CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 11 www.diocesealex.org Serving the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana Since 1970 November 23, 2026

Our Lady of Guadalupe

One Tilma, One Heart:
Walking with Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Footsteps of Saint Juan Diego

"A people whose heart beats, evangelizes and builds hope"
In the context of the Intercontinental Guadalupe Novena 2022-2031

Our Diocese joyfully joins the international initiative: ***One Tilma, One Heart.*** An official replica of the sacred tilma, entrusted through the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and reverently touched to the original tilma preserved in Mexico City, has now been received by Bishop Robert Marshall and is being prayerfully prepared for its pilgrimage throughout the Diocese. This sacred journey is being led under the pastoral guidance of our bishop, who invites the faithful of every parish and community to encounter Christ through the maternal presence of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In the months ahead, the tilma may visit parishes, schools, missions, and communities across the Diocese, bringing a message of faith, hope, and unity. We encourage all to begin preparing now with joyful anticipation. Through holy hours, rosaries, processions, catechetical gatherings, acts of charity, cultural celebrations, and opportunities for evangelization, each community can prepare to welcome Our Lady and participate in this historic pilgrimage.

Read more on pg. 2.



INSIDE

Remembering two lives of faithful service

The Diocese of Alexandria remembers Fr. Craig Scott and Sr. Nell Murray, whose lives of faith and service touched countless hearts. Read more on pages 4 and 5.

A legacy of Second Blessings

As Heidi Wampler prepares for retirement, Catholic Charities celebrates the generosity, volunteers, and spirit of service behind Second Blessings Thrift Store. Read more on pages 12-13.

Take Heart, Be Not Afraid

As young people navigate the challenges of their middle school years, Christ reminds them to take courage and trust in His presence. See page 17 to discover ways we can encourage, equip, and pray for our young disciples.

INDEX

Bishop's column 2
National / World 3
Feature 4
Vocations and Burses 7
Local News 8-9
Picture Spread..... 10-11
Social Ministries 12
Schools / Youth..... 16-17
Diocesan Briefs 18
Calendar 19

CHURCH TODAY

Volume LVII, No. 11
November 23, 2026

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

Publisher:
Most. Rev. Robert Marshall
Publication Manager / Editor:
Cari Terracina, ext. 255,
cterracina@diocesealex.org
Multimedia Manager /
Advertising:
Joan Ferguson, ext. 264;
joanferguson@diocesealex.org
Circulation: Sandi Tarver, ext. 209;
starver@diocesealex.org

The CHURCH TODAY (USPS 393-240) is published by the Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, once a month, free of charge to members of the parishes in the Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana. Out of diocese subscriptions are $20 a year.
The office is located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria, LA 71303.
Periodicals postage paid at Alexandria, LA.
Postmaster:
Send address changes to The CHURCH TODAY, P. O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306
Website: www.diocesealex.org
To receive a free subscription, call 318-445-6424, ext 255 or e-mail starver@diocesealex.org

One Tilma, One Heart

by Jonathan Felix
Director of Hispanic Ministry

In December 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Juan Diego on Tepeyac Hill (Mexico City) and entrusted him with a message of hope for all peoples. As a sign of her presence, she miraculously left her image upon his tilma, a simple cloak woven from cactus fiber. Nearly five centuries later, the Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe remains one of the most beloved treasures of the Catholic faith, drawing millions of pilgrims to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The significance of the tilma extends far beyond its miraculous origin. From the beginning, Our Lady of Guadalupe came to unite her children. At a time marked by division and uncertainty, she revealed herself as a mother for all people. Through her appearance, hearts were transformed, cultures were brought together, and countless men and women discovered their identity as beloved children of God.

Today, that same message continues to resonate throughout the world. In an age that often experiences division, isolation, and uncertainty, Our Lady of Guadalupe remains a powerful sign of unity and hope. She gathers people of every culture, language, and background beneath one mantle and reminds us of who we are and to whom we belong. As our Heavenly Mother, she continually calls her children to come together in the name of her Son, Jesus Christ, and to live as one Church and one family in God.

It is in this spirit that our Diocese joyfully joins the international initiative: ***One Tilma, One Heart***. An official replica of the sacred tilma, entrusted through the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and reverently touched to the original tilma preserved in Mexico City, has now been received by Bishop Robert Marshall and is being prayerfully prepared for its pilgrimage throughout the Diocese. This sacred journey is being led under the pastoral guidance of our bishop, who invites the faithful of every parish and community to encounter Christ through the maternal presence of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



ONE TILMA, ONE HEART. Bishop Robert Marshall and Vicar General, Msgr. Scott Chemino, with the diocese's replica of the tilma. Plans are being made to share the tilma with everyone in the diocese through 2031. More information will be coming next month!

In the months ahead, the tilma may visit parishes, schools, missions, and communities across the Diocese, bringing a message of faith, hope, and unity. We encourage all to begin preparing now with joyful anticipation that the tilma may visit your parish soon. Through holy hours, rosaries, processions, catechetical gatherings, acts of charity, cultural celebrations, and opportunities for evangelization, each community can prepare to welcome Our Lady and participate in this historic pilgrimage.

May every parish that the tilma visits become a new Tepeyac. May every community become a place of encounter where people experience the loving embrace of Our Lady and the saving presence of her Son. As we gather beneath her mantle through One Tilma, One Heart, may we be renewed in our identity as God's children, strengthened in communion with one another, and united as: one Church, one family, and one people of faith. Through the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may our Diocese continue to grow in holiness, unity, and missionary discipleship.

***

En diciembre de 1531, la Santísima Virgen María se apareció a San Juan Diego en el cerro del Tepeyac y le confió un mensaje de esperanza para todos los pueblos. Como señal de su presencia, dejó milagrosamente su imagen en su tilma, una sencilla capa tejida con fibra de maguey. Casi cinco siglos después, la tilma de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe sigue siendo uno de los tesoros más queridos de la fe católica, y atrae a millones de peregrinos a la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en Ciudad de México.

El significado de la tilma va mucho más allá de su origen milagroso. Desde el principio, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe vino a unir a sus hijos. En una época marcada por la división y la incertidumbre, se reveló como madre de todos los pueblos. A través de su aparición, los corazones se transformaron, las culturas se unieron e innumerables hombres y mujeres descubrieron su identidad como hijos amados de Dios. Hoy en día, ese mismo mensaje sigue resonando por todo el mundo. En una época que a menudo se caracteriza por la división, el aislamiento y la incertidumbre, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe sigue siendo un poderoso signo de unidad y esperanza. Ella reúne a personas de todas las culturas, lenguas y orígenes bajo un mismo manto y nos recuerda quiénes somos y a quién pertenecemos. Como nuestra Madre Celestial, llama continuamente a sus hijos a unirse en nombre de su Hijo, Jesucristo, y a vivir como una sola Iglesia y una sola familia en Dios.

Con este espíritu, nuestra diócesis se une con alegría a la iniciativa internacional «Una tilma, un corazón». El Obispo Robert Marshall ha recibido ya una réplica oficial de la tilma sagrada, confiada por la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

Let not your heart be disturbed. … Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.

Feast of
Our Lady
of Guadalupe
December 12

Continued: see TILMA pg 5

Diocese of Alexandria Website
www.diocesealex.org

Diocese of Alexandria Facebook
facebook.com/DioceseofAlexandria

Diocese of Alexandria Instagram
@dioceseofalexandria

‘Vain repetition?’ Nah, the rosary can be endlessly varied

By Elizabeth Scalia
Our Sunday Visitor



There is a quote attributed to Heraclitus which can be paraphrased, “No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man.”

It’s a phrase I recall whenever I hear someone call the rosary a practice of “vain, repetitious prayer” (Mt 6:7). Just as the river is constantly moving and changing, so do our meditations as fingers move to the next bead and the next literally “new” moment.

Our prayer then becomes “new,” too: new breath, new mystery, new errant distractions, new earnest intentions remembered — they all arise and flow like water at the narrowing banks as we “pray ceaselessly” the entirety of the Gospels before God.

Patience with the rosary

Not everyone loves the rosary, and that’s fine; no one is required to. In “The Story of a Soul,” St. Therese of Lisieux writes, “I feel then that the fervor of my Sisters makes up for my lack of fervor; but when alone … the recitation of the rosary is more difficult for me than the wearing of an instrument of penance.”

Many Catholics can empathize. While I’ve prayed the rosary all my life, it has not always been with patience or a real sense of connection to the mysteries. That has changed thanks to some seemingly minor things that have organically splashed into my little river of prayer, and keep renewing my experience of it.

For instance, after praying the Liturgy of the Hours (LOTH) for decades, it has become habitual to bow while reciting the Doxology. Now, while closing each rosary decade with the “Glory Be,” I will face the East and make a deep bow.

