



Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community



**Dr. RaeNell
HOUSTON**

**Superintendent of Catholic Schools/
Executive Director of the Department
of Catholic Education and Faith
Formation**

Each year, I eagerly look forward to the final week of January, when we join Catholic school communities across the nation in celebrating National Catholic Schools Week. As an archdiocese, we cherish the invaluable contribution Catholic education makes to our Church and to the wider community. Together – pastors, parishioners, school leaders, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, donors and benefactors – we share in the sacred work of educating and nurturing our children, helping them discover and live out their God-given potential. I am deeply grateful to all who so generously share their time, talent and treasure in support of the ministry of Catholic education.

This year's theme, Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community, affirms the irreplaceable role Catholic schools play in the Church's evangelizing mission. Rooted in the belief that Christ is the foundation of all we do, Catholic schools educate the whole person – mind, body and spirit. It is this shared Christian vision that unites Catholic school communities and allows faith to be woven naturally into daily life, learning and service.

While faith is the binding element of Catholic education, the Church consistently reminds us that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children. Embracing this truth, Catholic school communities extend well beyond classroom walls to fully include families as essential partners in the educational mission. Together, we nurture the light of faith by integrating culture with faith and faith with daily living, forming students who are prepared to lead lives of purpose, compassion and service.

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 24 through Jan. 30. This year's Catholic

Schools Week Art and Music Festival will take place Monday, Jan. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 29, at Lakeside Mall. I invite the community to join us in viewing student art displays and enjoying student performances. We will conclude our celebration with the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass with Archbishop Gregory Aymond on Friday, Jan. 30, at 11 a.m. at St. Dominic Catholic Church in New Orleans.

In addition to these archdiocesan events, each school community will host its own celebrations throughout the week. I encourage you to contact individual schools to learn more about their plans and to join us as we celebrate. Catholic Schools Week offers a wonderful opportunity to witness the accomplishments of our students and to give thanks for those who so generously serve in this vital ministry.

Our Catholic schools are an essential part of the future of both our local community and our Church. Please join me in praying for God's continued blessings upon our schools and upon all who contribute to the ministry of Catholic education in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

*New Orleans Catholic Schools
at a glance!*

Our Faith

- Our students attend Mass at least once a month
- All schools participate in daily school-wide prayer
- During the 2024-2025 school year, our students performed over 350,000 hours of service to the community.

Our Academics

- The Class of 2025's average ACT score was 22.3, 4 points higher than the state average
- 98% of our graduates pursue a post-secondary education
- The graduating Class of 2025 received over \$5 billion in college scholarships.
- During the 2024-2025 school year, we had 109 National Merit Scholars
- The average student to teacher ratio in our schools is 10:1

Our Resources

- All schools provide counseling and guidance support for mental and physical well-being of students
- Professional development for faculty to support innovation in the classroom is a year-round priority
- Our schools offer a variety of extra-curricular activities for students in an effort to equip each individual child with resources to identify his or her God-given talents

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

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Be a Champion of Catholic Education



Photo Credit: Peter Finney, Jr.

School leaders and student representatives from all of the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans arrive at St. Louis Cathedral for the 2025 Catholic Schools Week Mass. The Catholic Schools Week Mass is celebrated annually with nearly 1,000 people in attendance each year. The 2026 Catholic Schools Week Mass will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 30 at 10 a.m. at St. Dominic Catholic Church in New Orleans.



**Archbishop Gregory
AYMOND**
Archbishop of New Orleans

To: All Priests, Religious and Laity of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Each year during the last week of January, we join our brothers and sisters across the nation in celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This year marks the 52nd anniversary of this joyful tradition – an opportunity to give thanks for the gift of Catholic education and for all who make it possible in our archdiocese.

Our Catholic schools continue to uphold a long-standing tradition of academic excellence, grounded in faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ. To sustain this vital ministry, our schools depend upon the generous support of the faithful. Like so many institutions today, they face rising costs, fair wages for dedicated teachers and staff, maintenance of safe and welcoming facilities and the ongoing innovation necessary to educate students for a rapidly changing world.

In recent years, many of our families, benefactors and parishes have experienced financial hardship, yet the commitment to Catholic education has remained steadfast. Together, we share the responsibility of ensuring that a Catholic education remains accessible and affordable to all who seek it.

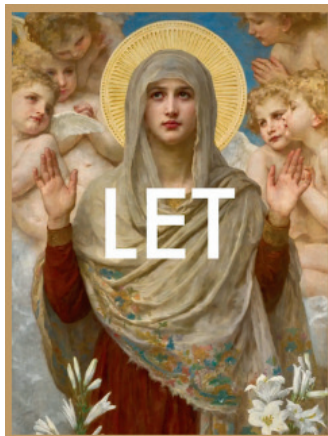
To that end, every parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans will take up a second collection on the weekend of Jan. 24-25 to support the Champions of Catholic Education Tuition Assistance Fund. Your gift will directly assist families who desire a Catholic education for their children but are unable to meet the full cost of tuition.

Your generosity opens doors of opportunity, strengthens our Catholic community and helps form the next generation of disciples, young people prepared to live their faith with courage and joy.

With heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and with prayerful best wishes for God's blessings in 2026, I remain,

Gratefully in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans



“That’s What I Pray for Every Night: To Be a Humble Servant”

Staff Report

On Jan. 11, the eve of her inauguration as the 63rd Mayor of New Orleans, Helena Moreno was honored at a special Mass at St. Louis Cathedral. New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond was the principal celebrant with Coadjutor Archbishop James F. Checchio concelebrating with a number of local priests. Father Tony Rigoli, OMI, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, which is the mayor's home parish, was the homilist.

During the homily, Father Rigoli offered encouraging words to Moreno reminding her that in her new position she must be ready for the unexpected and to put the good of the people first. Towards the conclusion of the Mass, interfaith clergy from throughout the city gathered in the sanctuary to offer a blessing for Moreno and her husband, Chris Meeks.

Following Mass, Moreno shared with media gathered outside that “being a humble servant” is something she prays for every night.

Moreno was sworn in as mayor on Jan. 12.



Photo Credit: Chris Wiseman

Archbishop Aymond joined by priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and interfaith clergy offer a blessing for Mayor Helena Moreno and her husband Chris Meeks at her Inauguration Mass on Jan. 11.

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Photo Credit: Aspiring Scholars

Several families who participate in the Aspiring Scholars program were gifted a ride in the Christmas parade through the generosity of Kern Enterprises.

Aspiring to have a Catholic Education

by Kim Roberts

Imagine wanting to give your child the gift of a Catholic education but not being able to afford it? Aspiring Scholars is there to help.

