

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 4

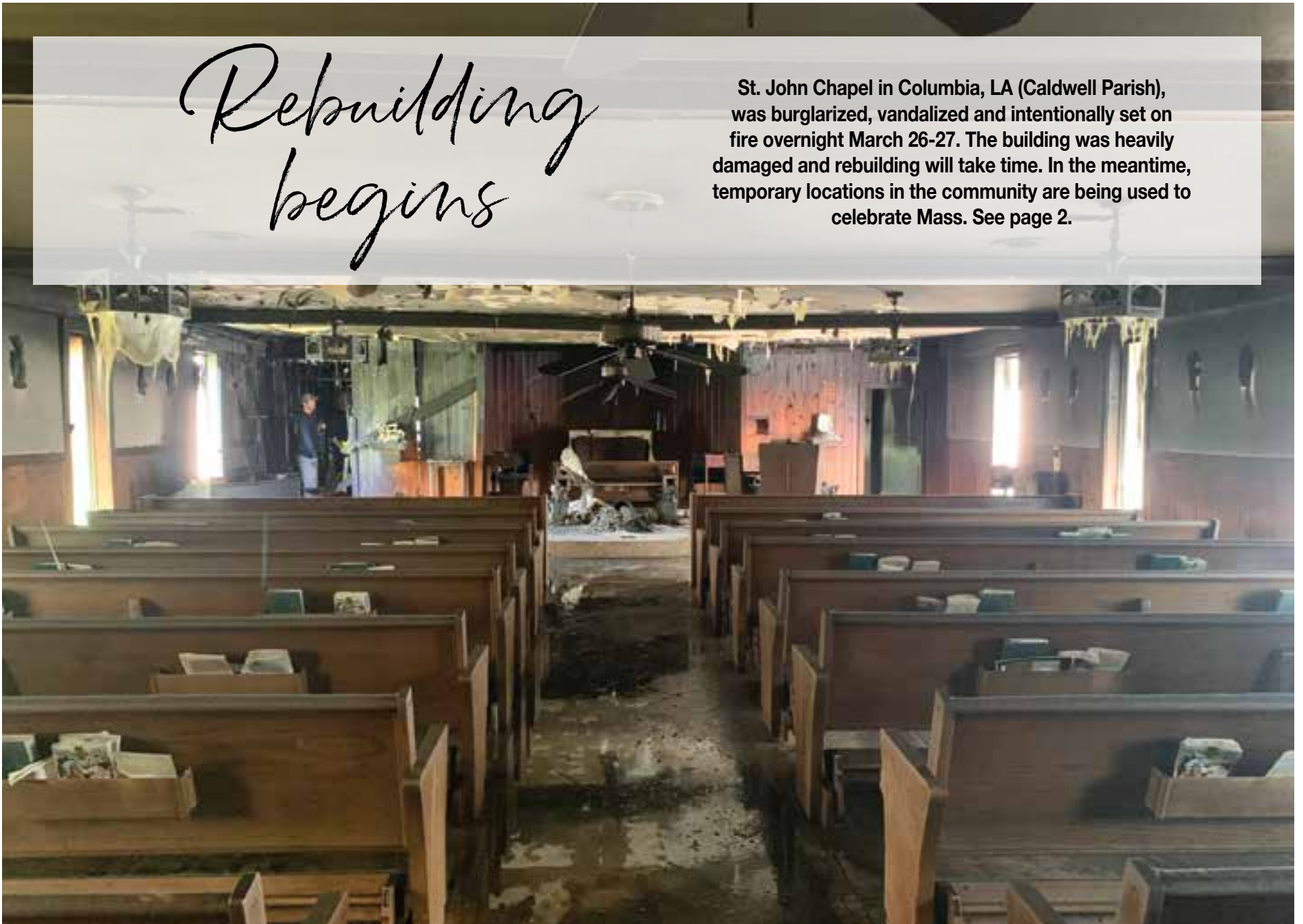
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April 27, 2026

*Rebuilding
begins*

St. John Chapel in Columbia, LA (Caldwell Parish), was burglarized, vandalized and intentionally set on fire overnight March 26-27. The building was heavily damaged and rebuilding will take time. In the meantime, temporary locations in the community are being used to celebrate Mass. See page 2.



INSIDE

Pilgrimage calls nation to renewal

Amid national and global tensions, the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage invites Americans to deeper faith, unity, and peace - emphasizing spiritual renewal, not politics, as the nation approaches its 250th anniversary.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

Across the diocese, young Catholics receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and sent forth in faith. See pages 8 and 9 for more photos from these celebrations.

A Mother's trust at the Cross

In *Our Mother's Prayers*, mothers are invited to surrender their children to Christ with trust, finding comfort in God's love and Mary's intercession. See page 14 for the full reflection.

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St. John Chapel in Columbia Damaged by Fire and Vandalism; Suspects Arrested

The Diocese of Alexandria is sad to report that St. John Chapel in Columbia, Louisiana, was burglarized, vandalized and intentionally set on fire during either the late evening hours of Thursday, March 26, or the early morning of Friday, March 27.

At the time of the incident, no parishioners were present in the church, and no injuries have been reported.

Initial assessments indicate that portions of the church were desecrated in the incident. Local authorities have confirmed that suspects have been identified and arrested in connection with the crime.

Alexandria Bishop Robert Marshall, Father Robert Johnson, pastoral administrator, and concerned parishioners were

onsite cooperating with civil authorities to assess the extent of the damage.

Until further notice, Masses will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday at the Winters Clinic, 421 Main Street, Columbia, LA. We are grateful that a weekly Mass will continue to be celebrated without interruption as St. John Chapel is the only Catholic church within Caldwell Parish.

“It is deeply unfortunate that this has occurred at any time,” said Bishop Robert Marshall, “but especially as we prepare to enter the most sacred season of Holy Week and Easter.”