It’s a small thing but adding the physical act of bowing seems to recharge my battery for the next mystery, the next 10-bead meditation.

Again perhaps because of the antiphon-heavy LOTH, I’ve begun prefacing each decade by recalling a brief quote from Scripture. Approaching the Visitation, I might recall Elizabeth’s words, “Whence is this that the mother of my Lord should come unto me?” That minor addition helps my imagination to leap (like John in Elizabeth’s womb) into the heady biblical moment of recognition and wonder before us. I am drawn further into the scene, closer to these two be-graced women; the depth of my prayer follows.

Praying with saints

The communion of saints also plays into my daily rosary, in a way that makes the devotion seem both fast and particularly efficacious. In 2010, when St. Philip Neri was my “patron” for the year, I would ask him to “teach me what you know.” Somehow, that evolved into my inviting him — within that communion — to “pray this rosary with me,” particularly if I was feeling a bit dragged.

I confess to wondering whether my summons was inspired or simply fanciful, but the energy of my prayer was undeniably changed — made lighter yet more devout, in a very Nerian way. Over the years, I have invited many saints and angels and departed holy men and women to pray the rosary with me, to the point where I rarely feel like I am fully alone at prayer.

Sometimes they even urge me on, into reciting another five-decade mystery, all unplanned, for more intentions recalled. Rather than feeling tired, afterward, I am invigorated and spiritually refreshed.

Often, when I am praying a rosary for a specific issue — for a friend’s health concern, perhaps, or someone who I think has wronged me — I will invite their Guardian Angel and my own to pray with me. This can never hurt and, in that second instance, it has the surprising effect of reminding me that we don’t know anyone else’s story; that everyone has something going on that should light our compassion.

Lately I have invited saints from countries experiencing violent and frightening unrest to pray with me — French and German saints, the English martyrs and others.

On the All Souls Day preceding our recent election, I invited all the departed holy men and women through time — hundreds of millions — to pray the rosary with me, if they wished to, for the sake of the whole world. Continent by continent (sometimes nation by nation), I prayed for all of us; I felt very much joined in prayer by something huge, faithful and — dare I say it — ultimately full of joy.

Seated or kneeling, bowing or erect, alone or with the holy multitudes, it is good (and never repetitious) to pray the rosary.

E.L. GREMILLION & SON
Fire Extinguisher Sales & Service
Restaurant Hood Systems Installed
5968 Eddie Williams Ave.
Alexandria, LA 71302
Phone (318) 443-4372
gremillionfire@gmail.com
ELG
Lic #F24

SABINE STATE BANK & Trust Company
Member FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Call your local branch for information.
(318) 256-7000

† 2026 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL
Embracing the Future of Hope
GIVINGTUESDAY
December 1, 2026
In the spirit of Giving Tuesday, we'd like to take this opportunity to suggest an end of the year gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal.
TO MAKE AN ONLINE DONATION PLEASE VISIT:
www.diocesealex.org
or scan the code
Remember, your gift will be used solely for the restricted priorities of the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal and for no other purpose.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:
December 8

Very Reverend Michael Craig Scott passes away after lengthy illness

With profound sadness, we announce the death of our colleague and friend Very Reverend Michael Craig Scott, Vicar General.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Fr. Craig Scott was celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 7, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with Bishop Robert Marshall officiating. Interment was in Catholic Cemetery, Natchitoches, under the direction of Kramer Funeral Home.

Fr. Scott passed from this life on November 4, 2026 at the age of 61.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Shirley and Eugene Scott, Jr.

Fr. Scott was born in Natchitoches on April 12, 1965. Raised in Immaculate Conception Parish, he attended St. Mary's School in Natchitoches and graduated in 1983. He went on to attend Northwestern State University and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1987. He went on to work at NSU in admissions and at the Louisiana School of Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches before entering Notre Dame Seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Alexandria on June 1, 1996.

During his 30 years of ordained ministry, Fr. Craig served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Alexandria and as pastor of Mater Dolorosa Church in Plaucheville, St. Rita's Church in Alexandria and at St. James Memorial Church in Alexandria.



Fr. M. Craig Scott

In addition to his parochial assignments, Fr. Craig also served the diocese as chaplain and president of Holy Savior Menard Central High School, as Chair of the Diocesan Committee on Evangelization, as head of the Office for Life and Justice, as a member of the Presbyteral Council, Vicar for Clergy, member of the Priests' Personnel Advisory Committee, as a member of the College of Consultors, Dean of the Central Deanery, Moderator of the Curia and as Vicar General.

"Father Craig had the heart of a pastor," Alexandria Bishop Robert Marshall observed. "He listened, encouraged, consoled, and inspired his parishioners with his deep faith in Jesus Christ. Indeed, he often gave that same shepherd's care to his brother priests – and a few bishops over the years. He was a pivotal figure of kindness, humor, and unity in our diocese and in the Church. He will be greatly missed."

Fr. Scott is survived by his sister, Sadie Scott Bange (Michael); brother Eugene Whitcomb Scott, III (Kelli); nephew, Zachary Scott; nieces, Alexandra Scott and Kylie Scott (Fahd); and Kirk A. Kelley, a special family friend.

Pallbearers honored to serve were his brother priests.

Memorial donations may be made to Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana: cccenla.org



MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL FOR VERY REV. MICHAEL CRAIG SCOTT. Fr. Craig Scott's brother priests prepare to process out of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at the conclusion of the funeral Mass for Fr. Craig held on Saturady, Nov. 7, 2026.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop
January 12, 2027

Lector Workshop
January 19, 2027

All workshops held at
St. Joseph Catholic Center
4400 Coliseum Blvd.
Alexandria, LA

For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or email dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Petrus
FEED & SEED
2914 N. Bolton Ave. • Alexandria, LA
442-2325

TIRE DESPINO'S SERVICE
visit us at DESPINOTIRE.COM
LIKE US ON facebook

BRIGITTE KELSO INSURANCE, LLC
Brigitte Kelso
Owner/Agent
2918 S. MacArthur Dr.
Alexandria, La. 71301
Phone: 318.448.2226
Fax: 318.448.2280
bkelso@kelsoinsurance.com
Auto, Home, Recreational Vehicles, Collector Cars, Commercial

PEST AID CO.
We Sell Do-It-Yourself Pest Control Supplies
Termites • Ants
Ticks • Roaches
Mice • Fleas
Mosquitoes
COMPLETE TERMITE & PEST CONTROL
6 Month Service Agreements
Home Owned & Operated • Raymond J. Constantino, Sr.
473-0228
1-800-256-0450
2828 Jackson St. • Alexandria, LA
LOUISIANA PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION
NPCA MEMBER

Sister Nell Murray passes away



Sister Nell Murray, MSC

Services were held on Monday, Nov. 2, in the chapel at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home in Opelousas.

Sr. Nell Murray, MSC (AKA, Sr. Philomena) was born September 29, 1933, at Dunmanway, County Cork, Ireland. She died at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home on October 24, 2026.

Sr. Nell entered the Congregation of the Marianites of Holy Cross on November 14, 1952 and pronounced her perpetual vows on August 13, 1957. She received her master's degree in religious education from Loyola University in New Orleans.

She was involved in education at several schools in the New Orleans area and also in Eunice, Morgan City, Plaquemine, Arnaudville, Lake Charles and Opelousas. In 1990, she was recognized as the outstanding principal of the Lafayette Diocese.

Following a call from the Marianites for mission service, she served in education in Dominica, West Indies from 1990-1991. Upon returning from Dominica, she ministered at St. Rita Parish in Alexandria where she served as Director of Religious Education. Following her many years in Alexandria serving in both the school and parish, she moved to Prompt Succor Convent in Opelousas in 2019.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13) was one of her favorite scripture passages. This conviction enabled her to leave her family and homeland of Ireland, to enter a religious congregation in another country, to immerse herself in a new culture, to say "yes" to the guidance and direction of her religious superiors, and to find fulfillment and happiness in vowed religious life.

The Marianites of Holy Cross request that memorial donations be made to the Marianites of Holy Cross at the Congregational Center, 75520 Hwy 1081 Covington, Louisiana, 70435.



ANNUAL WHITE COAT MASS. On Sunday, Oct. 18 we gathered with physicians, nurses, and many other health care professionals for the annual diocesan "White Coat Mass" at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria. The celebration of the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time coincided this year with the Feast of St. Luke, the patron saint of physicians.