Since the 2012, the Aspiring Scholars scholarship program, has served families who desire a Catholic education for their children in Louisiana. The Catholic Community Foundation and the Office of Catholic Schools worked together to develop Aspiring Scholars which is a qualified School Tuition Organization (STO).

According to Nicole Jefferson, the Aspiring Scholars executive director for the archdiocese, when the program started in 2012 there were just 47 students participating. Last year Aspiring Scholars had 110 students enrolled in the program. This year, the program has grown to 596 students thanks to the generosity of donors.

"I've seen first-hand how this scholarship has impacted students and family's lives," Jefferson added. "You can feel the financial burden coming off the parents, and the high school students who receive these scholarships have more leeway to do extracurriculars and not work at after school jobs as many hours."

Currently, Aspiring Scholars serves every school in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, but

the vision is to expand to every Catholic school in the State of Louisiana.

"It's an amazing feeling to be able to help so many students in the archdiocese. We are so happy that things have evolved over the years and every school in the archdiocese is willing to take these tax credits and support these children," said Dr. Houston. "The reality is people you know could be struggling for a variety of reasons and benefit from this scholarship. We are formed in faith and know Jesus, it's the right thing to do."

How It Works

The Louisiana State Legislature established the Tuition Donation Credit program in 2012 to provide scholarships for qualified low to moderate-income families. Available scholarships include: Ace, Arete, Son of A Saint and Aspiring Scholars.

"A family can apply to all four scholarships to cover their child's tuition," said Dr. Houston. "This has been so beneficial to so many of our archdiocesan families – a real God send. A Catholic education should be accessible to all families who want it for their children," she added.

The application window for Aspiring Scholars opens on Feb. 2 through the program's website. Those with questions about how to help or to apply for a scholarship can email njefferson@aspiringscholarsla.org.

"Conviértanse, porque ya está cerca el Reino de los cielos"



Fr. Manuel
SOLARZANO

Queridos hermanos: seguimos avanzando en el Tiempo Ordinario, un tiempo en el que Jesús nos sale al encuentro en la vida diaria. La Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos presenta un mensaje central y muy actual: Jesús nos llama a la conversión y al seguimiento, y lo hace en medio de nuestra realidad concreta, tal como somos y donde estamos.

El profeta Isaías, en la primera lectura, habla de un pueblo que caminaba en tinieblas, pero que ha visto una gran luz. Se trata de personas marcadas por el sufrimiento, la opresión y la oscuridad.

Dios no se olvida de ellos. Al contrario, promete luz, alegría y liberación. Esta lectura nos recuerda que Dios actúa precisamente cuando parece que todo está oscuro. Él no abandona a su pueblo, sino que lo visita y lo renueva con su presencia.

El salmo de hoy proclama con confianza: "El Señor es mi luz y mi salvación." Estas palabras expresan una fe profunda. Cuando Dios es nuestra luz, el miedo pierde fuerza y la esperanza vuelve a nacer. El salmo nos invita a confiar, incluso cuando no entendemos todo, sabiendo que el Señor camina con nosotros. Por su parte, el Evangelio de este domingo nos muestra el comienzo de la vida pública de Jesús. Su primer mensaje es claro y directo: "Conviértanse, porque el Reino de los cielos está cerca." Convertirse no significa solo dejar el pecado, sino cambiar la manera de pensar, de vivir y de amar, dejando que Dios sea el centro de nuestra vida. Jesús comienza su misión en Galilea, una región sencilla y muchas veces despreciada. Allí llama a los primeros discípulos: pescadores comunes, personas trabajadoras, sin títulos ni prestigio. (see **SOLARZANO** p. 19)



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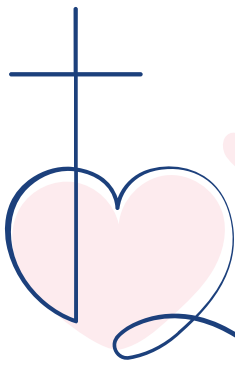
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Mic Check - One, Two, Three: AOL Debuts New Recording Studio

by: **Melanie Brown**

Academy of Our Lady Senior

Following five months of construction, Academy of Our Lady (AOL) has unveiled its brand-new recording and podcast studio – the first facility of its kind within the Archdiocese of New Orleans. What was once a faculty copy room inside the school's library is now transformed into a high-tech, soundproof sanctuary designed for both students and the wider community.

Principal Salesian Sister Michelle Geiger noted that while many young people enjoy creating digital content, they often lack the technical training and the formation to ensure their content is appropriate and purposeful.

"Giving them a forum to make the videos they like, in conjunction with education and formation that align with our Catholic Christian values, is a win-win situation," said Sister Michelle. "After using an off-site studio last year, we realized this would be a vital addition to our campus. I'm happy and grateful to local community members, including a group of priests, who have already expressed interest in using the space to further share the faith."

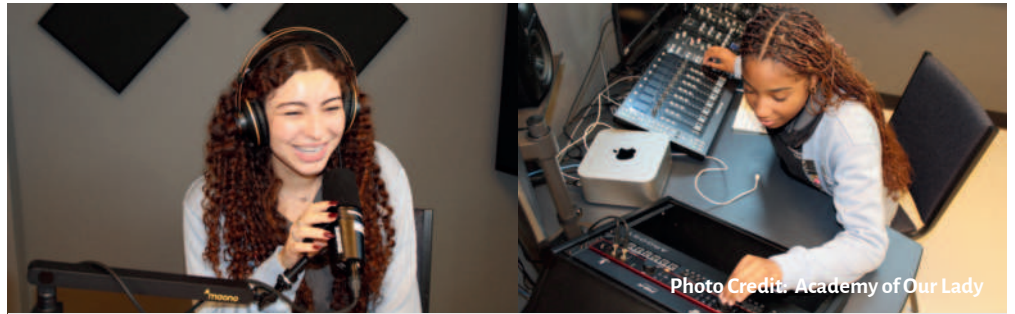


Photo Credit: Academy of Our Lady

Students at Academy of Our Lady in Marrero use the new on-campus recording studio. In addition to learning the technical aspects of using the studio, students are being taught to use the technology responsibly and encouraged to create content to share the Catholic faith.

The school's longtime choir and piano teacher, Clark Knighten, is equally enthusiastic about the professional doors this opens for his students. "Now, our music students finally have a dedicated space to record their work for potential career opportunities beyond the classroom," he said.

Beyond technical skills, the studio serves as a hub for collaboration and creativity. The professional-grade technology allows students to produce high-quality projects while building friendships and communication

skills. It is an investment that many faculty members believe will change AOL for the better.

