

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 5

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Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970

May 25, 2026

First Holy Communion

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria celebrated 45 children receiving their First Communion with Fr. Rusty Rabalais on Saturday, April 25. See pages 10-11 for more photos of First Communion and pages 8-9 for photos of Confirmation from across the Diocese



INSIDE

Praying through new assignments

More than 20 priestly assignment changes have been announced across the Diocese of Alexandria. As pastors and clergy prepare for new ministries and transitions, please keep them in prayer. See page 4 for the full list.

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit

Across the diocese, young Catholics receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. See pages 8 - 11 for more photos from these celebrations.

Steubenville South to host free Rally day for Ministry Leaders

Steubenville South's free August Rally day will equip clergy, catechists, volunteers, and ministry leaders with practical tools, encouragement, and renewed purpose for serving today's Church. See page 17 for more information.

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Publisher:
 Most. Rev. Robert Marshall
 Publication Manager / Editor:
 Cari Terracina, ext. 255,
 cterraccina@diocesealex.org
**Multimedia Manager /
 Advertising:**
 Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;
 joanferguson@diocesealex.org
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 starver@diocesealex.org

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Human trafficking thrives in silence, secrecy, and lack of awareness. Education is one of the strongest tools communities have to prevent exploitation and protect vulnerable children. Parents, educators, churches, law enforcement, and community members must understand the warning signs and dangers facing today's youth.

According to organizations involved in national trafficking awareness, the average age a child is lured into sex trafficking is between 12 and 14 years old. Social media has become one of the primary recruitment tools used by predators, with more than 80% of child sex crimes having some connection to online platforms. Traffickers often use fake relationships, emotional manipulation, gifts, attention, and threats to gain control over victims.

Recognizing the signs of trafficking can save lives. Victims are often accompanied by someone who speaks for them, controls conversations, or refuses to leave them alone. Many show signs of physical abuse, malnourishment, exhaustion, fearfulness, or



From the Office of Safe Environment

By Kecia Coco, Director of Safe Environment

Educate to end exploitation and human trafficking

drug dependency. Some appear confused, unsure of where they are, what city they are in, or even what date it is. Victims frequently avoid eye contact, appear timid or anxious, and may seem terrified of making mistakes.

Another common warning sign involves tattoos or branding marks used by traffickers to claim ownership. These may include words such as "Daddy," "Property Of," money symbols, crowns, barcodes (that are scanned to purchase the victims), or other markings associated with control and exploitation.

Communities should also remain alert to suspicious environments. Homes or buildings

connected to trafficking activity may have extreme privacy measures, excessive security cameras, blocked rear entrances, heavy foot traffic at unusual hours, or visible drug activity. These locations are often intentionally isolated to conceal criminal behavior.

Parents and guardians should pay close attention to sudden behavioral changes in teenagers, especially extreme secrecy, withdrawal from family and friends, unexplained gifts or money, new older acquaintances, changes in appearance, or excessive attachment to social media relationships. Open communication and education

about online safety are critical in protecting children from predators.

Human trafficking exists in communities of every size, including villages, rural towns and small cities. Prevention begins with awareness. By educating ourselves and speaking up when something seems wrong, we can help end exploitation and protect the most vulnerable among us.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE 1-888-373-7888 OR TEXT "BE FREE" 233 733

*Kecia Coco, Director of Safe Environment, Diocese of Alexandria, LA
 (318) 445-6424 ~ Ext. 213
 kcoco@diocesealex.org*

St. John Chapel perseveres after total loss of church building

Three days after their church in Columbia, Louisiana was burned on March 2 in a suspected arson attack, Father Robert Johnson gathered a few miles away with approximately 35 parishioners of St. John Chapel to celebrate the Mass of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord in a space graciously offered by the local hospital.

Not long after that, an opportunity was presented to use a property that was the location of the original church! It is not the original church building but a new building built on the same site! The first time a fire destroyed St. John Chapel was Christmas Eve, 1988. That building had been in use since the establishment of the mission in 1954.

A NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION. Parishioners attend Mass on Sunday, April 19 in a building built on the site of the first church that was lost in fire back in 1988.



HELP COMES FROM ACROSS THE STATE. The men of Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Mandeville, LA, made a \$1,000 donation to the rebuilding of St. John Chapel in Columbia, LA. Representing the parish is parishioner Brad Johnson, pictured with Bishop Robert Marshall. The collection was led by Deacon Eaddy Beckendorf.



Diocese of Alexandria Website
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As the United States of America commemorates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the bishops of the United States will consecrate the country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All Catholics are encouraged to join the bishops in praying for the unity and healing of our country.

In conjunction with the USCCB initiative, the Diocese of Alexandria will be promoting 250 Hours of Adoration throughout the diocese during the month of July. More information will be forthcoming

on the Diocese of Alexandria website

(www.diocesealex.org) and on the Diocese of Alexandria Facebook page. If you'd like to be informed, please send an email to

swest@diocesealex.org to get on the email list.

Please include your full name, mailing address, phone number and any other email addresses you'd like added in your name.

Join the email list!

