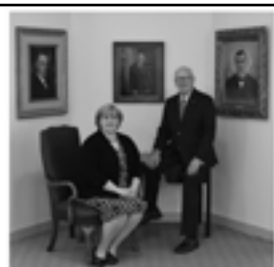
"Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister," it said.

Urging people to make charitable giving and assistance a genuine part of their everyday life, he asked that people look at every request for help as a request from God himself. Look at almsgiving as being part of God's generous and providential plan, and helping his children in need.

Finally, "fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth," he said, while also letting people feel what it must be like for those who struggle to survive.

It also "expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor," he wrote, and "revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger."

The pope also reminded people to take part in the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative March 9-10 in which many dioceses will have at least one church open for 24 hours, offering eucharistic adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation. See details on page 5.



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Defining the depths of our lives

Our Lord, Jesus of Nazareth, was formed in the living and written tradition of Mosaic Law and the writings of the prophets. In his public ministry, as told by the four Gospels, he would use the words of the prophets to underscore his proclamation of the Kingdom of His Father. At the beginning of holy Lent, the Church offers an excerpt from the Book of Isaiah that images the life of Jesus. As this reading must have formed the Lord Jesus as he grew up in Nazareth, may it continue our formation as missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus and as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God.

As you read the words of Isaiah that follow (Isaiah 58: 4b to 8a), ask the Holy Spirit that dwells within you to open your mind and heart to the Will of God, our Father. God speaks through Isaiah, exhorting us: would that TODAY you might fast as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the



I am the VINE; YOU are the BRANCHES

(John 15:5)

Most Rev. David P. Talley
Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria

manner of fasting I wish...that a man bows his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? This rather is the fast that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall

be quickly healed.

Holy Lent is all about conversion of heart (repentance, spiritual conversion). Jesus began his public ministry with this call...change your heart...leave sin behind...seek God's Will and live for God and for neighbor. We have three traditional spiritual disciplines for our Lenten journey...towards the Passion and Easter. These three disciplines are an intensified prayer life, bodily fasting and the works of mercy (both the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy).

These three spiritual and bodily disciplines are to bring the mind and heart together, in recognizing where we have fallen short of God's plan for us (our sin) and what will bring us true happiness...saying YES to God's Will for us. This we do...by following the Way of the Lord Jesus.

A great saint, the Bishop John Chrysostom (d.407) teaches us that there are five aspects of repentance...our conversion of heart. He suggests these for us: (1) to recognize and condemn our own sinfulness (2) to seek

to forgive and forget the wrongs that others have done against us (3) fervent, heart-felt prayer (4) almsgiving, and (5) to live a modest and humble life.

So my friends, as we begin this pilgrimage of holy Lent, looking forward, toward the celebration of His Passion and His Resurrection, let us intensify our prayer. Let us use the bodily discipline of fasting. Let us seek to do both the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. I will take on these three disciplines and I will remember the teaching of St. John Chrysostom...and I ask each of you reading this column to join me with these Lenten disciplines...for one purpose...to free our hearts that we may love God and love neighbor...in the way Jesus lived and lives.

AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
(For The Greater Glory of God)

Embracing the Liturgy: a new column coming to the CT

Have you ever been asked a question about a part of the Mass or other liturgical ceremony and did not have the answer? See if you can answer these popular questions:

Why does the priest wear the different colored vestments and what do the colors mean?

Why do we bless ourselves with Holy Water before entering the nave of the church?

Why do we genuflect before entering the pew?

So...How did you do? Were you able to confidently answer each of them?

Each year I hear the same thing from Catholics who are accompanying or "sponsoring" their friend or family member in the R.C.I.A. program (R.C.I.A. is a program used by most Church Parishes to educate and prepare adults to enter into the Catholic Church). When we begin to discuss general questions and I explain "why we do what we do"



Embracing the Liturgy

By Deacon Richard Mitchell

in the Catholic Church, sponsors (who are willing to admit it) will often say: "I've been Catholic my entire life and I never knew that".

Well, beginning in next month's issue of the Church Today, the Office of Divine Worship will begin a series to help answer your questions and explain the meaning associated with each part of the Mass and other liturgical ceremonies.

I am a firm believer that those who embrace the liturgy and truly understand "why we do what we do", will not only grow in faith, but will also be better prepared to evangelize and Spread the Good News of Jesus. So what better name to call the new column than "Embracing the Liturgy".

Since this column is designed to answer YOUR questions, you are invited to send your inquiries

regarding the Mass or other liturgical ceremonies (weddings, baptisms, funerals...) in an email to WhyDoWe@diocesealex.org.

By the way, no names will be included in the articles, so do not be afraid to ask your questions!

Our goal is to go through and explain each part of the Mass and incorporate the answers to your questions along the way.

I hope you will enjoy it and will join me in "Embracing the Liturgy"!

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Lenten Schedules

For an updated list of all Lenten activities being offered in churches throughout the diocese, please visit the diocesan website at www.diocesealex.org.

LENTEN MISSIONS

• **Feb. 19-21 (Monday-Wednesday)**, St. Rita Church, Alexandria, 6:30 - 8 p.m. nightly in the church. "Given Up for You" will be presented by Brian Butler and Greg Boudreaux from Dumb Ox Ministries.

• **Feb. 21 (Wednesday)** -- Sts. Francis & Anne, 6:00 pm. Guest speaker will be Mike Patin from Lafayette; Confessions will be heard immediately after.

• **March 3-6 (Saturday - Tuesday)** -- St. Anthony of Padua Church, Natchitoches. Deacon Adrian, co-founder of Catholic Passion Ministries and co-host of "It's a Ponderful Life" on Radio Maria, will be the guest speaker.

• **March 5-8 (Monday-Thursday)** -- Deacon Glenn and Linda Harmon will be returning to Sacred Heart Church in Pineville for a Lenten Mission March 5-8 starting from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A parish mission is a powerful spiritual experience for a faith community so be sure to mark these dates on your calendar and invite your friends to experience this with you. Our theme for this year's mission will be "New Beginnings, Back To Basics". Babysitting will be provided.

• **March 13-15 (Tuesday - Thursday)** -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be John Bergsma, Ph.D., professor of Theology from Franciscan University of Steubenville. Topics will include *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Catholics* (March 13); *Seven Habits of Holy, Effective Catholic Families*, (March 14); and Parish Penance Service (March 15). Need a sitter? email olpschildcare@gmail.com with ages of children and date needed.

PENANCE SERVICES

• **February 21 (Wednesday)**, following their Lenten Mission that evening at Sts. Francis and Anne Church, Kolin

• **March 15 (Thursday)**, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

• **March 26 (Monday)**, 5:30 pm, St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville

• **March 28 (Wednesday)**, 6:00 p.m. -- Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays

12:05 p.m., St. Joseph Church, Marksville

5:30 pm, St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville

5:30 p.m. -- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Pineville

5:30 p.m. -- Prayer Garden at St. Joseph Church, Marksville (weather permitting)

5:30 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

5:30 p.m., St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches

6 pm, Sts. Francis & Anne, Kolin
6 pm, Mary, Mother of Jesus, Woodworth

6 pm, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

ADORATION

Tuesdays

5:30 - 7 pm, St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville

Fridays

8 am - 5 pm, Benediction at 5 pm, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria

6 - 7:30 pm, St. Michael the Archangel, Leesville

SPECIAL EVENTS

• JOY: Seniors Day of Reflection.

March 14 (Wednesday), 9 am - noon, guest speaker, Mass, Confessions, lunch. OLPS, Alexandria

FISH FRYs

Fridays during Lent

• **Mary, Mother of Jesus**, Woodworth, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

• **Sts. Francis & Anne**, Kolin, 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm, \$8 per plate for fish, fries, hushpuppies and cole slaw.

