

NOLACatholic e-Bulletin



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

December 10, 2025

SECTION I

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

Very Rev. Leon Poche has been appointed as Rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, while remaining pastor of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in River Ridge, LA.

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS

In order to provide pastoral care for the people of God in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Archbishop Aymond has made the following Transitional Deacon appointments, which are effective December 13, 2025:

Deacon Brett Christopher Barrios, St. Philip Neri Parish, Metairie.

Deacon Joseph Ky Thanh Bui, St. Ann Church and Shrine, Metairie.

Deacon William Joseph Sigl, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Metairie.

Deacon James Vu, St. Angela Merici Parish, Metairie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notre Dame Seminary Commencement will be Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM, at Notre Dame Seminary, 2901 South Carrollton, Schulte Auditorium.

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St. Louis Cathedral, Archbishop Aymond will ordain to the Order of Deacons, Brett Christopher Barrios, Joseph Ky Thanh Bui, William Sigl and James Vu to the Transitional Diaconate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Allan Tembesi for the Archdiocese of Tororo. You are cordially invited to attend the ceremony. Priests and deacons are asked to bring their alb. Vestments will be provided. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Garden.

Please pray for the administrative staff of the archdiocese as they participate in an Advent Day of Reflection on December 19, 2025. Offices will be closed while staff attend this gathering.

The Cathedral Choir Christmas concert will take place at 5:30 PM on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at St. Louis Cathedral.

The Archdiocese Administrative offices will be closed from Friday, December 19, 2025, through Friday, January 2, 2026, for the Christmas holidays. The offices will re-open on Monday, January 5, 2026.

The Epiphany gathering for priests will take place on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. It begins with vespers at 6:00 PM at Notre Dame Seminary Chapel, followed by a reception at the Archbishop's Residence. You must RSVP to Alison Guerra at 504-861-6269, or aguerra@arch-no.org by December 16, 2025. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more information.

This bulletin is also
available on the
Archdiocesan website,
www.nolacatholic.org

Official
Appointments

Transitional
Diaconate
Ordination

MLK Day of
Service

Job
Opportunities

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 13, 2025	Transitional Diaconate Ordination
May 9, 2026	Transitional Diaconate Ordination
May 30, 2026	Priesthood Ordination

DEATH

Sister Jean Marie Smith, SSND, a School Sister of Notre Dame, passed away on November 27, 2025, in Covington. Prayer/Sharing will take place at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church on December 11th, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. followed by Mass of Resurrection at 11:00 with burial at School Sisters of Notre Dame Cemetery, Chatawa, MS. Please keep Sr. Jean Marie, her family and the School Sisters of Notre Dame in your prayers.

SECTION II ACTION REQUESTED

Pastors and parish secretaries are asked to please ensure response and follow-up on the items below

2026 PRIEST RETREATS

There is still space in the following priest retreats: January 19-23, 2026, and July 27-31, 2026, both at the Cenacle on the Lake. [Click here to see the list of registered priests](#). If you are interested in attending either of those two retreats, please contact Alison Guerra in the Department of Clergy at aguerra@arch-no.org. [Click here for the registration form](#).

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATION

On Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Louis Cathedral, Archbishop Aymond will ordain Brett Barrios, Joseph Ky Thanh Bui, William Sigl and James Vu to the Transitional Diaconate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Allan Tembesi for the Archdiocese of Tororo. You are cordially invited to attend the ceremony. Priests and deacons are asked to bring their alb. Vestments will be provided. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Garden.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION

The annual special second collection to benefit the retired members of the religious communities that serve in our archdiocese will be held this weekend, December 13 and 14, 2025. We ask for your assistance in helping our aging religious.

*Mission
Statement for
the Departments
and Offices of
the Archdiocese
of New Orleans*

*Impelled by
God's call and
inspired by
the vision of
the Ninth
General
Synod, the
ministries of
the
Archdiocese
of New
Orleans, in
union with
the
Archbishop
and with one
another,
serve the
people,
parishes,
schools and
organizations
of the
archdiocese,
enabling
them to
encounter
Jesus and
witness his
love with joy.*

ORDER OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND OF THEIR PASTORAL CARE

On January 23, 2025 the USCCB decreed that the *Order of the Anointing of the Sick and of their Pastoral Care* and the Spanish *Ritual de la Unción de los enfermos y de su atención pastoral* will be implemented according to the following timeline: The new Anointing rites **may be used** beginning on **February 11, 2026** (the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes and annual World Day of the Sick), The use of the new ritual is **mandatory** as of Easter Sunday, **April 5, 2026**. Both texts will replace the current Anointing rituals in use since the early 1980s, *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum* and its Spanish counterpart, *Cuidado pastoral de los enfermos: Ritos de la Unción y del Viático*.