Pope Leo XIV urges confirmation candidates to ask Holy Spirit for gift of perseverance

By Courtney Mares
Our Sunday Visitor

(VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV has encouraged young Catholics preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation to ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of perseverance, warning that too many young people “disappear from the parish” after receiving the sacrament.

Speaking off the cuff to roughly 1,000 young pilgrims from the northern Italian Archdiocese of Genoa May 16, the pope said that the fullness of the Holy Spirit received at confirmation provides the strength “to live our faith in a world that so often seeks to lead us away from Jesus.”

“It is beautiful to receive this Sacrament, because the fullness of the Holy Spirit gives us this enthusiasm, this strength, this ability to follow Jesus Christ, to say ‘Yes’ to the Lord always, to have no fear of following Him courageously,” the pope said in the Vatican’s Hall of Blessings.

A bishop’s joy that has a ‘sad’ aspect

Pope Leo added that conferring confirmation is one of the greatest joys of a bishop’s ministry, but acknowledged that “there is another aspect that is rather sad.”

“Sometimes, when the bishop confers Confirmation — the gift of the Holy Spirit — you never see the young people again,” Pope Leo said. “They disappear from the parish.”

The pope urged the confirmation candidates to pray to the Holy Spirit for perseverance, encouraging each of them to make a personal commitment to persevere in following Christ after receiving the sacrament.

“It is so important that each of you also makes this commitment, this promise to the Lord: that you truly wish to continue as His friends, His disciples, His missionaries, and that you wish to persevere in the faith,” the pope said.

Sacraments of Christian initiation

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that confirmation, together with baptism and the Eucharist, constitutes the sacraments of Christian initiation, and that its reception is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.

Pope Leo encouraged the confirmandi to return to their parishes, participate in community life and hold fast to the joy that they experienced during their preparation for the sacrament and their pilgrimage to Rome.

“May this joy live in your

hearts and may you continue to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,” he said. “May you persevere in the faith.”

“Jesus Christ wants to walk with you, with each one of you, and with all of you in community, which is so important,” the pope said.

A deepening baptismal grace

The Church teaches that confirmation provides a deepening baptismal grace, uniting the faithful more firmly to Christ, increasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and giving a special strength to spread and defend the faith

“We do not live our faith alone; we live it together,” Pope Leo said. “And forming these bonds of friendship and community is a way of living out perseverance as disciples of Jesus.”

Speaking ahead of the feast of Pentecost, which falls on May 24, the pope recalled the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the first apostles, who went on to “proclaim the Gospel, to proclaim the love of God.”

He told the candidates for confirmation, “You will all take part in this mission, because we are all sent: to your families, to your friends, to all people. And you must be a living witness to the Spirit who dwells in us.”

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(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.

Priest Assignments

The Most Reverend Robert W. Marshall, Jr., Bishop of Alexandria, has made the following priest appointments, with three set to retire, all to be effective on July 1, 2026.



Father Joshua Burch
Pastoral Administrator
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Vidalia



Father Wade DeCoste
Pastor, St. Joseph Church
and Holy Ghost Church,
Marksville and St. Genevieve
Church, Brouillette



Father Dwight deJesus
Pastor, St. Francis de Sales
Church, Echo and Our Lady
of Lourdes Church, Fifth
Ward



Father Joseph Desimone
Parochial Vicar
St. Rita Church
Alexandria



Father Anthony Dharmaraj, MSFS
Pastor, St. Rita Church,
Alexandria and St. Margaret
Church, Boyce



Father Peter Faulk
Pastor, St. Juliana Church
Alexandria and Judicial Vicar
for the Diocese of Alexandria



Monsignor James Ferguson
Retiring from parish ministry.
Remains Defender of the
Bond for the Diocesan
Tribunal



Father Thomas Kennedy
Pastoral Administrator
Christ the King Church,
Simmesport, St. Peter
Church, Bordelonville and St.
Michael Church, Rexmere



Father Peter Kuligowski
Retiring from active ministry



Father Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS
Parochial Vicar, Mater
Dolorosa Church,
Plaucheville and Immaculate
Conception Church, Dupont



Father Donald Kuzma
Parochial Vicar, Our Lady
of Prompt Succor Church,
Alexandria and Assistant
Director of Vocations for the
Diocese of Alexandria



Father Luke LaFleur
Relieved of St. Juliana
Church, Alexandria, remains
Chaplain of Holy Savior
Menard and Director of
Vocations for the Diocese.