• **St. Michael the Archangel**, Leesville, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., \$8 per person. Feb. 23 and March 23 only.

• **St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**, Alexandria, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. each Friday during Lent from Feb. 16-March 23. \$6 per plate, dine-in or take-out. Menu includes fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, and colleslaw. No fish fry on Good Friday.



In the 2018 Lenten Message of His Holiness Pope Francis it states: "In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for 24 consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic Adoration and Sacramental Confession."

This "24 Hours for the Lord" is to take place from Friday, March 9 until Saturday, March 10.

Listed below are the churches that will be participating in the Diocese of Alexandria.

St. Anthony of Padua in Natchitoches

Friday, March 9 at 8 a.m. - Saturday, March 10 at 8 a.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pineville

Friday, March 9 at 3:30 p.m. - Saturday, March 10, 3:30 p.m.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the church at 600 Lakeview St. in Pineville.

St. Anthony of Padua in Bunkie

Friday, March 9 at 4 p.m. - Saturday, March 10 ending with 4 p.m. Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place throughout the event until the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday. Confessions will be available on Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. The Rosary will be prayed every hour on the hour throughout the event. All Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights and Ladies of Saint Peter Claver, Altar Society members, Legion of Mary members, Youth Groups, Catholic Schools, and organizations of Our Lady are invited to participate.

St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria

Friday, March 9 at 6 p.m. - Saturday, March 10 at 6 p.m.

St. Rita Church in Alexandria

Friday, March 9 at 8 a.m. - Friday, March 9 at 8 p.m.

8 a.m. Mass, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Church will be open for Adoration until 8 p.m., Confessions 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m., 12 Noon Midday prayer and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 12:30 - 2 p.m. Confessions, 2 p.m. Way of the Cross, 2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Confessions, 5 p.m. Benediction, 5:30 p.m. Way of the Cross, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Confessions, 8 p.m. Reposition of Blessed Sacrament. Obviously we are not observing a full 24 hour period, but will encourage people to remain in fasting and prayer throughout the night.



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.

The 7 Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive all injuries
- Pray for the living and the dead



PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH OF FIDELITY. Luke LaFleur, one of our seminarians, signs the fourth-year Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity Feb. 8 at the Pontifical College Josephinum. In preparation for ordination to the priesthood, seminarians in their final year of graduate study at the Pontifical College Josephinum make the Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Fidelity in the presence of Reverend Monsignor Christopher J. Schreck, Rector, and the seminary community. Candidates for ordination pledge to remain faithful to the teachings of the Church and swear to be faithful teachers of the Gospel. Photo by Peter Stetson.



40th ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD. Rev. Ramji Shoury, pastor of St. Peter Church in Bordelonville, celebrated Mass Jan. 31 with his brother priests and parishioners in honor his 40th anniversary as a priest.



ST. RITA HOLY FAMILY CENTER PAID OFF! St. Rita Church had a note burning ceremony for the payoff of the Holy Family Center. The \$3.3 million dollar note was paid off in November of 2017 after a 10 year period. This would not have been possible if not for the generosity of our parishioners! Bishop David Talley celebrated Mass at the 11 a.m. Mass, with Father Craig Scott and Father Daniel Hart, followed by the note-burning ceremony and a reception for the parishioners.



ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE. An Ecumenical Prayer Service was held Jan. 19 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral to commemorate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (Jan. 18-15). Bishop David Talley was the main homilist and he spoke about stepping out of our own circles to meet each other in order to promote Christian unity. Guest speakers were Rev. Grady Blackwell, pastor of First St. Mark Baptist Church; Rev. Ashley McGuire, pastor of First United Methodist Church and Rev. George Snow, pastor of St. Timothy Episcopal Church. A reception was held in Xavier Hall following the prayer service.

Seminarian Burses

January Donations

Knights of Columbus Council 9217	\$25.00
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Father Peter Kuligowski Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$50.00
Monsignor Milburn Broussard Burse	
Mrs. Barbara Rigby	\$50.00
Leo Dobard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Schupbach	\$100.00
Monsignor Steve Testa Burse	
Mrs. Nelwyn Broussard	\$100.00
Deacon Rodrick “Benny” Broussard Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Basco	\$100.00
Delores Basco Burse	
Bayou Chateau Nursing Center	\$100.00
Floyd LaCour, Sr. Burse	
Father Derek Ducote	\$100.00
St. Mary’s Assumption Church Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Miller	\$200.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. Brockner	\$800.00
Daryl “Pat” Mauterer Burse	
Total	\$1,655.00

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of the Mass on

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8 a.m. Sunday Mass **7 a.m. Sunday Mass**

2-YEAR Spiritual Director INTERNSHIP

There seems to always be a need for good Spiritual Directors. Those men and women who have a special gift and are trained to guide the People of God on their faith journey. The Diocese of Alexandria is no different, we are in great need of Spiritual Directors.

Therefore, the Diocese will soon partner with the Archdiocese of New Orleans Spirituality Center Formation Program in offering a certification for those interested in this ministry. This program is a two-year Spiritual Director Internship that is based on the Spiritual Exercise of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Classes are one day per month and available during either weekdays or weekends. There will be an

Informational Meeting

Saturday, April 7, 2018

10 a.m. - noon

St. Joseph Catholic Center
4400 Coliseum Blvd • Alexandria

There is an application process with prerequisite requirements and a fee for the program. Prerequisites include:

- A life of prayer
- A member in good standing within "one's" church
- Have the Gift of Discernment
- Personal experience of Ongoing Spiritual Direction
- Attend a directed retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius
- Make one of two Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: "30-Day Retreat" or "19th Annotation"
- Have adequate Theological Background (Bachelor's in Catholic Theology or a certified catechist or completion of the formation program for the permanent diaconate...)
- Have a present or future ministry which includes some form of Spiritual Direction
- Ability to attend all aspects of the program and to do the required study.
- Fee is \$2,000 for the two-year program (fee does not include textbooks or housing if it is required)

To register for the informational session on April 7, please contact

Deacon Richard Mitchell
dcnrmitchell@diocesealex.org
(318) 445-6424, ext. 206

Lenten Bible Study Programs

Bible Timeline Adult Faith Series

St. Joseph Church, Marksville

All are invited to "The Bible Time Line: The Story of Salvation" Adult Faith Series beginning Feb. 27-28 at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. This Spring 2018 will be the first of three Seasons (Spring 2018; Fall 2018; Spring 2019) of studying in God's Plan of Salvation as told in Sacred Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. Participants will learn the major people, places and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our Faith. Each session will include an engaging video presentation and then group discussion.

A morning session will be offered in the Office Bldg. on Tuesdays from 10:30 am – 12:00 Noon; and an evening session will be held in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM. The workbook fee is \$30 (or three \$10 installments over the three seasons). Please contact the Office (318-253-7561) to sign up.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| • Feb. 27 & 28 | Finding the Story in Scripture |
| • March 6 & 7 | Early World Part 1 |
| • March 13 & 14 | Early World Part 2 |
| • March 20 & 21 | Patriarchs Part 1 |
| • April 3 & 4 | Patriarchs Part 2 |
| • April 10 & 11 | Egypt & Exodus Part 1 |
| • April 17 & 18 | Egypt & Exodus Part 2 |

Jesus and End of Times: A Catholic View of the Last Days

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria

This 4-part video series was developed by Dr. Brant Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, and will be facilitated by Father James Ferguson. In this Bible Study, Dr. Pitre help answer the questions: What does the Catholic Church teach about the end of time? Is the idea of "the rapture" a Biblical concept? How does one read the Book of Revelation? What will the Final Judgment be like, and how will we be judged?

