

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter



DIVINE MERCY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Loving Mercifully, Living Marian.

4337 Sal Lentini Parkway • Kenner, Louisiana 70065

Church Office: (504) 466-5016 • Church Email: office@divinemercyparish.org

www.divinemercyparish.org

Parish Staff

Pastor:
Rev. Robert T. Cooper

Parochial Vicar:
Rev. Paul Clark

Deacons:
Noel Martinsen, Drea Capaci,
Larry Oney, and David Caldero

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Joan Kathmann, Principal
(504) 468-3524

Director of Religious Ed.:
Jacques Delouche

Youth Minister:
Ryan Foulon

Director of Music:
Garrett Fried

Administrative Staff:
Sherryl Clements
Antoinette Silver

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. &
7:00 p.m. (Español)
Sunday: 8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Monday and Tuesday:
6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:
7:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation

See Inside the Bulletin for Schedule

Confession Times

Saturday: 3:00—3:45 p.m.
Sábado: 6:15—6:45 p.m. (Español)
Sunday: 30 minutes before Mass
Tuesday: Prior to 6:30 p.m. Mass
And by Appointment

Devotions

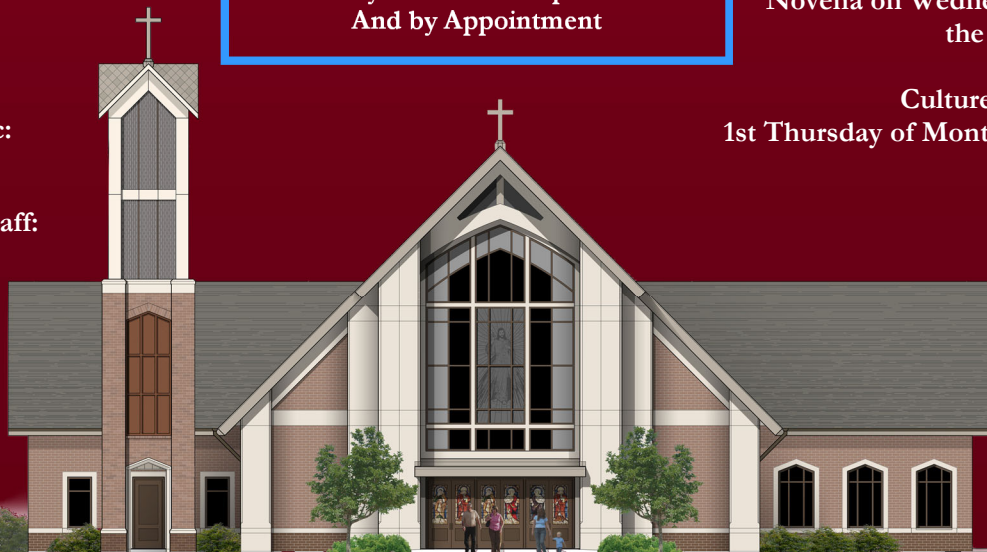
Eucharistic Adoration:
24/7 in the Adoration Chapel

Chaplet of Divine Mercy:
Thursday & Friday, 3 p.m. in
Adoration Chapel
and following
Weekday Morning Masses

Rosary:
Monday—Friday before Mass,
Sunday before 8:30 a.m. Mass, and
Sábados, 6:30 p.m. (Español)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help:
Novena on Wednesday following
the 7:30 a.m. Mass

Culture of Life Rosary
1st Thursday of Month following the
7:30 a.m. Mass





St. Joseph Sunday Missal

Today's Readings: p. 454

Next Sunday: p. 460

*To purchase a Sunday Missal for \$20,
please see an usher.*



**The Sanctuary Candle
burns this week**

**In Loving Memory of
Sara Francisca Morales**

**The Adoration Chapel
Candles burn this week**

**In Loving Memory
of Sara Francisca
Morales**



**Pray for the Repose of the
Souls of those who have died:**

**Iris Brechtel
Jacqueline Olinde
Andrew Lopez, III
Violet Batis**



*May their souls and the
souls of all the faithful
departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in
peace!*

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

MASS INTENTIONS

*To schedule Mass intentions, please visit website
www.divinemercyparish.org. The link for the
Mass intentions page is under "Pray," then
"Prayer & Liturgy," then "Mass Intentions", or
contact the Parish Office.*