Father Martin Laird
Pastor, Mater Dolorosa
Church, Plaucheville and
Immaculate Conception
Church, Dupont



Father Kenneth Michiels
Pastor, St. Alphonsus
Church, Hessmer and St.
Martin of Tours Church,
Belledeau



Father Marc Noel
Pastor, Our Lady of
Guadalupe Church, Forest
Hill. Relieved of St. Martin
Church, Lecompte



Father Kenneth Obiekwe
Pastor of St. Joseph
Church, St. Joseph, LA and
St. Francis of Assisi Church,
Waterproof



Father Daniel O'Connor
Rector
St. Francis Xavier Cathedral
Alexandria



Father Abraham Palakkattuchira
Parochial Vicar, St.
Joseph and Holy Ghost
Churches Marksville and St.
Genevieve, Brouillette



Father Chad Partain
Pastor, St. Martin Church,
Lecompte and St. Joseph
Church, Cheneyville



Father Taylor Reynolds
Pastor, St. Frances Cabrini
Church, Alexandria



Father Joseph Xavier
Parochial Vicar, St. Anthony
of Padua Church, Bunkie



Father Abraham Varghese
Parochial Vicar, Sacred
Heart Church and Our
Lady of Sorrows Church,
Moreauville



Father Kurian Zachariah
Retiring from parish ministry

They Were There for Us – Now We Are There for Them

by **Deacon Richard Mitchell**
*Director of Stewardship
 and Development*

If you have been Catholic for any length of time, you likely have meaningful stories that include your parish priest. These are stories woven into the most important moments of our lives — moments of joy, sorrow, healing, and hope. Priests are often present in ways both visible and unseen, quietly accompanying us through life's journey while expecting little in return.

Many of us remember the priest who baptized our children or welcomed a new member into the Catholic faith through the Sacrament of Baptism. We remember priests who patiently prepared children for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, helping young hearts encounter Jesus in the Eucharist for the very first time. We remember the priest who stood beside us on our wedding day, blessing our marriage and praying that Christ would remain at the center of our family life.

For many Catholics, some of the most powerful memories involve moments of mercy and healing. We remember priests who sat patiently in the confessional, listening with compassion and offering the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. At times when we felt burdened by sin, discouraged, or lost,



priests reminded us that God's mercy is greater than our failures. Through their ministry, countless people have experienced spiritual healing and renewal.

There are also moments when priests arrive quietly during life's darkest hours. Families remember priests who rushed to hospitals at a moment's notice — sometimes late at night or in the early hours of the morning — to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. In moments filled with fear, uncertainty, or grief, priests bring the comforting presence of Christ. Their prayers, compassion, and sacramental ministry offer peace not only to the sick but also to anxious family members gathered nearby.

We remember priests who walked with families through the pain of losing a loved one. At

funerals and gravesides, priests help us entrust those we love to God's mercy while reminding us of the promise of eternal life. Their words often provide strength during moments when words are otherwise hard to find.

Sometimes the impact of a priest comes through something seemingly simple — a homily preached on an ordinary Sunday that spoke directly to a struggle we were facing. Many Catholics can recall hearing a message that felt as though it had been prepared specifically for them at exactly the right moment. Through prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, priests help bring God's Word into our daily lives.

These holy men dedicate their lives to serving God and His Church. Their ministry is not simply a profession or

occupation. It is a vocation — a calling rooted in love, sacrifice, and faithful service. Unlike many professions that charge by the hour or by the task, priests offer life-giving ministry freely and generously. They celebrate Masses, hear confessions, visit the sick, counsel families, teach the faith, and accompany parishioners through every season of life, often without recognition and frequently at personal sacrifice.

The priesthood is not limited to office hours. Priests are called to serve whenever they are needed — during holidays, weekends, family emergencies, and community tragedies. While many people spend retirement years focusing primarily on themselves and their families, priests often spend their entire adult lives focused on the spiritual needs of others.

For this reason, the faithful of the Diocese of Alexandria are invited to remember and support the priests who have faithfully cared for us over the years. Through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we have an opportunity to give back to those who have given so much.

Retired priests continue to need assistance with healthcare, medications, housing, and daily living expenses. Many of these priests served for decades in parishes throughout our diocese, dedicating their energy and lives to building up the Church

and strengthening the faith of countless families. Even in retirement, many continue to pray daily for the people they once served and assist in ministry whenever their health allows.

Supporting retired priests is more than a financial responsibility — it is an act of gratitude and stewardship. It reflects the love and unity of our diocesan family. As Catholics, we believe in caring for those who have cared for us spiritually. The priests who celebrated our sacraments, comforted us in suffering, and guided us closer to Christ should never be forgotten once they reach retirement age.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal helps ensure that our retired priests can live with dignity, security, and proper care. Every contribution, regardless of size, becomes a tangible expression of appreciation for years of faithful ministry. It is an opportunity to say "thank you" in a meaningful and lasting way.

When we support retired priests, we honor a lifetime of service. We recognize the countless hidden sacrifices made by men who answered God's call and devoted themselves to the people of the Diocese of Alexandria. We also set an example for future generations by showing that the Church remembers and cares for her shepherds.

The priests who served us throughout our lives were present during some of our most sacred and vulnerable moments. They celebrated with us during times of joy and stood beside us during times of sorrow. They prayed for us, encouraged us, challenged us, and helped lead us closer to Christ.

Now, through the Annual Diocesan Appeal, we have the opportunity to be there for them. To donate, please visit the Diocese of Alexandria website (diocesealex.org) and click the "Donate" button.

They were there for us. Now we are there for them!

