

NOLACatholic e-Bulletin



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

November 26, 2025

SECTION I A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Administrative Offices of the archdiocese will close for the Thanksgiving holiday at noon on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, and will re-open at the beginning of the business day on Monday, December 1, 2025. Please be assured that my prayer on Thanksgiving Day will include all of you as we continue to encounter Jesus and witness with joy.

The annual Notre Dame Seminary Christmas Luncheon for Priests will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. The day will begin at 10:00 AM with Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, followed by a reception and luncheon at 12:15 PM at the Roosevelt Hotel. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

The Presbyteral Council will meet at 10:00 AM on Wednesday December 3, 2025, in the Pastoral Center at Notre Dame Seminary.

An Interfaith Prayer Service for New Orleans homeless will take place at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at St. Joseph Church, 1802 Tulane Ave., New Orleans.

The Annual Police, Fire and EMS Inspection and Mass will take place on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 11:00 AM at St. Louis Cathedral.

All Administrative offices of the Archdiocese will be closed in observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8, 2025.

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

Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM at St. Louis Cathedral. See p. 2 for more information.

The Ministerial Council will meet at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, in the Pastoral Center at Notre Dame Seminary.

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

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 my 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*

**Interfaith
Prayer Service
for New
Orleans
Homeless**

**MLK Day of
Service**

**Job
Opportunities**

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.

DEATH

Sister Jamie T. Phelps, O.P., an Adrian Dominican Sister, passed away at the Dominican Life Center on November 22, 2025, in Adrian, Michigan. She served for many years at Xavier University in New Orleans. A funeral Mass will take place on December 3, 2025. Please keep Sr. Jamie, her family and the Adrian Dominican Sisters in your prayers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

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. 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.

INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR NEW ORLEANS HOMELESS

An Interfaith Prayer Service for New Orleans homeless will be held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at St. Joseph Church, 1802 Tulane Ave., New Orleans. Please see [attached flyer](#).

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION

On December 13 and 14, 2025 we once again appeal to you for your assistance in helping our aging religious. The [attached letter in English and Spanish](#) from Archbishop Aymond is to be made available in parishes the weekend of December 6, 2025 and December 7, 2025 in a manner you deem most effective.

LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, 2025

Monday, December 8, 2025, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As the Patronal Feast of the United States, December 8 is always a Holy Day of Obligation. However, because Sundays in Advent take precedence over Solemnities, all Masses celebrated on Sunday, December 7, 2025, are to use the Mass formula and readings of the Second Sunday of Advent. Masses celebrated on Monday, December 8 are to be for the obligatory celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Although anticipated/vigil Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception are not permitted this year, it should be noted that the Code of Canon Law 1248 §1 states: "A person who assists at a Mass celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the feast day itself or in the evening of the preceding day satisfies the obligation of participating in the Mass." Therefore, participation in a Sunday evening Mass on December 7 satisfies the obligation attached to either the 2nd Sunday of Advent or the Immaculate Conception, but both obligations cannot be satisfied with a single Mass.

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

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR PRIESTS: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Notre Dame Seminary is hosting the annual Christmas Luncheon for Priests on Tuesday, December 2nd. Join us we celebrate our priests and seminarians and honor Fr. Rodney Bourg and Mrs. Deborah Blancher. Table sponsorships and individual tickets are available online at onecau.se/ndschristmas. The event begins with a 10:00 am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church. The reception and luncheon follow beginning at 11:00 at The Roosevelt Hotel. For more information, please contact Mary Shaffo, mshaffo@nds.edu, (504) 866-7426, ext. 374. [See attached graphic](#).

WIDOWED? DIVORCED? SEPARATED? BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

Have you lost your spouse due to Death, Divorce or Separation? Having difficulty coping? Help is available. Beginning Experience Ministry under the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Marriage and Family Life will begin a 10-week program to help those struggling with their loss.

"Moving Forward With Hope . . . Coping With Life Alone", Wednesday evenings, December 3, 2025, through February 18, 2026. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., St. Angela Merici Catholic Church, Religious Ed Library, 901 Beverly Gardens Dr., Metairie. Cost: \$40. Call Ms. Joey at 504-812-3300 to register and for questions.

ADVENT SOUTHSORE 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 **Wednesday, December 10th** from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 A.M.** at **St. Francis Xavier Church** in Metairie. Fr. Jody DiMaggio will celebrate Mass. Following Mass, **Sr. Judith Gomila, M.S.C.** will offer a reflection on the theme "Mary, Our Advent Role Model." Confessions will also be available. For more information, please contact Kathi Zimmerman at 504.527.5794 or kzimmerman@ccfnola.org. [See attached flyer](#).

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](#).

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 eBulletin will be published. Please send submissions or inquiries regarding the NolaCatholic e-Bulletin to communications@arch-no.org.