St. John Chapel was established in 1954 in downtown Columbia. This is the second time fire has claimed the church building. The original church



structure burned down on Christmas Eve, 1988. St. John’s was then relocated to Hwy. 165 in Columbia and the current building was dedicated on June 17, 1990.

The Diocese of Alexandria expresses its sincere gratitude to the first responders for their swift and professional efforts in addressing the fire and securing the site.

A special fund, “Restoration-St. John Chapel, Columbia” has been established to assist with repair and recovery efforts and is available through the Diocese of Alexandria website (<https://www.diocesealex.org/>).

The faithful are asked to keep the St. John Chapel community in their prayers during this difficult time. For continued updates and information, please visit the Diocese of Alexandria website.

For further inquiries, please contact the Diocese of Alexandria Public Relations Officer, Deacon Richard Mitchell, at: dcnr Mitchell@diocesealex.org.



(left) Fr. Robert Johnson, pastoral administrator of St. John Chapel, inspects the damage caused by a fire set overnight on March 26-27.



(upper left) The adjoining church hall was totally devastated in the fire.

(above) The only statue salvaged from the fire. Other statues exploded due to the extreme heat.

National Eucharistic Congress says use of 'One Nation Under God' is about 'spiritual renewal'

by Gina Christian
Our Sunday Visitor

(OSV News) — Amid what it called “a moment of heightened tension” in the U.S. and the world, the National Eucharistic Congress said its use of the phrase “one nation under God” is “not about political statements, but about spiritual renewal.”

The phrase forms the theme of the 2026 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which will take place May 24 through July 5, traveling through most of the nation’s 13 original colonies as the U.S. marks its 250th anniversary.

On April 21, the congress — a nonprofit organization working in partnership with the U.S. bishops to implement the National Eucharistic Revival — issued a statement explaining its understanding of the phrase.

‘Witnesses to Christ’s love’

“We join our Holy Father, Pope Leo, in speaking Christ’s words to our world: ‘Peace be with you,’” said the organization. “With our Holy Father we desire to be witnesses to Christ’s love praying for the peace of Christ to descend upon our country and our world.”

In its statement, the NEC explained, “The ‘One Nation Under God’ pilgrimage is a united prayer of petition to God on behalf of our country and for peace in the world. It is not about political statements, but about spiritual renewal.”

The organization did not specifically reference the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, throughout



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS PILGRIMAGE. A graphic depicts the 2026 route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which begins May 24 in St. Augustine, Fla., and ends in Philadelphia July 5. On March 18, 2026, pilgrimage organizers announced diocesan details and registration opportunities for public stops along route.

which President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Speaker Mike Johnson have openly challenged Pope Leo XIV’s repeated calls for peace, while invoking Christian symbolism and Scripture in support of the administration’s initiation of the conflict.

The NEC observed that the Knights of Columbus had “first lobbied for this phrase to be placed in our pledge of allegiance.”

Pledge first composed in 1892

The pledge, first composed

in 1892 by clergyman and editor Francis Bellamy, was modified several times — including in 1954, when “under God” was added following advocacy efforts by the Knights and various religious leaders. The addition served to distinguish the U.S. from the former Soviet Union, officially atheist, as the Cold War was at its height.

The phrase has sparked controversy over the years, with a 2002 court ruling declaring it unconstitutional, a decision the Supreme Court revoked in 2004.

At a March 25 online press conference, NEC president Jason Shanks said the upcoming pilgrimage — which will conclude in Philadelphia, where the nation’s Declaration of Independence and Constitution were signed — marks a moment for “a country still in conversion” and “a country still on pilgrimage.”

‘Live our call to true human fraternity’

In its April 21 statement, the NEC said that “to live ‘under God’ is to live in his truth, to recognize

that the dignity of every human life comes from Him, to live our call to true human fraternity, and to remember that unity begins in humility and service of neighbor.”

“The Eucharist forms us in these truths, inviting us to self-emptying service, calling us to communion, and teaching us self-gift,” said the NEC.

The organization said that as the nation nears its 250th anniversary, “we are invited into something deeper than a simple remembrance, we are invited into revival.”

Such revival is a call “to truly bring our hearts and minds ‘under God’ so that we can be witness to our country of the love of Christ,” said the NEC.

‘Beyond the divisive rhetoric’

The organization added, “We pray this pilgrimage will call all of us beyond the divisive rhetoric of this time to bear witness to a higher truth: that lasting peace, justice, and unity are possible when we surrender our lives to Jesus Christ.”

The NEC pointed to Pope Leo, the first U.S.-born pope, saying, “What a privilege that right now we have an American Pope who calls us to these ideals.”

“We stand with the Holy Father in proclaiming the truths of the Gospel which helped form the ideals of our country,” said the NEC.

The organization called on the faithful to “be part of this movement” by joining the NEC “in prayer for unity, peace, and healing, that our country would be renewed in our love for God and neighbor.”

‘Walk along’ with chaplains, pilgrims

Concluding its statement, the group also encouraged the faithful to “walk along” with the chaplains and the nine perpetual pilgrims who will travel with the Blessed Sacrament on the pilgrimage and to commit to the group’s goal of logging 250,000 Holy Hours as part of the event.

“Together, may we help shape the future and invite all to experience the peace of Christ as ‘One Nation Under God,’” said the NEC in its statement.

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6TH ANNUAL ADAM JEANSONNE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS. Our Lady of Prompt Succor (Alexandria) Youth Program would like to thank the sponsors who contributed to and players who participated in the 6th Annual Adam Jeansonne Memorial golf tournament held on Friday, March 20 at Links on the Bayou. The Alexandria Health Care Consultant Team placed 1st in the Tournament. Pictured is Trey Ray, Michael Johnson, and Clay Ray.