Everyone is invited to join the bible study on four Wednesdays during Lent, beginning Feb. 21, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the church hall. Please call the church office at 318-445-1451 ext. 14 if you plan to attend or email the church secretary at aryder@parish.diocesealex.org.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Feb. 21 | The Destruction of the Temple and the End of the World |
| Feb. 28 | How to read the Book of Revelations |
| March 7 | The Final Tribulation and the Second Coming |
| March 14 | The Last Judgement and the New Creation |

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Did you Know?

4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

The 4th Sunday of Lent is rather unique; like the 3rd Sunday of Advent ("Gaudete Sunday"), the 4th Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the Altar. This day is called "Laetare Sunday" (also "Rose Sunday"), and takes its name from the opening words of the Mass, the Introit's "Laetare, Jerusalem": *Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation.*

Holy Savior Menard, St. Mary's Students march in national life rally in Washington DC

WASHINGTON (Gray DC) -- Huge crowds rallied peacefully in the nation's capital Jan. 22 as part of the annual March for Life.

Many in the crowd are young – teens and twenty-somethings who say they are the pro-life generation.

Students from Holy Savior Menard High School of Alexandria and St. Mary's School in Natchitoches say they wouldn't let the severe winter storm in Louisiana stop them from having their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

"The young people are really taking a stand," said Sonni Tarver, a senior at Menard. Tarver says her faith and family history shaped her views on the issue of abortion.

"I'm adopted - and my mom, my birth mom, had abortions before and after me so it really hits home," said Tarver.

Each January, people from all over the country gather at the nation's capital in peaceful protest against the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. That landmark Supreme Court ruling legalized abortion nationwide. Although that decision stands 45 years later, hope remains for some that things could change.

"To see a lot of people my age and 20-year-olds and coming

out and supporting an event like this. I think it shows a lot for the future of our country and who we are as young people," said Michael Hirschak, a Menard student.

The crowds also drew top Republican leaders, including Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and a live video message from President Donald Trump. Trump's message at the March is the first time in 45 years that a president in office ever spoke at the March. Last year, Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the march.

"Under my administration, we will always defend the very first right in the Declaration of Independence. And that is the right to life," said the President.

Those at the March for Life say they want to see leaders take more action to end abortion but while they're here they're also hoping to change hearts and minds.

"We all have this common purpose and it's really cool to see all of us come together for this," said Emma Armstrong, from Menard.

Menard students and St. Mary's also spent their time in Washington visiting museums and other monuments. They also made a trip to New York City to see the big apple.



HOLY SAVIOR MENARD STUDENTS who attended the March for Life in Washington, Jan. 22.



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL STUDENTS (Natchitoches) who attended the March for Life in Washington, Jan. 22.



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2018 LOUISIANA LIFE MARCH was held Feb. 3 beginning at Louisiana College and ending at the amphitheatre in Alexandria. Members of the Menard Apostles for Christ (MAC team) carried the banner at the front of the march.

Third Annual Louisiana Life March



SIGNS that people carried were diverse -- from Abortion Kills Babies to Stop Abortion Now, Choose Life, and I (heart) Adoption.



MARCHERS came out on foot, in baby strollers, and even a Segway to take the 1.6 mile journey across the Jackson Street bridge. Although there were earlier reports of rain predicted for the march, the weather stayed dry, and even a little sunny, until the march and rally at the Riverfront Amphitheatre was over.



ALL WALKS OF LIFE. Pro-life supporters are from all ages, gender, faiths, and all walks of life. Dr. David Spence, a physician and active pro-life supporter carries the far-right end of the KC sign. A group of men from the Lafayette TFP (Defense of Tradition, Family and Property) played bagpipes and carried a "America Needs Fatima" sign. Congressman Ralph Abraham was also in the crowd, along with Fathers John Wiltse and Father Chad Partain, Father Brian Seiler and a group of students with Tara Whitehead from St. Mary's in Natchitoches, and Pastor Brian Gunter from First Baptist Church of Pineville.

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Readership Survey of the Church Today & Use of Social Media

I. The Church Today

1. How often do you read the Church Today?

- a. Almost always
- b. A few times a year
- c. Never or rarely

2. How much of the Church Today do you read?

- a. Cover to cover
- b. Most articles
- c. A few articles
- d. Just skim it

3. Including yourself, how many people in your house pick up the Church Today and read it or look at it?

Write the number here _____ (include yourself)

4. How well do these describe the Church Today?

4 = Very Much 3 = Yes 2 = A Little 1 = Not at All

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Interesting |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Informative |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Easy to read |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Inspirational |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Helpful for understanding the Catholic faith |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Helpful for living out the Catholic faith |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Good mix of local, national, and world news |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Boring |

5. Rate the list of stories below:

3 = Love these stories
2 = These stories are OK
1 = Don't like these types of stories

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 2 | 1 | National/international news about the Church |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Local news |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Local features about people, places and things |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Bishop's column |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Updates on priests, deacons, seminarians |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Stories to learn more about my faith |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Church/parish news |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Organization news (KC/CDA, etc) |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Catholic School news |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Historical features |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Notice of events about to be held (briefs page) |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Pics of events around the diocese already held |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Movie reviews |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Book reviews |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | Calendar |

6. Things I would like to see in the Church Today: (check all that apply)

- ___ a. A Catholic crossword puzzle
- ___ b. A page devoted to kid news and activities
- ___ c. Quizzes to learn more about the faith
- ___ d. More color pages (4-12 more pages)
- ___ e. All color newspaper
- ___ f. A full color magazine

7. Circle just one option that you think is best:

- a. Keep the newspaper format.
- b. Change to a magazine format.

5. How do you prefer to receive the Church Today?

- a. Mail the newspaper to my house
- b. Email it to me
- c. I'll go to the website and read it online

II. Church Today Advertising

1. Have you ever advertised in the Church Today?

- a. Yes, I currently advertise in the Church Today
- b. Yes, I used to or have very recently
- c. No, but I have considered it.
- d. No, and probably never will.
- e. No, but I would like to. Email some info to me:
Name _____
Email _____

III. Social Media

1. Rate your current use of technology, socia media

- a. An expert, use social media constantly
- b. Knowledgeable, average use of social media
- c. Not real knowledgeable, rarely use social media
- d. Don't use technology or social media

2. Where do you currently get most of your news about what's going on in the Catholic Church today?

- a. The Church Today newspaper
- b. Other Catholic newspapers or publications
- c. Local or national TV/Radio (NBC, KALB, etc)
- d. Catholic television networks (EWTN, etc)
- e. Popular magazines (TIME, People, etc)
- f. The Internet (various websites)/Social Media
- g. Family and Friends
- h. Other _____

3. Where would you prefer to get your news about what's going on in the Catholic Church?

- a. The Church Today newspaper
- b. Other Catholic newspapers or publications
- c. Local or national TV/Radio (NBC, KALB, etc)
- d. Catholic television networks (EWTN, etc)
- e. Popular magazines (TIME, People, etc)
- f. The Internet (various websites)/Social Media
- g. Family and Friends
- h. Other _____

4. Answer Yes or No to the following:

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Yes | No | Do you receive the Church Today? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Facebook |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Instagram |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Twitter? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user on Snapchat? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of Email? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of Texting? |
| Yes | No | Are you a regular user of YouTube? |
| Yes | No | Have you ever visited the Photo Galleries on the diocesan website? |

5. Answer Yes or No to the following

- Y N Have you ever read the Church Today online?
- Y N Do you follow the Diocese of Alexandria on Facebook?
- Y N Do you follow the Diocese of Alexandria on Instagram?
- Y N Do you follow Bishop Talley on Twitter?
- List other Social Media apps you use: _____

IV. Diocese of Alexandria Website

1. How often do you go to the Diocesan website?

- a. Daily
- b. 2-3 times a week
- c. a few times a month
- d. Rarely, never

2. Why do you go to the website:

- a. To read what's new/view photo galleries
- b. Seek information about a program/event
- c. Check the Mass schedule
- d. To read the Church Today
- e. Look for information about church
- f. Look for information about a school/school menu
- g. To contact someone within the diocese
- h. Seek other information such as: _____