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June 7
SOLEMNITY of the
MOST HOLY BODY and
BLOOD of CHRIST
(Corpus Christi)



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, COLFAX. On Saturday, April 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Easter with the community of St. Joseph Church in Colfax. Mass was actually celebrated in the parish hall because there are structural issues with their historic worship space. The wood frame church building was originally built in the 1890s on First Street in Colfax. When the levee was moved or expanded, the structure was physically moved a few blocks over. Later the building was turned to face Third Street. As you can imagine, the relocations and the renovations of the structure over the years have taken their toll. The pastor and parishioners are evaluating options. In the meantime, they have set up a very nice temporary worship space. Thank you to Father John Brocato, Deacon EJ Barre, and the parishioners for their welcome and for a tour of the facility.



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM. The Southeastern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual meeting in Montgomery, Alabama, April 16-19. Representing the Diocese of Alexandria were Knights Dennie Williams and Karl Morley, along with Dames Patti Williams and Paula Morley. During the gathering, Dennie Williams was promoted to Knight Commander with Star and Patti Williams was promoted to Dame Commander with Star. Left to right, Knight Karl Morley, Dame Paula Morley, Dame Patti Williams, Knight Dennie Williams.

THE WOMEN'S SILENT RETREAT held at Maryhill on April 24-26 was a weekend filled with heartfelt and enlightening talks from presenter Becky Eldredge. It was a relaxing weekend for retreatants to be able to listen, rest, and reflect on their faith and spiritual journey. Reflecting on the weekend's theme of Hope, those who attended the retreat can truly answer 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,"



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CATHEDRAL ADULT ALTAR SERVERS DINNER. On Saturday, May 2, Deacon Richard Mitchell and his wife, Nicole, hosted a dinner at their home for the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral altar servers and their wives. Also in attendance were Bishop Robert Marshall, Msgr. James Ferguson and Deacon Jason Lavergne and his wife, Angela.

Seminarian Burses

April 2026 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217	\$25.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Siltan Innerarity	\$25.00
Father Martin Laird White Burse	
Catholic Daughters of America	
Court Bishop Greco #2072	\$50.00
Bishop Charles P. Greco Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Wade DeCoste Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Daniel O'Connor Burse	
Mr. Vince Aymond	\$50.00
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse	
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ferguson	\$500.00
Monsignor James Ferguson Burse	
Total	\$750.00

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--- Very Reverend M. Craig Scott, Chairman

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the Lord,
Jerusalem*

Psalm 147: 12
Responsorial Psalm
for June 7
The Solemnity of the
Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ

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Men's ACTS Retreat
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Alexandria

July 9-12
Teen ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Mary's
Assumption Church,
Cottonport

All retreats are held at
Maryhill Renewal Center.

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.



CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MISSION CHURCH, FOREST HILL. On Thursday, April 23, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Forest Hill. Fifteen young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Marc Noel, the catechists (also in the photo), Deacon Richard Mitchell (who took the photo), the parents, sponsors, and parishioners for their prayers and support of these Confirmandi.

Confirmation



CONFIRMATION, HOLY CROSS CHURCH, NATCHITOCHE. On Friday, May 1, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Holy Cross Church. Six young disciples were confirmed. They are all students at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, and many come from outside of the area. Thank you to Father Jose Pallipurath, the catechists, sponsors, parents and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, MINOR BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. On Thursday, April 30, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. Sixteen young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Irion St. Romain, Father Louis Sklar, Deacon Chad Thibodaux, the catechists, parents, sponsors and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARTIN CHURCH, LECOMPTE. On Wednesday, April 29, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Martin Church in Lecompte. Five young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Fr. Marc Noel, Dcn. Paul Sunderhaus, the catechists, parents, sponsors, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. EDWARD MISSION CHURCH, FISHVILLE. On Saturday, April 26, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Edward Church in Fishville. Seven disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Daniel Hart, Deacons Lee Moreau, Mike Miller, and the catechists, parents, sponsors and parishioners who have encouraged and supported these Confirmandi.

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

CONFIRMATION, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. On Monday, May 4, Bishop Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. Thirty-four young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father Rusty Rabalais, Father Thomas Kennedy, Father Luke LaFleur, Deacon Les Glankler, Deacon Richard Mitchell, the catechists (small group leaders), sponsors, parents, and parishioners for their support of these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, NATCHITOCHES. On Sunday, May 3, Bishop Marshall celebrated the Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Easter and the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Natchitoches. Six young disciples were confirmed. Thank you to Father John O'Brien, Deacon Steven Newbury, the parents, sponsors, catechists and parishioners for their prayers and support for these Confirmandi.



CONFIRMATION, ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT. On Thursday, May 7, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated a Confirmation Mass at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Cottonport. Twenty-two young disciples from St. Mary's and from St. Paul the Apostle and Our Lady of Prompt Succor Churches in Mansura were confirmed. Thank you to Father Charles Ray, Father Blake Deshautelle, the catechists, sponsors, parents, and parishioners of all three parishes who supported these Confirmandi.

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Psalm 100: 3
Responsorial Psalm
for June 14
Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

First Holy Communion



OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, FIFTH WARD. On Sunday, April 12, five youths from Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Fifth Ward received the sacrament of First Communion. Officiating the mass were Fr. Kenneth Obiekwe and Deacon Darrell Dubroc.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, DEVILLE. First Holy Communion at St. John was held on Sunday April 12.