May 9 - 15, 2020

Saturday 4:00 pm

Audrey Cones, Betty Archer, Charles Kronlage, Emma Petrucco,
Evelyn Beler, Hazel Felieu, Ignazia Maugeri, Joan Preston,
Marcella & Marcy Beter (Living), Margaret Maderson,
Mike Lemmon, Nelson Guarin Campof, Paul Poche, Poor Souls,
Prayer Blanket Recipients-Living & Deceased, Ruth Crocker,
Sara Aicklen, Stanley Adamcewicz, Sr., Vivian Fisk, William Jackson

Sábado-Misa de las 7:00 pm

Angelita Padilla

Sunday 8:30 am

Beloved Sara Francisca Morales

Sunday 10:30 am

Alex Tan, Angeline Boudoin, Barry S. Hebert, Sr.,
Florane & Miceli Families, Kevin M. Jeanes, Mirian Chacon,
Peggy Florane, Prayer Blanket Recipients-Living & Deceased,
Ruth Alexander, Santos Noverola, Shirley Levy, Special Intention,
Vivian Rodriguez Crist

Sunday 6:00 pm Mass

All Parishioners

Weekday Masses

Monday 6:30 pm: Andres Albarado Flores

Tuesday 6:30 pm: Healthcare Workers

Wednesday 7:30 am: Theresa Bolnar, Ruth Chatelain

Thursday 7:30 am: Tomohiro Nakamoto

Friday 7:30 am: Mary Boes Rossmiller

Jesus, I trust in You!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 10

- No Masses
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Monday, May 11

- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer
- No 6:30 pm Mass

Tuesday, May 12

- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer
- No 6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday, May 13

- No 7:30 am Mass
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Thursday, May 14

- No 7:30 am Mass
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Friday, May 15

- No 7:30 am Mass
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Saturday, May 16

- No Masses
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Sunday, May 17

- No Masses
- Church open 8 AM to 6 PM for personal prayer

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekend of April 26, 2020

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Envelopes | \$ | 5,351 |
| Loose | \$ | 62 |
| Online Giving | \$ | 4,973 |
| Capital Campaign | \$ | 1,628 |
| Other Income | \$ | 2,327 |
| Totaling | \$ | 14,341 |

St. Anthony Ministry \$ 819

***"Let us focus on generosity, or
returning God's gifts with
increase, through the
generous sharing of our time,
talent and treasure."***

~ Fr. Cooper



GRATEFUL & GENEROUS

May 10, 2020 - 5th Sunday of Easter

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." (1 Peter 2:7)

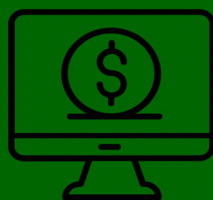
Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called "charisms" and they are used to build God's kingdom on earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God's salvation plan.





Online Giving Welcome to Online Giving

Divine Mercy Parish would like to thank our families who are currently giving electronically. You may not see these fellow parishioners place an envelope in the basket every week, but their consistent giving does not go unnoticed. Each month our parish receives a steady and predictable stream of income from



those donors who have made the commitment to give to God first by having a designated contribution automatically transferred to our parish through our Online Giving Program. If you would like to learn more about this easy, safe, and secure way of giving, please check out our website:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/dmp>

Prayer Intentions

Deborah Simon, The Fernandez Family, Chris Fontan, Michelle Santamaria, Gilda Rebecca Morales, Janice & Sherry Arena, Barbara Sutphen, Milley Zapata, Douglas Hux, Stanley Pearce, Parker Shy, Amy Waguespack, Sylvia Bordelon, Louise Ogier, Rosemary Cotham, Irma Schmidt, Roberto Aguilar, Karen Tassin, Sandra Woods, Elvira Savery, Lyle Helsser, Hazel Harclarode, Brian Jeanson & Family, Louise Aucoin, Noel Yambra, All Prayer Blanket Recipients, and All Prayer Intentions on the Divine Mercy website.



Names will remain on the list one month. Call 466-5016 to add a name.

Prayer Blanket Ministry



Relief to the suffering, peace to the fearful. May each Prayer Blanket Recipient know they are not alone. We are praying for their healing and comfort. This beautiful act of sacrifice

before the Lord transforms this blanket into a prayer blanket whose very threads become interwoven with pleas for healing on behalf of the recipient. To request a Prayer Blanket for someone who is ill or in need, contact Meryl Rooney at (504) 472-4383.

