



Photo Credit: David Warren

Archbishop Gregory Aymond stands in front of the altar at the Camp Abbey chapel on Oct. 19 where he blessed and dedicated the new artwork flanking the altar and the new stone outdoor Stations of the Cross.

## Blessed and Dedicated

### New Art at Camp Abbey Draws Young Church Into the Beauty of Faith

By Sarah McDonald

Every summer nearly 2,000 young boys and girls attend Camp Abbey's week-long summer camp sessions to escape the noise of the world and grow in faith. Even more attend parish retreats and youth events throughout the year, and now, thanks to the generosity of the Women's Giving Circle, this place which has long been considered sacred ground by campers and camp alumni, is home to original sacred art.

Two new paintings by local artist Jaelyn Warren, one of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha and one of Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk grace

the chapel and a new set of stone Stations of the Cross by Baton Rouge sculptor Deborah Luke will draw young people along a prayerful path through the outdoors. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond blessed and dedicated the new pieces during a special ceremony on Oct. 19.

According to Billy O'Regan, Camp Abbey summer camp coordinator and development director, the paintings are the first two original pieces of art to ever adorn the walls of the chapel. As for the Stations of the Cross, while their exact placement is yet to be determined, O'Regan was certain of their importance.

"What we do know is that we want to draw the teenagers and children who come here into the beautiful outdoors as they contemplate the passion of Christ," said O'Regan. "The beauty of the artwork and of the forest will certainly make this a popular offering for youth ministers and their students."

#### Who are Saint Kateri and Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk?

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American Saint, beatified in 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. She was a Mohawk/Algonquin who lived in the late 1600s in present day New York and later Canada. (see **CAMP ABBEY** p. 6)

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**Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond**  
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# For God and Country: Catholic War Veterans Assemble in River Ridge

By Kim Roberts

For the past 90 years, Catholic War Veterans (CWW) organizations across the country have been committed to serving God, country and home while embodying the spirit of Catholic action and defending the standards of democracy. With 8,000 members nationwide, the 30-member CWW group out of River Ridge Post 1969 is small but passionate.

“Our mission as Catholic War Veterans is to continue to serve those who have served, to honor the legacy of those who came before us and to support our communities in ways that reflect our shared values of faith, loyalty and patriotism,” said Charlton Meginley, Post 1969 commander and secretary Louisiana Department of Veteran Affairs. “The Archdiocese of New Orleans has one Catholic War Veterans post, and it is in River Ridge; it’s an older post that we are working to revitalize.”

He added that most Catholic War Veterans groups are located in the Northeast with posts also open in Texas and Ohio. The River Ridge Post does not have a permanent meeting space, holding meetings at various locations around River Ridge in addition to meeting at the Southeast Louisiana Veteran’s Home in Reserve. The group is also considering hosting virtual meetings in the future in order to accommodate its membership.

“We originally started the local Catholic War Veterans post in 2014 to help other veterans with their VA paperwork,” said Larry Jones, past post commander. “We also raised money to pay for the cremation of veterans, who were going to be buried in a pauper’s grave, and arranged for their burial in the VA cemetery. It’s important to help our fellow veterans anyway we can.”

The genesis of the Catholic War Veterans organization was after World War I when there was no specific veterans’ group supporting Catholic service men and women. In 1935, the Catholic War Veterans of the United States was incorporated in New York and was blessed by Pope Pius XI the same year. In 1940 Catholic War Veterans became an official Veterans Organization and received a Congressional Charter in 1984 under President Ronald Reagan who said, “Freedom is always one generation away from extinction.”

“The Catholic War Veterans organization stands as a testament to the intersection of faith and service, embodying the principles of Catholicism in their commitment to veterans and their families,” said Meginley. “Founded on the cornerstone of faith, the organization’s ethos is deeply rooted in the Catholic tradition, fostering a sense of camaraderie,



Photo Credit: Catholic War Veterans, Post 1969

As part of their community outreach program, members of the Catholic War Veterans Post 1969 and their spouses visited the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home in Reserve, La. to deliver king cakes and Mardi Gras cheer. Veterans Day is celebrated annually in November to honor and support war veterans.

compassion and duty. Through their actions and initiatives, they exemplify the teachings of their faith by providing support, advocacy and resources to those who have served their country, reflecting the belief in service to others as a core tenet of Catholicism.”

He added there are approximately 250,000 veterans in the state and most don’t belong to a veteran’s group. “Being a member of a veteran’s group is important because it gives service men and women a space to share their experiences with others who have been through the same wartime experience – it fosters brotherhood and sisterhood. As Catholic War Veterans, it is our duty to serve those who have served, to honor the legacy of those who came before us, and to support our communities in ways that reflect our shared values of faith, loyalty and patriotism.”

There are approximately 45 government chartered veteran service organizations in the country and Catholic War Veterans is one of them, but what makes it stand out from the others is its faith-based mission.

“Being a member of the Catholic War Veterans is not simply a title; it is a commitment to uphold the highest ideals of service to both God and country. As veterans, we carry with us the lessons learned in the military – the importance of unity, strength in adversity, and the dedication to a cause greater than ourselves,” Meginley said. “These values are as vital now as they were during our time of service. Through our organization, we continue to exemplify these virtues, supporting one another in times of need and working to improve the lives of veterans, their families and our communities.”

“That’s what makes this organization a little different, it’s the Catholic experience in war that we were able to take those lessons in faith to the battlefield,” he added. “I know from my experience, the Rosary was in my hand on the way to the Middle East. I love this organization and it’s important that we continue to foster its mission.”

For more information about Catholic War Veterans Post 1969, email [cjmeginley@gmail.com](mailto:cjmeginley@gmail.com).



## A Veterans Day Prayer

*Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces.*

*Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

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## Our Faith

- Our students attend Mass at school at least once a month.
- All schools participate in daily, school-wide prayer.
- The schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans are guided by the *National Standards & Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary & Secondary Schools*.

## Our Academics

- The average ACT score for the class of 2025 was 22.3, which is 4 points higher than the state average.
- During the 2024-2025 school year, we had 109 *National Merit Scholars*.
- The average student to teacher ratio for our schools is 10:1.

## Our Resources

- All schools work with community partners to provide counseling and guidance support for mental and physical well-being.
- We invest in continuous professional development for our teachers year-round.
- Our schools offer a variety of extracurricular activities for students from sports teams to musical groups and more.

## Our Influence

- During the 2024-2025 school year, students performed over 350,000 hours of service in the community.
- 98% of our graduates pursue a post-secondary education.
- The graduating class of 2025 received over \$5 billion in college scholarships.

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# Faith + Generosity = #iGiveCatholic on Giving Tuesday

By Kim Roberts

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) kicks off its annual #iGiveCatholic online giving day with advanced giving opportunities beginning Nov. 17-Dec. 1.