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, TIOGA. First Holy Communion Mass was celebrated Sunday, April 12th. Pictured with Fr. Rick Gremillion, pastor, First Communicants Evan [redacted] and Kristian [redacted].



ST. JAMES MEMORIAL CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. Kamilah [redacted], Teigan [redacted], Zuri [redacted], Kyzer [redacted], Erin [redacted], and Khaiden [redacted] received the sacrament of First Holy Communion from Fr. Phil Michiels.



ST. MARY'S ASSUMPTION CHURCH, COTTONPORT First Communion Mass was celebrated on Sunday, May 3. The First Communicants are pictured with pastor, Fr. Charlie Ray.



ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH, ISLE BREVELLE. First Communion was held on April 26. [redacted]



ST. JULIANA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. First Communion Mass was held on May 3. First Communicants are pictured with pastor, Fr. Luke LaFleur.



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA. Harper [redacted], August [redacted] and Jack [redacted] recieved their First Holy Communion April 19.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL. Samuel [redacted], Toby [redacted], Anna [redacted], Maverick [redacted], Elina [redacted], Msgr. James Ferguson.



(left) **ST. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH, KOLIN.** First Communion Mass was held Sunday, April 12. Pictured with teachers, Deacon Greg LeBlanc and pastor, Fr. Bino Jacob.



(right) **ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, ECHO.** Congratulations to the eight children of our parish who received the Sacraments of Reconciliation on Saturday, April 25, and their First Holy Communion on Sunday, April 26.



(left) **ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA.** The First Communicants who made their First Communion last Saturday, April 18. Pictured with Dcn. Kenny Sayes, pastor, Fr. Anthony Dharmaraj and Fr. Joseph Xavier.



(right) **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH, BUNKIE.** First Communion was held on Divine Mercy Sunday. The 11 First Communicants are pictured with pastor, Msgr. Scott Chemino.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA. First Holy Communion was held Sunday, April 19. Fourteen First Communicants are pictured with pastor, Fr. Chad Partain.



SACRED HEART CHURCH, MOREAUVILLE. First Holy Communion Saturday, April 25 at 10:00 AM Sacred Heart School students and Sacred Heart Church CCD students



ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH, HESSMER. On Saturday April, 18, eleven children made their First Holy Communion. Pictured with Fr. Kenneth Michiels and Teacher Anita Galland. Altar servers were Paisley [redacted], Annie [redacted] and Olivia [redacted].



MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION. On May 8, the ladies of St. Francis de Sales (Echo), Our Lady of Lourdes (Fifth Ward), and St. Martin of Tours (Belledeau) came together for a Mother's Day Luncheon.

**Virtus Training
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Detailed information about how to register for an online training session is available on the Safe Environment webpage on the Diocese of Alexandria website: diocesealex.org/our-diocese/safe-environment/ For more information, contact Kecia Coco, Director of the Safe Environment program, kcoco@diocesealex.org.

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION THIS HURRICANE SEASON

O God, Master of this passing world,
hear the humble voices of your children.
The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.
You are still the Master of land and sea.
We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control;
the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant,
can awake from its seeming lethargy,
overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land,
and spread chaos and disaster.
During this hurricane season, we turn to You, O loving Father.
Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid,
and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother,
we ask you to plead with your Son of our behalf
so that spared from the calamities common to this area
and animated with a true spirit of gratitude,
we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son
to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.
Amen.

*Composed by Most Rev. Maurice Schexnayder (1985 - 1981)
Second Bishop of Lafayette (1956 - 1973),
following Hurricane Audrey in 1957*



**Position Available
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Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is seeking a seasoned, strategic Director of Operations to lead the daily processes, infrastructure, and administrative functions of our organization.

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- **Financial Literacy Budget Class**
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- **Assist.Educate.Elevate.**
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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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CLOSED TUESDAYS

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

Dinner: Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. • Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Scholarship Program for Diocese Catholic High Schools and Seminarians Announces Winners For the 2026 School Year

The Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana announced today that the 2026 winners of the Kelley & Scott College Scholarships are Christopher Majica, a senior at Holy Savior Menard in Alexandria, LA, and Graham Descant, a seminarian who is currently enrolled in the Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Each individual will receive \$1,500 each year for four years, or while they are enrolled in college or the seminary.

In November 2025, The Church Today reported the funding of two scholarships to honor Herman and Genevieve Goudeau Kelley of Bunkie, LA and Eugene and Shirley Ackel Scott of Natchitoches, LA, for the primary and secondary Catholic education they provided their respective children, Kirk, Clay and Keith Kelley and Sadie, Whit and Craig Scott.

The scholarships were established to recognize the impact the Kelley and Scott parents had on the upbringing, education and subsequent careers of their children. In keeping with their parents legacy and recognizing the value of a Catholic education, the scholarships will offer assistance to students who have financial need and possess the drive and



determination to further their education. These scholarships will provide partial assistance to students as they pursue their dream of obtaining a college degree or priesthood spiritual development.

The Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana, Inc. of Alexandria, LA, will administer the scholarships on behalf of the Kelley and Scott families.