3. How would you describe the Website

4 = Very Much 3 = Yes 2 = A Little 1 = Not at All

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Interesting |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Informative |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Easy to find things (navigate) |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Easy to read |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Well designed, organized |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Helpful in finding answers |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Hard to find information |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Not well organized |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | Boring |

V. Personal Data

1. Gender

- a. Male b. Female c. Age _____

2. I am...

- a. currently employed full-time
- b. retired
- c. clergy
- d. student
- e. other _____

3. How often do you attend Mass?

- a. Every Sunday
- b. Every Sunday and more
- c. Almost every Sunday
- d. Once or twice a month
- e. A few times a year
- f. Rarely or never

4. How active are you in your parish?

- a. Very active
- b. Somewhat active
- c. Not active at all

Any comments you would like to add: _____

Complete this survey and mail to:

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or save time and postage by completing the survey
online at www.diocesealex.org/forms/CTsurvey

February is Catholic Press Month

Bishop Talley invites social media users to join him on Twitter @BishopDavidT

On the opposite page, there is a readership survey for the Church Today and a survey of your use of Social Media.

The purpose of the survey is find out what interests you to read in the Church Today and where your interests lie in the use of social media.

Your input is important to us so that we know what you want more of and so that we can give you more of what you want.

I encourage you to fill out the survey using the printed version here in the Church Today, or, if you prefer to save time and money, take the survey online at www.diocesealex.org/forms/CT-survey.

It shouldn't take more than about three minutes to take and the results of the survey will be reported in a future issue of the Church Today.

The survey is divided into four parts -- questions about the Church Today, CT advertising, social media, and the website.

Church Today

Let us know what you like and don't like about the Church Today and we'll do what we can to make it better for you.



DID YOU KNOW? The Church Today can be read on your tablet! Go to www.diocesealex.org/churchtoday/archives and select the current issue of the Church Today or any issue during the last year. Read it straight from your tablet or print it.

Advertising

Even though you may not have a business to advertise in the Church Today, have you considered advertising a service you provide or an event for your organization?

Advertising rates for the Church Today start as low as \$8 per column inch, depending on size and frequency of the ad. In today's world of advertising, that is dirt cheap.

Try placing the same ad in any local papers and you'll find

that others charge much more. For the low price of \$32, a small 2 X 2 ad could reach more than 12,000 homes across 13 civil parishes.

Social Media

Maybe reading the newspaper is not your thing and you

prefer to get your news online or on other social media sites. Let us know which ones you use and what you are looking for when you visit these sites.

Bishop David Talley is committed to using social media to engage the people in current news about what's going on in the diocese and sharing his daily inspirational thoughts on Twitter.

Checkout the Social Media sites offered by the Diocese of Alexandria and let us know which ones you use the most.

Website

Even though we have had a diocesan website for more than 12 years, it is always good to get feedback about what works on the website and what doesn't.

Answer the questions in the survey and let us know what you like and what you'd like see changed regarding our website.

The remainder of the survey is personal data to let us know a little bit about who you are.

The deadline to return the survey is Friday, March 30.

If you have any questions about the survey, contact the CT editor at jpetrus@diocesealex.org.

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Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org

Diocese sponsors Catholic School Conference on topic of Catholic identity in the schools

The Diocese of Alexandria Catholic Schools Office sponsored a Catholic School Conference Jan. 12 at Holy Savior Menard.

The annual conference, following the theme “Catholic Identity . . . the Heart of Catholic Education,” started out with the celebration of Mass by Bishop David Talley, Father Chad Partain, and Father John Belmonte, who was also the keynote speaker.

“How Catholic is Your School?” Father Belmonte asked the approximately 260 teachers, staff, and principals who attended the conference.

Throughout the day, Father Belmonte lead the group through a series of talks that celebrated the Catholic identity already established throughout our schools, and provided meaningful tools to improve the Catholic identity on each campus. He challenged all schools to continue the good work of faith and academic formation of our youth.

Father Belmonte, superintendent of Catholics schools for



the Diocese of Joliet, Ill. since 2010, currently serves on the NCEA Board and serves as vice president of the superintendent's committee. He is well-versed in the topic of “Catholic identity in schools,” and travels the country speaking on the topic. He is also a priest in residence at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Joliet.

Following Father Belmonte's address, school personnel participated in breakout sessions to discuss and to plan ways to implement what was learned.

“Hopefully, our teachers left re-energized, refocused and re-committed to fulfill the mission of increasing the Catholic identity in our schools,” said Thomas Roque, superintendent of Catholic Schools.



SPORTS -- ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, Plaquemine. St. Joseph School in Plaquemine recently recognized three seniors for participating in basketball and cheer for four consecutive years.

COMMUNITY SERVICE -- ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, Natchitoches. Every year, during Catholic Schools Week, St. Mary's School in Natchitoches hosts a Baby Shower for Jesus. Students bring baby (and mommy) items to be donated to the Women's Resource Center in Natchitoches. St. Mary's is committed to Pro-Life before AND after birth!



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES -- ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION SCHOOL, Cottonport. Under the leadership of Brother Anthony Dugas, the St. Mary's Assumption Choir placed first in the State Music Assessment competition in 2017.



COMMUNITY SERVICE -- ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, Bunkie. The 8th grade class at St. Anthony School in Bunkie observed Catholic Schools week by taking a trip to the Manna House in Alexandria. There they were able to help prep for that day's lunch along with members from St. John Community Church from Marksville.





ACADEMICS -- SACRED HEART SCHOOL, Moreauville. Sacred Heart School in Moreauville congratulates its Jr. Beta students for receiving the honor of being named the "National BETA School of Distinction for 2017-2018. The club earned this prestigious award under the leadership of Erica Coco and Nicole Cancel.

FAITH -- WEEKLY SCHOOL MASS. All of the students in Catholic schools around the diocese attend weekly Mass, celebrated by their pastor. Pictured here is Father Charlie Ray, president of Holy Savior Menard High School.



VOCATIONS -- ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL, Alexandria. Each of the three sisters at St. Frances Cabrini School in Alexandria were presented a bouquet of flowers and lunch during Catholic Schools Week. Pictured are Sister Elizabeth Ann Holmes, S.S.F., second grade teacher; Sister Nina Vincent, O.L.S., principal; and Sister Porimolla Murmu, O.L.S., religion teacher.



PUBLIC FAITH -- HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, Alexandria held a Eucharistic Adoration Procession from the school, across Hwy 28 W, and to St. Rita Church, where Father Charlie Ray celebrated Mass. The entire student body and teachers participated in the procession, praying the rosary aloud as they walked.



Our Lady of Prompt Succor School



KC DONATION TO NATCHITOCHES ARC. The Natchitoches Knights of Columbus Council # 1357 presents a \$3,500 check to the Natchitoches Association of Retarded Citizens as part of their Sanctity of Human Life efforts. \$2,600 of that amount was collected during their annual Tootsie Roll Drive in October for the mentally challenged. Pictured are KC members Mike Menou, Dewey Paige, NARC administrator Laura Thomas, Red Laparouse and Henry Maggio. Thanks again Natchitoches for generously supporting this worthy cause.