DIOCESAN EMPLOYEES ATTEND STAFF RETREAT. The employees of the St. Joseph Catholic Center attended the annual Lenten staff retreat, this year held in the church hall of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Tioga. This year's presentation about evangelization was brought to us by facilitator Dina Dow, Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis for the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Thank you to the staff, parishioners and pastor, Fr. Rickey Gremillion, for hosting!

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.

Public Notice – Action Required

Sexual Abuse Claims in the Diocese of Alexandria Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by June 8, 2026.

The Diocese of Alexandria (“Diocese” or “Debtor”) has filed bankruptcy to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Putative Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re: Diocese of Alexandria*, Case No. 25-31257 (Bankr. W.D. La.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, go to <https://cases.stretto.com/dioceseofalexandria> or call (855) 655-5795.

Who Should File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

Anyone who alleges they were abused and believes the Diocese, or persons affiliated with the Diocese, may be responsible for the abuse must file a claim. This includes abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese, including schools, orphanages, parishes, or Catholic Charities. A list of such entities associated with the Diocese is available on the website or by calling the toll-free number listed below. If you have an abuse claim against any entity on that list, you may have a claim against the Diocese. Only the Diocese is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against any entity on that list, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

When and How Should I File a Putative Abuse Survivor Claim?

You should file a claim using the Putative Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim so that it is received by **June 8, 2026**. If you do not file a timely Putative Abuse Survivor Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.

Your information will be kept private

<https://cases.stretto.com/dioceseofalexandria> and (855) 655-5795

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Psalm 33: 22
Responsorial Psalm
for May 3
Fifth Sunday
of Easter

On the Eucharist

by Louis Wasson

My nephew asked a question about the Eucharist—whether sincerely or sarcastically, I’m not quite sure. He was curious about why the Eucharist isn’t considered cannibalism. It might seem like a funny question at first. Still, as *Catholic Answers*, an apologetics magazine, explains, this was a point of contention between early Christians and their pagan Roman neighbors.

When Jesus first mentioned the Eucharist, many of his listeners misunderstood: “The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’” (John 6:52). Not only did the Jews question Jesus about this, but also many of his own disciples: They “when they heard it, said, ‘This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?’” (John 6:60) and “After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer walked with him.” (John 6:66).

I am reminded of the current situation in the Church, where

many do not believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Perhaps many of these, like my nephew, question whether the Eucharist is cannibalism or not. The answer is, of course, that it is not!

While both the Eucharist and cannibalism involve the eating of human flesh, some important distinctions must be made between the two:

Cannibalism involves consuming the dead flesh from a dismembered and diminished human body. By diminished, I mean that the eating destroys the body of the victim. While it provides physical nourishment, it is done without the victim’s consent, usually in a violent and irreligious act. The flesh is consumed in its raw form. Conversely, in the Eucharist, we receive the body, blood, soul, and divinity of the Living Christ. His body is not a corpse, and it is not diminished or harmed in any way by Communion. He still sits at the right hand of the Father! His flesh is consumed in the form of bread



and wine. He offers himself freely as spiritual nourishment. It is a sacrament of love, not violence.

Some will undoubtedly say that it is then only bread and wine that we consume and not body and blood. The Church has a term for this: transubstantiation, a philosophical concept that essentially means the form of

the Eucharist remains bread and wine, but the veiled reality is that the words of the priest by the power of the Holy Spirit change the substance of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. This is what the Church teaches and expects its members to accept on the basis of faith. However, in the age of science,

many find it difficult to believe and fall back on the protestant view that the Eucharist is only a symbol.

A few points need to be noted here. First, the Church does not invent the idea of the Real Presence out of thin air. The scriptures are scattered with Jesus’ Eucharistic sayings, making it clear that He is not speaking symbolically. For example, after his “Bread from Heaven” discourse, he says, “But there are some of you who do not believe.” (John 6:64). When these people walk away, he does not shout after them, “I meant it only as a symbol!” No, he lets them go and instead turns to the Twelve and asks, “Will you also go away?” (John 6:67).

Second, the doctrine of the Real Presence dates back to the earliest years of the Church. For 2000 years, the saints have believed in and dedicated themselves to it. Many have been martyred because of this belief. As St. Peter Eymard, the Apostle of the Eucharist, wrote, “Are all the saints who believe, adore, and love Jesus in His divine Sacrament, mistaken and illusioned?” The Real Presence is central to the Catholic Faith, as the Catechism states, quoting Vatican II, that it is “the source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC 1324).

Third, the Eucharist must ultimately be accepted based on faith and in trust in the Teaching Authority of the Church. Remember how God tested the faith of Abraham in the Old Testament and how he tested the faith of Mary at the Annunciation to begin the New Testament. What a test of faith the Eucharist is proving for the Modern man and woman! Pope Saint John Paul II put faith this way: “To believe means ‘to abandon oneself’ to the truth of the word of the living God, knowing and humbly recognizing ‘how unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways’” (Rom. 11:33).

I am not lying; I am telling the truth. The Church cannot officially teach a falsehood regarding faith or morals. “The gates of hell will not prevail against it.” That’s a promise from Jesus himself. And that goes for its teaching on the Real Presence in the Eucharist.

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CHRISM MASS. The Mass of the Holy Chrism was celebrated Tuesday, March 31 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding and the priests and deacons of the diocese concelebrating.

CHRISM MASS. Bishop Robert Marshall blesses the oils used for sacraments throughout the year during the Mass of the Holy Chrism which was celebrated Tuesday, March 31 at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.