TILMA

Continued from pg 2

y tocada con reverencia contra la tilma original que se conserva en Ciudad de México, y se está preparando con espíritu de oración para su peregrinación por toda la diócesis. Este viaje sagrado se lleva a cabo bajo la orientación pastoral de nuestro obispo, quien invita a los fieles de todas las parroquias y comunidades a encontrarse con Cristo a través de la presencia maternal de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

En los próximos meses, la tilma recorrerá parroquias, colegios, misiones y comunidades de toda la diócesis, llevando un mensaje de fe, esperanza y unidad. Animamos a los párrocos, a los responsables parroquiales, a los grupos de ministerio y a las familias a que comiencen a prepararse ya con alegre expectación. A través de horas santas, rosarios, procesiones, encuentros catequéticos, actos de caridad, celebraciones culturales y oportunidades de evangelización, cada comunidad puede prepararse para acoger a Nuestra Señora y participar en esta peregrinación histórica.

Que cada parroquia se convierta en un nuevo Tepeyac. Que cada comunidad se convierta en un lugar de encuentro donde las personas experimenten el abrazo amoroso de Nuestra Señora y la presencia salvadora de su Hijo. Al reunirnos bajo su manto a través de «Una Tilma, un corazón», que seamos renovados en nuestra identidad como hijos de Dios, fortalecidos en la comunión unos con otros y unidos como: una Iglesia, una familia y un pueblo de fe. Por la intercesión maternal de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que nuestra diócesis siga creciendo en santidad, unidad y discipulado misionero.

LEGLUE NISSAN INC.
NEW & USED CARS •
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS
6400 COLISEUM BLVD.
WWW.LEGLUENISSAN.COM
318-767-3300
NISSAN

Lord,
let us see
your kindness,
and grant us
your salvation.
Psalm 85: 8
Responsorial Psalm
for December 6
Second Sunday
of Advent

YOU GET IT ALL AT
SAYES
OFFICE SUPPLY
WWW.SAYESOFFICE.COM
Alexandria: 318.448.4225 • Ville Platte: 337.363.6322 • Toll Free: 800.766.4819
OFFICE SUPPLIES • OFFICE FURNITURE • OFFICE MACHINES
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS • BREAKROOM & FOOD SERVICE SUPPLIES
JANITORIAL SUPPLIES • JANITORIAL EQUIPMENT • PRINTING

Did you know back in the mid 1800s, nuns in France were trained specifically to serve in the Diocese of Alexandria?



Lambezellec and the American Novitiate of the Daughters of the Cross

The northern district of the modern city of Brest in the Finistere department of Brittany, France is composed of a once large rural village named Lambezellec. It was in the village that Mother Hyacinthe, foundress of the Daughters of the Cross in Louisiana, established an American Novitiate to recruit and train religious for service in the schools of north Louisiana. (A novitiate is a house, convent, monastery, or designated residential complex where novices in a religious order live and undergo training.)

The Daughters of the Cross, a religious congregation founded by Mother de Villeneuve and St. Francis de Sales in 1641, were invited by Bishop Auguste Martin, the first bishop of the Diocese of Natchitoches, to establish a school for girls in Avoyelles Parish. Ten religious led by Mother Mary Hyacinthe Le Conniat arrived in Louisiana on November 21st, 1855. They established Presentation Academy in Avoyelles Parish on February 2nd, 1856 with 11 students. The first American postulant, Aimee Vascocu Martin, entered the congregation that same year.

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, the Daughters of the Cross were operating five schools in Marksville, Isle Brevelle, Shreveport and Monroe for 120 students. In 1867, Mother Hyacinthe returned to France to recruit more sisters and to establish a novitiate to train French girls for religious life and service in Louisiana. The American Novitiate was established first at Relecq and then in 1873 at Lambezellec outside to Brest. Under Mother Hyacinthe and then under Sister Anne of Jesus Nicolas, this endeavor was remarkably successful and a large number of French sisters were trained at the Novitiate in Lambezellec to labor in the schools of north/central Louisiana.

From 1873 until it was forced to close by the French Republic in 1902, the American Novitiate formed the religious who would staff over 23 schools in history of the Diocese of Alexandria. They brought a solid grounding in the French School of spirituality that still informs the devotional life of the diocese today. In the words of Roger Baudier, "Catholicism in North Louisiana owes the Daughters of the Cross a debt of gratitude.

History owes it to these noble Religious to record and imperishable their pioneer annals."

LUMBER MILLWORK
Jeansonne's Millworks & Cabinet Shop
* Architectural Millwork
* Custom Cabinets & Moulding
Phone 445-5665 * FAX 445-5276
GUY JEANSONNE
Owner
1843 Sterkx Road
Alexandria, LA 71301



ANNUAL PRIESTS RETREAT AND ROSARY WALK. Every year during the annual priests' retreat at Maryhill, the priests' participate in a Rosary Walk up the hill to the Priests' Cemetery. A single rose is laid on each stone and then all the graves are blessed. This year, Fr. Blake Desautelle, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Mansura, did the blessing. (Photo by Deacon Luke White.)

Virtus Training is now available ONLINE!

Now it is more convenient to become VIRTUS certified!
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.

N|B|A NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION
INJURED?
CALL 318-561-2500
DECADES OF EXPERIENCE READY TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF INJURY AND DEATH CASES
WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM RICHARD J. ARSENAULT ALEXANDRIA, LA LA-25-18559



SEMINARY COME AND SEE WEEKEND. The weekend of Nov. 6-8, Fr. Luke LaFleur and Fr. Donnie Kuzma accompanied seven young men to the Fall Come and See Weekend at St. Joseph Abbey Seminary College near Covington. Over 140 youth and young adults from dioceses across the Southeast had the opportunity to learn more about seminary life, tour the campus, and spend time with seminarians. Please continue to pray for and support priestly and religious vocations for our diocese.

B.K. ROOFING, LLC

Call the Pros!

Residential Roofing Experts

www.bkroofingllc.com

Brian Maddox, Owner
13 years experience
Licensed & insured • References available

"It doesn't cost any more to get it done right!"

Free estimates!
Most estimates in 2 days

Experienced in dealing with Insurance Companies
Let us handle the details!

318-201-9065

17 Glade St. • Pineville, LA 71460

Emergency service available



My soul rejoices in my God.

Isaiah 61: 10
Responsorial Psalm
for December 13
Third Sunday of Advent

The first Sunday of Advent

November 29

Seminarian Burses

October 2026 Donations

Knights of Columbus Council #9217 ..... $25.00
Father Adrian Molenschot Burse
Mr. Vince Aymond $50.00
Father Daniel O'Connor Burse
Mr. Vince Aymond $50.00
Father Rusty Rabalais Burse
Mr. Vince Aymond $50.00
Deacon Ken J. Primeaux Burse
Ms. Kim and Ms. Nancy Fields $100.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse
Ms. Dale Ryland Deloach $150.00
Deacon LG Deloach Burse
Mr. and Mrs. Marion French $200.00
Father Gus Voltz Burse
Drs. Marlon and Nina Holmes $7,000.00
Father Daniel Corkery Burse
Ms. Theresa D. Robichaux $10,000.00
Leonard E. and Marjorie V. Johnson Burse

Total $17,625.00

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:

Chancery Office,
Post Office Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417

Thank you for your generosity!

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.

Making room for him

by Sandra L. Lemoine, Author of "The Woman Underneath" series of devotional books and parishioner of St. Franis Xavier Cathedral



Along the Mississippi River in St. James Parish, families spend the weeks before Christmas building tall wooden pyramids on the levee. On Christmas Eve they light them, and the river glows for miles. The children are told the fires light the way for Papa Noël. The older story says they lit the way for families travelling along the river road to Midnight Mass. Either way, Louisiana has been lighting the way for close to three hundred years. This Advent, the prophet Isaiah asks us to do the same in our own hearts: "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

December fills up fast. There are parties and school programs, gifts to wrap, and family coming in from out of town. The calendar can get so full that the One whose birthday it is ends up with no room at all. This month's readings ask us to clear a space, the way we would clear the guest room before company comes, so that when Christ arrives there is a place ready for Him.

December 6: Clear the Road.

Isaiah describes every valley filled in and every mountain made low, so the King can come. Each of us has something lying in that road: an old grudge, a brother or cousin we haven't spoken to in years, a Confession we keep putting off until after the holidays. St. Peter offers real comfort that same Sunday. The Lord "dealt patiently for your sake, not willing that any should perish." It is not too late to clear the way. On Tuesday, December 8, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. God prepared Mary from her very first moment to make room for His Son.

December 13: Room for Joy

The rose candle is lit, and the Church tells us, "Always rejoice. Pray without ceasing. In all things give thanks." That can be hard to hear for anyone facing a first Christmas without a husband or wife, or with an empty chair at the table. Isaiah says the Lord comes "to heal the contrite of heart." Christian joy is not pretending the grief isn't there. It is trusting that Christ is already with us, just as John the Baptist told the crowds: "There hath stood one in the midst of you, whom you know not."