KC DONATION TO ST. MARY'S PRO LIFE. The Natchitoches Knights of Columbus Council # 1357 presents a \$1,000 donation to St. Mary's pro-life club. Twenty-two students recently returned from the January Pro-Life March in Washington. Pictured are Grand Knight Michael Yankowski, Pro-Life student Erica Hub and Deacon John Whitehead.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S GUEST CHOIR. The Xavier University of Louisiana Concert Choir was guest choir for the Sunday Mass on Feb. 4. Welcoming the choir was Father Charles Ray and Sr. Elizabeth Ann Holmes, SSF, musical director at St. Augustine Church. Facilitating the choir's guest appearance was parishioner Wilfred Delphin, D.M.A who served as accompanying pianist at the Mass. Directed by John E. Ware, D.M.A., the performing soloists were Olivia Brown, mezzo soprano; Taylor White, soprano; LaRon Austin, tenor; Jarius Barker, baritone; Kristina Hicks, mezzo soprano; Ashley Harris, soprano; Gabrielle Gaston, soprano; Khrystal Williams, soprano; and Desmond Goodwin, tenor.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Winnfield) FAITH SHARING GROUP met Jan. 3 in the home of Bo and Chris Walker. Special guests were Jason, Rachel and Kate Walker (picture front and center). Following a meal of gumbo, Jason spoke on FARA (Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance). The Walker families became active in this organization after their daughter was diagnosed with this rare disease. Jason shared his faith journey of dealing with this disease and how FARA has given them a family of support and hope. The purpose of the Sharing Faith Group is to show their love of God through service to the community and helping those in need.



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us on February 24-25, 2018 for the first annual Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference. All students in grades 5-8 are encouraged to attend! Key speakers include host Chris Padgett,

Bishop David Talley, Kelly Lombardi, Father John Wiltsie, the Josh Blakesley Band, Sister Fatima, OLS, and Father Jose Robles. Register today! See you there!

March 19

Celebrate Feast Day of St. Joseph with a St. Joseph's Altar

In the shadow of St. Patrick's feast day on March 17, St. Joseph's Day (March 19) brings Italian-American communities to the table, quite literally.

The focus is on a St. Joseph's Altar, a feast that includes all sorts of breads, vegetables, egg dishes, pasta and desserts.

It's a time of getting together in thanksgiving. That's because, according to tradition, during a medieval drought and famine, Sicilians prayed to St. Joseph, the patron of workers and the guardian of family. When the famine subsided, they attributed it to the saint and promised to honor him each year with a feast.

When the Catholic Sicilians immigrated to America and settled in New Orleans, the feast quickly grew in popularity.

A typical St. Joseph Altar is always built on a series of three levels corresponding to the Holy Trinity and the traditional three falls of Christ on his way to Calvary. The top level will usually feature a fine statue or picture of St. Joseph.

Because the holiday often falls during Lent, when Catholics forego eating meat, the dishes are all without meat.

The complete menu varies a bit by region, but there are some solid staples.

- Pasta -- usually a spaghetti with meatless red sauce and topped with bread crumbs to represent sawdust, a nod to the saint's connection with the working man.

- Fava beans -- associated with good luck because they survived that Sicilian drought, often are given away in dried form to bring good fortune.

- Elaborate breads -- are shaped into biblical symbols such as fish, Joseph's staff, a cross, crown or lamb. A Pupaculova is a bread design that contains a dyed Easter egg which represents the joy of resurrection and eternal life.

- Fruits and vegetables -- in Sicily, it would have been mostly grapes, olives, and figs. But American altars most often include local produce.

- Desserts -- are usually abundantly placed around the altar.

As a token of hospitality, a small bag is prepared for everyone who visits the altar. Each bag may contain a blessed medal or holy card of St. Joseph, a small portion of Pane di Sano Giuseppe (bread of St. Joseph), and an assortment of delicate Italian biscotti or cookies, and the coveted, blessed fava bean.

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More improvements completed to St. Mary's athletic facilities

By Jeannie Petrus
CT editor

One thing at a time.

That's the focus that volunteers Chad Methvin, Jason Parker, and Frank Griffin kept at the forefront of their vision during an almost four-year renovation project to the athletic facilities at St. Mary's School in Natchitoches.

And, with patience, persistence, and so many generous donors of money, time, and skill, the girls and boys athletes at St. Mary's School, will be enjoying a new state-of-the-art weight room, locker room, and playing field now, and for years to come.

"We didn't start this project four years ago with the idea of having what we have today," said Chad, a 1996 graduate of St. Mary's. "It all started with a drainage project."

Methvin, Parker, and Griffin, all have children currently attending St. Mary's noticed that every time it rained, the field behind the school flooded making it impossible for the kids to use the playground or the locker room.

"The kids couldn't use the playground for days after it rained," said Parker, a 1992 graduate of Natchitoches Central High and now St. Mary's parent.



BASEBALL TEAM WORKOUTS. Baseball team members [redacted] were some of the first athletes at St. Mary's School to begin using the new weight room in the fieldhouse. All sports -- including girls and guys -- will have access to the newly renovated weight room, locker rooms, and dressing rooms in the SMS Tiger Fieldhouse.

"We knew the school didn't have the money to fix it, so we decided to try some other way to get the job done."

Together they visited with St. Mary's alumni and parents of children in the St. Mary's athletic program and asked for donations or anyone with certain skills that could fix the drainage problem.

Before long, a gentleman stepped up with ties to St. Mary's and said he would improve the drainage behind the school making it possible to use the playground and dressing room despite inclement weather.

"The students, parents, teachers, and community immediately noticed the difference that one project made, and the wheels of "what else can we do" started turning," said Chad.

Head football coach Corwyn Aldredge (1980 alum) had been running a successful football program for the past couple years, with St. Mary's football winning the State Championship in 2015 (under the previous Coach Lee Doty) and making the semi-finals on two other occasions.

"Here we were, competing on a state level, and our team had no home field, no dressing room for the visiting team, and no fieldhouse," said Coach Corwyn.

"Chad, Jason, Frank, and I talked and we decided to take it a step further."

One thing led to another and before they knew it, plans were made to work on football field to improve it for the junior high and elementary programs.

"Once again, we focused on 'one thing at a time,'" said Chad. "Let's use what we already have (a field) and get it in playing condition. We found someone to pay for and do the dirt work, then followed by donations for the scoreboard, goalposts, and new lights."

The alumni and friends responded again with generous donations of skill, time, hard work, and, of course, money. But it wasn't always so easy. There were times when the three volunteers wanted to give up on the whole project.

"Tommy Robichaux, chairman of the Diocesan Building Review Committee, encouraged us the whole time -- keeping us on track and not letting us quit," said Chad. "We owe a lot of the success of this project to Tommy."

In the fall of 2016, the junior high football team began playing games on the renovated field, while continuing a search for new bleachers and making future plans for outdoor restroom



DRAINAGE PROBLEMS, that caused frequent flooding problems, is what started the whole renovation project. After funds were raised to fix the drainage problem, the wheels of 'what else can we do' started to turn.



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LAYING THE SOD. Members of 2017 St. Mary's football team helped to lay sod on the newly reconstructed football field. Although this year's team did not get to play on it, team members were proud to be part of the project.

NEW SCOREBOARD. A new scoreboard was donated by Sabine State Bank and Natchitoches Regional Medical Center and has already been used to keep score for a few junior high games. A former Marine Trent Friedeal, noticed that an American flag was not flying on the flagpole, so he donated a new flag.

NEW LIGHTS. (far right) New lights and a few bleachers made it possible to begin playing junior high games on the renovated field.



facilities. The St. Mary's High School Football team also played the annual fundraiser Steak Super Football scrimmage in front of record crowd for the first time ever in August 2017 under Friday Night Lights.

With that project nearly completed, the next vision was the renovation of the fieldhouse that girls/guys of all sports could use.

Once again, the trio -- Methvin, Parker, and Griffin along with Coach Corwyn--began soliciting skill, expertise, and funds from parents, alumni, friends, and community leaders, who, once again responded generously.

"It's amazing how generous this community of parents, alumni, and friends are, when it comes supporting St. Mary's School and their children," said Chad.