Students are already seeing the long-term value of the new space. "To me, this represents opportunity," said senior Peyton Donellan. "It's a place where dreams can come true. This increases the benefits of attending the Academy of Our Lady because a student can move forward not just with singing or recording, but with their talents in public speaking and communication."



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Forming Digital Disciples on Both Sides of the Lake

by Kim Roberts

Following the lead of St. Catherine of Siena School (SCS) in Metairie, St. Peter School in Covington recently announced a new school policy regarding social media use for students beginning the 2026-2027 school year.

"Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, we will be implementing a new social media policy to better protect and form our students as digital disciples. As many of our families are aware, we have taken various measures to better understand the negative impact of social media on elementary students and through our communication with SCS we have developed and plan to implement new digital and social media policies," said Michael Kraus, St. Peter principal.

The new social media policy at St. Peter's mirrors the one implemented for the 2025-2026 school year by St. Catherine of Siena. After countless discussions about behavior issues arising from student's use of social media over the past few years, SCS Principal Maria LaFleur formed a committee last school year comprised of parents, parishioners, Father Tim Hedrick (SCS pastor) and teachers to address the situation at her school and looked at best practices for the benefit of her students.

"As educators we know that students need to be comfortable to learn, if they are worried about social anxiety, it makes it difficult for them to learn and a lot of research has come out recently to support this idea," she said. "We wanted to construct a social media policy that was strong, but that could be phased in taking into account the older students that might already be using social media platforms."

"Our overall goal is to keep students young as long as possible and keep them and their mental health protected as much as we can while alleviating anxiety," said LaFleur. "Even if we help a few students with this policy, it's worth it. This is a way to support

parents in keeping their children safe longer until they are older and have the mental capacity to deal with everything associated with social media."

In addition to the adopting the social media policy, Kraus said St. Peter is taking steps toward intentional usage of technology while considering the amount of screen time that children often encounter daily. The St. Peter School Instructional Technology Committee (ITC) has been working with parents to gather feedback while also promoting parent-led initiatives such as the Wait until 8th pledge.

"We have formed a partnership with Chris McKenna of Protect Young Eyes (PYE) to provide professional development for our teachers, parents and students. Over the past few years, we implemented a Tech-Fast during Advent and Lent," Kraus said. "Still, we understand the continuous challenge in navigating the appropriate use of technology in the world of today."

Though St. Peter had implemented some social media restrictions already, once SCS announced their new school policy banning social media use for their students for the current school year, Kraus knew the St. Peter community could do more.

"Since reading the article in the Clarion, we have been in communication with St. Catherine of Siena to collaborate on digital and social media policies," Kraus said.

After discussions with their School Advisory Board, recommendations were unanimously made to expand the policy in conjunction with St. Catherine of Siena. Starting next school year, St. Peter will be adopting a new policy for all grade levels.

- No student enrolled at St. Peter School shall host an account or page (whether in his/her true name or an alias) on any social media site.
- A social media site is one that has individual user profiles, user-generated content, networking capability (can connect with others or groups) and

interactivity (can comment, like, share or direct message).

- Social media accounts prohibited include, but are not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, X, Snapchat, TikTok, CapCut, YouTube, Twitch and any social media platform or app St. Peter School sees fit to include in the future.

A student attending St. Peter School in the fall is considered to be enrolled at the school during the preceding summer. The prohibition against social media accounts includes summers, holidays, nights and weekends.

Violation of the Social Media Policy by St. Peter's students will result in a range of disciplinary action starting with detention and dismissal from extracurricular activities for the first violation to expulsion for the fourth violation. Additionally, violations are cumulative and do not "reset" at the beginning of a new school year. The disciplinary action for violations occurring during the summer will take place in the first quarter of the next school year.

"We care deeply about our mission to assist our parents in forming our students spiritually, intellectually, humanly and apostolically," Kraus said. "We are very excited for this new policy and the positive impact it will have on our entire school community."

The story of St. Catherine of Siena School's Social Media Policy was originally published in the November edition of Kids' Clarion. It is available online at clarionherald.org.



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Joseph
GALLOWAY
Catholic Community Foundation

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When her husband passed away, those retirement plans changed. Lilian wondered what to do with the land. Meanwhile, she was praying fervently for a personal need. What that need was, she didn't say. But her prayers were answered. In response, with a heart full of gratitude, she donated the land to the Catholic Community Foundation for the benefit of her parish.

What a tremendous witness to faith. Many believe they must be wealthy to be generous, but Lilian reminds us of the "widow's mite." She isn't rich by worldly measures, but by God's measure, she gave what she had.

Meeting with Lilian reminded me of the final stanza of Christina Rossetti's carol, In the Bleak Midwinter. In it, a poor shepherd wonders what he can give the Christ child. The answer comes: he can give his heart. In gratitude for God's blessings and to honor her parish's love and support, Lilian gave from her heart: un corazón hermoso.

I pray Lilian's story inspires your own heart. How can you respond to God's blessings? One meaningful way is through a legacy gift, naming your parish as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy. Such gifts sustain the Church's mission and bring the joy of knowing your legacy will impact generations to come.

Legacy Sunday is Feb. 1. On this day, we reflect on how God created each of us for legacy, calling us to leave spiritual and material legacies just as Christ and the saints have done.

The Catholic Community Foundation stands ready to help you maximize your generosity's impact. We offer several resources, including our Legacy Planning Guide and the online seminar, A Lifetime of Generosity. By giving through the Foundation, you can be confident that your gifts will bless your parish and the ministries you love long into the future.

The Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) will sponsor Legacy Sunday on Feb. 1 and 2. To learn more visit <https://ccfnola.org/legacysunday>.

Joe Galloway is Director of Philanthropy & Engagement at the Catholic Community Foundation. To discuss giving opportunities, contact him at jgalloway@ccfnola.org.