Observed each year on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #iGiveCatholic began as the first-ever national online giving day that celebrated the city's unique Catholic heritage and inspires faithful stewards to "Give Catholic" on Giving Tuesday. This year, #iGiveCatholic and Giving Tuesday are Dec. 2.

According to Cory Howat, CCF executive director, #iGiveCatholic was founded 11 years ago by the Catholic Community Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a giving day dedicated to Catholic ministries to kick off the charitable season, bring the community together to give thanks and encourage individuals and families to give back to the organizations that shapes souls: Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations.

"This model of giving offers a perfect blend of technology and building generosity among the faithful," he said. "There have always been secular giving days, and we thought we could develop a meaningful version for Catholic giving and grow that to its fullest potential. We have been truly blessed by our generous archdiocese community over the years."

Started in New Orleans by CCF, #iGiveCatholic has grown nationally and even internationally with donations coming in from all 50 states and last year more than 1,800 Catholic non-profit organizations participated in the day of giving across the country. In 2024, 130 organizations participated throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Any 501(c)(3) parish, school, or nonprofit ministry affiliated with participating dioceses are eligible to take part in #iGiveCatholic giving day.

"We want to help these organizations spread hope and really build faith in their ministry through participation in this day of giving," said Micki Andry, director of community impact CCF. "We are in the back seat, pushing them along and putting what they do out there for the community to see."

"This is a way for donors to truly show their generosity, love and service toward Catholic ministries, churches and schools through our own dedicated day of giving," she said. "It's a great opportunity to show your appreciation for your favorite ministry because they rely on this day for their service to the community, especially the smaller organizations that couldn't do a giving day like this on their own."

### Local impact

Last year #iGiveCatholic raised more than \$23 million nationally. Locally more than \$1.9 million was raised with the Archdiocese of New Orleans leading the nation for the amount of money raised by any archdiocese.

Andry said that St. Francis Xavier (church and school together) raised \$474,000 last year to replace the school roof and repave the parking lot. "It was their first time participating and they debuted on the national leader board," she said. "It was truly awesome."

"St. Angela Merici church, is also a group that does amazing each year with the giving day, they raised \$166,000 last year. They are consistently doing well and pushing their campaign," Andry said. "St. Benilde School and Holy Cross also had a nice showing last year."

### Getting involved

Supporters can start making tax-deductible online donations of \$10 or more on Nov. 17 at [www.igivecatholic.org](http://www.igivecatholic.org). They can also provide offline gifts of checks or cash of any amount directly to any participating organization. Online donations will be accepted starting at 12:01 a.m. on Nov. 17, at the start of advanced giving, and will continue to be collected and applied to campaign totals through 11:59 p.m. Dec. 9.

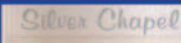

"Making a contribution will be even easier this year with the new platform MightyCause we are using for online donations," Andry said. "We can now accept Venmo, ApplePay and PayPal and you can donate up to 200 organizations at one time instead of doing it individually – sort of stack your cart for one transaction. The new platform has been very easy and helpful."

### New this year

On Dec. 2 a nationwide livestream will be hosted with a special feature from the Catholic Cultural Center of New Orleans on the Pope Leo XIV exhibit along with check-ins with different organizations and spotlights on archdiocese and ministries across the country, highlighting what the money is being raised for and going towards. The livestream can be watched on the [igivecatholic](http://igivecatholic.org) website.

"#iGiveCatholic gives people a chance to make a meaningful difference in the community by making a donation to one of the 240+ Catholic ministries in the region," Howat said. "Your gift can be part of a greater impact; there is a certain joy giving brings. Give Back and Give Catholic on Dec. 2."



## Medjugorje Message

of October 25, 2025

*"Dear children! The Most High in His goodness gave me to you to lead you on the way of peace. Many have responded and are praying, but there are many creatures who do not have peace and have not come to know the God of love. Therefore, little children, pray and love, create prayer groups to encourage each other to the good. I am with you and am praying for your conversion. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

(With Ecclesiastical approval)

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# CAMP ABBEY

“She has been our patron at Camp Abbey since we re-opened (in 2012),” said O’Regan.

Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk was a leader in the Oglala Lakota tribe in South Dakota. He lived in a more contemporary time than Saint Kateri, passing away at the age of 86 in 1950. He was a second cousin of the war leader Crazy Horse and fought with him in the Battle of Little Bighorn. He survived the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890. He toured and performed in Europe as part of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show.

“He received visions, beginning in his childhood, which he understood in a new light after his conversion to Catholicism in 1904,” said O’Regan. “He was baptized on the feast of Saint Nicholas and adopted the name. He became a devoted catechist, sharing the good news and assisting with the administration of his parish.”

Saint Kateri and Servant of God Nicholas were selected for the chapel because of their special connection to the outdoors and the inspirational lives they lived.

## Camp Abbey through the years

Camp Abbey opened its doors to campers in 1960 through a partnership between the Knights of Columbus and the Monks of St. Joseph Abbey. In 2006, citing rising costs and insurance issues, Camp Abbey was temporarily closed.

After six years of dormancy, in the year leading up to the summer of 2012, the Archdiocese entered into an agreement with the monks to breathe new life into the ministry.

“The leadership of Archbishop Aymond, then just two years into his service as our archbishop was the reason that this all happened,” said O’Regan addressing Archbishop Aymond during the ceremony. “You approached the monastic community, you approached donors and you took a leap of faith to restart this ministry.”

“I invite all of you to pray for Camp Abbey,” concluded O’Regan. “We host retreats almost every weekend and many weekdays, and employ more than 150 high school and college students in the summer. There is a lot to be thankful for and much work to do to keep this facility functioning. We are grateful for your prayers and support.”

*Camp Abbey Retreat Center is a serene and peaceful destination nestled in Covington, La., offering a variety of retreat experiences for individuals and groups. With a focus on spiritual renewal and personal growth, Camp Abbey provides a tranquil setting for reflection, meditation and connection with nature. Visit [www.campabbey.org](http://www.campabbey.org) to learn more.*



Photo Credit: David Warren



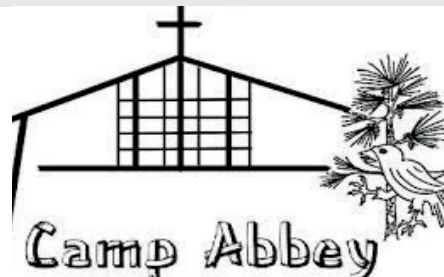
Photo Credit: David Warren

*Archbishop Aymond blesses the paintings of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (left) and Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk (right) adorning the chapel at Camp Abbey in Covington. This original artwork was made possible through the efforts of the Catholic Community Foundation of New Orleans and the St. Louis IX Art Society, who commissioned artist Jaclyn Warren.*



Photo Credit: Kathi Zimmerman

*Archbishop Aymond blesses the new stone Stations of the Cross created by sculptor Deborah Luke of Baton Rouge. The Women’s Giving Circle of New Orleans generously funded this project which has been a long-time dream for Camp Abbey leaders. Each station will be housed in a special display unit set along a yet to be determined path to encourage summer campers and those who attend retreats during Lent and other times of the year to prayerfully walk with Jesus Christ through his passion and death in an outdoor setting.*



# Our Students Give Thanks During the Season of Gratitude

## By Staff Report

With the month of November in full swing, it is the season of gratitude: a time to give thanks for all the things we are thankful for by giving back to the community and helping others. Several schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans are spending November giving back and encouraging their students and faculty to give thanks, and we've highlighted a few as we countdown to Thanksgiving.