December 20: A House for God.

King David looked around his fine house of cedar and wanted to build God a house worthy of Him. But God answered that He would build David a house instead: a royal line that would last forever. In Nazareth, that promise came true through a young woman's simple answer: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word." We make room for God the way Mary did, not with something grand but with a quiet yes. In the busiest week of the year, that yes might be ten minutes with your Rosary before the shopping starts.

Christmas: No Room at the Inn.

On Christmas Eve the levee fires will be blazing, and the churches will be full for Midnight Mass. St. Luke tells us Mary laid her Son in a manger "because there was no room for them in the inn." The innkeeper was not a wicked man. He was simply full. It is worth asking whether our hearts have gotten that way too.

December 27: The Ones Who Waited.

Simeon and Anna were old. St. Luke tells us Anna was a widow "until fourscore and four years," and she never left the Temple, praying night and day. Simeon had been promised he would not die before he saw the Christ. When Mary and Joseph carried the Child in, both of them knew Him at once. Simeon took Him in his arms and prayed, "Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace." If you have prayed for years and wondered whether it mattered, take heart. Not one of those prayers was wasted. For anyone caring for an aging parent or spouse, Sirach offers a gentle word that same Sunday: "If his understanding fail, have patience with him."

So how do we make room for Him this December? Here are a few simple ways.

- Go to Confession before Christmas. Clear the road.
- Go to Mass on December 8 for the Immaculate Conception.
- Set up the crèche but leave the manger empty until Christmas Eve. It is an old custom, and it reminds the whole house that we are waiting.
- Visit someone in a nursing home or a friend who can't get out. Simeon and Anna are still among us.
- Call one relative you have drifted from. There is still room at the table.

By Christmas morning, the bonfires on the levee will have burned down to ashes. But the Light that came into the world that night has never gone out. Simeon called the Child "a light to the revelation of the Gentiles." May each of us keep a fire burning in our hearts this Advent to show Him the way in. A blessed and holy Christmas to you and yours.



LOUISIANA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. On Tuesday, Sept. 29, Bishop Robert Marshall joined the other bishops of the Province of New Orleans in Lafayette. Pictured left to right: Bishop Simon Peter Engurait, Houma-Thibodeaux; Archbishop James Checchio, New Orleans; Bishop Douglas Deshotel, Lafayette; Bishop Robert Marshall, Alexandria and Shreveport; Bishop Michael Duca, Baton Rouge, Bishop Glen Provost, Lake Charles.



OUR LSUA CATHOLICS have been having a blessed semester as we are continuing to host our weekly Holy hours, Mass, and free lunches, along with participating in on-campus events and welcoming students in the doors of the Catholic Student Center. Thankful to our students, faculty, staff, priests, cooks, and all others who support our ministry! Some students, alumni, staff, and family pictured with Fr. Donnie Kuzma after an 11:05 Wednesday Mass.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS COURT #968, WITH THE CHILDREN OF MARY FROM ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH IN BUNKIE, led parishioners and friends in praying the Rosary through Pythian Cemetery on All Souls' Day.



ST. RITA CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VOLUNTEERS FOR THE YEAR. Congratulations to Jerry and Gwen Deville who received the Volunteer of the Year for 2026 at St Rita Church during the annual volunteer luncheon on Sunday, Nov. 8. Jerry and Gwen serve in many ministries and have for many years such as OCIA, Bible Study, etc…Thank you for your service, and thank you to all the volunteers who make our jobs easier. We could not do it without you.



MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PALESTINE. On Sunday, Oct. 25, Bishop Robert Marshall celebrated Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, joined by some of the Knights and Dames of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. The day coincided with the Memorial of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine. We prayed especially for peace in the Holy Land and for the safety of all, particularly the Christians in the region.



FEAST FOR GOOD. On Monday, Nov. 2, Feast for Good was held to benefit St. Mary's Residential Community and Services.

NBA NEBLETT, BEARD & ARSENAULT
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
SERVING LOUISIANA FOR CAR, TRUCK, OFFSHORE ACCIDENTS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION
INJURED?
CALL 318-561-2500
DECADES OF EXPERIENCE READY TO HANDLE ALL TYPES OF INJURY AND DEATH CASES
RICHARD J. ARSENAULT ALEXANDRIA, LA WWW.NBALAWFIRM.COM LA-25-18559

John Kramer & Son Funeral Home
has proudly served central Louisiana for
150 years
We are deeply grateful to the community for trusting the Kramer family and our dedicated staff for five generations.

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, Dcn. Jason Lavergne 318-445-6424, ext. 207 or dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org



CHENEYVILLE GUMBO COOKOFF. St Joseph Church in Cheneyville had a gumbo cook off on October 24. Presenting the first place prize is Sandy Naquin to winner Chris Cox.



(above and right) STS. FRANCIS AND ANNE CHURCH IN KOLIN held their annual Saints Parade and Fair. The kids dressed up as a chosen saint and gave presentations. We also hosted a fun time for fellowship for the youth with a hayride and Trunk or Treat.





CLEANING OF THE GRAVES. The cemeteries for St. Peter Church, Bordelonville and St. Michael, Rexmere, were lovingly tidied up by the CCD students in preparation for All Souls' Blessing of the Graves.



CABRINI FEST! Thank you to everyone who came out to support St. Frances Cabrini School and enjoyed the games, food, music, etc. at the 2026 Cabrini Fest held on Saturday, Oct. 24. This is the biggest annual fundraiser for Cabrini School and it would not be possible without the help of our Cabrini family who pitched in with the preparations for the day, our room moms who put together the raffle baskets, our Talent Show participants, those who bought and sold tickets, the parents/volunteers who worked the booths, those who helped with the lasagna dinner and with clean-up.



LSUA AWAKENING RETREAT. LSUA Catholic Students Organization had a successful peer-led Awakening retreat, this year as a one-day retreat hosted at the LSUA Catholic Student Center on Oct. 17. It was beautiful weather for a day of fellowship, talks, prayer, sacraments, and delicious food!





SECOND BLESSINGS THRIFT STORE. The Catholic Charities Second Blessings Thrift Store is ready for Christmas! Come by and check out the large assortment of Christmas decor including Nativity sets, dishware, Christmas sweaters, wreaths and more! Come get it before it's all gone!

CABRINI SCHOOL PARTICIPATES IN CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST. Three of our Student Council officers, Kinsley S., Kadence S. and Emmalyn B. had the opportunity to put their creativity, teamwork and Panther pride to work as they prepared our entry in the Junior League of Alexandria's A Very Merry Market "Little Elves, Big Impact" Tree Decorating Competition held October 8-10. These little elves are definitely making a big impact.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, DEVILLE'S CCD. Children and CCD teachers at St. John the Baptist Church in Deville recited the Rosary during the Rosary Walk held on Wednesday, Oct. 28. The group is pictured with pastor, Fr. Albi Mulloth.



JR. BETA CLUB AT ST. FRANCES CABRINI SCHOOL. St. Frances Cabrini School held their annual Jr. Beta Club Induction on Wednesday, Oct. 7.



THE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA CHURCH (BUNKIE) ALTAR SOCIETY continued its annual fall tradition, decorating the church grounds, in thanksgiving for a successful harvest season.

More Than a Thrift Store: Second Blessings Celebrates a Legacy of Service

by Blair Jeanise
Director of Operations for Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana

As Heidi Wampler prepares for retirement, Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana celebrates the volunteers, generosity, and spirit of service that have made Second Blessings a cherished community ministry.

For many shoppers, Second Blessings Thrift Store is a place to find affordable clothing, household items, and unexpected treasures. But behind the racks of clothing and shelves of donated goods is something much greater: a ministry built on generosity, compassion, and a desire to serve others.

A ministry of Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana, Second Blessings has become a wonderful example of how everyday acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Its success is a testament to the generosity of the community, the dedication of its volunteers, and the extraordinary leadership of Heidi Wampler, who founded the store and has devoted countless hours to making it what it is today.



SECOND BLESSINGS. Heidi Wampler, (now retiring) manager of Second Blessings Thrift Store and members of the volunteer team cut the ribbon during the Grand Opening of the store back in February of this year.

A Ministry That Keeps on Giving

Second Blessings serves the community by making clothing, housewares, and other necessities available at affordable prices. For families stretching their budgets, individuals starting over, or anyone simply looking to make their dollars go further, the store offers an opportunity to find quality items without the financial burden of purchasing them new.

But the blessings don't stop at the checkout counter.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Second Blessings is its commitment to ensuring that donated items continue to serve a purpose, even when they cannot be sold in the store. Excess inventory and items that do not fit the store's needs are shared with other groups, charitable organizations, and families who can put them to good use.