DIVINE MERCY YOUTH MINISTRY

Today, we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel (John 14:1-12), we are presented with a discussion at the last supper. Jesus says, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,"* (JN 14:6). A LIFETEEN author states, *"Jesus is not a way to the Father but the way."* The LIFETEEN author further states, *"Heaven is our home, our goal. When our eyes are set on heaven, there is no fear of earthly troubles."* This is good to remember during these unique times of the Coronavirus pandemic. At LIFETEEN and Edge we learn and try to follow what the LIFETEEN author says about Christ being our path to the Father. As the LIFETEEN author says, *"If we want to attain true happiness, to truly live and experience the truth, we have to follow Jesus, as He is the way."* Please join us as we follow Jesus, **"THE WAY!"** You are invited to stay connected with us on Instagram at *divinemercylte*, Twitter at *divinemercylte*, and YouTube at *Divine Mercy Life Teen*.

Confession

All Regular Scheduled Confession Times are Cancelled. To schedule an appointment for individual confession, please call the Parish Office at 504-466-5016, ext. 116.

Arrangements will be discussed between the priest and penitent.



Come to Me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...My yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

To all those suffering out there, please understand that Jesus is not making light of your sufferings. He sees them and He knows they are real and sometimes crushing. What He is teaching us is that if we walk closely with Him during our earthly journey, we will experience joy and peace in our struggles. The lives of the saints, many of whom freely chose a life of suffering for the sake of sinners understood this, because they joined their lives to His. The more they experienced His love, the more they were able to

sacrifice. Today let us surrender our lives to Him, let us choose to share His yoke and receive comfort and strength and most of all peace. He promised: ***“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled or afraid.”*** (John 14:27-28)

Reflection by Anne-Marie Barrilleaux

Universal Charitable Deduction

The signing of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act has created a Universal Charitable Deduction of \$300 for taxpayers. This is an “above-the-line” deduction, which means it will be available to all taxpayers, not just those who itemize.

Example: A taxpayer who takes the standard deduction and makes a \$300 cash gift (not stock) to a qualified charitable organization, like their parish, may claim the \$300 deduction in computing his or her adjusted gross income.

The gift may be made at any time during the remainder of 2020. This deduction is in addition to the taxpayer’s standard deduction.

DONATIONS NEEDED

St. Anthony Ministry food pantry is in need of donations to help our community as we face this global health crisis

Canned Items:
Carrots, Green Beans, Sweet Peas, Tomato Sauce, Tuna, Mixed Vegetables, Soups, Beans, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Pastas, Dry Beans, Canned Meats (Chicken, Chef Boyardee, Spaghetti & Meatballs, etc.), Instant Potatoes, Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix, Dry Cereal, Grits, Juice

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE PARISH NARTHEX



You can help us during the COVID-19 pandemic.



During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to continue our ministry. Use eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Plus, sign up is easy.

To sign up online, go to: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/dmp>

Or

From your smartphone, text “Give” to 504-500-4666.
You will receive a link to the Divine Mercy Online Giving website to complete a one-time registration.

Or

For an Online Giving Authorization Form, go to: <http://www.divinemercyparish.org/ways-to-give>. Complete the form, return to the Office and we will setup your Online Giving Account.

Due to the Corona Virus, All Dates and Times for Upcoming Events are subject to change or cancellation.

For Up to Date Information,
Please consult the Divine Mercy website
at: www.divinemercyparish.org
and
Archdiocese of New Orleans website at
<https://clarionherald.org/following-coronavirus>

Debido al Corona Virus, todas las fechas y horas de los eventos programados, están sujetos a cambios o, a cancelación.