### Holy Name of Jesus School, New Orleans

"Currently we are participating in a diaper drive and are collecting diapers for the Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank. We typically do a food drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank or St. Vincent de Paul in the fall. This year, due to our Gator Fest being later in November, we are exploring the possibility of extending that collection during Advent," - Amy D. Nolan, director of institutional advancement

### Mary, Queen of Peace School, Mandeville

"The students and families at Mary, Queen of Peace are always letting their lights shine through acts of service. For our "Feed the Hungry" monthly food campaign, in the month of November we are collecting favorite snack items to be donated to the parish for five

nonprofit programs. These snacks will be packed in drawstring backpacks for children. We are also collecting new and gently used coats for the Kiwanis Club and at our Fall Fest, the students will engage in a relay game to pack birthday boxes for the "Brooke It Forward" outreach. Additionally, our families have gotten a jump-start on service by filling "Boxes of Joy" with goodies to be shipped to children who live abroad and daily, in our school community, we give slips of gratitude to students and teachers who have found ways to let their light shine." - Dana Stiller, director of Christian formation

### St. Benilde School, Metairie

"November's virtue of the month is generosity which we are focusing on how Thanksgiving reminds us to share our blessings and give generously to others in our community. As we enter this season of gratitude, our school is focusing on thankfulness and generosity in many meaningful ways, including a food drive organized by our student council to benefit St. Vincent de Paul with donations being offered during the school's Thanksgiving Mass. Throughout November, students will write prayers of thanksgiving that will be offered at each school Mass and our Campus Minister will lead a retreat for students in grades fifth – seventh with the theme, "Be still and know

that I am God." The purpose is to invite students to step away from distractions and spend quiet time with the Lord, reflecting on his blessings. For our faculty, each Monday in November, faculty members will draw a colleague's name and write a note expressing why they are thankful for that person." - Julie Gaudet, principal

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chase

"This Thanksgiving, our students at OLPH are coming together to share kindness and gratitude in several meaningful ways. Students will host a school-wide food drive to help families in need. In addition, each student in second – seventh grade will write and mail a heartfelt letter to a family member, expressing love and thanks and our sixth – seventh grade students will volunteer their time at a local food bank to serve our community. We are so proud of our "micro but mighty" Hornets for living out the spirit of service and gratitude this holiday season." - Brittany Breaux, principal

### St. Charles Borromeo, Destrehan

"Our school focuses on gratitude and giving thanks through service, prayer and celebration throughout the month of November. Each month, we host a donation drive, and in (see [GRATITUDE](#) p. 19)

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# Galvanizing the Next Pro-Life Leaders



**Leah  
CARDINAL**

Senior  
Academy of Our Lady

Attending the first Pro-Life Youth Summit at the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge on Sept. 23 was a wonderful and eye-opening experience for my peers from Academy of Our Lady and Archbishop Shaw High School. The historic event – hosted by Louisiana Right to Life and sponsored by the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops – brought together over 250 pro-life student leaders, politicians and activists.

The pro-life movement has been close to my heart as long as I can remember. Life is sacred and must be protected. Even though Louisiana is recognized as the second-most pro-life state in the country, there is still much work to be done. It is imperative that my generation starts spreading the truth, so we can put an end to things like the abortion pill and change the “throw-away” culture of abortion and discrimination that plague our society.

Many people today don't understand that there is unique human life immediately at conception. Renowned human embryologist, Dr. Ward Kischer states, “Every human embryologist in the world knows that the life of the new individual human being begins at fertilization. It is not belief. It is scientific fact.” These words, printed on the pamphlets from Louisiana Right to Life, remind me that our message is not only rooted in faith, but also in science. It needs to be heard by every person debating this topic.

This summit was exactly what my generation of young leaders needed to help kickstart our pro-life journey. Hearing from different wonderful speakers including Louisiana Secretary of State Nancy Landry, Senator Bill Cassidy, Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Phillip DeVillier and Acadiana Youth Programs Director for Louisiana Right to Life Hannah Guillian



Photo Credit: Academy of Our Lady

added fuel to the fire that already burns so strong in my heart. After attending this summit, I have gained more knowledge, lessons and ideas on how to make a truly pro-life community and school. Most importantly, I believe this summit inspired many of the future pro-life leaders of our state and our country.

*Leah Cardinal is currently a senior at the Academy of Our Lady where she is president of her class and officer of the Right to Life Club and Catholic Relief Services Club. She is a member of Teen CROSS, the Archdiocesan youth council made up of teens from each parish and Catholic high schools. Cardinal has participated in national faith-based events such as the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and the Salesian Leadership Retreats in New York, where students from Salesian high schools throughout the country are selected by the administration and Religion teachers to receive formation in the Salesian charism.*

## A Prolife Prayer for Hope

*Heavenly Father, in the sacrament of Baptism, you have given us the gift of new life. Through your son our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you have made us your own. Help us to recognize the gift of human life as a sign of hope in our world.*

*Reveal to us the places where your precious gift of life is most in need of protection and strengthen us to defend life in all stages and circumstances, from the child in the womb to the elderly and dying.*

*Guided by your Holy Spirit, guard us from discouragement and give us the grace to be messengers of hope, filled with confidence that nothing can separate us from your love.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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# St. Augustine High School Allies with Columbia College Chicago

By Staff Report

St. Augustine High School has established a new partnership with Columbia College Chicago designed to provide transformative opportunities for its top scholars through enhanced access to higher education and financial support starting with the 2026–2027 academic year.

The partnership includes the “St. Aug Scholastic Scholarship Fund at Columbia College Chicago,” which provides full tuition scholarships for up to 10 graduating high school seniors beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year and continuing through the 2030–2031 academic year. The alliance will also provide rising juniors and seniors with access to pre-college scholar programming, further strengthening their academic preparation and exposure to collegiate-level experiences while ensuring qualified students can successfully enroll at Columbia.

“I am honored to begin this partnership with St. Augustine, a school that has consistently prepared students for greatness,” said Dr. Shantay N. Bolton, president and CEO of Columbia.

“This partnership represents more than a pathway to higher education – it is a promise to students that their dreams are possible, no matter the barriers. At Columbia College Chicago, we are committed to uplifting aspiring artists and leaders, and this collaboration is a powerful step in ensuring they have the support and opportunity to succeed.”