The renovated fieldhouse, completed in January 2018, includes a 2000 sq. ft. weight room with four new power weight racks and 52 free-standing weights all positioned on a cork-tiled floor. On each side of the weight room are dressing rooms -- one for girls one for guys. Each dressing room is equipped with stained wooden lockers with the name of each

player posted above the locker space. The athletes now enjoy the convenience of showers and restrooms in the dressing rooms -- a convenience they never had until now.

Everyone agrees, the new additions to the St. Mary's athletic facilities are long overdue and are super appreciated.

"As one of the student athletes here in the early 90s, we dreamed of having a facility like this," said Chad. "I'm happy now that my kids will have what we dreamed of 20 years ago."

The cost of the entire project totaled somewhere over \$735,000 -- which all came from outside donations and not a penny from the school or athletic budget.

"We were told at the beginning, that this couldn't be done -- that others had tried before," continued Chad. "But I think they underestimated the generosity of the people in this community and the parents and alumni of this school."

"It has taken us four years to do this, but we accomplished it slowly, by focusing on one thing at a time," he said. "And for us, it worked!"



PROJECT LEADERS. Coach Corwyn Aldredge, Principal Andrea Harrell, Jason Parker, and Chad Methvin, the key leaders in the renovation of the athletic facilities at St. Mary's School, stand in the new girls' locker room. Frank Griffin not pictured. (At left) Four new weight racks in the weight room will be shared by all athletes.



World Marriage Day, an observance sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, was celebrated Sunday, Feb. 11 in churches across the diocese. It is associated with the Catholic Marriage Encounter movement and is observed on the second Sunday of February each year.

Its purpose is declared to be: "World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life."

Listed below are some marriage-related events around the diocese:

Feb. 24: Pre-Cana Day for Engaged Couples

This day of reflection and formation for those preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be offered at Cabrini Parish in Alexandria in Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. All engaged couples are invited to attend. Cost is \$50 per couple; \$25 per person. Breakfast and lunch will be served. To register please call Emily Ann at 448-3333.

March 9-11: Beginning Experience

Widowed, separated or divorced? Don't know where to turn? Struggling with grief or loss? Beginning Experience is registering now for a weekend away toward a lifetime of change March 9-11 at Maryhill Renewal Center in Pineville. Program helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning, and move into the future with renewed hope. Cost is \$185 which includes two nights' lodging and meals. To register or for more information, call Michelle at (318) 443-8629 or Anna at (318) 448-1990 or (318) 452-2678. go to www.beginningexperience.org If financial assistance is needed please ask about availability during phone contact.

March 24: Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Ryan and Mary Rose Verret, founders of Witness to Love, will present a Marriage Enrichment mini-retreat March 24 from noon to 4 p.m. at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville. The mini-retreat is a time to gather as a couple, to strengthen their faith in the Sacrament of Marriage and to go deeper into the Sacrament. There is no cost for attending. Books and materials are available for a small donation. For more information, go to materdolorosa@suddenlink.net or call Ken or Stacie Marsh, Marriage Prep coordinators at Mater Dolorosa at 318-359-9102.



60 YEARS OF MARRIAGE. On World Marriage Day (Feb. 11), St. Rita Church honored couples who have been married 60 years. Pictured are Hardy & Barbara Cain, Sr. Odell & Angie Carlino, John & Joyce Marzullo, Wally & Dolly Metrejean, and Harold & Regina Showers.



50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE. On World Marriage Day (Feb. 11), St. Rita Church honored couples who have been married 50 years. Pictured are Ronnie & Ann Brewer, Forest & Brenda Helms, Jr., Richard & Judy Madeo (not present) William & Frances Messer, Jr., Dennis & Jane Norwood, Bob & Gail Sylvia, Thomas & Lynda Winegeart.



40 YEARS OF MARRIAGE. On World Marriage Day (Feb. 11), St. Rita Church honored couples who have been married 40 years. Pictured are Frank & Yvonne Emerson, Donald & Sue Fowler, Karl & Paula Morley, Donald & Cheryl Robichaux (not present), Sam & Yvonne Scalfano, Robert & Rita Zangla.



25 YEARS OF MARRIAGE. On World Marriage Day (Feb. 11), St. Rita Church honored couples who have been married 25 years. Pictured are Pat & Lisa Collins, Charles & Charlotte Henderson (not present), Chris & Regina Sylvester, Dennie & Patti Williams, Marty & Melva Villard.

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July 30 - Aug. 7: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Sponsored by Radio Maria USA

Join Father Emilio Garreaud, national priest director for Radio Maria, as your spiritual director for a 9-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, July 30-Aug. 7, 2018. Visit the places where Jesus lived, performed miracles, and preached to the people. Enjoy a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, a visit to the Church of the Nativity where Christ was born the Garden of Getsemane, and so much more. The cost is \$2,990 from Houston, or you can also choose to fly from Miami or New York. To receive an information packet with an application, please call 1-844-400-9559 or email at info@nativitypilgrimage.com



Oct. 1-10: Pilgrimage to Ireland Sponsored by St. Michael the Archangel Church, Leesville

Heart of Ireland ~ Take a spiritual adventure through our Catholic Heritage in the Emerald Isle. October 1-10, 2018 with Fr Kenneth Michiels. Pilgrimage Highlights include: Killarney and Ring of Kerry, Cathedral in Cobh, Blarney Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Kylemore Abbey, Gothic Church and Gardens, Croagh Patrick, St Patrick's Holy Mountain, Shrine of St Kevin, Clonmacnoise, St Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity College and Books of Kells. To receive an information packet with application please contact St Michael the Archangel in Leesville 337-239-2656.



Nov. 5-15: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Sponsored by Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre

The Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Southeastern Lieutenancy, is offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 5-15, 2018. The trip departs from Newark, non-stop to Tel Aviv, and includes first class hotels, private motor coach transportation, breakfast and dinner and all fees and taxes. A local guide will be our leader throughout the trip. Cost is \$4,150.00 per person, double occupancy. NOTE: One needs not be a member of the order or even Catholic to join the pilgrimage. For more information contact Roz or Pierre Allemond, Lieutenancy Pilgrimage coordinators, at 318-452-6443 or e-mail us at ehsjalexandria@gmail.com, or go to sleohs.com, and at the news/events dropdown, click pilgrimages.

Upcoming ACTS Retreats

The following ACTS retreats will be offered soon:

• February 22-25

Sacred Heart ACTS for Men

Call John Kling at 504-908-7816; or Wade Trahan at 318-308-0406; or Joe Thompson at 318-451-3548.

• March 8-11

St. Joseph ACTS for Men

For more information, contact John Gary Dauzat at 972-333-3490 or jdauzat@crcins.com.

• March 22-25:

St. Mary's ACTS for Men

For more information, contact Luke Welch at 318-359-3372 or thest-marys.com

• April 5-8:

Sacred Heart ACTS for Women

For more information, contact Melanie Delahoussaye at 318-613-6959 or www.jesusinpineville.com

• April 26-29:

St. Mary's ACTS for Women

For more information, contact Luke Welch at 318-359-3372 or thest-marys.com



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Miracle officially recognized at Lourdes

A miracle was officially recognized at the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France last week, the 70th Lourdes miracle recognized by the Catholic Church. The miracle was officially declared on Feb. 11, the World Day of the Sick and the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes.

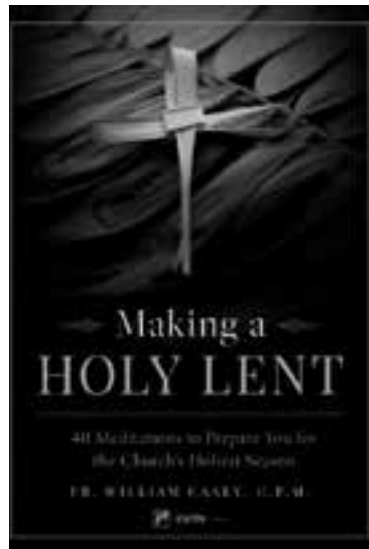
The miraculous event involved a French nun, Sister Bernadette Moriau, who went on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in 2008. She had been suffering from spinal complications which had rendered her wheelchair-bound and fully disabled since 1980. However, after attending a blessing for the sick at the shrine, something began to change.