Rather than allowing these donations to go to waste, Second Blessings extends their reach throughout the community, creating a ripple effect of generosity that benefits far more people than those who walk through its doors.

It is a beautiful reminder that something one person no longer needs can become a tremendous blessing to someone else.

The Heart of Second Blessings

While the success of Second Blessings can be measured in the countless items sold, donated, and shared, its greatest strength has always been its people.

The store is supported by a dedicated group of volunteers who give generously of their time and talents. From sorting donations and organizing merchandise to assisting customers and keeping the store running smoothly, these volunteers are the hands and feet of this ministry.

Their work often happens quietly, without recognition or fanfare. Yet every hour spent sorting clothing, arranging displays, or helping a shopper contributes to the larger mission of Catholic Charities: serving others with dignity, compassion, and love.

At the center of it all has been Heidi Wampler.

Heidi started Second Blessings with a vision of turning donated goods into opportunities



VOLUNTEER Charlotte mans the cash register at the check out counter.

to help others. Through her tireless efforts, determination, and enormous heart for service, that vision has grown into a thriving ministry.

Anyone familiar with Second Blessings knows that Heidi's work has never been simply about managing a store. It has been about people. She has poured her heart into the ministry, recognizing opportunities to



THE FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS. Second Blessings Team Friday, left to right: Janet, Denise, Ann, Linda, Nanette and Caroline. It takes a large team of volunteers every day to keep the store running smoothly. Want to volunteer? Contact hwampler@cccenla.org.

(continued on next page)

P.O. Box 5624
Alexandria, LA 71307

3306 Giamanco Street

Phone: (318) 473-8751
Fax: (318) 473-4045
EMail: DonaldJBaker@aol.com

BAKER
LAND & TIMBER MANAGEMENT, INC

Donald J. Baker, ACF/RF/CF
CONSULTING FORESTER
Licensed Urban Tree Consultant

YOUR COMMUNITY STORES
Y-NOT STOP
Refueling & Refreshing Communities Since 1970
WWW.YNOTSTOP.COM

Services Offered by Catholic Charities of Central LA

Visit cccenla.org to access a variety of services. Appointments are required and can be made online.

- **Mental Health Support**
- **Christian Life Coaching**
- **Christian Support Groups:**
  Grief/Loss B.R.E.A.T.H.E.
  Peace in the Midst of Crisis
  Divorce Support
- **Vaping/Tobacco Cessation (Youth and Adult)**
- **Disaster Preparedness Resources**
- **Financial Literacy Budget Class**
  - in partnership with Red River Bank and OFMS

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

- ***Assist.Educate.Elevate.***
  Emergency Basic Needs Assistance
  (For those at risk of utility disconnect and eviction, victims of house fires, and information and referral)

Second Blessings Thrift Store
4409-A Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria
Located between the Chevron Station and Heart of Cenla Credit Union at Windermere Blvd
Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 4 pm
Visit our website for details about donations, large furniture pickup requests, and volunteering
https://cccenla.org/second-blessings-thrift-store
Questions? Email info@cccenla.org

help others and going above and beyond to ensure that donations find their way to those who need them.

Her leadership has helped create more than a successful thrift store. She has built a community of volunteers, donors, and shoppers united by a shared spirit of generosity.

Celebrating Heidi and Looking Toward the Future

After years of devoted service, Heidi will retire at the end of this year. While her presence and leadership will be deeply missed, the ministry she created stands as a lasting testament to what can happen when one person responds to a call to serve.

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is profoundly grateful for Heidi's dedication, her countless hours of work, and the love she has poured into Second Blessings. Her legacy will continue through the volunteers she has inspired, the families who have been helped, and the ministry she has worked so hard to build.

As Second Blessings prepares for this transition, Catholic Charities is seeking a new store manager who will carry forward Heidi's vision while helping the ministry continue to grow.

The ideal candidate will bring strong organizational and leadership skills, a heart for service, and an appreciation for the important role Second Blessings plays in the community. This is an opportunity to lead a successful operation while making a tangible difference in the lives of others.



HEIDI WAMPLER, MANAGER OF SECOND BLESSINGS, will be retiring in December.

Every Donation Is an Opportunity to Bless Someone

The continued success of Second Blessings depends on the generosity of the community. Every donated item, every volunteer hour, and every purchase helps sustain a ministry that reaches far beyond the walls of the store.

As Catholic Charities celebrates Heidi's remarkable contributions and looks toward the next chapter, the mission of Second Blessings remains unchanged: to recognize the value in what has been given and use it to bring dignity, hope, and help to others.

After all, at Second Blessings, the greatest treasures aren't found on the shelves. They are found in the people who give, the people who serve, and the lives that are touched along the way.

Those interested in learning more about the store manager position or volunteer opportunities are encouraged to email their resume to bjeanise@cccenla.org.

Free Vaping & Tobacco Cessation Services

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana
offers free, confidential support for individuals
who want to quit vaping or using tobacco.
Services are available in person,
by phone, or via Zoom.

To register, visit cccenla.org/mental-health-services or call 318-445-6424 ext. 506, or email info@cccenla.org.

Funded by:
THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

Telephone 318-445-1446
Fax 318-445-1449
Certified Gemologists
Registered Jewelers
Under the clocktower
Schnack's
FINE JEWELRY
Established 1865
1438 Dorchester Drive
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301-3408
www.schnacks.com
American Gem Society

D's Place
Cottonport's Community Meeting & Event Center
Party, Family Reunion, Reception,
Dance, Conference, Repass, Etc.
659 Indian Bayou Rd. Cottonport, La., 71327
318-737-8661 philip61557@yahoo.com

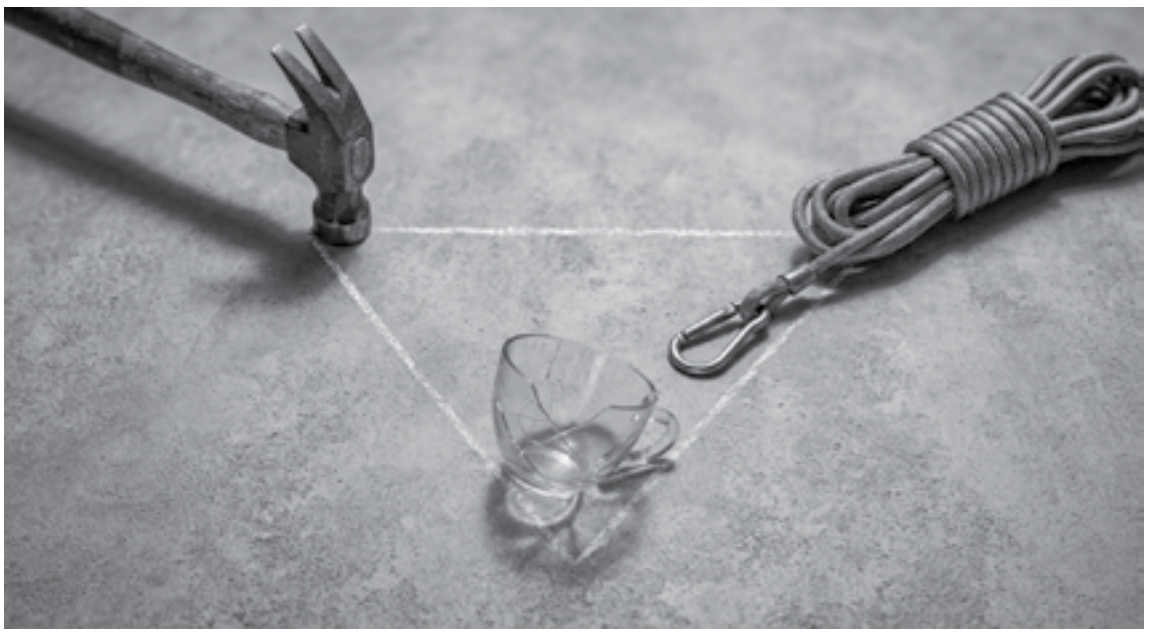
FLYING WOK BUFFET
2401 S. MacArthur Dr. • Alexandria, LA
Ph: (318) 416-9901
Dine in or Take out . . . order from our extensive menu
or enjoy our all-you-can-eat buffet.
CLOSED TUESDAYS
Lunch: Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m. - 3:30 pm.
Dinner: Mon.-Thurs. 4 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. • Fri.-Sat. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Catholic Art & Gifts
A DIVISION OF F.C. ZIEGLER CO.
Advent begins November 29th
6184 Florida Blvd. Baton Rouge
(225) 926 - 1216 • www.zieglers.com
Holiday Hours Dec 21-23: 8:30- 5; Dec 24: 9-2
Closed Christmas Day

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
Psalm 89: 2
Responsorial Psalm
for December 20
Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Breaking Free from the Drama Triangle: Rediscovering Our Identity as Children of God

by Father John Brocato, LPC-S



A Triangle That Traps Us All

A few years ago, I received an unexpected text from an acquaintance who had approached me several months earlier seeking help with personal struggles. I had agreed to accompany this individual, but no appointment was ever scheduled.