May 14-17

Men's ACTS Retreat

hosted by St. Augustine Church
Isle Brevelle

June 4-7

Men's ACTS Retreat

hosted by Cenla ACTS
(Our Lady of Prompt Succor)
Alexandria

All retreats are held at
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BONNER MAKES PROFESSION OF FAITH. On Monday, March 30, Bishop Robert Marshall gathered at the Cathedral for Vespers with Vocations Director, Father Luke LaFleur, Deacon Matthew Bonner, and with many of the seminarians of our diocese. During the liturgy, Deacon Matthew made his Profession of Faith and took the Oath of Fidelity - important steps before his ordination to the priesthood in June. Deacon Matthew proclaimed the gospel at Tuesday's Chrism Mass presented the oil which will be used for the Sacred Chrism with which he will be anointed at his ordination.

*Let all
the earth
cry out
to God
with joy.*

Psalm 66: 1
Responsorial Psalm
for May 10
Sixth Sunday
of Easter

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COME AND SEE WEEKEND. (above) On Palm Sunday weekend, we had 3 young men from the Diocese of Alexandria attend the Spring “Come and See Weekend” at St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College in St. Benedict, LA, outside Covington. Pictured with them are current Alexandria Seminarians David Rubio, Ty Schexnayder, Matthew Kramer, Blake Bernard, and Fr. Luke LaFleur. (below) Roughly 200 men attended the retreat in which they had the opportunity to see the seminary grounds, meet seminarians, and get a glimpse of seminary life. Please continue to pray for and support priestly and religious vocations for the Diocese of Alexandria.



Seminarian Burses

March 2026 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Siltan Innerarity	\$25.00
Deacon Luther “Luke” White Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Daniel O’Connor Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Wade DeCoste Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse	
Anonymous	\$75.00
Father Abraham Palakkattuchira Burse	
Anonymous	\$100.00
Father Dale Meade Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Marian French	\$100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse	
Anonymous	\$100.00
Father Kurian Zachariah Burse	
Mrs. Clara Ryland Deloach	\$150.00
Father Rickey Gremillion Burse	
Anonymous	\$475.00
Father Albi Mulloth Burse	
Anonymous	\$475.00
Father Kenneth Obiekwe Burse	
Total	\$1,675.00

A Seminary Burse is an invested sum of money, the interest of which is used in perpetuity to help fund the education of men to the priesthood. A Seminary Burse may be names of anyone - bishop, priests, religious, or lay person - chosen by the original donor, and may be added to and allowed to grow. A burse is completed when it reaches \$15,000.00 but another burse of the same name can be started. Contributions to any of the burses or to establish a new burse should be sent to:

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Thank you for your generosity!
--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for the gift of our priests.
Through them, we experience your presence
in the sacraments.
Help our priests to be strong in their vocation.
Set their souls on fire with love for your people.
Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength
they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.
Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.
Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel.
Allow them to experience joy in their ministry.
Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives
and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

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Confirmation

CONFIRMATION, ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA and ST. MARGARET CHURCH, BOYCE. On Friday, April 17, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Rita Church in Alexandria. Fifteen young disciples from St. Rita and St. Margaret Church in Boyce were confirmed. Thank you to Fathers Anthony (Raj) Dharmaraj, Peter Faulk, and Joseph Xavier, Deacons Kenny Sayes and Richard Mitchell (who took this photo), the altar servers and the musicians for their assistance with the liturgy. Thank you to the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners of both parishes for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, DUPONT. On Wednesday, Mar. 18, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Dupont. Five young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Abraham Varghese, the catechists, parents, sponsors, and the parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, SACRED HEART OF JESUS, PINEVILLE. On Thursday, Mar. 19, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Mass of the Solemnity of St. Joseph and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville. Ten young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Dale Meade, the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners who supported these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH AND HOLY GHOST CHURCH, MARKSVILLE. On Saturday, Mar. 21, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Joseph Church in Marksville. Thirteen young disciples from St. Joseph and Holy Ghost parishes were confirmed. Thank you to Father Wade DeCoste, and Deacons Matthew Bonner, Ken Primeaux, and Richard Mitchell (who took this photo) for their assistance. Many thanks to the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners of both parishes who supported these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Sunday, Mar. 22, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Saint Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria. Two teen disciples and three adult disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Chad Partain, the catechists, sponsors, family members and parishioners for their prayers and support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH, PLAUCHEVILLE. On Wednesday, April 8, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville. Thirteen young disciples were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Also pictured with them are the Altar Servers. Thank you to Father Martin Laird, the parents, catechists, sponsors, and the parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Sunday, April 12, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria. Two young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to the entire St. James community for their welcome and support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. LOUIS CHURCH, GLENMORA. On Friday, April 10, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for Friday in the Octave of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Louis Church (Iglesia de San Luis) in Glenmora. Four young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Edwin Rodriguez Hernandez, the catechists, parents, padrinas y padrinos, and the parishioners for their support of the Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS CHURCH, WOODWORTH. On Saturday, April 11, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday) and the Sacrament of Confirmation with the community of Mary, Mother of Jesus Parish in Woodworth. The celebration was in the parish hall as the church building is being expanded and renovated. Six young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Paul LaPalme, the catechists, parents, sponsors, and parishioners for their support for the Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO. On Saturday, April 18, Bishop Marshall celebrated Mass for the Third Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Francis de Sales Church in Echo. Four young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Dwight DeJesus, the parents, sponsors, catechists, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, DEVILLE. On Sunday, April 19, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated the Third Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Deville. Two young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Albi Mulloth, the catechists, parents, sponsors and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.

Season of Service



SEASON OF SERVICE WITH THE CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF ST. JOSEPH IN MARKSVILLE. The Van Der Putten Catholic Daughters Court #2029 prayed for priests, deacons and vocations during weekly adoration and cleaned and organized the prep room/kitchen at the St. Joseph church hall!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA. On Thursday, March 19, the Feast Day of St Joseph, Catholic Charities staff, interns, volunteer Greg Wasson, and the Diocese of Alexandria Teresian Sisters participated in their Season of Service Lenten project. Breakfast was provided to attendees at the Volunteers of America Cenla March H2O Homeless Outreach event. Sack lunches were also distributed along with socks and clothes. All made possible from a food grant by Healthy Blue.