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National Merit Scholarship Corporation Recognizes Students in the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Staff Report

Academy of the Sacred Heart

Semifinalists:

Jane Farnsworth
Callie Langhettee'

Amelia Stein
Lilly Rosenstein

Rene' Charles

Libby Stassi

Commended Scholars:

Caroline Boyd
Kate Cummings
Lilah Deynoodt

Archbishop Chapelle High School

Semifinalist:

Emma Tran

Archbishop Rummel High School

Semifinalist:

Noah Truax

Commended Scholar:

Lucas Rodriguez

Brother Martin High School

Semifinalists:

Logan Drouet

Commended Scholars:

Ian Acosta
Joshua Dinh
Jack Heard
Blake Hebert
David LaVie

Jesuit High School

Semifinalists:

Amir Isvandi
James Denning
Paul Sparacello
Andrew Frey
Benjamin Farmer
Cullen Morris
Adam Bassam Al-Hariri
Harrison Evans
Ben Evans
Jonathan Brockhoff
Jack Hubbard

Derek Moore

Peyton Bouchon

Darrin Haase

Everett Kramer

James Holmes

Nathan Nguyen

Commended Scholars:

William Berry

Finnian Connolly

Connor Fanberg

Grayson Gibbons

Christopher Juge II

Christopher Lawler

Ethan Nguyen

David Paul Rodriguez Prouet

Micah Sens

Sean Timler

Joshua Volpe

Connor Wilken

Mount Carmel Academy

Semifinalists:

Josephine Balhoff

Lillian Godbold

Katherine Howat

Commended Scholars:

Addison Ferreras

Skila Hoffield

Kada Mataya

Juliet Wax

Pope John Paul II High School

Semifinalist:

Jonathan LaLa

St. Augustine High School

Commended Scholars:

Eldridge Bruno

Isaiah Fields

Zaire Haney

Derek Mercadal, II

Landon Wade

St. Mary's Dominican High School

Commended Scholars:

Natalie Cage

Caroline Cobb

Danielle Morgan

Abigail Nucio,

Lillian Reyes

St. Paul's School

Semifinalists:

Callahan Arch

Gus Galeziewski

Ayaan Sheikh

Colin Pendergrass

Joseph Donahue

Commended Scholars:

Theo Hadskey

Kyle Olsen

Caleb Shartle

Matthew Gay

Saint Scholastica Academy

Commended Scholars:

Lillian Candebat

Helen Sandoz

Kate Lamere

About the National Merit Scholarship Corporation

The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is to recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States. NMSC accomplishes its mission by conducting nationwide academic scholarship programs. The enduring goals of NMSC's scholarship programs are:

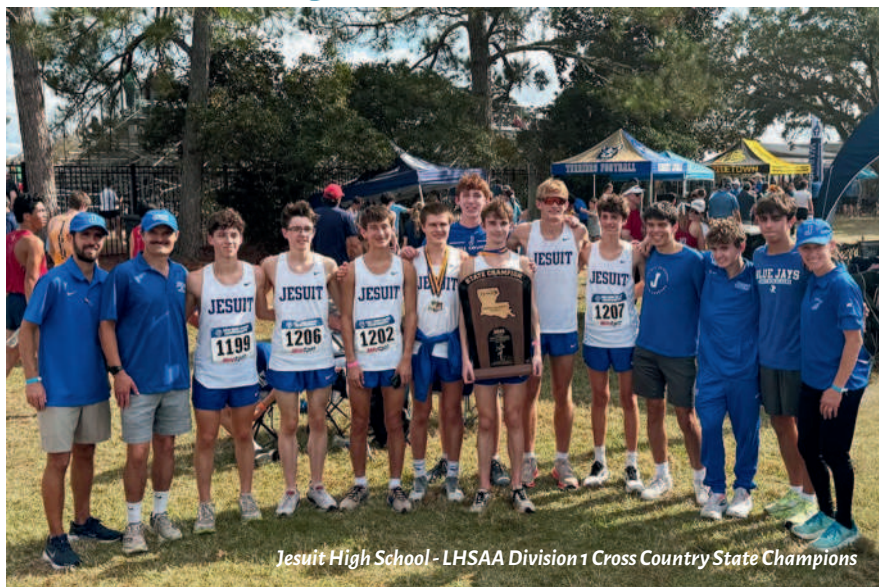
- To promote a wider and deeper respect for learning in general and for exceptionally talented individuals in particular
- To shine a spotlight on brilliant students and encourage the pursuit of academic excellence at all levels of education
- To stimulate increased support from individuals and organizations that wish to sponsor scholarships for outstanding scholastic talent

To learn more visit: <https://www.nationalmerit.org>



Archbishop Chapelle High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, or disability in violation of state law and federal law or regulation in administration of its education policies or programs.

Celebrating Our Champions



Jesuit High School - LHSAA Division I Cross Country State Champions



Mount Carmel Academy - LHSAA Division I Cross Country State Champions



St. Charles Catholic High School - LHSAA Division I Select Football State Champions

"Give thanks to God for the gift of sport, in which the human person exercises his body, intellect and will, recognizing these abilities as gifts of his Creator."

- Saint John Paul II

Staff Report

Congratulations to all of the Catholic high school athletes for their commitment to developing their skills and recognizing the potential of their God-given talent. As the Archdiocese of New Orleans observes Catholic schools week, the Clarion Herald staff wants to recognize those teams that have achieved the pinnacle of success.

LHSAA State Champions

- Jesuit High School - LHSAA Division I Cross Country
- Mount Carmel Academy - LHSAA Division I Cross Country
- St. Charles Catholic High School - LHSAA Division II Select Football

LHSAA State Runner-ups

- St. Mary's Dominican High School - LHSAA Division I Volleyball
- St. Scholastica Academy - LHSAA Division II Volleyball
- Jesuit High School - LHSAA Division I Boys Swimming
- St. Mary's Dominican High School - LHSAA Division I Girls Swimming
- Brother Martin High School - LHSAA Division I Cross Country
- Academy of the Sacred Heart - LHSAA Division II Cross Country
- Archbishop Shaw High School - LHSAA Division II Select Football
- St. Augustine High School - LHSAA Division I Select Football

Individual State Champions

- Brady Monahan, Jesuit High School - LHSAA Division I Boys Cross Country
- Aidan Villars, Jesuit High School - LHSAA Swimming, 100 YD Backstroke (state record) and 100 YD butterfly
- Jake Bergeron, St. Paul's School - LHSAA Swimming 200 YD Freestyle
- Kendall Jollands, St. Mary's Dominican High School - LHSAA Swimming 200 YD Freestyle
- Jesuit High School - LHSAA Swimming 200 YD Medley Relay
- St. Mary's Dominican High School - LHSAA Swimming 200 YD Freestyle Relay
- St. Paul's School - LHSAA Swimming 200 YD Free Relay
- St. Mary's Dominican High School - LHSAA Swimming 400 YD Freestyle Relay

The staff of the Clarion Herald looks forward to recognizing the achievements of area students athletes as the school year continues.

*"Verso l'Alto!"
("To the Heights!")*

*- Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati
Patron Saint of Athletes*



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ACADEMY OF THE
SACRED HEART



Statement of Policy

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond



The Archdiocese of New Orleans does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, or disability in violation of state law and federal law or regulation in the administration of its educational policies or programs. The information provided in the application process will not be used for any unlawful discriminatory purpose.