Para ver información actualizada, por favor, consulte el website de la Divina Misericordia en:
www.divinemercyparish.org
Y el website de la arquidiócesis de Nueva Orleáns, en: <https://clarionherald.org/following-coronavirus>



HISPANIC MINISTRY

*Vengan a mí todos los que trabajan y están cargados, y les daré descanso ...
Mi yugo es fácil y mi carga es ligera.
(Mateo 11: 28-30)*



Para todos los que sufren, comprendan que Jesús no se está burlando de sus sufrimientos. Los ve y sabe que son reales y a veces aplastantes. Lo que nos está enseñando es que si caminamos de cerca con Él durante nuestro viaje terrenal, experimentaremos gozo y paz en nuestras luchas. Las vidas de los santos, muchos de los cuales eligieron libremente una vida de sufrimiento por el bien de los pecadores, entendieron esto, porque unieron sus vidas a la suya. Cuanto más experimentaban su amor, más podían sacrificarse. Hoy rindamos nuestras vidas a Él, escojamos compartir Su yugo y recibir consuelo y fortaleza y sobre todo paz. Él prometió: ***“La paz te dejo, mi paz te doy; no como el mundo da, yo te doy a ti. No dejes que tus corazones se turben o teman”***. (Juan 14: 27-28)

Reflexión de Anne-Marie Barrilleaux

EL Ministerio de San Antonio Despensa de Alimentos

Artículos enlatados (tamaños 14-16 oz.): Verduras mixtas, Zanahorias, Tomate, Judías Verdes, Guisantes dulces, Maíz, Sopas, Frijoles, Leche Evaporada, Frutas, Carnes Enlatadas 14.5 oz (Pollo, Chef Boyardee, Espaguetis y Albóndigas), Atún (5 oz.), Mantequilla de Maní (18 oz.), Mermelada - (botella de plástico 16 a 20 onzas), Macarrones con queso (caja de 7.25 oz.), Pasta (1 lb), Frijoles Secos (1 lb), Papas Instantáneas (14 oz), Cereal de desayuno, Mezcla para Muffins o para Panqueques (12 a 16 oz), Avena o Sémola (1 a 2 libras o paquetes, individuales), Jugo - (1/2 galón)

Por favor no vidrio o comida vencida y de tamaño regular. ¡Muchas Gracias!



Deducción Universal Caritativa

La firma de la Ley de Ayuda, Alivio Coronavirus y Seguridad Económica ("CARES") ha creado una deducción caritativa universal de \$ 300 para los contribuyentes. Esta es una deducción “por encima del límite”, lo que significa que estará disponible para todos los contribuyentes, no solo aquellos que detallan (ítemizan).

Ejemplo: un contribuyente que toma la deducción estándar y hace una donación en efectivo de \$ 300 (no acciones) a una organización benéfica calificada, como su parroquia, puede reclamar la deducción de \$ 300 al calcular su ingreso bruto (total) ajustado. La donación se puede hacer en cualquier momento durante el resto del 2020. Esta deducción es adicional a la deducción estándar del contribuyente.

Confesión

Todas las horas regulares de Confesión están canceladas. Para programar una cita para confesarse, por favor llame a la Oficina Parroquial al 504-466-5016, ext. 116. Detalles se coordinarán entre el sacerdote y el penitente.



FR. COOPER'S CORNER

Protecting our Humanity

Because of the times we are living in, Pope Francis has spoken out repeatedly about the dangers of “gender ideology,” a modern form of gnosticism that not only undermines our basic understanding of anthropology but also of reality. He has made a distinction between the welcome, support, accompaniment, and loving pastoral care that we must offer to those who say they are transgender—whose sexual self-understanding does not align with their biological sex—and pretending and teaching others that there really are men trapped in women’s bodies and women in men’s. While we must affirm the dignity of those who believe themselves to be transgender and defend their fundamental human rights to be free of violence and unjust discrimination, he says, we must also be clear about the danger that the ideology of gender poses to individuals and to society.

“We must protect our humanity,” Pope Francis stated in his exhortation on the family, “and this means, in the first place, accepting it and respecting it as it was created.” It is “one thing to be understanding of human weakness and the complexities of life and another to accept ideologies that attempt to sunder what are inseparable aspects of reality” (*Amoris Laetitia* 56). Our sex is a basic part of human nature, just like our genes, race, age, and species. It is an objective fact, not a subjective choice, mental state, or feeling. To deny that is to deny our humanity. Gender ideology, he said in a 2015 General Audience, is therefore a “step backwards. The removal of [sexual] difference in fact creates a problem, not a solution,” a problem not just for those with gender dysphoria but for everyone. And yet our culture is recklessly sprinting backwards.