(above and below) **ST. JAMES HIGH ENERGY SERVERS, ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** Supporting Food Insecurity Needs at the Cenla Food Bank: This project focused on providing team services to assist with the preparation of Senior Food boxes and the Backpack program for school-age children. On April 1, the youth joined in the service preparation for the Senior Food boxes.



THE LADIES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TEAM at Immaculate Conception Church, Dupont hosted an ice cream sundae party and bingo for the residents of Avoyelles Manor Nursing home.



Promoting Healthy Hygiene Among Elderly Veterans: This project involved providing hygiene toolkits to elderly veterans at the VA Community Living Center in Pineville. The toolkits included essential items such as toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, denture cups, denture cleanser, deodorant, lotions, Vaseline, and bottle soap. On March 28, they delivered 22 toolkits to veterans located in the CLC. The veterans were so grateful for their hygiene products.

WORTHY
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WORTHY
WORTHY
WORTHY

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Celebrate Easter



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL. It was a beautiful Easter Vigil at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in spite of the rain that made the Blessing of the Fire more subdued. 20 parishioners received one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation on this Holy Saturday.

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair: We are the Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song.”

pope john paul ii



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, CLOUTIERVILLE (LEFT). These four made their Sacraments of Initiation during Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4 at St. John the Baptist, Cloutierville. Pictured with pastor, Fr. Christian Ogbonna:



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA (RIGHT). Pictured with pastor, Fr. Taylor Reynolds, three received Sacraments of Initiation during Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4 at St. Joseph Church.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, DEVILLE. Live Stations of the Cross from the CCD children.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. On April 2, the 8th Grade class performed a Living Stations of the Cross.

Feast of St. Joseph, March 19



(above) **CELEBRATING ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR AND PARISH FELLOWSHIP AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHENEYVILLE.** In honor of the feast day of Saint Joseph, the church parish in Cheneyville joyfully celebrated with a beautifully prepared St. Joseph's Altar, a cherished tradition rooted in faith, gratitude, and community. The altar was lovingly decorated with an abundance of symbolic foods, flowers, and devotional items, reflecting both thanksgiving and devotion to St. Joseph, the patron of families and workers. Parishioners and volunteers worked together to create a display. Following the blessing of the altar, the parish hosted a spaghetti dinner. Traditions like the St. Joseph's Altar continue to strengthen parish families and deepen shared faith.



(left) **SACRED HEART OF JESUS CHURCH, PINEVILLE.** Bishop Robert Marshall shared this photo of the St. Joseph Altar at Sacred Heart in Pineville that he took after celebrating a Confirmation Mass at the church on Thursday, March. 19



(above) **ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH** on March 19 with the annual St. Joseph Altar and school Mass. Students and families contributed bread, pasta, cookies, fruit, and other food items to help build the altar in honor of St. Joseph, the patron of our church and school. Following Mass, the altar was blessed, and this tradition served as a reminder to students about faith, gratitude, and helping those in need. The St. Joseph Altar is an important tradition in the St. Joseph school community each year, and it is always a special day for students and staff.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH OF WINNFIELD celebrated the feast day of St. Joseph on March 19. About 60 parishioners along with Catholics from surrounding parishes enjoyed an evening filled with great food and fellowship. Pastor, Fr. Louis Sklar, blessed the altar. Everyone received silk bags with blessed bread, St. Joseph medals, holy cards, and of course fava beans. It was a wonderful evening enjoying the Sicilian tradition of praising St. Joseph.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ST. JOSEPH, LA hosted their 2nd annual Ecumenical St. Joseph Altar in downtown St. Joseph in the evening on Thursday, March 19. Many from the community attended.

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.

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Peace in the Midst of Crisis
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 - **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)
- To support our work, thank you for your donation of time, talent, or treasure!
- **Volunteer** - cccenla.org/volunteer
 - **Donate** - cccenla.org/hero-of-hope

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Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

MOTHER

Continued from pg. 14

She is Our Confidant

How can we feel anything but comfort and gratitude for Jesus' very existence? True God and true Man, deserving none of the punishment that is heaped upon Him, sullied His perfect, sinless Being with our sin. How can we ever doubt that our children's salvation is a priority for Him? Of course it is. And how can we ever doubt that His mother won't join us in petitions for the sake of her children? That's all of us, all of us who make up the Body of Christ, including our own little ones, of course.

But she is the mother of young and old alike, no matter

our situation in life, no matter our station. We must turn to our mother, the woman who Jesus, from the Cross, gives to John. In that instant, through blinding tears and grief too intense to understand, Mary beheld her Son dying on the Cross. Then John beholds his mother, our mother, the mother of Jesus and of the Church.

He is Our Comfort

This experience of Mother's Prayers gives women great comfort. God loves our children with an infinite love. That reality is illuminated during the prayer service and it moves us deeper into our relationship with Him, allowing us to emphatically declare, "Jesus, I trust in You."

It also allows us to ask Mary to join us in our prayers for our children. She will wrap her

mantle around both of you, each child whose name you place at the foot of the Cross and around you, Mom. For you need her love and presence as much as any of her other children.

Surely it causes Jesus to smile when she tends to the needs of others, just as she did all those centuries ago at a wedding reception in Cana.

*"At the cross,
her station
keeping...
... close to Jesus
to the last."*



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Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, or implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O virgin of virgins, my mother; to you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Our Mother's Prayers

by Lynda MacFarland
Blessed Is She

I used to be the US Military Coordinator for the international ministry, Mother's Prayers. It is a para-liturgical service in which we lay our children down at the feet of the crucified Christ and give up all our worry for them to God. We try really hard to remember that He loves our children in service so much more than we can fathom.

Whether it is those little helpless babies that are so dependent on us, or rebellious teenagers, or grown ups who should be, but are not always as mature as we wish them to be, spiritually or otherwise, they are still our children. That maternal love and wanting to protect and nurture a child is just a hint of Heaven's love for each of us.

Mother's Prayers

There are many wonderful things that come from placing that level of trust in God during the service.

The words that resonate the most with the women I talk to about Mother's Prayers, and to me, are "laying your children at the foot of the Cross." I think it's because we can all visualize standing at the foot of the Cross.

How many times have we participated in the Stations of the Cross during our lives? How many times have we heard or sung the Stabat Mater?

"At the cross, her station keeping...close to Jesus to the last."

We imagine Mary "weeping, mourning in this valley of tears," as we profess in the Hail, Holy Queen prayer. And we are with her. As mothers ourselves, we

don't want to imagine Mary's anguish as she witnesses the tortured death of her Child. And yet we are awed and amazed by the fact that God chooses this horrible, painful death out of His love for us. He loves us that much, He loves our children that much.

The Hope We Have

And in that terrible scene, we must recall the hope that is ours because of it all. While we certainly remember Jesus' sacrifice for us every time we're at Mass during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, during the Stations we often also focus on the sacrifice of Jesus' mother. And we realize that she is our Mother, too. As we are the Body of Christ, Mary is the Mother of the Church, the feast day we celebrate today.

During the Mother's Prayers service, after we write each

child's name on a white circle of paper, we kneel in front of a crucifix after placing them in a basket. It is a reminder of eternal realities. We physically place the names of our children, and so each child symbolically, at the foot of the Cross. We place them into Jesus' care, into His merciful love that has no boundaries. Mary is with us there; her concern for each of our maternal worries endear us to her. She wants to intercede on our behalf out of her motherly understanding of our love for our children.

Mary Cares and Understands

Think back to Mary telling Jesus that the newlyweds have run out of wine. Really a social faux pas more than anything, but her mother's heart compels her to tell her Son who she knows

can make it right. She doesn't know how; but she trusts. And Jesus will deny her nothing. That's how involved Jesus will get in our lives, and His mother, too, evidently!

So, it's important to bring our requests to the Mother of God and the Mother of the Church when we pray to God about our concerns, especially for our children. Contemplate what she had to endure during Christ's Passion and Death. She once again had to trust Jesus and His obedience to the Father.

But she was also with her Son in the joyful moments, too; the pinnacle of which is Jesus' Resurrection!

See MOTHER, page 13

God
mounts
his throne
to shouts
of joy;
a blast of
trumpets
for the
Lord

Psalm 47: 6
Responsorial Psalm
for May 17
The Ascension
of the Lord

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TASTE OF ECHO. This year, the talented parishioners of St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church truly outdid themselves. Guests were treated to an impressive spread of 18 unique offerings, including savory main dish samples, hors d'oeuvres, and decadent desserts. Thank you to everyone who cooked, sampled, and donated to make this event a highlight of the season!



ST. JULIANA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. The Council and Court of Bishop D. F. Desmond #91 Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary of St. Juliana Church in Alexandria, held a formal turnout for Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday. They are joined by the Junior Knights and Daughters. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert Marshall.

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*Blessed
 the people
 the Lord
 has chosen
 to be
 his own.*

Psalm 33: 12
 Responsorial Psalm
 for May 24
 Pentecost Sunday

HONOR MARY
PRAY
THE ROSARY

Paid for by a member of
 The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary



AHFI YOUTH GROUP OF MATER DOLOROSA AND ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. On March 23, the kids visited Avoyelles Manor Nursing Home for their March Mercy Mondays (above). They were joined by the children's choir. Together they prayed the rosary and sang with the residents.

(below) On March 16, AHFI Youth Group of Mater Dolorosa and St. Joseph's School spent the afternoon cleaning statues around the school and Church grounds as part of their March Mercy Mondays acts of service during this Lenten season.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 6, ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Sunday, Mar. 22, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria (see photo pg. 8). Also participating in this Mass were the Scouts of Troop 6. Bishop Marshall was pleased to greet them and their leaders following Mass.



ST. JOSEPH CCD AND ST. JOSEPH ALTAR SOCIETY (MARKSVILLE) partnered during Lent to collect non-perishable food items to fill St. Joseph's food pantry. CCD students helped to organize the items and restock the shelves. We are grateful for the donations given to this wonderful project.



GOLDEN EGG TEACHER. Congratulations to Mrs. Susan McNeal, a 2nd-grade teacher at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School. She was recognized as one of the Alexandria Emergency Hospital's Golden Egg Teachers, which spotlight teachers who go above and beyond. She was nominated by Brooks [redacted] seen in this picture, along with Mandi Guillory of Alexandria Emergency Hospital.



MATER DOLOROSA, PLAUCHEVILLE. On March 19, Mater Dolorosa AHFI Youth Group had a bake sale for their March Mercy Mondays in order to raise money for Save Cenla. Their bake sale raised \$733 plus a donation from PTO. They were able to present Save Cenla with a donation total of \$1,209.

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Graduation Gameplan

By Lindsay Gray
Life Teen, Inc.

“We must not attempt to control God’s actions. We must not count the stages in the journey he would have us make. We must not desire a clear perception of our advance along the road, nor know precisely where we are on the way of holiness.”

Step 1: Turn the Tassel with Teresa

“Pray that I have clarity,” a man named John Kavanaugh implored Mother Teresa after traveling thousands of miles to Calcutta. In 1975, Kavanaugh was discerning what to do with

the rest of his life. He believed a year of service in India would offer him answers. So when Mother Teresa asked him how she could pray for him, clarity was his desperate request.

“No, I will not do that,” she replied.