Additionally, in compliance with Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, no person in the schools of the Archdiocese shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity except as permitted under said Title IX.

This policy applies to all schools which are under Catholic Archdiocesan auspices.

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans

Dr. RaeNell Houston
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

ORLEANS PARISH

Academy of the Sacred Heart
Brother Martin
Cabrini
Christian Brothers
De La Salle
Good Shepherd Nativity
Holy Cross
Holy Name of Jesus
Holy Redeemer Virtual Catholic Academy
Jesuit
Mount Carmel Academy
Resurrection of Our Lord
St. Alphonsus
St. Andrew the Apostle
St. Augustine
St. Benedict the Moor
St. Dominic
St. Katharine Drexel Preparatory
St. Leo the Great
St. Mary's Academy
St. Mary's Dominican
St. Michael Special School
St. Pius X
St. Stephen
Stuart Hall
St. Thérèse Academy
Ursuline Academy

JEFFERSON PARISH

Gretna
St. Anthony
St. Cletus
Harahan
St. Rita
Kenner
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Marrero
Academy of Our Lady
Archbishop Shaw
Immaculate Conception
Visitation of Our Lady
Metairie
Archbishop Chapelle
Archbishop Rummel
St. Angela Merici
St. Ann
St. Benilde
St. Catherine of Siena
St. Christopher
St. Clement of Rome
St. Edward the Confessor
St. Francis Xavier
St. Louis King of France
St. Philip Neri

River Ridge
St. Matthew the Apostle
Westwego
Our Lady of Prompt Succor

PLAQUEMINES PARISH

Belle Chasse
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

ST. BERNARD PARISH

Chalmette
Our Lady of Prompt Succor

ST. CHARLES PARISH

Destrehan
St. Charles Borromeo

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

LaPlace
St. Charles Catholic
St. Joan of Arc

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Covington
Archbishop Hannan
St. Paul's
St. Peter
St. Scholastica Academy

Mandeville
Mary, Queen of Peace
Our Lady of the Lake
Sidell
Our Lady of Lourdes
Pope John Paul II
St. Margaret Mary

WASHINGTON PARISH

Bogalusa
Annunciation

Living Liturgically in January and February

Saint John Bosco

Feast Day: January 31

John Bosco, also known as Don Bosco, was born in Becchi, Italy, on Aug. 16, 1815. At the age of two, John lost his father, leaving him and his two older brothers to be raised by his mother, Margherita, who would herself be declared venerable by the Church in 2006. John attended church and became very devout. At home, he helped his family grow food and raise sheep. They were very poor, but his mother often shared what they had with those in need.

One day, John witnessed a traveling troupe of circus performers. He was enthralled by their magic tricks and acrobatics. He realized if he learned their tricks, he could use them to attract others and hold their attention, so he studied their tricks and learned how to perform some himself. One Sunday evening, John staged a show for the kids he played with and was applauded. At the end of the show, he recited the homily he heard earlier in the day. He ended by inviting his neighbors to pray with him. His shows and games were repeated and during this time, John discerned the call to become a priest.

In 1835, John entered the seminary, and following six years of study and preparation, he was ordained a priest in 1841. His first assignment was to the city of Turin. The city was in the throes of industrialization, so it had slums and widespread poverty. It was into these poor neighborhoods that John, now known as Father Bosco, went to work with the children of the poor.

While visiting the prisons, Father Bosco noticed many boys, between the ages of 12 and 18 inside. The conditions were deplorable, and he felt moved to do more to help other boys from ending up there. He went into the streets and started to meet young men and boys where they worked and played. He used his talents as a performer, doing tricks to capture attention, then sharing with the children his message for the day. When he was not preaching, Father Bosco worked tirelessly seeking work for boys who needed it and searching for lodgings for others. His mother began to help him, and she became known as

"Mamma Margherita." By the 1860s, Father Bosco and his mother were responsible for lodging 800 boys.

Father Bosco negotiated new rights for boys who worked as apprentices and identified boys he thought would make good priests, encouraging them to consider a vocation to the priesthood.

In 1859, Father Bosco established the Society of St. Francis de Sales, the Salesians, with the goal of carrying on his charitable work, helping boys with their faith formation and staying out of trouble.

In 1859, Father Bosco established the Society of St. Francis de Sales, the Salesians, with the goal of carrying on his charitable work, helping boys with their faith formation and staying out of trouble.

When Father Bosco died on Jan. 31, 1888 the call for his canonization was immediate. Pope Pius XI knew him personally and agreed, declaring him blessed in 1929. Saint John Bosco was canonized on Easter Sunday, 1934 and he was given the title, "Father and Teacher of Youth."

In 2002, Pope John Paul II was petitioned to declare Saint John Bosco the Patron of Stage Magicians. He had pioneered the art of what is today called "Gospel Magic," using magic and other feats to attract attention and engage the youth.

Saint John Bosco is the patron saint of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians and juvenile delinquents.

Celebrate his memorial day:

- Learn more about the Salesians who minister in parishes and operate schools on the Westbank.
- Inspired by St. John Bosco's love for recreation, organize relay races, juggling, or circus-themed games, reflecting his motto, "Run, jump, make noise, but do not sin."
- Serve Italian dishes honoring his Italian roots, perhaps with a simple, poverty-conscious meal like *soup* (Pasta e Fagioli).
- Honor his dedication to youth by praying for young people, teachers and youth ministers.

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Feast Day: February 2

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas, commemorates the day Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple for consecration exactly 40 days after his birth as was required by Mosaic Law. Catholics remember and reflect on this feast on this day but also when praying the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. The narrative in the Gospel of Luke describes the Holy Family going up to the temple with their infant son and the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves.

The Feast of the Presentation also commemorates the encounter in the temple between the Holy Family and Simeon the prophet and Saint Anna the prophetess. It is in this feast that Jesus is again made known to the world as a baby after being recognized by the shepherd and the Magi as well as the day Simeon foretells of Jesus's passion and death, telling Mary that a "sword shall pierce her heart" illustrating the first of the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

The Presentation is also known as Candlemas because of the words of Simeon when he met the child Jesus in the temple: "For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). On this day, the Church blesses candles for use throughout the year, which has been a church tradition at least since the seventh century).