"I felt a [surge of] well-being throughout my body, a relaxation, warmth...I returned to my room and there, a voice told me to 'take off your braces,'" she said. "Surprise. I could move."

So many resources available to help you make a Holy Lent

Lent calls us to ponder the reality of Jesus Christ and the salvation He offers.

If your Lenten journey includes daily meditations and reflections, stations of the cross, and other forms of prayer, know that there is a plethora of excellent books, booklets, and other resources to help you make a Holy Lent. Here are a few:



Making a Holy Lent : 40 Meditations to Prepare You for the Church's Holiest Season

By Father William Casey, C.P.M.

In these compelling pages, EWTN host Fr. Bill Casey turns our attention to Jesus in brief reflections on topics ranging from the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist to the role that the Blessed Virgin Mary plays in every

healthy prayer life.

Drawing on years of experience as a retreat master and as a regular EWTN host, Father Casey leavens each of these holy topics with a refreshing dose of common sense. Not only is this book perfectly suited for your Lenten devotions; you will find yourself turning to it many times during the year to remind you of the ever-urgent need for repentance and rebirth.

Reading and praying over just one chapter a week will take you from the winter of Ash Wednesday to the spring of Easter, making this coming Lent the holiest you've ever experienced.

In Making a Holy Lent, you will learn the the seven keys to spiritual progress in Lent:

The Church: We see the medium through which sacramental grace comes into our lives.

Prayer: We strengthen our relationship with God, humbly submitting our intentions while He shares some of His life with us.

The Eucharist: Our sharing of God's life goes to a new level, when, in His graciousness, God makes Himself fully present to us.

Confession: We come to God so that He can graciously heal us through the Holy Spirit.

The Danger of Pride and the Power of Humility: We empty ourselves, allowing God's grace

to flow into and through us.

The Queenship of the Blessed Mother: We see the perfection that grace can achieve and a uniquely powerful vessel through which grace comes into our hearts.

Reading and praying over one chapter a week will take you from the winter of Ash Wednesday to the spring of Easter.

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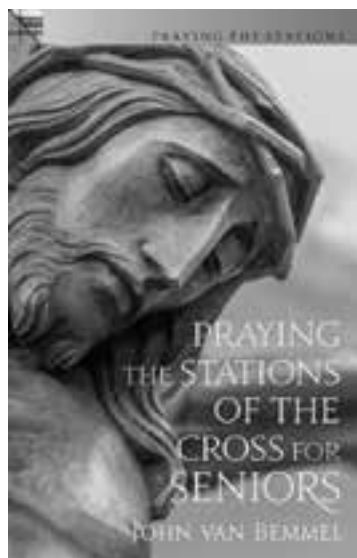


Lent for Families 2018: Sharing the Bread of God's Love

By Claire Noonan

Sharing the Bread of God's Love. Daily Reflections, Prayers and Actions for every day in Lent. 48 pages, 5.5" x 8.5"

\$1.25 per copy



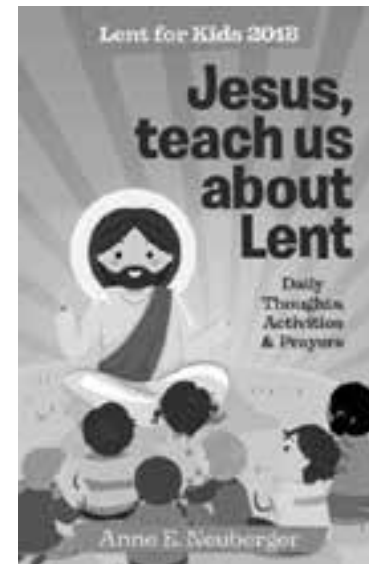
Praying the Stations of the Cross for Seniors

By John Van Bommel

By connecting many aspects of aging to Jesus' Passion and death, this hopeful and poignant Way of the Cross shows us how close Jesus is to us on our journey. It opens our eyes to the new beginnings that this time of life can bring and assures us that Jesus will give us the strength and courage to face our challenges with spiritual vigor, generosity and optimism.

These thoughtful prayers and reflections, meant to be prayed alone or with others, help us see the grace and beauty of this time of life. Praying these Stations is not just for the elderly—it's also for anyone who cares for and walks with seniors into this

new stage of life.
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Lent for Kids 2018 Jesus teach us about Lent

By Anne E. Neuberger

Jesus teach us about Lent is the perfect daily guide for parents, grandparents, catechists, or anyone who wants to share the Lenten journey with a child. Easy to read daily reflections, prayers and actions are included for every day in Lent. From crossword puzzles, to crafts and games, your child is sure to love this engaging resource.

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Tickets are \$10 for all students and \$15 for adults.

Tickets may be purchased at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School or online at www.Promptsuccor.org or at the door.

15:19 to Paris retells story of thwarting 2015 terrorist attack

True life heroes play themselves in faith-friendly story of self-sacrificing heroism

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The good news about the drama "The 15:17 to Paris" (Warner Bros.), as well as the real-life events on which it's based, is that, given the right circumstances and motivations, ordinary people can achieve great things.

The bad news is that, when they are not doing so, such everyday folks tend to lead lives that are not of much interest to moviegoers.

Thus, the uneven nature of director Clint Eastwood's film recounting the circumstances that led up to the thwarting, in August 2015, of a terrorist attack and potential massacre on the train of the title.

Traveling from Amsterdam to the French capital as tourists, a trio of Americans -- Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone, who all portray themselves -- courageously stop a heavily armed jihadist bent on a shooting spree among the captive passengers. In quelling the assailant, Skarlatos and Stone are able to rely on the training they received, respectively, in the Oregon National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Stone also uses his knowledge of first aid to keep a griev-



15:19 TO PARIS. Uneven drama recounting the circumstances that led up to the thwarting, in August 2015, of a terrorist attack and potential massacre on the train of the title. Traveling from Amsterdam to the French capital as tourists, a trio of Americans (Anthony Sadler, Alek Skarlatos and Spencer Stone all portraying themselves), two of them with military backgrounds, courageously stop a heavily armed jihadist bent on a shooting spree among the captive passengers. The portion of director Clint Eastwood's film devoted to this headline grabbing incident is taut and compelling. More honorable than entertaining, their faith-friendly story does emphasize self-sacrificing heroism and the potential of ordinary people to achieve great things.

ously wounded fellow traveler alive as the train races to the nearest station.

The portion of the movie devoted to these headline-grabbing incidents is taut and compelling.

But, in adapting the three friends' book about their exploit and their lives before it, written with Jeffrey E. Stern, screenwriter Dorothy Blyskal fails to evoke much interest in the lads' humdrum

childhoods and fitful careers.

As kids, they have minor skirmishes with their easily provoked teachers. Once grown, they chat about the ups and downs of their professional lives in a way

MOVIE REVIEW

that doesn't make eavesdropping on them particularly rewarding. They talk sports, trade gentle insults and, once embarked on their European vacation, debate whether to include Paris in their itinerary. Edge-of-your-seat material this is not.

Still, faith and prayer are shown to be an important part of Stone's life. Twice we see him kneeling at his bedside reciting the "Peace Prayer" often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. And self-sacrificing heroism is obviously an integral element in the makeup of all three pals.

More honorable than entertaining, "The 15:17 to Paris" reaches an exciting destination. But, in this case at least, getting there turns out to be a good deal less than half the fun.

The film contains gunplay and nonlethal violence, a sequence involving gory wounds, a bit of sexual humor, a couple of uses of profanity and a pair of milder oaths as well as numerous crude and crass terms. TRated PG-13.