The steady decline in male college enrollment highlights the importance of partnerships like the one between Columbia and St. Augustine, which aim to inspire and support young men on their paths to higher education and creative careers.

“My time at Columbia College Chicago was transformative. It’s the foundation of everything I’ve accomplished professionally,” said Kimberly Wilson ’01 and a supporter of St. Augustine.

“I’m incredibly excited that students from St. Aug will now have the same life-changing opportunity I was given over 20 years ago. A special thank you to President Dr. Bolton and (St. Augustine) President Aulston Taylor for

their vision in creating this partnership that not only benefits the students who will receive scholarships, but enriches both institutions through the fresh perspectives and talent they’ll share. This partnership perfectly embodies how education creates lasting impact across generations.” President Taylor says this alliance underscores St. Augustine High School’s mission of preparing young men for leadership, excellence and service – expanding horizons and ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of pursuing higher education.

## About Columbia College Chicago

A destination for innovators for 135 years, Columbia College Chicago provides a hands-on, practice-based creative education grounded in liberal arts, technology, media and business.

For more information about Columbia College Chicago, visit [Colum.edu](http://Colum.edu) or connect with Columbia College Chicago on [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Instagram](#).



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## The Rites of Welcoming a New Bishop

On Nov. 18, Archbishop James F. Checchio will be formally welcomed to his new office as Coadjutor Archbishop of New Orleans.

The word coadjutor means “helper” or “assistant.” A coadjutor archbishop serves alongside the current archbishop in a sacred partnership and holds the right of succession, ensuring a seamless continuation of pastoral care and spiritual leadership. Archbishop Checchio will assume this office through several sacred rites, through which the Church prays that his service will be marked by wisdom, compassion and deep faith.

### The Vigil

On the eve of the Mass of Welcome, Archbishop Checchio will gather with the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the archdiocese, along with his family, friends and bishops from across the country. Together, they will pray for the Church and for the new coadjutor archbishop as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities.

### Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity

During the Vigil, Archbishop Checchio will make a profession of faith, declaring his belief in all that the Catholic Church teaches, proclaims and holds to be true. Then, placing his hand upon the Book of the Gospels, he will make an Oath of Fidelity through which he promises obedience and loyalty to Pope Leo and his successors, and to serve with charity, diligence and fidelity to the Gospel.

### The Mass of Welcome

A new archbishop is welcomed through the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. During the Mass of Welcome, Archbishop Checchio will begin his new ministry and be accepted as a successor of the apostles sent to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

### The Apostolic Mandate

As a sign that an archbishop’s authority is received from the Pope himself, Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the Holy Father’s personal representative to the United States, will read the Apostolic Mandate, the official document

by which Pope Leo XIV appoints Archbishop Checchio as coadjutor archbishop of New Orleans. The original document, known as a Papal Bull, will be presented to Archbishop Aymond and the College of Consultors, and then shown to the assembly. This public act affirms that the appointment truly comes from the Holy Father and shows the archbishop’s communion with the universal Church.

### Greeting by Archdiocesan Representatives

As the Mass continues, representatives from every corner of the archdiocese, clergy, religious and laity, will come forward to greet Archbishop Checchio. Civic leaders and members of other faith communities will also offer their welcome. This gesture symbolizes the warm embrace of the entire community, expressing joy, trust and shared hope in the leadership of their new spiritual shepherd. It reflects the unity of God’s people and the collaborative spirit that characterizes the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Having been welcomed and accepted by the people of God, Archbishop Checchio will join Archbishop Aymond at the altar, continuing the Mass, as together they will carry forward the mission of Christ and lead with a shepherd’s heart.

*Solemn Vespers honoring Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio is Monday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. at St. Dominic Church in New Orleans. The faithful are invited to join in prayer in the church that evening.*

*The Mass of Welcome will be at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at St. Louis Cathedral. Due to seating limitations, the Mass is by invitation only. The Mass will be broadcast live on WLAE-TV and live streamed at [nolacatholic.org](https://nolacatholic.org) and the [dailymass.com](https://dailymass.com).*

*St. Charles Borromeo,  
Patron of Bishops,  
Pray for us!*



## Meet Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio

On Sept. 24 it was announced that Pope Leo XIV had appointed Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA Coadjutor Archbishop of New Orleans.

Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio is a native of Camden, New Jersey, and was named the Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen by Pope Francis on March 8, 2016. He was ordained and installed as the Fifth Bishop of Metuchen on May 3, 2016.

Before being named Bishop, he served as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome from January 2006 to January 2016, after serving as vice rector there for two and a half years. He studied at North American College, Rome, and was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Camden, N.J. on June 20, 1992.

Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio has a degree in Sacred Theology, a Master of Business Administration, and doctorate in Canon Law.

Find more online at <https://nolacatholic.org/archbishops>.

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Above: Archbishop Checchio's Coat of Arms

Left: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Coadjutor Archbishop James Checchio and Archbishop-emeritus Alfred Hughes stand together following Mass at Notre Dame Seminary on Sept. 25.

The Mass of Welcome honoring Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio is Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 2 p.m. The Mass will be broadcast live on WLAE-TV and livestreamed on [thedailymass.com](http://thedailymass.com) and [nolacatholic.org](http://nolacatholic.org).

## Little Wonders: The Bishop's Special Signs



**Betty-Ann HICKEY**

Associate Director/  
Archdiocesan Office of Worship

When you see a bishop at church or in a picture, you might notice three unusual things he wears or carries. They aren't costumes or fancy jewelry. They're holy symbols that tell a story about his job. Each one shows that the bishop shares in the work of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who leads and loves his people. Let's meet each one and learn what it means!

### The Miter

The miter is the tall, pointed hat the bishop wears at Mass and other special celebrations. It has two peaks that point upward, reminding us that the bishop is called to seek holiness for himself and for us. These two peaks also stand for the Old and New Testament, which the bishop must know and teach faithfully.

At the back of the miter are two strips of fabric called lappets. Long ago, they may have helped tie the miter to the bishop's head, but today they carry a deeper meaning: they remind us that the bishop must follow both the letter and the spirit of God's law. That's not just the words of the Bible, but also its loving purpose.

When the bishop takes off his miter during prayer, it shows humility before God. When he puts it on again it shows his authority to teach and lead.

### The Crozier

The crozier is the bishop's shepherd's staff. It reminds everyone that the bishop is called to care for God's people the same way a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd, and every bishop is called to imitate him.

The crozier's curved hook has special meaning. A real shepherd uses the hook to gently guide or rescue sheep who wander away, and sometimes to protect them from danger. In the same way, a bishop must guide people back to God when they go astray and defend them against anything that could harm their faith.

Crozier can be made of metal or wood; it can be simple or fancy. The Pope's staff looks a little different. It's called a ferula, and it has a cross at the top instead of a hook. This shows that the Pope's shepherding of the whole Church is always centered on the Cross of Christ.