Ideas for celebrating this feast day:

- Go to Mass and bring candles to be blessed for use over the next year.
- Bring blessed candles from your parish to those who are sick or home-bound.
- Do a family Candlemas procession and prayer at home.
- Candlemas is known in France as "crepe day." Make savory crepes for lunch or dinner or sweet crepes for breakfast or dessert.
- Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary with your family or friends by candlelight.

Did you know that the candles blessed on the Feast of the Presentation are used to bless throats on the Memorial of St. Blaise?

Saint Blaise

February 3

Very little is known about Saint Blaise. The earliest mention of his life did not appear until about 200 years after his death, by the medical writer Aëtius Amidenus, who spoke of Saint Blaise's intercessory power to help dislodge objects stuck in the throat. We know the faithful have sought his intercession for disease of the throat for centuries, a practice that continues today in

the form of the blessing of throats on his feast day.

Tradition tells us that this is because in addition to being a bishop, Blaise was also a physician and because of the story of the miraculous healing of a child who was choking on a fish bone.

Saint Blaise is most famously known as the patron saint of diseases of the throat. He is also the patron of wool combers and animals.

Celebrate the Memorial of Saint Blaise by:

- Attending Mass and participating in the Blessing of the Throats at your parish.
- Praying for those who are ill and for protection from illness.
- Preparing a healthy meal such as soup and sharing some as a gift.

"Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop, and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness."

Archbishop Aymond Announces Survivor Group Meetings

New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond has announced the schedule of group meetings for Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Every visit is open to survivors of Child Sexual Abuse or other adults who may have experienced Sexual Abuse by a person in ministry of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The purpose of the meetings is for survivors to listen, question and freely share his or her experiences and otherwise freely participate in these open visits for survivors.

As outlined in the Non-Monetary Plan Provisions of the Chapter 11 settlement, Archbishop Aymond will host 10 group meetings throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans according to the following schedule:

Friday, Feb. 6 at noon
Holy Name of Jesus Parish Office, 6220 LaSalle Place, New Orleans

Friday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.
St. Peter Claver Parish Office – 1910 Ursulines Ave., New Orleans, Louisiana

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.
St. Philip Neri Parish, 6500 Kawanee Ave., Metairie

Saturday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m.
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 13396 River Road, Destrehan

Sunday, Feb. 8 noon
Our Lady of Prompt Succor Parish, 2320 Paris Road, Chalmette

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 3 p.m.
St. Maria Goretti Parish, 7300 Crowder Blvd., New Orleans

Monday, Feb. 9 at 8:30 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 3101 Eton St., New Orleans

Monday, Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.
Visitation of Our Lady Parish, 3500 Ames Blvd., Marrero

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at noon
St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 910 Cross Gates Blvd., Slidell

Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.
Most Holy Trinity Parish, 501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has zero tolerance for abuse. God has chosen you to protect his children. If you have cause to believe a minor has been abused, contact the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (1-855-452-5437) or local law enforcement.



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HIGH SCHOOL

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Flourishing Sisterhood: Grace



Sr. Seyram Adzokpa
ADZOKPA, SSF

I will always cherish the memory of my first official date with Jesus, which took place after a trip to Ghana in 2020 for my grandmother's funeral. I returned to the United States, hoping my family would follow a week later, but the airports shut down the day after my return due to the coronavirus pandemic, forcing my family to stay four weeks longer than anticipated.

The pandemic was a treacherous time. As a nurse, I felt helpless when I could not provide answers to my patients who wondered if they would survive. I turned to doctors and other sources but found little help. This situation made me lean on one who had answers to all problems.

During this period of daily silence at home, my relationship with Jesus deepened. My spiritual director guided me as I continued to discern my calling to the consecrated religious life, encouraging me to invite Jesus into every aspect of my life, ensuring constant communion with him.

One evening, Jesus and I prepared a delightful supper, and after tidying up and moving to the living room, we decided to indulge in a comedy, as Jesus has a great sense of humor. We shared countless laughs together. Eventually, we came across another movie about a young woman faced with the choice of marrying a doctor or marrying the church. I was familiar with marrying a person, but a building? I was intrigued.

As we watched the movie, "The Courage to Love," I was captivated by Henriette Delille's zeal and determination. During the era of slavery, there were prohibitions against educating Black children. Despite this, Mother Delille took it upon herself to catechize them. When her neighborhood was struck by yellow fever, she rallied two

other young women to assist in healing the sick, even without any medical training. Her unwavering resolve fascinated me, and I admired her spirit. When the time came to choose between the wealthy doctor or the church, she courageously chose to say 'yes' to Jesus and commit herself to his bride, the Church.

However, finding a religious community that would accept her as a Black woman proved to be a significant challenge. Inspired, she established her own community. I found myself exclaiming, "Good for you, Henriette!"

At the end of the movie, I discovered it was based on a true story, and that the community she founded was flourishing. I immediately searched online for the 'Sisters of the Holy Family,' and in disbelief, I exclaimed, "They're alive!" At that moment, it was well past 3 a.m., and the only person I could share my joy with was a priest who was still awake. He shared in my excitement and agreed to pray for me as I discerned whether God was calling me to this community in New Orleans. Without hesitation, I sent a message to the vocations director. After prayer and discernment, I applied to the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

I officially joined on Sept. 27, 2021, as a postulant. I served as a nurse at the oldest Catholic nursing home in the country, established by the Sisters. I appreciated the culture and people of New Orleans but after a few months, I confided in my spiritual director that I was unsure if this was God's will for me. My enthusiasm for service was waning, and I missed my family dearly. He encouraged me to stay for at least six months before making a final decision. By God's grace, I persevered into the novitiate, where I received a white veil and the title of "Sister" during the ceremony. Initially, this title felt unfamiliar, but over time, it became a part of me.

My novitiate passed swiftly, and the time to make my profession of vows drew near. I attended a retreat at the serene beach-side retreat house to prepare for this significant commitment.

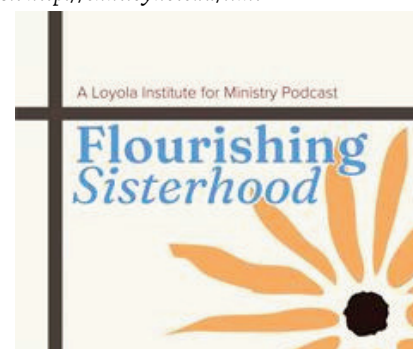
Aug. 15, 2024 marked the pivotal day when I followed in the footsteps of our mother, Henriette Delille, and professed my first vows before a packed church and the whole celestial court.

I was filled with joy as I ate, danced and reunited with friends and family. I relished a much-needed break with my family and then returned to New Orleans. I was assigned to our nursing home to care for our elderly sisters, which has been a challenge and a blessing thus far. I often reflect on our charism – care for the elderly, the marginalized and the vulnerable.