Last year, the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives gave first hearing to the Equality Act of 2019, which aims to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964—which banned discrimination based on “race, color, religion, sex, or national origin”—by changing its definition of “sex” to include “sexual orientation” and “gender identity,” the latter defined as “gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or characteristics, regardless of the individual’s designated sex at birth.” Similarly, during the United Nation’s Commission on the Status of Women in New York, there was a push by the LGBTI Core Group—representing 28 countries, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the NGOs Human Rights Watch and Outright Action International—to change the meaning of “woman” to include those who claim to be women, “no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.”

Whereas everyone once knew what “woman” meant based on her bodily nature—her two X chromosomes, capacity for motherhood, female hormones, internal reproductive organs, external genitalia, secondary sex characteristics—proponents of gender ideology are asserting that bodily nature has nothing intrinsically to do with womanhood beyond how sex is “assigned” at birth. Womanhood, rather, is the way one thinks about oneself, or expresses oneself, based on sexual stereotypes like the clothes and shoes one wears, the hobbies or sports one enjoys, the make-up one dons, etc. Manhood is similarly a state of mind rather than a biological and bodily reality. The person is reduced to spirit and will and the human being almost becomes a disincarnate abstraction until one discerns what nature and gender one is or wants to be.



Gender ideology, however, does not stop at profound anthropological confusion. As we are witnessing in Washington, the UN, and various state and national capitals, those promoting it are trying to reorder society according to that confusion, with profound consequences not just in terms of law, education, economy, health, safety, sports, language, and culture, but also in terms of human rights, marriage and family, motherhood and fatherhood, and the cause of women, men, and especially children.

Let's focus on the harm to four groups. First, to women. Changing the definition of woman to include biological men who identify as women means, de facto, that what women have fought so hard to achieve over recent decades in terms of jobs, education, and sports—and what is necessary for their safety in terms of shelter, bathrooms, and locker rooms—will no longer be protected. Any biological man saying he is a woman would now be entitled to whatever a biological woman is. Employers who want to save on parental leave but still claim gender balance can employ biological men who believe they are women instead of biological women. Boys claiming to be girls—with their physical advantages in terms of muscle mass and type, bone density, heart, lungs and natural performance enhancing hormones—can compete against girls and take their championships (and no doubt soon scholarships), and in violent contact sports also put them at greater risk for serious injury. Women who have suffered violence from men will have to endure biological men entering battered women's shelters, bathrooms and locker rooms, no matter the trauma to their sense of safety. And the opportunity for those who want to exploit such facile, subjective redefinitions of personal identity are already sadly in evidence: rapists who self-identify as women to enter women's prisons to rape again; peeping toms or exhibitionists who identify as women or girls to enter women's bathrooms and locker rooms at their will and pleasure; careerists who want to improve their chances for jobs identifying as women to take advantage of gender parity policies.



Second, to children. Pope Francis is particularly concerned about gender ideology being taught to kids, so that boys and girls are encouraged to question, at their earliest ages, whether they are a boy or a girl and are taught, at a time when gender non-conformity is higher, that they can choose their gender. Rather than solid anthropology, indoctrinating them in categories like those found in the “gender unicorn” is a form of intellectual child abuse. Worse, however, is what is happening medically with children who experience gender dysphoria. Rather than treating the underlying issues of gender non-conformity, children are being encouraged to transition socially at a very young age and adopt opposite-sex name, habits and expressions. As pre-pubescent, they are then being given puberty blockers—which are not even FDA approved for this purpose—despite the fact that they arrest bone growth, decrease bone density, stop the formation of sex cells, and leave them physically behind their maturing peers. When they reach the general age of puberty, they're being given cross sex hormones in very high doses, despite foreseeable side effects in terms of bone mineral density, lipid profile, cardiovascular problems and cancer. And finally, as early as 13 in some places, they are being helped to have sex reassignment surgery, surgically removing their external sex organs and replacing them with a simulation of opposite sex organs. All of this is happening despite the fact that longitudinal studies have shown that 85 percent of children with gender identity disorder do not persist in dysphoria in adolescence. Once, however, children begin the four-step pathway of social transition, puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and reassignment surgery, it is rare that they revert. Parents who



seek to prevent this pattern are treated as facilitators of their children's future suicide, or uncaring bigots, and in some countries have even begun to lose their children.

Third, to those with gender dysphoria. Studies in Sweden have shown, for example, that despite a culture strongly supportive of those who say they are transgender, the suicide rate 10-15 years after sex reassignment surgery is 19 times that of comparable peers, including groups who also experience some form of social stigma. How come? Because you cannot fool nature. All non-ideological, commonsensical thinkers recognize that there is something awry when someone thinks he is a man trapped in a woman's body, or vice versa, in a similar way to those who think they are transspecies or transracial. Such dysphoria is not remedied by everyone else's feigning the emperor is an empress. But there is a vast cultural conspiracy pretending that those with gender dysphoria are psychologically healthy and normal, and that their only issues concern integration within the larger culture. It is medical, psychological, cultural, and ethical malpractice of the highest measure.

The last group is everyone in society, as gender ideology seeks to compel us to suppress our common sense and knowledge of elementary biology and play along with the fiction. All of us will have to change our pronouns, or pay fines, or lose jobs. Individuals and institutions that fail to abide by the zeitgeist will suffer severe consequences for civil rights violations. Medical professionals, despite their oath first to do no harm, will have to prescribe puberty blockers and opposite sex hormones and to perform surgeries. Women and girls will have to live with the new situation that treats trans-women and biological women as legally identical. Families that try to give their children adequate psychological care to treat underlying issues may be found guilty of civil rights abuses and lose their children. All of this will likely continue until children who have suffered all the consequences of puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and amputations as minors grow up and begin to sue the medical establishment for the irreversible damage done to them. These radical changes, however, are not inevitable. But if they are going to be halted, those who see clearly, truthfully and charitably need to act now to protect our humanity and defend and help those who are vulnerable.

Catholic Counseling Service

In compliance with the precautions regarding COVID-19, Catholic Counseling Service (CCS) continues to offer telehealth services to individuals, couples, and families through the phone or video-conferencing platforms. This new and effective method of counseling allows CCS to extend our services across the arch-diocese to areas in which we were not previously available. Through the generosity of a donor, CCS has received a grant to increase the number of clients we can assist with the cost of counseling, including providing pro bono services when necessary. CCS offers counseling for \$50 a session and will continue to use a sliding scale to assist anyone looking for counseling. We are committed to removing finances as an obstacle to mental health services.

Anyone interested in counseling can speak to our intake coordinator by calling our main office at 504-861-6245. If we are unable to answer a call, please leave a message with your name and preferred contact phone number and someone will return your call within the next business day to complete the intake and schedule an appointment. All calls are completely confidential. We are proud to continue our mission of providing quality and affordable counseling to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



DIVINE WORSHIP AND SACRED MUSIC

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Memorare



REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



Family Prayer



Loving and faithful God, through the years the people of our archdiocese have appreciated the prayers and love of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in times of war, disaster, epidemic and illness. We come to you, Father, with Mary our Mother, and ask you to help us in the battle of today against violence, murder and racism. We implore you to give us your wisdom that we may build a community founded on the values of Jesus, which gives respect to the life and dignity of all people. Bless parents that they may form their children in faith. Bless and protect our youth that they may be peacemakers of our time. Give consolation to those who have lost loved ones through violence. Hear our prayer and give us the perseverance to be a voice for life and human dignity in our community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Mother Henriette Delille, pray for us that we may be a holy family.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.

Acto de Comunión Espiritual

Mi Jesús, yo creo que Tú estás en el Santísimo Sacramento. Yo te amo por encima de todas las cosas y yo Te deseo en mi alma. Como ahora no puedo recibirte sacramentalmente, al menos ven a mi corazón espiritualmente. Como ya has venido, Yo te abrazo y me uno enteramente a Ti. Nunca permitas que me separe de ti.

Let us pray,

Loving and faithful God, the coronavirus reminds us that we have no power and we are dependent on you.

We place ourselves in your loving hands.

Please give eternal rest to all who have died from the virus.

Please put your healing hand on those who are ill, and give your protection to us in this time of fear and uncertainty. Please, calm our fears and help us to trust you as our faithful God.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us in this time of need

ARCHBISHOP GREGORY AYMOND

Loving Mercifully, Living Marian.



A Message from Fr. Cooper

Vacation Bible School 2020

With a heavy heart, I must advise that our onsite Vacation Bible School Program planned for June 22-26, 2020, at Divine Mercy Catholic Church will not take place this year, due to the risk of spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus. Since there is no expectation that strict social distancing guidelines will be relaxed by the beginning of the summer, it would be prudent to take steps now to cancel June events that draw together large numbers of people.