The *Order of the Anointing of the Sick* restores the typical edition's arrangement and includes fewer options. This book is intended only for use by priests and deacons. A separate resource will be developed to ensure that lay ministers continue to have access to those texts which they use in ministry to the sick and homebound. These books are currently available for order from all the major liturgical publishers.

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is pleased to announce the annual **Silver Wedding Anniversary Celebration** will be held on **Sunday, March 15, 2026, 3:00 p.m.** at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, New Orleans. This prayer service will honor couples who are celebrating or have recently celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. The celebration is open to couples married between 1996 - 2001.

To register, please contact your parish office by Monday, February 2, 2026.

Please Note: The Silver Wedding Anniversary celebration is a prayer service, not a Mass and will not fulfil the couple's Sunday obligation. Couples should plan to attend Mass at their home parishes.

Instructions for Parishes:

Please share the above announcement in your bulletin, social media, or other suitable places. Parishes are asked to register couples for the ANO Silver Anniversary Celebration using an online form, which may be found at www.nolacatholic.org/wedding-anniversary no later than **Monday, February 16, 2026** to facilitate the sending of confirmation letters, preparing of scrolls, and seating of the couples. Your cooperation in maintaining this deadline is appreciated. Contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at (504) 861-6243 or mfl@arch-no.org with any questions.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

Join us for the annual Archdiocese of New Orleans MLK Day of Service, a day when our community comes together in faith, unity, and action to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Date: Monday, January 19, 2026. Time: 8:00am– 12:00pm. Location: CYO Building, 2241 Mendez St., N.O., LA.

This day of service is an opportunity to live out Dr. King's call to serve others with love, hope, and justice. All parishioners, families, ministries, and youth are encouraged to participate. Projects may include community cleanup, gardening, tree planting, support for local service organizations, and activities that uplift our neighbors. How to Participate: Please take a moment to sign up so we can prepare materials and coordinate service teams.

To Sign-Up: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/.../bc1c6699-3c86-423e-a06a...>

Let's come together as one Catholic community to make a meaningful impact. Your hands, your heart, and your presence make a difference.

"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We look forward to serving with you!

SECTION III

PARISH PUBLICITY

Announcements below are made available for publicizing to parishioners via placement in parish bulletins, on parish websites and social media, or other appropriate means

2026 ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS MEN'S CONFERENCE: "LET IT BE DONE" SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026 – ST. DOMINIC CHURCH, NEW ORLEANS

The Office of Marriage and Family Life, in partnership with Willwoods Faith and Marriage and the Point Man Podcast is proud to announce the 2026 Archdiocese of New Orleans Men's Conference theme. "Let It Be Done".

Building on last year's Conference on TRUST, this year's conference will focus on the centrality of Mary's trust in God and her responsibility for the life of the Church and the World. "Never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided." The same can be said of every Catholic man who fully embraces his vocation and lives his faith in the particular circumstances of his life.

This year's Conference will come at a critical time for the life of our Church in New Orleans. It will be important for us to gather, to be encouraged in the faith, and to look forward in hope to what God is preparing for us.

Visit NolaCatholicMen.com to learn more, sign up for group discounts, find promotional materials for your parish bulletin, and to register. Priests willing to hear confessions at the Conference should contact Fr. Jeff Merritt at jmerritt@stdparish.org. Send questions to the Office of Marriage and Family Life at mfl@arch-no.org.

SECTION IV NEWS AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

Following is news and information of general interest to the local Church

ADVENT NORTHSORE MORNING OF REFLECTION

A special **Advent Morning of Reflection**, sponsored by the Catholic Women in Action Committee of the Catholic Community Foundation, will be held on **Thursday, December 11, 2025**, from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 A.M.** at **Mary Queen of Peace Church** in Mandeville. **Most Rev. Thomas Rodi** will celebrate Mass. Following Mass, **Liz Fitzpatrick** will offer a reflection on the theme "The Light shines in the Darkness and the Darkness has not overcome it." Time for Confessions will also be available. For more information, please contact Kathi Zimmerman at 504.527.5794 or kzimmerman@ccfnola.org. [See attached flyer.](#)

BEARERS & BUILDERS OF HOPE – SILENT WOMEN'S RETREAT

A silent retreat for women will be offered at the Cenacle on the Lake on January 16-18, 2026, featuring Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC. Please register at neworleansretreats.com or by calling 504-267-9604. [See attached flyer.](#)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Job opportunities are currently listed on our HR page: <https://nolacatholic.org/employment>

Please refer to our Job-Link often and share with qualified referrals!

Submissions are due by 2 pm on Monday for the week the e-Bulletin will be published. Please send submissions or inquiries regarding the NolaCatholic e-Bulletin to communications@arch-no.org.