Each day, I am blessed to spend time with these inspiring 80- to 90-year-old devoted heroines, who also followed in the footsteps of the courageous Mother Delille. It is my hope that many young women like me would consider dedicating their lives to our faithful God. He is generous, wise and above all, love.

I am immensely grateful for the various ways I am blessed to minister to those in most need. I never imagined that a quiet movie night with Jesus would change the course of my life – but it did. That night, over laughter, dinner and "The Courage to Love," I discovered a woman whose bold "yes" in the face of impossibility gave me the "courage to love" in a way I'd never imagined.

Sister Seyram Adzokpa, SSF shared her story as part of the "Flourishing Sisterhood" project, an initiative of the Loyola Institute for Ministry in New Orleans. To learn more about the Institute and this project, visit <http://cnh.loyola.edu/lim>.





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2026 HOLY CROSS SUMMER CAMP

Camp runs from June 1 – July 10, and is open to boys and girls ages 5-12.



Registration Opens February 2

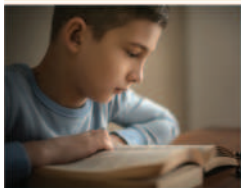
www.hcnola.org

Holy Cross School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.



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God Doesn't Make Mistakes



**Stacy
LAMORTE**
NOLACatholic Parenting

Day after day I have clients come into my office who feel broken and “less than” because of their ADHD. A quick primer: ADHD stands for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. (It is one of the most poorly named diagnoses in the history of medicine, but it stands.... for now.)

When I was growing up, there was a distinction between ADD (attention deficit disorder) and ADHD; now they are both called ADHD and they are typed by symptoms: ADHD Inattentive Type, ADHD Hyperactive Type and ADHD Combined Type. The problem with the name is that there is no lack of attention, only difficulty assigning the attention to the thing they want to be doing. Anyone who has seen a child with ADHD play with Legos, with their nose in a book they are really enjoying, or playing a video game knows that they certainly can pay attention to something in a very focused way when they are engaged.

I love to integrate spirituality into my coaching when a client is open to it because, like many things in life, it creates much deeper meaning to what we are doing and what God is doing in our lives. I love asking kids (who I know believe in God), “Who made you?” When they answer, “God” I say, “God doesn’t make mistakes.” God made them exactly who they are, and they are “uniquely and wonderfully made.” Just like any other learning difference or disability, one has to learn how to work with it and maybe even leverage it in their lives. So, if you have someone you love in your life with ADHD, ask them, “What is your ADHD superpower?” I usually get a big smile or an incredulous look when I ask that question in coaching, but I have never had anyone, young or old, who cannot come up with a strength that is one of their gifts from God. Here are some I usually hear:

- Big-picture thinking
- High creativity
- Awesome under pressure
- Passion/Enthusiasm
- Seeing connections that others don't see

If there is someone in your life that you love with ADHD, get curious about how they see themselves. Help them to recognize and develop their superpower for what it is – we usually don’t even realize our gifts are gifts because they are “easy” and come so naturally to us that we think they must come naturally to everyone!

This goes out to anyone reading this who thinks ADHD is not “real”, that maybe those kids just need more or different discipline: I get it. It does seem like it is an “all of a sudden” diagnosis, but it is because we are finding out so much more about how brains work through imaging and in-depth testing.

These kids and adults are really struggling to function in a world that is not made for the way their brains work because of difficulties with things like time management, impulse control, prioritization and self-regulation. Girls and women who typically present with Inattentive Type have just been overlooked for years as being “in their own world,” lazy, careless, or even unintelligent. I am sure you can imagine how painful that feels to carry that around all the time.

If you have children or grandchildren in your life who have been diagnosed with ADHD, please take some time to learn more about it. Having coached adults for hundreds of hours on how this disorder impacts their lives, especially their marriages and other relationships, I can tell you that it is not “made up.” Grandparents, please ask your children how you can support them in their parenting; it will go a long way in helping them release some of the shame and disappointment they may be feeling because of the struggles they are experiencing.

God didn’t make a mistake when he created these beautiful neurodivergent brains: our world would be pretty bland and boring without our passionate, creative, problem solvers who are usually great under pressure (firefighters, EMT’s, police officers, surgeons). Let’s help those in our lives with ADHD to find their superpowers and use them for the greater glory of God!

Stacy Glynn LaMorte is a wife and mother of three. She is a personal trainer and is also enjoying her new profession as an ADHD and life coach to adolescents and adults. She enjoys spending time with her family and her two dogs, gardening, writing, travel, reading and exercising

NOLA
CATHOLIC
parenting

SOLARZANO

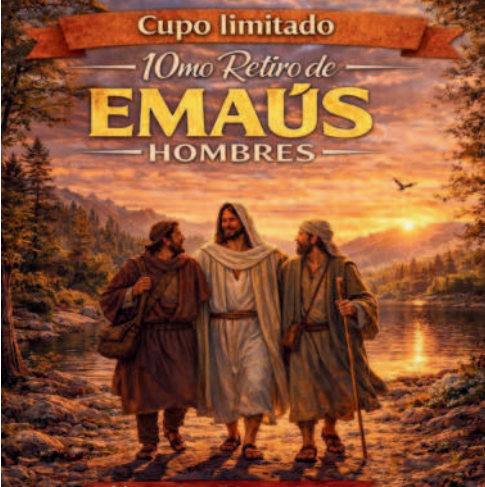
A ellos les dice: “Siganme.” Y ellos, dejándolo todo, lo siguen. Este llamado no fue solo para ellos; Jesús sigue llamándonos hoy. Nos llama en medio de nuestro trabajo, nuestra familia, nuestras preocupaciones. No espera que seamos perfectos, solo que estemos dispuestos a seguirlo y a dejarnos transformar por Él.

Hermanos y hermanas, Jesús es la luz que viene a iluminar nuestras oscuridades. Él nos invita a convertirnos, a confiar y a seguirlo con sencillez. Cuando aceptamos su llamado, nuestra vida comienza a cambiar.

- Qué aspectos de mi vida necesitan hoy conversión?
- Escucho la llamada de Jesús en mi vida cotidiana?
- Qué me cuesta dejar para seguir más de cerca al Señor?
- Confío en Jesús como luz en mis momentos de dificultad?

Querida comunidad: no tengamos miedo de responder al llamado del Señor. Dejemos que su Palabra ilumine nuestro camino y transforme nuestro corazón. Sigamos a Jesús con confianza, paso a paso, en lo sencillo de cada día. Que este Tiempo Ordinario sea para nosotros un tiempo de conversión, seguimiento y esperanza, caminando siempre a la luz del Señor. Amén.