When a bishop carries his crozier, the hook faces outward, toward the people, to show that he is ready to reach out and care for them. When someone else carries it for him, the hook faces inward, showing respect for the bishop's sacred role.

### The Ring

The bishop's ring is a powerful symbol of faithful love. It's a lot like a wedding ring, because it represents how the bishop

promises to love and serve the people of his diocese faithfully, just as Christ loves his Church.

The ring also reminds everyone that the bishop belongs completely to Christ. Sometimes people will kiss the bishop's ring to show reverence for the office he holds.

Every bishop receives his ring, miter and crozier at his episcopal ordination. That's the special Mass where a priest becomes a bishop. "Episcopal" comes from a Greek word that means "overseer" or "shepherd." These sacred items are given as signs that the new bishop will teach, sanctify and govern the Church in love, just as Jesus did.

Together, the miter, crozier and ring show the heart of a bishop's mission: The miter reminds him to teach God's word with wisdom. The crozier reminds him to shepherd and protect God's people. The ring reminds him to love the Church with faithfulness.

These sacred signs teach us that the bishop shares in the ministry of Christ the teacher, Christ the shepherd, and Christ the bridegroom. Every time we see them, we are reminded that our faith is not about power or fancy clothes. It's about service, love and holiness.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans is partnering with the University of Notre Dame in "Contours of Wonder". Learn more at <https://mcgrath.nd.edu/>.



# Retirement Fund for Religious

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**Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help.** They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover rising health care and medication costs, as well as daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

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# Living Liturgically in the Month of November

## Staff Report

### The Feast of Christ the King

Feast Day: November 23

The Feast of Christ the King, established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, serves as a reminder of Christ's universal kingship. It was introduced in response to the rise of secularism, atheism and political turmoil in the early 20th century. Pope Pius XI recognized the danger of pushing Jesus Christ and his law out of public life, which could lead to discord and chaos among nations and individuals. The Church calls on believers to acknowledge Christ's kingship not just privately but also publicly, living out their faith fully.

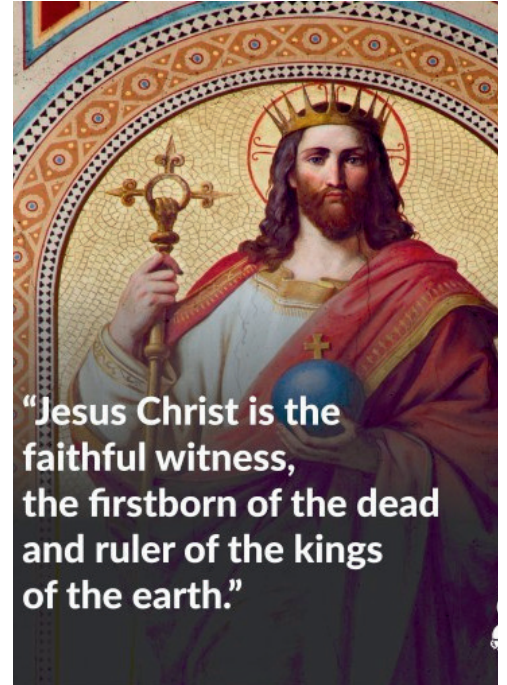
The feast encourages Christians to declare to the world that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and the entire universe. The ultimate realization of Christ's reign is yet to come, but the Church continues to pray and work for its fulfillment. The Feast of Christ the King holds significant importance in the liturgical

calendar, reminding believers of Christ's dominion over all aspects of their lives and the world. It emphasizes that Christ is not just for private devotion but a universal and eternal King who deserves honor, glory and faith from all people.

Christ's kingdom belongs to the poor and humble who embrace the cross. In the midst of trying times, we ask God to illuminate our minds and strengthen our hearts to continue to cling to Christ our King. In celebrating Christ our King, we pray that all people have the freedom to authentically seek God and build his kingdom.

Celebrate the solemnity by doing the following:

- Attend Sunday Mass with family and friends.
- Learn more about solemnity online.
- Pray as a family.
- Print Christ the King [coloring sheets](#).



### The Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

Feast Day: November 30

Saint Andrew, also known as Andrew the Apostle, was a significant figure in early Christianity. He was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee and worked as a fisherman, just like his brother Simon Peter. Andrew first encountered Jesus through the influence of John the Baptist, and he played a crucial role in introducing his brother Peter to Jesus.

Though often overshadowed by his brother, Andrew is recognized for bringing souls to Christ. After Pentecost, Andrew expanded his apostolic work across a wider region, including modern-day Greece and Turkey.

Tradition holds that he was martyred in Patras, Greece, crucified on an X-shaped cross, now known as "Saint Andrew's cross."

Andrew's devotion to the Cross and Jesus is celebrated within the Church. While some details of his martyrdom are based on legendary accounts, his steadfast faith and willingness to endure suffering for his beliefs are widely acknowledged.

Saint Andrew's significance is also found in the symbolism of his cross, which is featured on the flag of Scotland and is associated with him.

Andrew's role as one of the Twelve Apostles, his unwavering faith and his missionary activities left a lasting legacy in the early Christian Church. He is the patron saint of fishermen, Greece, Russia and Scotland.

**St. Andrew the Apostle,  
Pray for us!**



Celebrate the feast by doing the following:

- Begin praying the [St. Andrew Christmas Novena](#) which starts on Nov. 30.
- Study the New Testament.
- [Read 10 Things to Know & Share About St. Andrew](#).
- Learn about Scotland, make shortbread cookies, bake a Saint Andrew cake.
- Play "fishing" games and pretend to be a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee.
- Attend Mass at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Algiers.

## THE ST. ANDREW CHRISTMAS NOVENA

With a few exceptions, Catholics pray novenas for nine days. The St. Andrew Christmas Novena is one such exception – prayed for 25 days, it overlaps with much of the liturgical season of Advent. The novena begins on Nov. 30, the Feast of St. Andrew, and concludes Dec. 24, Christmas Eve.

### How to pray the novena

Make the Sign of the Cross:

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Say the St. Andrew Christmas Novena prayer:  
*Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.*

Name any intentions or other prayers you wish to share with God. Maybe consider your response to Jesus's call to follow Him; just as he called on Andrew and Peter, he also calls on us to let go and surrender.

Repeat the above prayer 14 times. It can be done all at once or different times throughout the day.

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross:

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Continue praying the novena daily through Christmas Eve!

## “Si se mantienen firmes, conseguirán la vida”



Fr. Manuel  
**SOLORZANO, O.P.**

Read this reflection in English online  
at [clarionherald.org](http://clarionherald.org).

33° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario  
Lucas 21: 5-19  
Noviembre 16, 2025

Queridos hermanos: Hoy, en este penúltimo domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, la liturgia nos invita a reflexionar sobre el juicio final, el fin de los tiempos y la justicia de Dios. Las lecturas nos hablan de cómo debemos vivir nuestra fe mientras aguardamos el regreso de Cristo. Nos enfrentamos a la realidad de que el Señor evaluará nuestras vidas, nuestras obras y nuestra actitud hacia Él y los demás. Esta es una invitación a revisar nuestra vida y poner nuestra confianza en Dios, sabiendo que Él es justo y misericordioso.

La primera lectura nos muestra el final de los tiempos, cuando Dios traerá justicia. Los justos disfrutarán de salvación y gozo, mientras que los malhechores serán castigados. Malaquías nos invita a vivir con esperanza, confiando en que, aunque el mal

parezca prevalecer, el juicio de Dios traerá justicia perfecta. El Salmo de hoy alaba a Dios como rey y juez justo. Nos recuerda que su venida será un momento de gozo para los justos, pues Él establecerá su justicia. Esta esperanza nos fortalece, nos anima a vivir en justicia y a esperar con confianza su regreso.

El Evangelio de hoy nos ofrece una enseñanza sobre el fin de los tiempos, en el contexto de la destrucción del templo de Jerusalén. Jesús predice que este evento será solo el inicio de grandes pruebas y tribulaciones para sus seguidores, pero también les promete que Él estará con ellos en esos momentos difíciles. Él les asegura que su fe será puesta a prueba, pero les anima a perseverar, porque quien persevera hasta el final, será salvo. La enseñanza principal de este Evangelio es que, aunque el mundo y nuestras vidas sean a veces sacudidas por la dificultad y el sufrimiento, nuestra fe debe mantenerse firme. Jesús no promete una vida sin pruebas, pero sí promete su presencia y apoyo. Además, en este pasaje, también nos invita a no preocuparnos por lo que vamos a decir en momentos de persecución, ya que el Espíritu Santo nos dará las palabras que necesitamos. La clave para los cristianos es mantenerse firmes en la fe, sabiendo que el juicio final no es algo que

debemos temer, sino un momento en el que recibiremos la recompensa por nuestra perseverancia en el amor a Dios y al prójimo. Este pasaje nos recuerda que el juicio de Dios no será solo sobre las obras externas, sino sobre lo que llevamos en el corazón: nuestra fe, nuestra esperanza y nuestra perseverancia en el amor. No es suficiente con mostrar una fachada externa de piedad o religiosidad; el juicio de Dios va más allá de eso. Dios mira el corazón y las intenciones profundas de cada uno.

Hoy, las lecturas nos enseñan que el final de los tiempos será un juicio, pero también un momento de esperanza y salvación para los justos. Debemos vivir nuestra fe con perseverancia y confianza, sin dejarnos desanimar por las dificultades. El Señor nos llama a ser fieles, a vivir con esperanza y a confiar en su justicia.

Cómo vivo mi fe en los momentos de dificultad? Confío en que Dios me dará la fortaleza para perseverar? En qué áreas de mi vida necesito crecer en justicia y en fidelidad a Dios? Cómo puedo prepararme para el juicio de Dios, sabiendo que Él juzga no solo las obras externas, sino también el corazón? (see [SOLORZANO](#) p.17)

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# Making Sense of Bioethics: A Gift, but With an Expiration Date



**Father Tad  
PACHOLCZYK, Ph.D.**

Director of Education  
National Catholic Bioethics Center

Diagnosed in 1995 with the most aggressive form of brain cancer known as glioblastoma multiforme, and given only a few months life expectancy, Dr. Ben Williams, a professor of psychology at the University of California San Diego, summed up his experience this way:

*“When I was diagnosed with brain cancer, I knew almost nothing about the disease, other than it was one of the worst medical diagnoses you can get.... I hadn’t even heard of a glioblastoma at that point. I was told it was the worst kind of tumor you could have, and that nobody survived it. ... For the first several months, most of my thinking was: I’m going to die — how am I going to deal with it? I thought a lot about death. When you receive a diagnosis that everyone tells you is terminal, that no one survives it, it’s impossible not to become depressed by that information. I look at pictures from that period of time, and clearly I was depressed. It wasn’t until I began doing research that said there was a possibility, that there are things that you can do that would be helpful, that I began to think, ‘Well, this is worth at least making the fight.’”*

The bewildering experience of receiving an adverse diagnosis reminds us how personal our physical health is. In a certain sense, nothing could be more intimate or immediate. As we age and start to feel poorly, and especially when we struggle with serious or life-threatening illnesses, it can seem that our bodily health is the highest good there is, the summum bonum, almost an “absolute” good. Declining health can trigger feelings of sadness and depression as we sense our life slipping through our fingers, and sometimes can lead to dark temptations like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia. We may fall prey to oft-repeated cultural clichés such as: “I’m free to do what I want with my life and health,” or even, “My life is no longer worth living.”

Life and health are clearly very important goods. They are instrumental goods, enabling

us to pursue and partake of other important goods, like interpersonal and familial relationships, employment, recreation, etc. Health and well-being are also “goals” worthy of energetic pursuit to the extent that we have some control over a limited set of variables like exercise and nutrition that affect our health.

While it is good to take steps to improve our health, we are not “entitled” to good health, nor is it a “right” we can lay claim to. We have not originally conferred the state of life or health upon ourselves but have received it gratuitously from the Giver of all gifts – a gift with an earthly expiration date. Our health and well-being, marked by fragility, are transient and contingent, and therefore not “absolute goods.”

Health challenges, of course, are part of almost every person’s life journey. We may struggle not only with physical maladies, but also with mental limitations like ADHD, obsessive compulsive disorders, depression or any number of other agonizing mental conditions that constrict our well-being and livelihood.

As we age and face an expanding list of ailments and infirmities, new opportunities for growth and transformation arise. Contending with weakness and sickness, for example, draws us into connection with other people, as we come to depend on them for assistance.

When we face a worsening health situation, we should earnestly pursue several goals: first, to take responsible steps to restore our health, including doctor visits, medications, surgeries, or other reasonable interventions; second, to seek to reflect more deeply, and in spiritual terms, on the meaning of our health burdens; and third, to work to accept our situation without fear, desperation, or irresponsible actions like physician-assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Coming to accept our situation, with all its ups and downs, helps us begin preparing for our earthly end, death itself, prompting us to

take up core questions about life’s meaning, the survival of the soul, life after death and even the resurrection of the body.

The afflictions we struggle against can lead us actively to surrender and accept where we are, even as we turn to the one who sees all things and knows the specifics of our situation better than we do.

When our lives are marked by good health, vigor and strength, we may hesitate to engage these kinds of core questions in any meaningful way. We tend to look past important transcendental priorities and focus on immediate temporal matters.

Health, then, is an instrumental good, but so is sickness. Both can serve to point us towards higher, more spiritual goods. At some point, we may even be able to see our ailments as a blessing and a gift from the one who better sees the big picture of our life’s journey.