“On behalf of the Kelley and Scott families, we are pleased to announce the first two scholarship

awards today to Christopher Majica and Graham Descant,” said Kirk Kelley.

“Despite this being the first year of our scholarship program, we received a robust number of applications from a broad array of Diocese students enrolled in the Catholic high schools. We strongly support His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, who recently said, Catholic education isn’t measured in efficiencies or output but rather “in dignity, justice and the capacity

to serve the common good”. Our commitment today fully supports the Diocese of Alexandria, the stewardship of Bishop Marshall, the clergy, teachers and lay people.”

The Catholic Foundation of North-Central Louisiana was formed for a two-fold purpose:

1. To conduct programs designed to share opportunities for planned giving that benefit Catholic causes and entities within the Diocese of Alexandria; and,

2. To administer those gifts under the terms of their specified purposes.

By definition, planned giving is the gift of cash, stocks, bonds, insurance policies, real estate and other assets of the donor, rather than giving from current income. These gifts are conveyed to the Foundation for the benefit of the Catholic entity or cause specified by the donor, and can be made directly at any time or through specific bequests in a donor’s will.

The Foundation is excited to assist the Kelley & Scott families in the administration of the scholarships to these worthy students.

Mr. Kelley further stated that the commitment to this effort today totals \$36,000, whereby two, \$1,500 scholarship awards will be made each year for four years, or \$12,000 per year. The term of the Kelley & Scott College Scholarship program will initially be three years and may be renewed or extended based on the ultimate success of the program.

- One \$1,500 annual scholarship, or \$6,000 over four years, will be awarded to a graduating high school senior from a Diocese of Alexandria catholic high school that has applied or is enrolled full-time in either Louisiana State University in Alexandria, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA, Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA, or Louisiana Tech in Ruston, LA.

- One \$1,500 annual stipend, or \$6,000 over four years, to either a seminary candidate from the Diocese of Alexandria currently enrolled in either St. Joseph Seminary College in Saint Benedict, LA or Notre Dame Seminary College in New Orleans, LA, or a retired priest from the Diocese of Alexandria.

The program will begin accepting applications for the 2027 awards beginning on December 15, 2026 and will be posted to the websites of the Diocese of Alexandria and the Diocese high schools (Holy Savior Menard Central High School, St. Mary’s School and St. Joseph School). Awards will be announced by May 1, 2027. Please contact the Catholic Foundation if you have any questions.

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PUBLISHED ARTICLES: “The Worn-Out Worker Rule Revisited”, “Significant Work-Related Limitations of Function under SS 12.05C”, “Questionable Retirement and the Small Business Owner”, “Crisis of Confidence: The Inadequacies of Vocational Evidence Presented at Social Security Hearings”, “An Unsolved Mess: Analyzing the Social Security Administration’s Methodology for Identifying Occupations and Job Numbers”.

(318)717-1995



MAY CROWNING, CHENEYVILLE. Peyton [redacted] crowning The Blessed Mother Mary at St. Joseph Church in Cheneyville.



MAY CROWNING ST FRANCES CABRINI CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHEDRAL, ALEXANDRIA. May Crowning was held Sunday, May 3, Msgr. James Ferguson and the CCD Students.



MAY CROWNING AT ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL. Today we gathered in faith and reverence to honor our Blessed Mother during our May Crowning. We are especially proud of seniors Ali [redacted] and Nicholas [redacted], who had the honor of crowning Mary—a beautiful reflection of their leadership and faith as they near the end of their time at St. Joseph.

*Lord,
in your
great love,
answer me.*

Psalm 69: 14
Responsorial Psalm
for June 21
Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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



MAY CROWNING SACRED HEART CHURCH AND SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE.



FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES MAY CROWNING. Flores De Mayo, a spiritual and cultural practice of Filipinos honoring Mary, the Blessed Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, was celebrated at St. Frances Cabrini Church on May 2 with Father Dwight de Jesus.

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ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH, ECHO. The Heart of May Crowning. May Crowning is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs in May, the month dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It serves as a public recognition of Mary's role as the "Queen of Heaven" and the Mother of God. The most heartwarming aspect of this tradition is the involvement of children. Today, Kenzi [redacted] crowned Mary, assisted by Arianna [redacted].



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, ST. JOSEPH, LA. Maggie Anne [redacted] making her Baptism and Confirmation by Father Taylor Reynolds on April 19 at St Joseph Church, St. Joseph, LA.

The Abortion Pill is Harmful to Women

Mifepristone is 22x more dangerous than abortion advocates proclaim

The Pill Causes:

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*Forever,
 I will
 sing the
 goodness
 of the Lord.*
 Psalm 89: 2
 Responsorial Psalm
 for June 28
 Thirteenth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time



ST. JOE LADY EAGLES CLINCH DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP. The Lady Eagles secured the District Championship tonight with an impressive 12-4 victory over the Plainview Lady Hornets! Congratulations to our athletes and coaches for their hard work, determination, and Eagle pride all season long. Your dedication continues to make St. Joseph School proud!