Louis Lowrey, M.A.

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OLPS to present Pinocchio Feb. 23-25

Close to 60 students in grades K-6 will be performing “My Son Pinocchio” Feb. 23- 25 at Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts Center in Alexandria. Show times are Friday night (Feb. 23) at 7 p.m., and Saturday (Feb. 24) and Sunday (Feb. 25) at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. Tickets may be purchased by calling or visiting the front office at OLPS, or buying online at www.Promptsuccor.org. This is our 12th annual school performance under the direction of Lagniappe Theatre.

Feb. 23-25 - Louisiana Pulse Weekend

PULSE Immersion Weekend will be held at Camp Istrouma in Baton Rouge from Friday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m., to Sunday, Feb. 25 at noon. You will have the opportunity to pray at the Delta abortion clinic, visit with the Women’s New Life Center, and have lunch at the Governor’s Mansion with our Pro-Life Governor! Throughout the weekend, you will grow in pro-life knowledge and persuasion skills, discuss effective activism, hear beautiful testimonies, and hang out with fellow passionate pro-life students from all over the state. The last PULSE Weekend in Louisiana is March 23-25 in Covington. To register, go to prolifecamps.com.

Movie Night: Padre Pio - Miracle Man

The Catholic Daughters Court Bishop Desmond will sponsor a movie night on Thursday, March 1 at 6 p.m. at the St. Rita Holy Family Center in Alexandria. Join us for the movie “Padre Pio – Miracle Man.” Admission is free and so is the popcorn! A priest will be present to answer any questions after the movie.

March 3: Charismatic Day of Renewal

“New Wine, New Wineskins” – a Day of Renewal sponsored by Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Louisiana (CCRC) and CENLA Magnificat will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. at St. Anthony’s Church Hall in Natchitoches. Guest speaker Kim Rodriguez-Torres, is the founder of “Bella’s Blanket of Blessings” a prayer blanket ministry. Bella’s Blanket of Blessings helps promote vocations to the priesthood through prayer and spiritual adoption of seminarians and priests. The registration fee of \$30 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Checks or money orders made payable to “CCRC” and mailed to: Diane Ardoin, 1415 Creed St, Pineville, La. 71360. The Day of Renewal is open to men and women. Tickets for priests, deacons, religious brothers and sisters are complimentary, but registration is required. This may be done online at cenlamagnificat@gmail.com

DIOCESAN BRIEFS



REPORTING FROM KLIC STUDIOS. The seventh grade students at St. Anthony School made a CD at KLIL Studios in Moreauville about “What a Catholic School Education Means to Me”.

Regional Charismatic Conference

The Southern Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference will be held March 16-18 at the Copeland Tower Suites and Conference Center in Metairie. Guest speakers include Johnette Benkovic, Fr. Mark Goring, Bob Canton, and Danny Abramowicz. For more information or to register, go to www.ccrno.org or call 504-828-1368.

Abbey Youth Festival

The 2018 Abbey Youth Fest will be held March 17, from 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Abbey and Seminary College in St. Benedict, La. The Abbey Youth Festival is an apostolic service of Saint Joseph Abbey designed to provide young people with an opportunity to experience a day of prayer and faith formation with an exposure to the Benedictine tradition. Its focus is evangelization and vocational discernment by means of Liturgy, prayer, worship, music and education appropriate for Catholic young people. The cost is \$40 (includes a t-shirt and back sack). To register, go to abbeyyouthfest.com.

Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Quiz Bowl will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 10 a.m. to noon at Maryhill Renewal Center, followed by a pizza lunch. Study

guides are available. The contest is for any number of teams of 6th, 7th and/or 8th graders (mixed on a team or all one grade), and teams can be from a school or parish CCD program. Entry fee is \$10 per team. First place winners win \$500 and a trophy; second place wins \$200 and a trophy. For more information please call Emily Ann McCullough at 448-3333.

Da Parish Crawfish Championship

St. Joseph Church (Marksville) ACTS Apostolate will host the first Da Parish Crawfish Boiling Championship April 14 from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the St. Joseph Church Hall. The event will showcase 25-30 local boiling teams, each boiling approximately 250 pounds of crawfish, and then serving “all you can eat” to the attendees. (That’s more than 6,000 lbs. of crawfish!). The event will have three local bands along with other entertainment, drink and food booths, vendors, and lots of activities for the kids. If you or your business are interested in helping to sponsor the event or putting together a boiling team, contact Rhett Desselle at 318-481-9793 or John Gary Dauzat at 972-333-3490 or Scott Coco at 318-308-7913 or visit our website at www.stjosephacts.com

St. Mary’s Super Hero 5K/Fun Run

St. Mary’s Residential Training School will host its annual Super Hero Challenge 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, April 14 in Downtown Alexandria. After the run, enjoy a full day of festival fun including music and entertainment, arts and crafts, lots of food and fun activities for the kids. Register online at <http://stmarys-rts.w.solutionssoftware.net>



JOSEPHINUM DEACONS VISIT HOLY LAND. Over Christmas and New Year’s Break, the deacon class at the Josephinum made a 5-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land, visiting the Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem. Pictured is the class of deacons, including our Deacon Luke Lafleur (third from left) at Qumran, (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found) and the Dead Sea in the background.

Church Today News Deadlines

Next issue: March 19

Deadline for news:
Friday, March 9

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February - March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19	20	Bible Study 5:30-7:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria Lenten Mission 6:00 p.m. Sts. Francis and Anne, Kolin	22	23	Pre-Cana for Engaged Couples 9:00 am-2:00 pm St. Frances Cabrini Church, Alexandria <div>Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference</div> <div>OLPS School Presents "My Son Pinocchio" -- Coughlin Saunders Performing Arts</div> <div>Louisiana PULSE Weekend -- Baton Rouge</div>	25
Lenten Mission -- St. Rita Church, Alexandria			Sacred Heart of Jesus Church ACTS for Men Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center			
40 Days for Life						
PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS	PRAY FOR FR. A. THOMPSON	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. TIMMERMANS	PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS	PRAY FOR FR. G. UZONDU	PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE	PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD
26	27	Bible Study 5:30-7:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div>	MARCH 1	2	3	4
PRAY FOR FR. N. VIVIANO	PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ	PRAY FOR FR. J. WILTSE	PRAY FOR BISHOP D. TALLEY	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER	Lenten Mission -- St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH	PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
St. Dymphna Novena 6:30 pm Mary, Mother of Jesus Church, Woodworth <div>Lenten Mission -- St. Anthony of Padua, Natchitoches</div>		Bible Study 5:30-7:00 pm St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria		Beginning Experience -- Maryhill Renewal Center <div>24 Hours for the Lord</div>		Daylight Savings Time BEGINS USCCB World Marriage Day
PRAY FOR FR. W. AJAERO	Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW	PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. S. CHEMINO	LAETARE SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. COOK
12	13	JOY: Seniors Day of Reflection 9:00 am -12 noon Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Alexandria Bible Study 5:30-7:00 pm SFX Cathedral, Alexandria <div>Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville</div> <div>Lenten Mission -- Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Alexandria</div>	15	16	17	18
PRAY FOR FR. D. CORKERY	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM	PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	Abbey Youth Fest 9:30 am-9:30 pm St. Joseph Seminary, St. Benedict, LA <div>Regional Catholic Charismatic Conference, Metairie</div> ST. PATRICK'S DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DUCOTE
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
FEAST of ST. JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	Adult Faith Series -- St. Joseph Church, Marksville PRAY FOR FR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. T. FEY	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	Marriage Enrichment Retreat 12 noon-4:00 pm Mater Dolorosa Church, Plaucheville	PALM SUNDAY PRAY FOR FR. D. HART
St. Mary's ACTS for Men Retreat -- Maryhill Renewal Center						



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