Instead, over the following six months, the individual occasionally called late in the evening, often after 9 p.m., when I was winding down, spending time in prayer, and preparing for bed. I did not answer, expecting that an important matter would warrant a voicemail or follow-up text. My practice was to respond immediately to emergencies and address routine matters the following day.

No messages were ever left. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, I received an angry text accusing me of being a mean and uncaring priest who had permanently lost the individual's trust.

What struck me was the difference between the individual's expectations and the boundaries I had maintained. My failure to answer late-night calls was interpreted as personal rejection. The individual initially appeared to occupy the role of *Victim* before becoming the *Persecutor*, while I had been expected to function as the *Rescuer*.

This experience illustrates a psychological dynamic known as the Drama Triangle.

Understanding the Drama Triangle

In 1968, psychiatrist Stephen Karpman introduced a psychological model describing three dysfunctional relational roles: the Victim, the Persecutor, and the Rescuer. His Drama Triangle illustrates how individuals unconsciously become trapped in destructive patterns driven by guilt, shame, blame, and unmet emotional needs.

The Victim frequently struggles to recognize personal worth and agency. Feeling powerless, this individual may defer decisions to others, believing that circumstances cannot change without outside intervention. Rather than seeking solutions, the Victim may remain passive, waiting for someone else to assume responsibility. Importantly, this psychological role is distinct from genuine victimization, where a person has suffered actual harm or injustice.

The Persecutor attempts to maintain control through criticism, intimidation, anger, or manipulation. Their behavior may be openly aggressive or subtly passive-aggressive. Often dismissive of others' perspectives, the Persecutor seeks superiority as protection against underlying insecurity, fear, or vulnerability.

The Rescuer appears compassionate, generous, and self-sacrificing. However, beneath this apparent helpfulness may lie an unconscious need to be needed. By assuming responsibility for others' problems, the Rescuer can inadvertently communicate that those individuals are incapable of managing their own lives. What begins as assistance gradually becomes dependency.

The destructive nature of the triangle emerges when individuals shift between roles. The Victim becomes resentful and turns into the Persecutor. The exhausted Rescuer feels unappreciated and becomes the Victim. Meanwhile, the original problem remains unresolved.

Codependency can develop when the Victim receives attention and assistance without developing independence, while the Rescuer derives personal worth from remaining indispensable. Both become emotionally invested in a relationship that prevents genuine growth.

The Spiritual Root: A Question of Identity

Although Karpman's Drama Triangle is a psychological model, it also invites us to consider a deeper spiritual question: Who am I, and what makes me valuable?

Each role represents a potentially distorted answer.

The Victim believes, "I am only as worthy as the sympathy I receive." The Persecutor believes, "I am only safe when I remain in control." The Rescuer believes, "I am only valuable when someone needs me."

Although different, these beliefs share a fundamental problem: they locate personal worth in something external and unstable.

Catholic teaching offers a radically different understanding of human identity. Our dignity is not earned through achievement, control, approval, or usefulness. It is received from God, who created us in His image and likeness.

Our worth does not depend upon our occupation, financial security, social standing, accomplishments, or the opinions of others. It comes from the extraordinary reality that God created us out of love and calls us into communion with Himself.

St. John expresses this truth beautifully: "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are" (1 John 3:1).

Through Baptism, we become adopted children of the Father through Jesus Christ. Our identity is therefore not something we must continually prove. It is a gift we are invited to receive and live.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that ultimate happiness cannot be found in wealth, honor, power, or any created good. Rather, our final happiness consists in the vision of God (Summa Theologiae, I-II, Questions 2–3).

We were created for something greater than approval, control, or dependency. Endowed with intellect and freedom, we are called to participate in the life of the Trinity, where authentic love is freely given and received.

Examining the Roles Through the Gospel

The Gospel provides a path beyond each dysfunctional role toward freedom, responsibility, and authentic charity.

The person trapped in the Victim role is invited to rediscover personal agency without denying genuine suffering. Christianity places suffering at the center of salvation through Christ's Passion, yet Jesus never allowed suffering to define His identity. He remained the beloved Son of the Father.

When helplessness becomes a relational identity, it may become a means of avoiding responsibility or seeking validation. This does not diminish genuine trauma or suggest that victims are responsible for their suffering. Rather, healing involves discovering whatever freedom and responsibility remain possible.

Consider the man at the pool of Bethesda, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. Jesus approaches him and asks, "Do you want to be well?" (John 5:6). Christ acknowledges his suffering while inviting him toward a different future. Authentic compassion does not merely recognize suffering; it seeks restoration and freedom.

The Persecutor is called to exchange domination for assertiveness rooted in truth and charity. Controlling behavior frequently masks unresolved wounds, insecurity, or fear. The attempt to achieve safety through superiority ultimately damages relationships.

St. Paul offers another vision: "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude" (1 Corinthians 13:4–5).

Christian love does not require abandoning boundaries or avoiding difficult conversations. Rather, we are called to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Grounded in our identity as children of God, we can express disagreement, establish boundaries, and confront wrongdoing without humiliating or controlling others.

The Rescuer faces perhaps the most subtle spiritual challenge because this role can resemble Christian virtue. Self-sacrifice is central to discipleship, but genuine charity differs significantly from the compulsive need to be indispensable.

The Rescuer may become preoccupied with solving others' problems while avoiding personal

(continued on next page)

wounds or responsibilities. Although the desire to help may be sincere, excessive intervention can undermine another person's dignity and freedom.

Authentic Christian charity, or caritas, respects the freedom and responsibility of others. It recognizes that people are not projects to manage but persons capable of growth, discernment, and participation in their own healing.

We are called to accompany others without controlling them, to offer assistance without assuming ownership of their struggles, and to love without requiring that we remain indispensable.

Discovering True Relational Freedom

Christian freedom does not mean abandoning commitment, sacrifice, or responsibility. Rather, genuine freedom enables us to love without losing ourselves, establish boundaries without abandoning charity, and accept responsibility without becoming imprisoned by guilt or shame.

As we discover that we are loved by God, our relationships begin to change. Instead of seeking worth through approval, control, or being needed, we approach others with greater interior security.

The Catechism reminds us: "Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone" (CCC 357).

No person exists merely to satisfy another's emotional needs, maintain their superiority, or provide a sense of importance. Every human being possesses an inherent dignity that deserves respect.

Healthy relationships require personal responsibility. Instead of continually identifying what others must change, we must examine our own attitudes, motivations, and behaviors.

This requires humility and honesty. The Sacrament of Reconciliation invites us to acknowledge our sins while receiving the mercy necessary for transformation. Prayer, spiritual direction, and counseling can help us distinguish between our responsibilities and those belonging to others.

The Drama Triangle begins to lose its power when we stop waiting for others to change before accepting responsibility for ourselves.

Ultimately, our relationships are called to reflect the communion of the Trinity. Created in God's image, we are made for relationships grounded not in manipulation, dependency, or domination, but in truth, freedom, and self-giving love.

We can begin by asking ourselves which role we most frequently assume during conflict and what fears or unmet needs drive our behavior. Such reflection opens the door to healing and authentic communion.

Conclusion:
The Only Triangle That Saves

Karpman's Drama Triangle reveals how easily relationships become imprisoned by fear, shame, blame, and control. Yet Christianity offers another triangle, one not of dysfunction but of divine communion: the Holy Trinity.

The Father reveals our identity as beloved children. The Son demonstrates sacrificial love without domination or unhealthy dependency. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live in authentic freedom.

Imagine a recovering alcoholic entering the confessional, overwhelmed by shame, declaring through tears, "Father, I am a hopeless drunk."

The Church offers a greater truth: "No, you are a child of God, created in His image and likeness, loved personally and passionately by a Father who has never ceased calling you His own."

That same truth speaks to everyone trapped within the Drama Triangle.

Through grace, honest self-examination, counseling, spiritual direction, and the healing mercy of the sacraments, we can move beyond the roles we have learned to play.

We do not have to allow fear, shame, or others' expectations to define our identity. Instead, we are invited to begin the beautiful work of becoming, in every relationship, the person God has always known and loved us to be.

Job Announcement:
Second Blessings Thrift Store Manager
Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is seeking a dependable, organized, and motivated individual to serve as Store Manager of Second Blessings Thrift Store.

The Store Manager will oversee daily operations, supervise employees and volunteers, manage donations and inventory, maintain merchandise displays, and help ensure the continued success of the store.