NSU CAMPUS MINISTRY. Holy Cross Church in Natchitoches is the home of Catholic Campus Ministry for Northwestern State University. On Friday, May 1, Bishop Robert Marhsall joined an "Upper Room" gathering of those students who have been regularly participating in prayer and ministry together. In particular, the night focused on celebrating the graduating seniors. Bishop said it was a great pleasure to visit with them and to see the vibrancy of faith among the young in our midst.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CYLA AWARD. Maurice Mayeux, Grand Knight of Sacred Heart Church Knights of Columbus council presents \$750 check to Allison [redacted] of Avoyelles High School and daughter of John and Christine [redacted] of Moreauville, Fr. Brian Seiler, Pastor.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL STUDENTS PLACE IN THE LA STATE SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR. The following students placed in the 2026 State Social Studies Fair held on May 5 in Lake Charles: Emmalyn Brooks - Geography Division II - 4th place; Carmen Robichaux - Political Science Division I - 3rd place; Belle Paulk - Sociology - Division I - 3rd place.



BASKETBALL JUNE 2-5 • 8:30am - 11:30am boys & girls • ages 6-13	\$125 includes t-shirt
BASEBALL JUNE 8-12 • 8:00am - 12:00pm boys • ages 6-14	\$150
SOFTBALL JUNE 8-12 • 8:00am - 12:00pm girls • ages 6-14	\$150
ROBOTICS JUNE 9-12 • 9:00 am - 12:00pm limited to 10 spaces • boys & girls • 3rd-6 th graders	\$150
SOCCER JUNE 22-24 • 8:00am - 12:00pm boys & girls • ages 6-14	\$125
MATH JULY 6-10 • 8:00am - 11:00am incoming 7 th graders	\$125



FOR MORE INFO
SCAN ME!
& TO REGISTER



Steubenville South to host free Rally day for Ministry Leaders

For many adults involved in ministry today, the challenges can feel heavier than ever.

Teens are carrying anxiety, loneliness, and confusion. Parish leaders are balancing full schedules, limited resources, and the quiet pressure to somehow “have all the answers.” In the middle of it all, many ministers — whether volunteer or full-time — are simply trying to remain faithful.

That is exactly why Steubenville South is hosting Rally Day on Saturday, August 1 at Maryhill Retreat Center.

Offered completely free of charge, Rally Day is designed

for anyone involved in ministry: youth ministers, catechists, volunteers, priests, deacons, campus ministers, Confirmation leaders, and parish staff members alike. While there is no cost to attend, participants are asked to pre-register in advance.

This year’s keynote speaker is nationally known Catholic speaker and author Mark Hart, whose humor, honesty, and deep love for Scripture have impacted countless ministry leaders and families across the country.

Throughout the day, Mark will lead three main sessions centered around the themes “Remember,” “Reclaim,” and “Re-engage”



connected to parish life after high school.

The goal is not simply inspiration for a day.

The goal is for participants to walk away with practical next steps and tools they can begin using immediately in their parishes, schools, and ministries.

Mass, prayer, fellowship, and guided planning time will also be part of the experience, creating space not only to learn, but to be spiritually renewed alongside others serving the Church.

In many ways, Rally Day is rooted in a simple reminder: no one is meant to carry ministry alone.

Whether someone has served in ministry for decades or is just beginning to say “yes” to helping with youth or catechesis, this day is intended to encourage, equip, and strengthen those who continue showing up to serve the people of God.

Registration is now open at steubenvillesouth.com/register.

For questions or additional information, contact hello@steubenvillesouth.com.



LOVE

by Marcus Descant

The Most Sacred Heart, our Lord above,
 Appeared to St. Margaret Mary, asking for love.
 He opened His arms and showed His Heart;
 He willingly forgave, giving us a new start.
 The Thorns in His Heart hurt Him so much,
 All He wants from us is to keep in touch.
 The rays from His Heart spread far and wide,
 He loves us so much, He’s bursting inside.
 The wound in His side was really sore;
 The Blood and Water opened the door.
 The Cross above is a sign of our fate;
 Without the Cross it would have been too late.
 If we heed these signs and symbols of love,
 One day we will be with Him
 in heaven above.

Amen.

To order a prayer card, send a request to:

lizdescant@gmail.com

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— helping participants step away from pressure and return to the heart of ministry: trusting God, remembering their identity in Christ, and accompanying others with peace rather than performance.

In addition to the keynote sessions, Rally Day will include

practical workshops focused on real-life ministry needs. Topics include leading effective small groups, responding when a teen is in crisis, building intercessory prayer teams, preventing burnout in ministry leadership, planning a healthy ministry calendar, and helping graduating seniors remain

Campus Ministry:

LSU of Alexandria:

LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @Isuacatholics

Northwestern State University:

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

Louisiana Christian University:

LCU Catholic Student Org: “Wildcat Catholics” 318-447-2956. Follow us on Instagram @wildcatcatholics



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 - June 13

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.

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.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

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, or to volunteer. Contact your youth minister or church office to register or learn more.