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Around the Archdiocese

St. Jude Wineter Novena - Jan. 24-Feb. 1
International Shrine of St. Jude, 411 N. Rampart,
New Orleans. This Novena will be presented
by Father Anthony F. Rigoli, OMI. His
theme, "A Walk Through Scriptures" shall be
delivered during the Novena Masses, Jan. 24
and Jan. 31 7 a.m., noon and 4 p.m. Vigil
Mass Jan. 25 and Feb. 1, 7:30, 9:30 (live
Stream) 11:30 am, 1:30 (Spanish) and 6 p.m.;
Jan. 26 - Jan. 30 7 a.m. and noon
(Live Stream). Live Stream on our website
www.judeshrine.com. For further info call
(504)525-1551.

Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 24-30.

Memorial Service for the Unborn, in
observance of Roe v. Wade anniversary in the
Holy Innocents Prayer Garden (St. Patrick #1
Cemetery, 5000 Canal St., NOLA) at noon on Jan.
26. Prayers will be said for those lost to
miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion and those
who mourn them.

Christ in the City, Jan. 27, 7-8 p.m., St. Francis
Assisi Parish, New Orleans. Monthly evening of
Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults in
their late teens, 20s and 30s. For more
information, please visit [nolacatholic.org/](http://nolacatholic.org/citc)
citc.

ChristLife Session #1: Discovering Christ,
Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalen
Discipleship Center, 6425 West Metairie Ave.,
Metairie. Session one of an exciting 7-week
series where those gathered will share a
delicious dinner, listen to dynamic teaching
and explore answers to some of the most
important questions worth asking about God
and finding ultimate purpose in life. Register
at smmchristlife.registrar@gmail.com.

**Calling all 6th-12th grade girls for the Nun
Run!** Saturday, Jan. 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Participants will leave from Mary, Queen of
Peace (Mandeville) and visit four different
religious orders to hear the sisters' vocation
journeys and gain deeper insight into what it
means to be a religious sister. For more info:
<https://www.maryqueenofpeace.org/nun-run>

Mass Hosted by God's Special Children, Feb. 1,
2-3 p.m., St. Francis Xavier, Metairie. All are
welcome to attend this sensory-friendly Mass.

**The New Orleans Chapter of the Young
Catholic Professionals, Annual King Cake
Party** on Feb. 3, 7-10 p.m., at Noel Marcantel
Photography Studios, 3700 Orleans Ave., Suite
102A). Blue Book Barkeepers will serve craft
cocktails. The event is free for members and
\$15 for nonmembers.

**Notre Dame Seminary Sips with
Seminarians**, Feb. 5, Schulte Auditorium 2901 S.
Carrollton Ave., 6:30 - 9 p.m. A
Seminarian Cocktail-Making Contest.
Attendees can taste unique cocktail creations
crafted by seminarians. The winning cocktail
will be featured at the 2026 Gala & Auction.
Individual tickets \$60, with a discounted
price of \$40 for young adults ages 21-35. Live
music, delicious food, exciting door prizes
and a special selection of drinks from the
Rector himself. Tickets are now available and
can be purchased online nds.edu/sips. For
more information email,
mlegendre@nds.edu, or call (504)866-7426.

**2026 World Day for Consecrated Life Mass
and Luncheon**, Feb. 7, 11 a.m., Schulte
Auditorium at Notre Dame Seminary.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026,

2026 Men's Conference, "Let It Be Done,"
Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. Dominic Parish,
New Orleans. The Office of Marriage and
Family Life of the Archdiocese of New
Orleans, in partnership with Willwoods Faith
and Marriage and the Point Man Podcast,
invites men from around southeast Louisiana
for the annual men's conference. Visit
nolacatholicmen.org to learn more.

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Around the Archdiocese in Pictures!



Photo Credit: Caroline E. Smith



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On Jan. 8, New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond kept a 211 year old promise by celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving on the Feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Above left, Fr. Ajani Gibson, pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans was the homilist. Above right, Archbishop Aymond concelebrates the Mass with area priests, keeping the promise made by Bishop DuBourg and the Ursuline Sisters during the Battle of New Orleans.



Photo Credit: Nataly Scheuerman

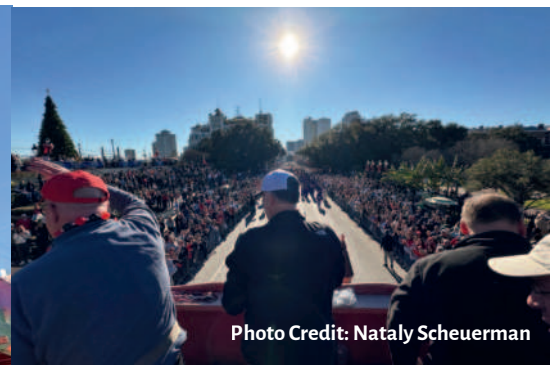


Photo Credit: Nataly Scheuerman

As Carnival Season continues, take a look back at scenes from Dec. 31, 2025 when Coadjutor Archbishop James Checchio and several other clergy and representatives of St. Louis Cathedral were invited by Our City Our Cathedral campaign leader Barry Kern to ride in the Sugar Bowl parade.



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Photo Credit: Holy Cross School

Holy Cross School's Concordia, under the direction of Craig Matherne, performed at St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York City on Jan. 5. Beyond their vocal performance, students had the opportunity to tour the city visiting Radio City Music Hall, the Empire State Building, Rockefeller Center, the Statue of Liberty, New York Stock Exchange, 9/11 Memorial & Museum, and Broadway.



Photo Credit: Chris Wiseman

The Carnival celebrations in New Orleans began with a special blessing as Deacon Richard Brady blessed the sword of St. Joan of Arc during the Krewe de Jeanne d'Arc parade on Jan. 6, on what would have been St. Joan of Arc's 614th birthday. The 2026 Joan of Arc was portrayed by local high school senior Rory Davis.



On Jan. 7, Coadjutor Archbishop Checchio visited the the Peace Center for a game of bingo. Learn more about the Peace Center and its services to the Gert Town neighborhood online at <https://thepeacecenternola.org/>.



Photo Credit: St. Benilde Men's Club

The St. Benilde Men's Club dedicated their Saturday morning Jan. 10 to feeding the homeless at Ozanam Inn in coordination with the New Orleans Catholic Men's Club Association.

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 Dr. Susie Veters & Fr. Joe Krafft



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