Ideal candidates will have strong organizational and interpersonal skills, leadership abilities, a positive attitude, and a commitment to serving others. Retail or management experience is preferred.

Second Blessings Thrift Store supports the mission of Catholic Charities by providing affordable merchandise to the community and helping fund services for individuals and families in need.

To apply: Please submit a résumé to bjeanise@cccenla.org
Join us in making a difference, one blessing at a time!

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana

Lacombe
Floor Finishing
310 N. Briarwood, Bunkie, LA 71322
Specializing in installation
• Floor Finishing • Ceramic Tile Floors
• Hardwood Floors • Reseal Tile Floors
Ph: (318) 481-0950
Morgan Newton, Owner

FORMER SOCIAL SECURITY JUDGE
PETER J. LEMOINE
Social Security Disability Law
Recipient of Social Security Disability Leadership Award:
National Top 100 Social Security Disability Law Firms

MEMBER: Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Avoyelles Parish Bar Association, National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives

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

ACTS

Upcoming Retreats:

January 7-10
Teen ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Mary's Assumption Church

January 21-24
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by Cenla ACTS

January 21-24
Womens ACTS Retreat
hosted by St. Michael the Archangel

All retreats are held at Maryhill Renewal Center.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI RELIC. Fr. Taylor Reynolds brought a relic of St. Francis of Assisi for the students at Cabrini School to venerate. The relic is part of St. Francis' hairshirt and is part of the 800th anniversary of his death. Students also were given prayer cards of St. Francis with the prayer written by Pope Leo.

COTTONPORT CORNER DRUG
and gift boutique

Flu Shots & Vaccinations

Many gifts including large selection of religious items:

- My Saint My Hero religious jewelry
- Holy Medals
- Jesus Calling & other inspirational books
- Rosaries
- ACTS bracelets
- First Communion, Confirmation & Baptism gifts

Follow us on Facebook @ Cottonportcornerdrug.giftboutique

(318) 876-3665
Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
206 Choupique Lane • Cottonport, LA 71327
Kim & Stewart Wixson, Owners

St. Mary's inducts Michael Landry into Academic Hall of Fame



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NATCHITOCHES. Michael Landry recognized for his 40 years of service to the school's academic and extracurricular programs. Pictured: Principal Stephen Wren, Michael Landry and pastor, Fr. Irion St. Romain.

NATCHITOCHES, La. — St. Mary's Catholic School inducted longtime educator Michael Landry into its Academic Hall of Fame on October 28, 2026, honoring 40 years of service and his contributions to the school's academic and extracurricular programs. The recognition followed All-School Mass, with a reception held in the school gym.

The longest-serving teacher in St. Mary's history, Landry has helped generations of students explore history, develop their talents and pursue academic excellence. His work in the classroom, including Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses, has been complemented by decades of leadership in academic competition, student organizations and theater.

Landry earned a Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern State University in 1974 and a Master of Arts from the university in December 1976. He pursued doctoral studies at the University of Tennessee from 1977 to 1981, completing all requirements except the dissertation. He taught at Northwestern State University and Magnet High School before joining St. Mary's in 1985.

Throughout his tenure, Landry expanded opportunities for students beyond the classroom. He founded St. Mary's Quiz Bowl, National History Day and Academic Decathlon programs and reestablished its theater program. His Quiz Bowl teams and National History Day students earned multiple state wins.

Landry also founded St. Mary's Beta Club in 1992, served as Louisiana State Beta Sponsor and sponsored three state Beta officers and two national Beta officers. He directed the St. Mary's Invitational Quiz Bowl Tournament, sponsored the school's Literary Rally team and served on the District Literary Rally Board of Directors.

His leadership extended to the broader educational community. A founding member of the Louisiana Association for Academic Competition in 1992, he served as both president and vice president. He also chaired St. Mary's accreditation team.

Landry's honors include the Diocese of Alexandria's Catholic High School Teacher of the Year award for 1991–1992, the Em W. Knipmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award at St. Mary's in October 2006 and Louisiana National History Day Teacher of the Year. He was also recognized in Who's Who of American Educators in 1993. His academic honor society memberships include Phi Alpha Theta and Kappa Delta Pi.

With his induction, St. Mary's honors Landry's enduring dedication to Catholic education and the opportunities he has created for generations of Tigers. His framed recognition will join those of fellow Academic Hall of Fame members on the school's Hall of Fame wall.

To see daily meal menus and school holidays please visit the Catholic Schools calendar: https://www.diocesealex.org/events/category/school/

HONOR MARY
PRAY
THE ROSARY

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

For generations, families in our community have trusted us with moments that matter most.

To every family who has called upon us through the years
we extend our deepest appreciation.

To those we have not yet had the honor of serving,
we respectfully invite you to discover the difference that
more than a century of experience, tradition, and commitment can make.

Serving OUR community and YOUR family since 1907.

Alexandria - 318.442.3363
Marksville - 318.253.5979
Pineville - 318.640.1678
Jena - 318.992.4158

HIXSON BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME
Since 1907
ALEXANDRIA • PINEVILLE • JENA • MARKSVILLE



Take Heart: Helping a generation find courage in Christ

As Beyond the Limits Jr. High approaches, the Church is invited to encourage, equip, and pray for the young people in our midst.



"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." — Matthew 14:27

There is something extraordinary about the middle school years.

Somewhere between childhood and young adulthood, our young people begin asking bigger questions. Who am I? Where do I belong? Am I enough? What do other people think of me? And perhaps most importantly, who does God say I am?

For students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, these questions are becoming part of everyday life. Friendships are changing. Expectations are growing. The desire to belong is powerful. And in a world that offers countless voices telling young people who they should be, the voice of Jesus can sometimes be difficult to recognize.

But His message remains the same: Take heart. I am with you.

On Saturday, December 5, hundreds of junior high students, adult leaders, and volunteers are invited to gather at Holy Savior Menard Central High School in Alexandria for Beyond the Limits Jr. High, a day of worship, community, encouragement, and encounter with Christ.

This year's theme, Take Heart, is rooted in the words of Jesus in Matthew 14:27. As the disciples struggled against the wind and waves, Jesus came toward them, speaking words of courage and reassurance.

Notice what Jesus didn't do. He didn't wait for the storm to pass before approaching His disciples. He met them right in the middle of it.

And He does the same for us.

That is a message our young people desperately need to hear. They do not have to wait until they are older, more confident, or have everything figured out to begin living a life of faith. Jesus is calling them into a relationship with Him right now, exactly where they are.

So how can we, as the Church, help them answer that call?

We can encourage them by reminding them that their lives matter, their questions are welcome, and their place in the Church is important. We can listen with genuine interest, celebrate their gifts, and speak words of truth and hope over their lives.

We can equip them by helping them build a faith that extends beyond Sunday Mass or a single retreat experience. Through Scripture, prayer, the sacraments, and meaningful relationships with faithful adults, we can help them recognize God's presence in their everyday lives and develop the courage to follow Him.

And perhaps most importantly, we can pray for them. Pray for their friendships, their families, their struggles, and their growing relationship with Christ. Pray that they will recognize His voice above the noise of the world. Pray that they will discover that courage isn't the absence of fear, but the confidence that Jesus is with them through it all.

Beyond the Limits is one day on the calendar. But the work of forming young disciples belongs to all of us, every day.

As we prepare to gather on December 5, may we be a Church that doesn't simply tell young people to take heart, but helps them discover the One who gives them the courage to do so.

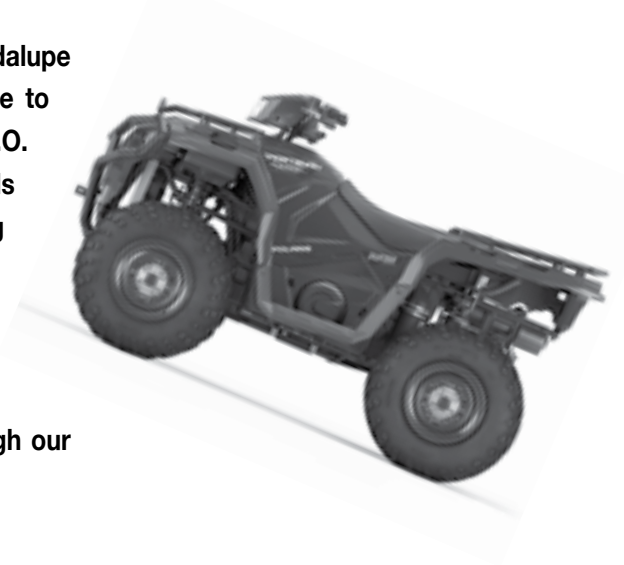
Take heart. He is with us.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Psalm 128: 1| Responsorial Psalm for December 27
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

WIN a Polaris ATV!