Imagine having a future canonized saint turn down your prayer request! Naturally, Kavanaugh wanted to clarify why she had. Mother explained, “It is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of.” Surprised, Kavanaugh asked why God wouldn’t want him to have this one thing that Mother Teresa always seemed to have herself.

Amused, she replied, “I have never had clarity. What I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God.”

“I want you to have that complete confidence that God won’t let us down. Take him at his word and seek first the kingdom of heaven, and all else will be added on.”

Step 2: Turn the Tassel with Trust

You may find yourself in Kavanaugh’s shoes during graduation season. In a single day of anticipating the next chapter of your life, you could go from being in high spirits to low spirits, feel both determination and apprehension, look forward to change yet simultaneously wish things could stay the same. With all kinds of uncertainties ahead, clarity would be a welcome graduation present.

But if we only seek clarity during pivotal seasons in our lives, it can be tough to enjoy the current road to our next adventure. Whenever we grasp at understanding for our own sake, we risk sidelining the Holy Spirit, who has more creative, wondrous plans in mind for us than we could ever have in mind for ourselves. (See Genesis 3 and Jeremiah 29:11.)

Christians baffle the world by trading clarity for God’s promises; but it’s a sweet trade because uncertainty about the future can always be transformed into the “perfect peace” that comes from trusting Him. (Isaiah 26:3) The more we trust God with our future, the more He can bless it.

So you may have drawn up the

ultimate gameplan (plus several backup plans) for graduation and beyond. Or you may feel paralyzed by the mere thought of stepping out into the wide world of adulthood. Regardless of your circumstances, trust in God is the only reassurance you could really have that you’re on the right track; but it’s also the only reassurance you need.

“If we really fully belong to God, then we must be at his disposal and trust in him. We must never be preoccupied with the future. There is no reason to be so. God is there.”

Step 3: Turn the Tassel without Trepidation

Another quote attributed to St. Teresa is, “God does not require that we be successful, only that we be faithful.” For saying this, she might’ve been the last person many institutions would’ve chosen to give a graduation speech.

Graduates are entering a world that measures their worth based on their successes. This is a lie — that our grades, our accomplishments, and our skills determine our value. If we believe it, then at the first sign of “failure” we’ll be tempted to look at our past with regret, and at our future with concern. We may feel trapped in our present, too trepid to do anything whatsoever.

God delights in our motivation to set healthy goals and work to accomplish them. Saint Teresa isn’t denying this. She’s merely reminding us to keep the priority goal in mind: heaven. Everything we do in this lifetime should help lead us there. True success in our earthly

life is to know, love, and serve God to the best of our ability, whether the world thinks this is an achievement or not. May this truth make you fearless.

“God will not ask how many books we have read, how many miracles we have worked, but whether we have done our best for the love of him... therefore each one of our actions done with and for and through Jesus Christ is a great success.”

Step 4: Turn the Tassel Together

Placing our trust, identity, and future in the Lord’s loving hands doesn’t mean we become passive bystanders. It means the opposite! Growth requires change, and change requires decision-making. To truly discern is to allow God to lead this process.

We do the will of God by including Him in our plans, by praying, “Lord, I don’t want to do this without You.” If we invite Jesus to the start and into the center of whatever we pursue (and allow Him to remain there) — so long as it is an objectively good pursuit — we don’t have to worry about whether we made the “right” choice. Through God’s blessing it becomes what we were meant to do all along. (John 15:12; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Congratulations, graduates! Youth leaders everywhere are praying for you! Remember...

“Together we can do something beautiful for God.”

— Your totally trusting, intimidatingly intrepid, Nobel Peace Prize-winning companion for graduation, St. Teresa of Calcutta

A Meditation Before the Blessed Sacrament



Heart to Heart

by Marcus Descant

O Sacrament most Holy,
O Sacrament Divine,
Open your Heart and make me Thine.

Your body was nailed
And fastened to the Cross,
You did all this for me who was lost.

Your Heart was pierced,
And Your blood flowed out;
By letting this happen I was given
a new route.

The road to heaven was opened once more,
It would be hard for the rich,
but easy for the poor.

The Humble were lifted,
The proud were down cast,
If I wish to be first, I must be last.

So to meet Him in Heaven
on that Great Day,
I must do as He does,
And follow His way.

lizdescant@gmail.com

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For the battle
belongs to the Lord.
1 SAMUEL 17:47

Steubenville South
June 26-28, 2026

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Information Session: Adult Tobacco & Vaping Cessation - through June 25

Are you thinking about quitting smoking or vaping? Have you tried by yourself but it is too difficult? Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is holding weekly information sessions so you can learn what a personalized quit plan looks like. During this information session you can explore individual one-on-one plans or group options. You can ask questions in a relaxed, supportive setting. You only need to attend one information session but if you have more questions, feel free to drop by again!

Find out how you can finally succeed in quitting. No appointment is needed, just drop by any time between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on any Thursday through June 25 at the Catholic Charities Budget Classroom at 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. in Alexandria (door is to the left side of the Catholic Charities trailer in the Second Blessings Thrift Store parking lot). Your quit journey starts here! These information sessions are led by nationally credentialed tobacco treatment specialists and funded by a grant from The Rapides Foundation.

Discalced Carmelite meeting - May 9

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.

Graduation schedule - May 10-15

Graduation dates for the Diocese of Alexandria Catholic high schools: **Sunday, May 10:** St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches; **Tuesday, May 12:** Holy Savior Menard Central High School, Alexandria; **Friday, May 15:** St. Joseph High School, Plaquemine

Last day of classes - May 21-22

Thursday, May 21 is the last day of school for: Holy Savior **Menard** Central High School, Alexandria; St. Frances **Cabrini** School, Alexandria; **Sacred Heart** School, Moreauville; **St. Joseph** Elementary and High School, Plaquemine; **St. Anthony** School, Bunkie

Friday, May 22 is the last day of school for: Our Lady of **Prompt Succor** School, Alexandria; **St. Mary's** Catholic School, Natchitoches; **St. Mary's Assumption** School, Cottonport

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Transitional Deacon Ordinations - May 23

You are cordially invited to attend the Transitional Deacon Ordinations of Blaine Phillips and Gabe Dowden on Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep - May 30

The day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. Lunch will be included. Space will be limited, so please register for a workshop as soon as possible.