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Father Tad Pacholczyk earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did postdoctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Ma., and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. Find more from Father Tad and other resources on the issues of bioethics online at <https://www.ncbcenter.org/>.

## SOLORZANO

Hermanos, hoy Jesús nos llama a vivir con esperanza y perseverancia. Aunque las dificultades existan, el juicio de Dios es un momento de confianza, no de temor, porque Él es justo y misericordioso. Que, al enfrentar las pruebas, mantengamos nuestra fe firme, confiando en su presencia y en la salvación que nos promete. Amén.

Learn more about the outreach and ministry of the Hispanic Apostolate in the Archdiocese of New Orleans online at <https://apostoladohispano.org/>.



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Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC**



**March 11, 2026  
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Mrs. Betty-Ann Hickey**



**THE  
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# Making Decisions with God – High School Selection Process



**Charlotte PHILLIPS**  
NOLACatholic Parenting

Like many New Orleans families, my husband and I are in high school application season. With multiple good options, I knew this was going to be a difficult decision to make. I also knew this wasn't a decision we were going to make alone – deciding on a high school needs wisdom and guidance from God.

Fortunately, Saint Ignatius of Loyola provides us with steps we can take when we are making big decisions. I have used this process to help make decisions many times in my life. Maybe you will find it helpful, too.

1. Pray. Ask God for guidance as you begin this discernment process. This can be simple – ask the Holy Spirit to allow you to have an open heart and open mind as you walk through this decision.

2. Gather your information. For us, that meant going on tours and open houses, having our son spend the day at different schools and talking with trusted friends.

3. Listen to the Holy Spirit. After getting your information, take time to notice the internal movements of your heart. Checking in with God helps you to remember you aren't doing this alone.

4. Make your list. With your information at hand and an open heart, make your pro/con list. This can be as simple or detailed as you need it to be.

5. Make a decision. With your information gathered and pro/con lists, it is now time to make an informed decision.

6. Bring your decision to God. Bring your decision to God for confirmation. While praying, how does it feel to bring this decision to God? If it feels good, you can move on to the final step. If something feels “off” when you

bring this to God in prayer, you may want to consider praying on this decision more or repeating some of the steps a second time.

7. Act. Once you've made your decision, and it feels good in your head and your heart, thank God for this decision and act! For us, this means filling out the high school application card and excitedly waiting for the official acceptance letter next February.

Big decisions can sometimes feel overwhelming. When we ask God to help us with these decisions, we are no longer doing all the heavy lifting alone. The next time you have to make a decision, ask God to help you and see how it goes!

*Charlotte Phillips lives in New Orleans with her family. She has a bachelor of arts in theology, a master of pastoral studies from Spring Hill College and taught ninth grade religion at Ursuline Academy. Charlotte enjoys Ignatian Spirituality, listening to live music and spending time with her family.*

## Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

*O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry;*

*When I have work, help me to remember the jobless;*

*When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all;*

*When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer,*

*And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency;*

*bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help;*

*By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.*

*Amen.*

## GRATITUDE

November our students will collect non-perishable food items for local food pantries. We do this in remembrance of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who once said, “I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus.” We hosted our annual Red, White and Blue Mass, a beloved tradition that allows our school community to express our gratitude to all first responders and military veterans who courageously serve and protect our communities each day. These traditions help our students live out gratitude, service and faith, while learning to give thanks in meaningful ways every day.” - Rachel Hafford, principal

### St. Rita, Harahan

“This Thanksgiving, our St. Rita Trotter family is truly celebrating a “Thankful Thanksgiving.” It's a time when our school community comes together to care, give and celebrate. From creating baskets for families in need in our own community, to joining in our Thanksgiving Mass, to cheering at our Caring Trotter Pep Rally, and to our amazing

Dads' Club preparing and delivering meals on Thanksgiving Day – we live out the spirit of gratitude and giving in every way.” - Toni Vezinat, principal

### St. Christopher, Metairie

“Our students are participating in a food drive this month to benefit our parish's Thanksgiving food boxes. Each grade level has a specific item to bring in to help make someone else's Thanksgiving dinner memorable. Our Beta Club members are also volunteering at Second Harvest to help the local community, and we will celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass as a school community on Nov. 21.” - Rachel Trahan, principal

### St. Thérèse Academy, New Orleans

“This November, we give thanks and gratitude for the many blessings within our St. Thérèse Academy community. We are especially grateful to introduce our new school choir to our weekly Mass with St. Martin de Porres Parish on Friday mornings at 8:15 a.m. We warmly invite all to join us in sharing this joyful celebration of faith, song and thankfulness.” - Dr. Melissa Roussel, head of school

### Immaculate Conception School, Marrero

“During the month of November, ICS is hosting a food drive for the St. Vincent De Paul Society chapter for our parish. The food boxes are presented at our school-wide Mass on Nov. 19.

ICS is also involved in a unique service-learning project with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Since 2018 we have partnered with Hyman L. Bartolo Jr. Contractors Inc., for the “Kids Building Up Kids” program.”

For three weeks, Bartolo and his team visit ICS during morning assembly and share with our students the building process and the mission of St. Jude's. The program ends with a big gathering where our students, family, friends and community members gather to sign the wall studs that are used to frame the Dream Home.” - Silvana Collins, director of advancement.

*Find more ways our Catholic school students are learning and showing gratitude while helping others this Thanksgiving online at [clarionherald.org/kids](http://clarionherald.org/kids)*

## Around the Archdiocese

### Harmony & Hope: The Music of Social Justice

Nov. 16, 3 p.m., Nunebaker Auditorium, Loyola University, New Orleans

The concert, presented by Ignatian Volunteer Corps. of New Orleans, Loyola University and Regions Bank, will reflect IVC's mission, the inspiration of music to make the world a better place, enhance awareness of IVC in the city and provide financial support for the organization. Register: <https://ivcusa.org/news-events/harmonyandhope/>

### Solemn Vespers Honoring Coadjutor Archbishop James Checchio

Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. at St. Dominic Church, 775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans

The clergy, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese of New Orleans are welcome.

### Mass of Welcome for Coadjutor Archbishop James Checchio

Nov. 18, St. Louis Cathedral, invitation only

### Christ in the City

Nov. 18, 7 - 8 p.m., Notre Dame Seminary Chapel, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans

Monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults in their late teens, 20s and 30s,

sponsored by the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. For more information, please visit [nolacatholic.org/cite](http://nolacatholic.org/cite)

### Notre Dame Seminary Christmas Luncheon for Priests

Dec. 2. Mass at 10 a.m. and luncheon to follow  
Notre Dame Seminary is hosting the annual Christmas Luncheon for Priests on Tuesday, Dec. 2. All are welcome to celebrate the priests and seminarians and honor Father Rodney Bourq and Mrs. Deborah Blancher. Table sponsorships and individual tickets are available online at [onecau.se/ndschristmas](http://onecau.se/ndschristmas). The event begins with a 10 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Church followed by the luncheon at The Roosevelt Hotel.