This is a very sad and difficult decision, especially since so many were looking forward to this wonderful summer faith-filled experience. However, I also realize it is a necessary one. I simply cannot host an onsite summer program at Divine Mercy Parish when I know that doing so would risk the health of the young people who participate, their families, and the staff and volunteers. Knowing that the timeline for the COVID-19 pandemic remains unknown and the situation continues to evolve, I plan to rely on the recommendations of public health experts at the Louisiana Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to guide my analysis regarding July and August events.

The **Good News** is that our staff is in the process of developing a **Virtual Vacation Bible School Program** that our children will have the opportunity to participate in from home. This program will include many of the same elements that our children have grown to love about their Vacation Bible School experience. More information about our Virtual Vacation Bible School program will be forthcoming after May 1st.

I am grateful for your patience and prayers as our Vacation Bible School proceeds, even if it is not proceeding as we had hoped.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!



A Statement from the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools

April 29, 2020

The Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent school closures have been a challenge for our Catholic school families, school leaders, teachers, and staff members. The ways our teachers and students have responded to the upheaval of routines and to the cancellation of anticipated events and long-awaited milestones have been extraordinary. We once again assure our school families as well as our school leaders, faculties, and staff of our prayers during this challenging time.

In light of Governor Edwards' extension of the "stay-at-home" order through May 15, we are announcing today the closure of our Catholic school campuses for the remainder of the school year. Remote learning will continue according to each school's calendar.

In the coming weeks, school leaders will be contacting school families with school-specific plans for closing the school year. We ask for parents' continued patience as school leaders work with their faculty and staff to bring the school year to a close.

For families facing financial hardships in continuing tuition payments, we encourage you to contact your school leader for information about the possibility of applying for tuition assistance for the remainder of the school year through the established COVID-19 Tuition Assistance Fund. Anyone wanting to assist families through this fund by making a financial gift may do so at the iGiveCatholic website:

<https://neworleans.igivecatholic.org/organizations/nola-office-of-catholic-schools> .

For more information contact Sarah McDonald at (504) 339-6375 or email at smcdonald@arch-no.org.



Blessing of the Home Sign-Up

Christ is Risen! Happy Easter! Are you interested in having your home blessed during the Easter Season.

Please note, in order to keep you safe, the priest or deacon will bless your house standing 6 feet or more from your front door. He will also call when he arrives to avoid touching the doorbell. We want to keep you safe while imparting this powerful blessing.

Social Distancing Safety and Reminders: (1) please only have those with whom you are quarantining present; (2) please either remain inside your house with the front door open or on your front porch; (3) this will be a blessing free from physical contact, even secondary contact so please refrain from handing anything to the priest or deacon.

To schedule an appointment for a Home Blessing, please complete the sign-up form on the Divine Mercy Website: <https://forms.gle/dtPsc3bQ6LRvxZkYA>



Pope Francis Names Father Robert Marshall of Diocese of Memphis as Bishop of Alexandria, LA

WASHINGTON—Pope Francis has named Father Robert W. Marshall, a priest of the Diocese of Memphis as the Bishop of Alexandria. The appointment was publicized in Washington, D.C. on April 21, 2020 by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the United States. The Diocese of Alexandria has been a vacant see since March 2019.

Bishop-elect Marshall was born in Memphis, Tennessee on June 17, 1959 and ordained to the priesthood on June 10, 2000 for the Diocese of Memphis. He attended Christian Brothers University in Memphis (1977-1980) where he received a Bachelor of Arts in History. In 1983, he received a Juris Doctorate from the Humphreys School of Law at University of Memphis, and a Master of Divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 2000. Prior to entering seminary, Father Marshall worked as a civil attorney.

Father Marshall's assignments in the Diocese of Memphis after ordination include: Parochial Vicar at Incarnation Church in Collierville (2000-2002); Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Humboldt and St. Matthew Parish in Milan (2002-2004); Pastor at Church of the Ascension in Memphis (2004-2012); Pastor at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Cordova (2012-2017); and Parochial Administrator at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Memphis (2017-2019). Since 2019, Bishop-elect Marshall has served as Vicar General for the Diocese of Memphis and Pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The Diocese of Alexandria is comprised of 11,108 square miles in the State of Louisiana and has a total population of 389,837 of which 35,402 are Catholic.



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