Registration for the May 30, 2026 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.

Other future workshop dates: Sept. 12, 2026

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

Priest Ordination - June 20

You are cordially invited to the priestly ordination of Rev. Mr. Matthew Bonner on Saturday, June 20, St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Robert Marshall presiding.

Steubenville South Youth Conference - June 26-28

Steubenville South is a dynamic Catholic youth conference for teens entering grades 9-12, offering a powerful weekend of faith, fellowship, and encounter with Christ. Through engaging speakers, uplifting music, daily Mass, confession, and prayer, teens are invited to deepen their relationship with God and discover the joy of living out their Catholic faith. This life-changing conference draws parishes from across the South and is designed to support teens in a pivotal season of their spiritual lives - helping them grow in confidence, courage, and faith-filled friendships. Registration is now open! Visit steubenvillesouth.com for more information. Contact your youth minister or church office to register or learn more.

Steubenville South Youth Conference | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - June 26-28

Steubenville South is a dynamic Catholic youth conference for teens entering grades 9-12, offering a powerful weekend of faith, fellowship, and encounter with Christ. We need adult volunteers to make this happen! Visit steubenvillesouth.com/register to volunteer or email hello@steubenvillesouth.com for more information on how you can help.

Vacation Bible School, Bunkie - July 6-9

St. Anthony in Bunkie is looking forward to its annual Vacation Bible School. This year the fun and excitement will take place July 6-9. This year's theme is "The Mass Comes Alive." For ages 5 through Grade 4.

SAVE THE DATE! Men's Silent Retreat - August 7-9

Save the date for our first Men's Silent retreat presented by Deacon Micheal Parker from the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Location: Maryhill Renewal Center. Registration information to come.

*Gloria and praise
for ever!*

Daniel 3: 52 | Responsorial Psalm for May 31
Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

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Thursday, May 14

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May 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>APRIL 27</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. SUNDERHAUS</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. C. THIBODEAUX</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. THOMAS</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Catholic Charities Budget Classroom, 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. TRAVIS</p>	<p>MAY 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. TRAVIS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. VARGHESE</p>
<p>4</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. VEAD</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. G. VOLTZ</p>	<p>6</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. WHITE</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Catholic Charities Budget Classroom, 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD</p>	<p>8</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. J. XAVIER</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. M. YOUNG</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Graduation St. Mary's Catholic School, Natchitoches</p> <p>MOTHERS DAY PRAY FOR FR. K. ZACHARIAH</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Graduation Holy Savior Menard Central High School Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE</p>	<p>13</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Catholic Charities Budget Classroom, 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Graduation St. Joseph High School Plaquemine</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW</p>	<p>17</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the ASCENSION of the LORD PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET</p>
<p>Men's ACTS Retreat hosted by St. Augustine Church -- Maryhill</p>						
<p>18</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO</p>	<p>19</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Catholic Charities Budget Classroom, 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER</p>	<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Transitional Deacon Ordinations 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS</p>
<p>Last days of school</p>						
<p>25</p> <p>MEMORIAL of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER of the CHURCH</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. DESIMONE</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Catholic Charities Budget Classroom, 4409-C Coliseum Blvd. Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ</p>	<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pre-Cana Marriage Workshop 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. St. Joseph Catholic Center, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE</p>	<p>31</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY TRINITY PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS</p>



BASKETBALL \$125
JUNE 2-5 • 8:30am - 11:30am
boys & girls • ages 6-13
includes t-shirt

BASEBALL \$150
JUNE 8-12 • 8:00am - 12:00pm
boys • ages 6-14

SOFTBALL \$150
JUNE 8-12 • 8:00am - 12:00pm
girls • ages 6-14

ROBOTICS \$150
JUNE 9-12 • 9:00 am - 12:00pm
limited to 10 spaces • boys & girls • 3rd-6th graders

SOCCER \$125
JUNE 22-24 • 8:00am - 12:00pm
boys & girls • ages 6-14

MATH \$125
JULY 6-10 • 8:00am - 11:00am
incoming 7th graders



FOR MORE INFO
SCAN ME!
& TO REGISTER




SOMETHING IS HATCHING IN 4TH GRADE! It was an exciting day at St. Joseph School in Plaquemine as Mrs. Sandi's 4th grade class watched their chicks begin to hatch! The students have been patiently waiting for their incubating eggs to hatch and they finally got to see the amazing process of new life beginning. This has been such a fun and memorable learning experience for the students. Welcome to the world, little chicks!



OLPS STUDENTS COMPETE IN VFW CONTEST. Each year, our talented Prompt Succor students participate in the VFW contest with their amazing coloring, drawing, and writing skills. This year's school winners are: Addisyn S. for coloring the American Flag and winning 1st place in her category; Avery C. for drawing the American Flag; Collin G. for drawing a Historical Event and winning 1st place in her category; Mark Wesley W. for his Essay on "How I Honor Veterans"; Aven C. for her Essay on "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country", placing 2nd in her category. Thank you, VFW Post 1736 and Auxiliary.

(above and below) SACRED HEART SCHOOL'S 5TH, 6TH, AND 7TH GRADERS portrayed The Easter Triduum and Living Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, April 1 in the SHS gymnasium. Director: Karen Moreau; Assistant Director and makeup artist: Carmen Necaie.