### CCSCC 81st Annual Luncheon

Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m. Metairie Country Club  
"A Day at the North Pole"  
Contact, Jennifer O'Neal, [jenoneal@cox.net](mailto:jenoneal@cox.net) for more information.

### First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Mary Magdalen, Metairie

Dec. 5, 5 p.m.  
Adoration and Reconciliation will begin at 5 p.m. followed by Mass at 6 p.m.

### Jubilee Event at St. John the Baptist, Edgard

Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m., 2361 Highway 18, Edgard  
A special Jubilee event for local pilgrims. Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction service will begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by the Sacrament and Reconciliation and Vigil Mass at 4 p.m. Individuals and groups are asked to please register with the parish office by calling (985) 498-3412 or emailing [stjohnedgard@arch-no.org](mailto:stjohnedgard@arch-no.org).

### St. Francis Xavier Church, Metairie Classical Candlelight Christmas Concert

Dec. 6, 7 p.m. in the church  
Sarah Jane McMahon, an acclaimed soprano soloist, and Linden Uter, a soprano and musician, will headline the program directed by Maestro Riccardo Leonida. Admission is free.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

Dec. 8

### Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Dec. 13, 10 a.m., St. Louis Cathedral, reception to follow

Please submit calendar items three weeks prior to the event. Calendar submissions may be sent to [kroberts@clarionherald.org](mailto:kroberts@clarionherald.org).

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# Around the Archdiocese in Pictures!



Photo Credit: Mount Carmel Academy

## Mount Carmel Academy Students Venerate Relic of St. Teresa of Avila

Mount Carmel Academy students experienced a profound opportunity to deepen their faith Oct. 14–15, when the school welcomed a relic of Saint Teresa of Ávila, Carmelite reformer and Doctor of the Church, for veneration in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Throughout the two days, religion classes visited the chapel to pray before the relic and reflect on the life of Saint Teresa. Each student received a card printed with one of the saint's quotes, which they touched to the relic, creating a third-class relic to keep as a spiritual reminder of her intercession.

For many students, touching the relic brought the saint's messages to life. Although prayer cards were provided, the experience moved some students to return the next day with personal items meaningful to their families and faith lives. According to the school, moments like these reflect Mount Carmel Academy's mission to form young women who are rooted in the Carmelite tradition of prayer, service and holiness in daily life. For many students, the veneration of Saint Teresa's relic became a moment of both spiritual closeness and inspiration, a reminder that sainthood begins with ordinary faithfulness.



Photo Credit: Kourtney Fontaine

On Oct. 22 at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Bishop Kelly of Tyler, Texas instituted seminarians into the Ministry of Acolyte. The Ministry of Acolyte is the final ministry before seminarians are ordained to the diaconate. In the rite of institution, the bishop hands those to be instituted a patent with bread and says, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church."

*Pictured: Seminarian Eddie Bergeron, seminarian Giovanni Estrada, Very Rev. Joshua Rodrigue (Rector/President), Bishop Kelly (Bishop of Tyler), Rev. David Ducote, Vocations Director and seminarian Bosco Escriva.*



Photo Credit: St. Mary's Dominican High School

On Oct. 30, St. Mary's Dominican High School's community participated in prayer and reflection during its annual Rosary Assembly. Each grade level walked to five different campus locations where they prayed and contemplated each decade of the Rosary.

Planning for the assembly began in August when faculty member Cameron Hahne, who teaches religion, foreign languages and science, presented to administration the idea for an immersive rosary. Feedback from students who had expressed it was challenging to sit and focus for an hour, sparked Cameron's interest in exploring how to get everyone moving and make it more interactive so the Mysteries of the Rosary would come alive to everyone.

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# Jubilee 2025: St. Joseph Abbey

## St. Joseph Abbey and Church, Northshore

75376 River Road, St. Benedict  
(985)892.1800  
<https://www.saintjosephabbey.com>

- Visiting hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Daily Mass: 11:15 a.m.
- Saturdays: 11:15 a.m.
- Sundays: 7:30 a.m. (Low Mass); 11 a.m. (Sung Mass)
- The monks gather four times a day for common prayer and at midday they celebrate the Eucharist. The public is invited to join at any of the daily liturgies in the beautiful and historic Abbey Church.

### A Brief History

In 1889, a small group of monks repeated the age-old process of Benedictine monastic expansion. The monks were invited to south Louisiana by the newly appointed Archbishop of New Orleans, Francis Janssens. The task set before them was to establish a monastery with the mission of operating a seminary to provide for a native clergy, as most of the archdiocese's clergy were French-born and French oriented. The site selected for the monastery and seminary was near Ponchatoula, in the civil parish of Tangipahoa. Because the monks were German, they met with resistance from some in the archdiocese during the early years.

By the late 1920s the Abbey and Seminary had grown in numbers and prestige, and the time came to move out of the small chapel on the third floor of the main building and to build a church. In 1931, the cornerstone of the Abbey church was laid and in 1932 the church was dedicated.

The church is an example of classic Western Christian architecture with three principal areas of the traditional church: the nave, the dome and the apse. The three-tiered longitudinal floor plan naturally lifts the eyes to make the ascent from the nave through the choir on to the heights of the apse. The new church had a beauty all its own with its plain white walls and translucent white windows.



Photo Credit: The Clarion Herald

*St. Joseph Abbey has also had a significant impact on area culture by sponsoring and promoting programs in both liturgical and secular arts while remaining faithful to prayer, work and the monastic way of life.*

In 1946, Abbot Columban Thuis commissioned Benedictine artist Father Gregory de Wit to paint a series of original murals to decorate the walls of the church. Father Gregory spent nearly 10 years living and working at the Abbey while completing the project. His paintings both reinforce the architectural movement and build a sound liturgical theology.

### Abbey Life

Saint Joseph Abbey is a Benedictine community of monks located on 1,100 acres of pine forests in Saint Benedict, La. Over the past century, the Abbey has been an abiding spiritual presence in the Gulf South and has left an indelible mark on local and regional history.

Saint Joseph Abbey is a member of the Swiss-American Congregation of the Order of Saint

Benedict, a network of autonomous Roman Catholic monasteries in the United States, Canada and Central America.

Abbey monks live according to the Rule of Saint Benedict written in the 6<sup>th</sup> century by Benedict of Nursia as a guide to monastic life. It provides teaching about monastic virtues of humility, silence and obedience as well as directives for daily living.

### Gift Shop

While visiting the Abbey and Church, be sure to stop by the gift shop, or visit their online store [www.saintjosephabbey.com/giftshop](http://www.saintjosephabbey.com/giftshop), which carries a variety of products made by the monks and volunteers, including MonkSoap, MonkSweets, Abbee Honey and Abbey Lotion Bars. Additionally, the shop also sells religious art, devotional objects and a large selection of Saint Benedict medals.

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