Please support Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Raffle! Enter for your chance to win a POLARIS SPORTSMAN 450 H.O. Tickets are only $30 each. All proceeds will go to the new church building fund! Drawing date: Dec. 13.
Tickets available at the church office: 53 Butter Cemetery Rd, Forest Hill, LA 71430. Or purchase over the phone (318) 792-7273 and pay through our PayPal @NewGuadalupeChurch.
Thank you for your support!



Listen to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on

KLIL 92.1 8 a.m. Sunday Mass
KZLG 95.9 7 a.m. Sunday Mass

Campus Ministry:

LSU of Alexandria:
LSUA Catholic Student Organization, 318-447-2956. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @lsuacatholics

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

Louisiana Christian University:
LCU Catholic Student Organization "Wildcat Catholics"
318-447-2956.
Follow us on Instagram @wildcatcatholics

Advent 2026: Important dates to remember

The season of Advent begins Sunday, November 29, and continues through Thursday, December 24, 2026. During these four weeks, Catholics are invited to prepare their hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth through prayer, reflection, and joyful anticipation.

Key dates for Advent 2026 include:

- **November 29:** First Sunday of Advent
- **December 6:** Second Sunday of Advent
- **December 8:** Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **December 13:** Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- **December 20:** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve, the final day of Advent

Giving Tuesday - December 1

In the spirit of Giving Tuesday, we'd like to take this opportunity to suggest an end-of-the-year gift to the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal: Embracing the Future of Hope. To make an online donation, please visit www.diocesealex.org or mail your check made out to the Diocese of Alexandria Annual Diocesan Appeal, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306. Remember, your gift will be used solely for the restricted priorities of the 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal and for no other purpose.

Beyond the Limits Junior High Conference - December 5

Calling all 6th-8th graders! Beyond the Limits Jr. High Conference is back Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at Holy Savior Menard High School in Alexandria. This high-energy day is created especially for junior high students and includes dynamic speakers, music, games, small groups, Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and plenty of fun along the way. This year, we're excited to welcome Katie McGrady and more as we invite young people to Take Heart and discover what it means to follow Jesus right where they are.

Registration is now open at steubenvillesouth.com! Gather your parish or school group and join junior high students from across the Diocese of Alexandria for an unforgettable day of faith, friendship, and fun.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Wildwood Pizza Spirit Day for Cabrini School - December 8

Let's make a difference together! On Tuesday, Dec. 8, join us at Wildwood Pizza for Spirit Day - Pizza with a Purpose, supporting St. Frances Cabrini School. A percentage of the day's proceeds will go directly to our school. Come enjoy delicious food from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and help raise funds for our students! Will we see you there?

St. Frances Cabrini School Christmas Program - December 10

Join us at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 10 in the St. Frances Cabrini Church Activities Building for this year's Christmas Program. No tickets required! We hope to see you there!

Discalced Carmelite meeting - Dec. 12

The Order of the Discalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at Maryhill Renewal Center. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer followed by Mass and then the meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite spiritual studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy at 318-346-6860 or 318-481-9638. If you plan to attend, please call Mary Jo McCoy at the numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop - Jan. 12, 2027

The workshop lasts about three hours so please plan accordingly. For more information, contact Dcn. Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria

There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

Lector Workshop - January 19, 2027

The Diocese of Alexandria is offering Lector Formation workshops for those individuals who are interested in serving or who currently serve as a Lector in their parish. To serve in this role, one must be of good standing with their Catholic faith and need the approval of their pastor. All training workshops will present the same material and will last no longer than two and a half hours. **Tuesday, January 19 – 6:00 p.m. – St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria**

There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed you will receive a certificate. For more information, contact Dcn Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext 207 or email dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org.

SAVE THE DATE! Confirmation Retreat - January 23, 2027

Save the date for the upcoming Confirmation retreat to be held at St. Rita Church, Alexandria for youth receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation this coming Spring.

Our retreat leader will be Paul Hood, currently the Coordinator of Youth Disciple Formation for Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette and former member of Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in Alexandria. More details to come!

Pre-Cana Marriage Prep Workshop - February 27, 2027

Where: St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lunch included. **Cost is $60 PER COUPLE.** To register visit:https://www.diocesealex.org/pre-cana-marriage-prep-workshop/

After submitting the form, you will see a link to pay online. You can also pay the day of the workshop via check, money order or cash. Or prepay by mailing a check or money order (payable to Diocese of Alexandria) to: Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417. Contact: Deacon Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207.

Church Today News Deadlines

December 28
Deadline for news:
Monday, Dec. 14

January 25
Deadline for news:
Thursday, Nov. 14

O·F·M·S
Anne M. Oestriecher, CPA, CFP®
Chris Daigrepont
Will Whisenant
Oestriecher Financial Management Services
Let us help your family pursue your financial goals.
4641 Windermere Place, Alexandria, LA 71303
(318) 448-3556 www.o-fms.com
Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a Registered Investment Advisor, Member FINRA/SIPC


December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NOVEMBER 23	24	25	26	27	28	29 First Sunday of Advent
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS THANKSGIVING BREAK						
PRAY FOR FR. A. AELAVANTHARA	PRAY FOR DCN. W. ALDRIDGE	PRAY FOR DCN. F. ANDRADE	THANKSGIVING DAY PRAY FOR FR. J. ANTONY	PRAY FOR DCN. E.J. BARRE	PRAY FOR FR. M. BONNER	PRAY FOR FR. S. BRANDOW
30	1	2	3	4	5	6 Second Sunday of Advent
PRAY FOR FR. D. BRAQUET	GIVING TUESDAY PRAY FOR BISHOP R. MARSHALL	PRAY FOR FR. J. BROCATO	PRAY FOR FR. J. BURCH	FIRST FRIDAY PRAY FOR MSGR. S. CHEMINO	FIRST SATURDAY PRAY FOR DCN. R. CHRISTOPHER	PRAY FOR FR. J. CUNNINGHAM
7	8 **Wildwood Pizza Spirit Day for Cabrini School** 11:00 am-8:00 pm Wildwood Pizza, Alexandria SOLEMNITY of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (a Holy day of obligation)	9	10 **Cabrini School Christmas Program** 6:00 pm St. Frances Cabrini Activities Building, Alexandria	11	12 **Discalced Carmelte Monthly Meeting** 9:00 am Maryhill Renewal Center FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE	13 Third Sunday of Advent **Drawing for Polaris ATV** Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Forest Hill
PRAY FOR FR. W. DECOSTE	PRAY FOR FR. D. DEJESUS	PRAY FOR DCN. LG DELOACH	PRAY FOR FR. B. DESHAUTELLE	PRAY FOR FR. A. DHARMARAJ	PRAY FOR DCN. D. DUBROC	PRAY FOR DCN. R. DUCOTE
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
PRAY FOR DCN. W. ENDRIS	PRAY FOR FR. P. FAULK	PRAY FOR DCN. L. FELDKAMP	PRAY FOR DCN. J. WHITEHEAD	PRAY FOR MSGR. J. FERGUSON	PRAY FOR FR. W. GEARHEARD	PRAY FOR DCN. L. GLANKLER
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS BREAK						
PRAY FOR FR. J. GOOTEE	PRAY FOR DCN. S. GRAMIGNA	PRAY FOR FR. R. GREMILLION	CHRISTMAS EVE PRAY FOR DCN. M. GUIDRY	CHRISTMAS DAY SOLEMNITY of the NATIVITY of the LORD (a Holy day of obligation) PRAY FOR FR. D. HART	PRAY FOR FR. R. HUMPHRIES	FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH PRAY FOR FR. R. JOHNSON



SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. On October 14, The Moreauville Fire Department brought the fire safety house, and the dog character Sparky to SHS. They discussed the importance of smoke alarms, the use of fire extinguishers, safety precautions with stoves, candles, the technique "stop drop and roll", and how to exit a burning home. They also discussed the importance of when to call 911.





CABRINI SCHOOL 4-H WINNERS. Congratulations to the Cabrini 4-H Rapides Parish Fair winners: Bella [redacted], Belle [redacted], Emily [redacted], Gabriel [redacted] and Luke [redacted]. Thank you to the families and 4-H leaders who helped them prepare.



MILITARY VETERANS VISIT SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. On Nov. 4, Retired Air Force General John Bordelon along with several other Veterans passed out American flags to Ms. Trinity Christensen's fourth grade class. They also spoke to the students about patriotism. Thank you Veterans for your service!

SAINTS PARADE AT SACRED HEART SCHOOL, MOREAUVILLE. All the students as their chosen Saint!



See more photos in the photo galleries at www.diocesealex.org

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR SCHOOL ANNUAL PARADE OF SAINTS. OLPS 4th graders for this year's Parade of Saints. We had over 50 Saints grace our hallways!