Steubenville South Rally day for Ministry Leaders - August 1

Steubenville South invites all priests, deacons, catechists, youth ministers, volunteers, and adults involved in ministry to Rally day on Saturday, August 1, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., at Maryhill Retreat Center. Featuring keynote speaker Mark Hart, practical workshops, Mass, and fellowship. Ministry leaders are invited to attend free, but pre-registration is required. Visit steubenvillesouth.com/register to register, or email hello@steubenvillesouth.com for more information.

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.

Holy Savior Menard Summer Camps - June 2 through July 10

Basketball: June 2-5, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. for boys and girls ages 6-13. Cost: \$125 includes t-shirt

Baseball: June 8-12, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for boys ages 6-14. Cost: \$150

Softball: June 8-12, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for girls ages 6-14. Cost: \$150

Robotics: June 9-12, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. limited to 10 students, for boys and girls 3rd-6th grade. Cost: \$150

Soccer: June 22-24, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. for boys and girls ages 6-14. Cost: \$125

Math: July 6-10, 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. for incoming 7th graders. Cost: \$125

To register please visit: <https://www.holysaviormenard.com/eagle-summer-camp>

Vacation Bible School!

- June 8-12: St Rita Church, Alexandria

This year's theme is "Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God" and takes place June 8-12, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For ages 4 - 5th Grade. Cost is \$25 per child. Deadline to register is May 30 at www.strita.org

- June 15-19: St. Joseph Church, Marksville

St. Joseph Church, Marksville will hold its VBS on June 15-19 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. This year's theme is: "Discovery Mission Vocation Bible School."

- July 6-9: St. Anthony of Padua Church, Bunkie

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 Kindergarten to 11 going into the 6th Grade. No charge.

- July 6-10: Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pineville

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Pineville will have their Vacation Bible School on July 6-10 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Activities Building. This year's theme will be "Rome - Paul and the Underground Church."

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Church Today News Deadlines

June 22
Deadline for news:
Thursday, June 11

July 27
Deadline for news:
Thursday, July 16



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June 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>JUNE 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP</p>	<p>4</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 MSGR. J. FERGUSON</p>	<p>5</p> <p>FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD</p>	<p>6</p> <p>FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER</p>	<p>7</p> <p>SOLEMNITY of the MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST (Corpus Christi) PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE</p>
BASKETBALL CAMP 8:30-11:30 A.M. -- HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL						
<p>8</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION</p>	<p>10</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Information Session: Tobacco and Vaping Cessation 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Location: See above</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. HART</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Discalced Carmelites Monthly Meeting 9:00 a.m. Maryhill Renewal Center</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON</p>	<p>14</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. S. JONES</p>
ROBOTICS CAMP 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. -- HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL						
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, ST. RITA CHURCH 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. -- ALEXANDRIA						
BASEBALL & SOFTBALL CAMPS 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. -- HOLY SAVIOR MENARD HIGH SCHOOL						
<p>15</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. T. KENNEDY</p>	<p>16</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KULIGOWSKI</p>	<p>17</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. KUNNUMPURAM</p>	<p>18</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. L. LAFLEUR</p>	<p>19</p> <p>JUNETEENTH PRAY FOR FR. M. LAIRD</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Priest Ordination 10:00 a.m. St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. P. LAPALME</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FATHERS DAY PRAY FOR DCN. J. LAVERGNE</p>
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, ST. JOSEPH CHURCH 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. -- MARKSVILLE						
<p>22</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. G. LEBLANC</p>	<p>23</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. V. MANUEL</p>	<p>24</p> <p>PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL</p>	<p>25</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. RON MATHEWS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. P. MCCUSKER</p>	<p>27</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. D. MEADE</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. L. MELCHER</p>
SOCCER CAMP 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. -- HOLY SAVIOR MENARD			STEUBENVILLE SOUTH YOUTH CONFERENCE - ALEXANDRIA			
<p>29</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. J. MICHALCHUK</p>	<p>30</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. K. MICHIELS</p>	<p>JULY 1</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. R. MITCHELL</p>	<p>2</p> <p>PRAY FOR FR. C. MORGAN</p>	<p>3</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. D. MOREAU</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Happy 250th Birthday USA!</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY PRAY FOR DCN. L. MOREAU</p>	<p>5</p> <p>PRAY FOR DCN. T. MOULARD</p>

2026 Graduates!



2026 GRADUATES OF HOLY SAVIOR MENARD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, ALEXANDRIA. Graduation was held Tuesday, May 12.



ST. JOSEPH HIGH SCHOOL, PLAUCHEVILLE. On Friday, May 15, St. Joseph High School proudly celebrated the graduation of 17 remarkable seniors as they officially became the Class of 2026. As they begin this new chapter, we are reminded of the beautiful promise found in Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." — Jeremiah 29:11



2026 GRADUATES OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN NATCHITOCHE. Graduation was held Sunday, May 10.



SACRED HEART MOREAUVILLE, BACCALAUREATE MASS.



ST. FRANCES CABRINI ALUMNI, ALEXANDRIA. On Friday, May 8, the Cabrini Alumni who are now 2026 graduating seniors, were invited to attend 8:00 a.m. Mass and participate in field day activities.



8TH GRADE GRADUATION, ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. Graduation was held Friday, May 15. Good luck and best wishes for your high school years!



ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES.