



*The Sisters of the Holy Family pray over Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA, 15<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of New Orleans, on Feb. 11. On his first day as Archbishop of New Orleans, Archbishop Checchio invited the sisters to join him in prayer at the tomb of their founder Venerable Henriette Delille. The archbishop and the sisters prayed through the intercession of Henriette Delille for the archdiocese, its people and the sisters before the archbishop asked the sisters to pray for him. Following his visit to Henriette's tomb, Archbishop Checchio visited the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos to pray for Blessed Seelos's intercession for the local church and for the beginning of his ministry as Archbishop of New Orleans. Read more on p. 3.*

## THE CLARION HERALD

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*Left - Archbishop Checchio speaks with Sister of the Holy Family Sylvania Thibodeaux at the tomb of the Sisters of the Holy Family where Venerable Henriette Delille is entombed. Sister Sylvania is Vice-Postulator for Henriette Delille's cause for canonization. Right - Archbishop Checchio prays at the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos asking for his intercession on his first day as Archbishop of New Orleans, Feb. 11. Following his time in prayer, Archbishop Checchio was able to take a short tour of the Welcome Center at the Shrine to learn more about Blessed Seelos and his cause, and meet the staff.*

*Photo credits: Sarah McDonald*

# Thank You!

## Words of Gratitude from Archbishop James F. Checchio, 15<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of New Orleans

by **Most Reverend James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA**  
Archbishop of New Orleans

Thank you!

There is no more appropriate way to begin my first Clarion Herald column as your new archbishop than with these words of gratitude. I am honored and privileged that our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, sent me to serve here. Since arriving in New Orleans a little less than three months ago as your Coadjutor Archbishop, you have been so kind and gracious. Thank you for being so warm in welcoming me to my new home and making my transition so enjoyable.

It has been impressive to see so many of our beautiful churches, meet our generous priests, religious and deacons, and to meet so many of you, our dear faithful. I am told that I have visited about 35 of our 104 parishes so far and it has been a joy. It is my hope to visit all of our parishes as soon as I am able. One thing is certain: no matter where I have met you, whether in your church parish, at your school, at a restaurant, in the Superdome for a Saints game, or while caroling in Jackson Square or riding in the Sugar Bowl parade,

your friendliness and kindness have been very much appreciated.

It is not easy to pack up one's life and move more than 1,200 miles from home. As those of you who have moved can probably relate, it can be challenging and frustrating to simply find where everything ended up in my new home and office. Having to learn new names and directions (particularly which way the river or lake is) has its challenges too. However, the joy of meeting so many wonderful people helps to overcome the challenges of my move. These three months have gone by very quickly as I learn more about our local church and seek to understand how God is calling me to best serve here as we strive together to grow more deeply in our friendship with Jesus and to build up the Kingdom of God in this beautiful part of His vineyard.

It is fascinating that the faith has been so active here in Southeastern Louisiana for so long! I love reading about the history of our archdiocese and the many people who built up this local Church over three centuries. Our beautiful St. Louis Cathedral is the oldest continuously operating church in the United States. The dear Ursuline Sisters arrived here

in 1727 even before our archdiocese was founded in 1793, to open their school, orphanage and hospital – a legacy that lives on as we prepare to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their arrival next year. The contributions of the many priests, religious men and women and the lay faithful over the years are a testament to the interconnectedness of faith in public life in our Archdiocese of New Orleans – something within which we should take great pride. As I assure you of my prayers, I have two prayer requests I ask of you. Please pray for me, that as I begin my service as your archbishop that I may be the shepherd you need and deserve. Secondly, please pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, so that we have good shepherds for our many parishes and have the witness of consecrated life in our archdiocese.

As we begin our Lenten Season, know that I am praying that through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving our hearts will become more like Jesus' own Sacred Heart beating in love for others. I have already begun to fall in love with you and this archdiocese; thank you for making that so easy! God bless you and all your loved ones and may we have many happy, healthy and holy years together.

# Presenting the 2026 Altar Servers of the Year



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# 2026 Altar Server of the Year Honorees

by Staff Report

On Feb. 5, Archbishop Gregory Aymond celebrated a special Mass to honor the 2026 Altar Servers of the Year. This annual celebration, sponsored by the local chapters of the Serra Club, is a way for each parish in the Archdiocese of New Orleans to honor the young men and women who give generously of themselves to serve at the Eucharistic table of the Lord at Mass in their home parishes. The Mass was celebrated at St. Rita Church, New Orleans with Archbishop Aymond and over a dozen local priests concelebrating.

The 2026 Altar Server of the Year honorees are:

Raymond Abbott, *Holy Name of Mary Church (New Orleans)*; Raymond Adams, III, *St. John of the Cross Church (Lacombe)*; Anthony Allen, *St. Andrew the Apostle Church (New Orleans)*; Luke Arnold, *St. Dominic Church (New Orleans)*; Kitty Arute, *All Saints Church (New Orleans)*.

Calvin Baker, *Blessed Trinity Church (New Orleans)*; Nathan Batham, *St. Peter Church (Covington)*; Christina Balleza, *Christ the King Church (Terrytown)*; Isadora Berger, *Mary, Queen of Peace Church (Mandeville)*; Caison Berthelot, *St. Mark Church (Ama)*; Riley Bettencourt, *Holy Family Church (Franklinton)*; Lucy Bourg, *St. Mary Magdalen Church (Metairie)*; Henry Boudreaux, *St. Anselm Church (Madisonville)*; Stephen Braud, *St. Luke the Evangelist Church (Slidell)*; Simon Broussard, *St. Anthony of Padua Church (Luling)*.

Remy Cannon, *St. Rita Church (New Orleans)*; Cooper Choina, *The Visitation of Our Lady Church (Marrero)*; Charles Christiansen, *Holy Name of Jesus Church (New Orleans)*.

Blake Darensbourg, *St. Agnes Church (Jefferson)*; Coy Davis, *St. Anthony Church (Gretna)*; Ashton Deimel, *Our Lady of Lourdes Church (Violet)*; Charlie Dietz, *St. Francis of Assisi Church (New Orleans)*; Joseph Donahue, *Our Lady of the Lake Church (Mandeville)*; Reagan Durocher, *St. Jane de Chantal Church (Abita Springs)*.

Peter Favolora, *St. Philip Neri Church (Metairie)*; Sofie Favoloro, *St. Joachim Church (Marrero)*.

William Gilbert, *St. Pius X Church (New Orleans)*; Timothy P. Giltorpe, *Resurrection of Our Lord Church (New Orleans)*; Braden Gottschalck, *St. John the Baptist Church (Folsom)*; Chung Grace, *Our Lady of Lavang Church (New Orleans)*; Kyleigh Honora Green, *Corpus Christi-Epiphany Church (New Orleans)*; Georgia Guidry, *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church (Belle Chasse)*.

Ashton Hanley, *St. Joan of Arc Church (LaPlace)*; Joseph Harper, *St. Dominic Church (New Orleans)*; Maxx Henderson, *St. Edward the Confessor Church (Metairie)*; Eduardo Vargas Hernandez, *Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos (New Orleans)*.

Rayon Monique Jones, *St. Joseph the Worker Church (Marrero)*.

Colin Kornrumpf, *Our Lady of Lourdes Church (Slidell)*.

Connor LeBouef, *St. Charles Borromeo Church (Destrehan)*; Lola Lefort, *St. Katharine Drexel Parish (New Orleans)*; Joseph Luu, *Mary, Queen of Vietnam Church (New Orleans)*.

Andrea Maki, *St. Genevieve Church (Slidell)*; Charlotte Maki, *St. Genevieve Church (Slidell)*; Jacob Maki, *St. Genevieve Church (Slidell)*; Maes Martin, *St. Catherine of Siena Church (Metairie)*; Peter McCaffery, *St. Benilde Church (Metairie)*; Brady McCune, *Sacred Heart of Jesus Church (Norco)*; Nathan McDonald, *St. Francis Xavier Church (Metairie)*; Kiany Montes, *Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (Chalmette)*; Carolyn Moradel, *Our Lady of Divine Providence Church (Metairie)*; Augustine Owen Mullek, *St. Joseph Church (Gretna)*; Andre Muñoz, *St. Jerome Church (Kenner)*.

Ava Thanh Nguyen, *St. Agnes LeThi Thanh Church (Marrero)*; Mia Nguyen, *Mary, Help of Christians Church (Harvey)*; Peter Khoi Dinh Nguyen, *St. Joseph Church (Algiers)*; Tyler Nguyen, *Mary, Help of Christians Church (Harvey)*; Andre Nodier, *Ascension of Our Lord Church (LaPlace)*.

Dominic Pillow, *St. Ann Church and Shrine (Metairie)*.

Josh Randolph, *St. Raymond/St. Leo the Great Church (New Orleans)*; Gabriel Rebourg, *St. Augustine Church (New Orleans)*; Hank Ripoll, *Sts. Peter and Paul Church (Pearl River)*; Alyssa Rodrigue, *St. John Paul II Church (Waggaman)*; Jack Ruckert, *St. Rita Church (Harahan)*.

Macie Kaye Skrokov, *St. Christopher the Martyr Church (Metairie)*; Sebastian Simon, *St. John the Baptist Church (Edgard)*; Kingsley Stewart, *St. Martin de Porres Church (New Orleans)*; Elizabeth Stierwald, *St. Angela Merici Church (Metairie)*.

Alexander Theriot, *Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church (Westwego)*; Calvin Thomas, *Blessed Trinity Parish (New Orleans)*; Sean Timler, *St. Matthew the Apostle Church (River Ridge)*; Summer Tran, *Mary, Queen of Vietnam Church (New Orleans)*; Elise Troxclair, *St. Michael the Archangel Church (Paradis)*; Nathan Tullier, *Holy Family Church (Luling)*.

Gregory Veazey, *St. Margaret Mary Church (Slidell)*; Ishamael Velasquez, *All Saints Church (New Orleans)*.

Christian Walker, *St. Martha Church/Infant Jesus of Prague Mission (Harvey)*; Gary Terrell Walker, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (New Orleans)*; Connor Wilken, *St. Catherine of Siena Church (Metairie)*.

**About Serra International** - Serra International is a global organization, with over 12,000 members in over 500 clubs worldwide. In collaboration with the local diocese, local Serra Clubs organize and promote a huge array of events and programs – prayer for vocations, dinners for clergy, vocation curriculum in Catholic schools, events for altar servers – and more. To learn more visit <https://serraus.org/>.



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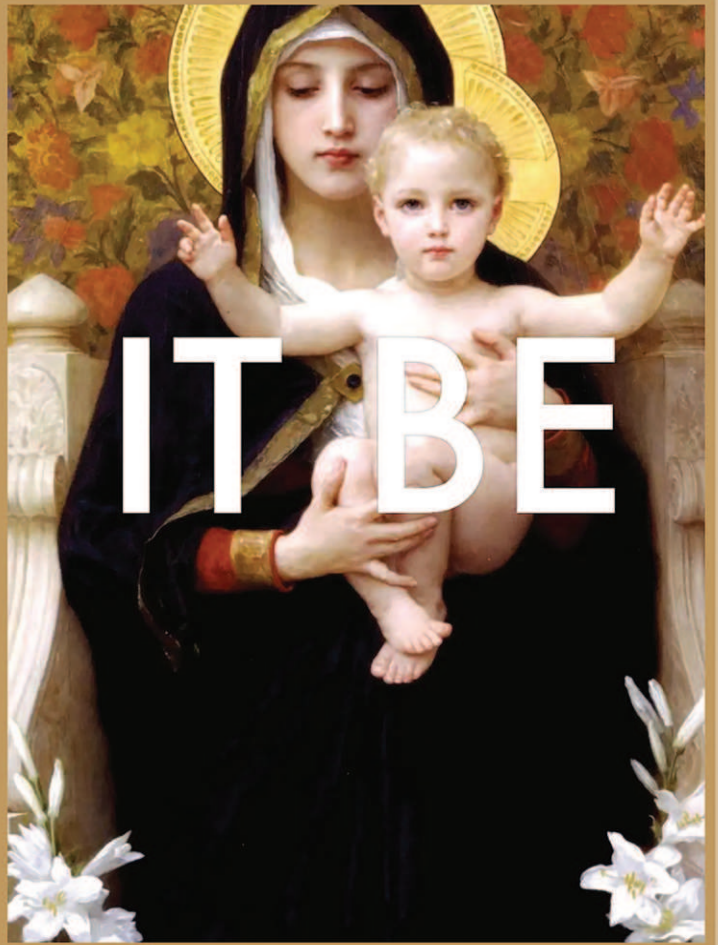
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# Best of the Best: Archdiocese of New Orleans Students of the Year

by Kim Roberts

Students in the Catholic schools in New Orleans excel at many things, so being selected one of the three Students of the Year to represent the Archdiocese of New Orleans is both a blessing and an honor.

“Each year, Catholic schools across the archdiocese recognize exceptional students through the Student of the Year (SOY) program at the fifth, eighth and twelfth grade levels,” said Brianna Nelson, associate superintendent of academic formation & accessibility. “These students represent the very best of their communities – young people who consistently model excellence in leadership, discipleship, citizenship and service.”

She added, once schools select their nominee, the students advancing to the archdiocesan level submit a portfolio to highlight their accomplishments, involvement and personal growth. Students must have maintained at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average during the past three years and the current school year. A panel of judges then reviews each submission using a common rubric, and top candidates are invited to participate in an interview with a second panel.

Following the interviews, one Archdiocesan Student of the Year is selected at each grade level. These students then go on to represent the Archdiocese in the Louisiana Catholic School Student of the Year competition in March.

“This is more than an award, the program is a celebration of students who live out their faith in action and serve as positive examples for their schools and communities,” Nelson said.

This year’s Archdiocese of New Orleans Student of the Year recipients:

## **Kinleigh Deogracias, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Chalmette**

“I’ve always tried to work hard and be kind to others, but I didn’t know I would be nominated. When I found out I was excited and proud,” Deogracias said. “I think my application stood out because I’m involved in a lot of different things and I really care about helping people.”

Deogracias said she was shocked upon hearing the news that she was bestowed this honor and then felt happy and thankful. She plans to apply again in the upper grades.

“I had to write an autobiography, answer questions about my goals, get recommendations from my teachers and put together a big portfolio about my life, school and activities,” she said. “Then I had an interview where I talked about who I am and what matters to me.”

“This means so much to us as parents. We’ve



*Left - Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. RaeNell Houston, fifth grade student of the year Kinleigh Deogracias of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School, Chalmette, and Archbishop Gregory Aymond. Right - Dr. Houston, eighth grade student of the year Layla LeBoeuf of Ursuline Academy, and Archbishop Aymond. The Students of the Year were honored at the 2026 Catholic Schools Week Mass, held Jan. 30 at St. Dominic Church, New Orleans.*

*Photo credits: Frank J. Methe*

always known Kinleigh has a kind heart and a strong work ethic but seeing her recognized at this level is incredibly special,” said Krysta Deogracias. “We were definitely surprised and so proud of the person she is becoming.”

## **Layla LeBoeuf, 8th grade Ursuline Academy**

“I have never really thought about this award specifically. I was really surprised when my school nominated me, and I am even more surprised that I got it,” LeBoeuf said. “I am now moving on to the state competition. This is truly such an honor and the biggest blessing, and I could not be more thankful.”

LeBoeuf said that she thinks that the written part of her application really showcased her writing abilities. “I used this as an opportunity to tell my story of how I came into deeper faith. I also think that my school involvement, community activities and participation in service outside of school shows a wide variety of abilities and commitments.”

“I was definitely excited, happy and surprised that I was chosen,” she said. “I could not believe I was chosen among all the hardworking students I was up against. I feel so blessed. My

friends are some of the most supportive people, and they were so proud of me when they heard I won. I love them all so much, and I am so lucky to have friends like them.”

LeBoeuf is in all honors classes at school, and her favorite subject is math. She is on the Student Council, eighth grade class president and enjoys performing in the school musical, the Academy choir and on the dance team. She is also part of the Quiz Bowl team, sustainability club, peer ministry, Queen’s Player’s theater group and Key Club.

“This award is an honor for our entire family. As a parent, you hope your child grows not just in achievement, but in character,” said Ali LeBoeuf. “We know she works hard and leads with integrity, and it is nice that she is being recognized. We are grateful for the teachers and mentors who have helped guide our daughter along the way.”

Her father Patrick LeBoeuf added, “We see how hard Layla works and always believe in her. We also know there are many deserving students in our area. She is the best role model for her four younger siblings, and we couldn’t be prouder of her.” see **STUDENTS** p. 8

# STUDENTS

**Leah Cardinal, 12th grade**  
*Academy of Our Lady*

"I've somewhat always wanted to be student of the year," Cardinal said. "I don't do the things I do, because I want recognition or a title though. I work hard in school, because I have big career goals in the future. I play my sports because they're fun. I have leadership positions because I have passion and drive to make things better, and I know I absolutely have what it takes to do a good job. I'm involved in Church activities because my faith is important to me and it brings me closer to God. I serve because I'm so insanely blessed that I must give back and look out for those less fortunate."

Cardinal said that her autobiography was honest and unique. "Mentioning how much I love my Salesian family might have stuck out. I am a Salesian through and through and I explained that throughout my portfolio. Living out Don Bosco's oratory in my daily life is something so important to me and I think I make it obvious."

"I've always had this goal of putting

Academy of Our Lady more on the map," she said. "I always wanted to show others that we have an amazing school, and better yet an amazing community. The students, teachers, sisters, brothers, priests and just other people in our community make up this strong Salesian family on the Westbank. I was excited to win for my school. This isn't just an accomplishment for me. It's an accomplishment for AOL. Without AOL and without my Salesian family, I can guarantee that I would have never won this award, so I really owe them a congratulations."

Cardinal's parents (Amie and Sean) said they were very surprised. "I immediately started crying when I heard the news," Amie said. "I was overwhelmed with joy and excitement. As her parents, of course we think she's amazing, and she makes us proud every day. Leah has worked so hard to be where she is today and always puts forth 100% effort into everything she does. Because of this, it makes me so happy to see her rewarded for her hard work and tremendous effort."

*Dr. RaeNell Houston, twelfth grade student of the year Leah Cardinal of Academy of Our Lady and Archbishop Aymond at the 2026 Catholic Schools Week Mass.*

*Photo credit: Frank J. Methe*



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## 2026 Lenten Activities Calendar

For more information about the following events, please contact the individual parishes. Updated listings and more events can be found at [nolacatholic.org/lent](http://nolacatholic.org/lent).

### Jefferson Parish

February 20

Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus begins at St. Joseph Church and Shrine in Gretna, 610 6<sup>th</sup> St., Gretna, Friday Evening Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Stations of the Cross all Fridays of Lent, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27.

February 23

Lenten Mission: "Undivided Heart" at St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 10021 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge

February 25

Lenten Video Series begins at St. Francis Xavier Parish, 444 Metairie Road., Metairie. Journey with Jesus through Scripture and the Holy Land with Evangelists Jeff Cavins, Marcellino D'Ambrosia and Edward Sri on Feb. 25, March 11, 25, April 08 and 15. 6 p.m. pre-ordered meal, 6:30 p.m. video.

Come Lord Jesus, Lenten Journey begins at St. Joseph Church and Shrine in Gretna, 610 6<sup>th</sup> St., Gretna. Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1

February 28

Faith and Family Day at Divine Mercy Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 4337 Sal Lentini Parkway, Kenner, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. – noon, "Faith and Family Day" is a morning designed for on-the-go families looking for peace, refreshment and togetherness. Join us for worship and inspiration led by Ryan Foulon and Beachview Heights. Our young families are welcome to come to our 'Storytime with the Saints' where the

Saints come to life in a whole new way! Lunch is also provided thanks to our Hispanic Ministry.

March 2-4

"Mercy" – A three-night Lenten Mission by Dr. Tom Neal at St. Francis Xavier Parish 444 Metairie Road Metairie, 6 p.m. welcome and refreshments and 7 p.m. program. Dr. Tom Neal is a teacher, theologian, husband and father: What is Divine Mercy? How does one receive Mercy? How does one give Mercy?

March 9, 10 and 11

Lenten Mission: "The Mystery of Suffering in St. Francis of Assisi." The Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary led by Father Antonio "Speedy" Farrugia at St. Ann Church & Shrine, 4940 Meadowdale St, Metairie, March 9; 10 a.m. Mass 11 a.m. confessions (No 7 p.m. Mass because of Confirmation) March 10, 10 a.m., Mass 11 a.m., Confessions 5:30 p.m. Adoration, Meditated Rosary according to the Poor Friar and Poor Nun charism and Confessions 7 p.m. Mass March 11; 10 a.m. Mass 11 a.m. Confessions 5:30 p.m. Adoration, Meditated Rosary according to the Poor Friar and Poor Nun charism and Confessions 7 p.m. Mass.

"The Path to Missionary Discipleship." Lenten Mission presented by Father Kyle Sanders at St. Cletus Church, 3600 Claire Ave., Gretna.

March 10

Walking with Our Lord Through the Sorrowful Mysteries at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 1912 Short Street, Kenner, March 10 – 12, 6:30 – 8 p.m., Three-night mission with deep meditations on the passion of Jesus through the sorrowful mysteries. Presented by Deacon Phil McManamon.

March 10 and 12

Lenten Mission - Alexa Schexnaildre will be presenting a two-night mission on suffering and hope at St. Mary Magdalen, 6425 West Metairie Ave., Metairie.

March 11

"Come to the Heart of Jesus" with Father. Jeffrey Montz at Divine Mercy Parish, 4337 Sal Lentini Parkway, Kenner, March 11, Confession will be offered from 5 – 6 p.m., the Rosary from 6 – 6:30 p.m. and Mass 6:30 p.m. with talk to follow.

March 17-18

Walking with Jesus Through the Sorrowful Mysteries at St. Edward the Confessor Parish 4921 W. Metairie Ave., Metairie. Two-night Lenten mission meditating on the passion of Jesus through the sorrowful mysteries. Presented by Deacon Phil McManamon. Begins at 7 p.m.

March 22, 23 and 24

"The Three Pillars" presented by Alexa Schexnaildre. St. Angela Merici, 901 Beverly Garden Drive, Metairie, March 22, 23 and 24. Alexa will share three pillars that have sustained her during long-term suffering, scriptural examples of how Jesus lived out these pillars and ways we can walk closely with Jesus in each of these pillars this Lent. She will share what Jesus' cross means for our lives today and how the pillars can help anyone navigate challenging life situations.

March 25

"Remain": A night of Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Musical Reflection beginning at 6 p.m. at St. Angela Merici, 901 Beverly Garden Drive., Metairie. Piano/Voice: Kimberly Mouledoux Violin: Sam Craft.

April 1

Lenten Mission Night: Family Mission Night at St. Louis King of France School, 1609 Carrollton Ave, Metairie - Sandwich Making Event for the less fortunate in the area. Parents, children, students, grandparents, friends...everyone is welcome to this fun gathering that produces hundreds of meals for those who need our help the most.

*Lenten calendar continued on p. 10*

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# Lenten Activities calendar

**Orleans Parish**

*Every Friday*

Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m. at All Saints Church, 1441 Teche St, New Orleans followed by a Communion Service.

Stations of the Cross, after 6 p.m., Mass at Blessed Trinity Church, 4230 S. Broad St., New Orleans.

Solemn Vespers, every Wednesday during Lent at St. Francis of Assisi, 631 State St., New Orleans, 6 p.m.

Stations of the Cross, Fridays in Lent , 5:30 p.m. St. Francis of Assisi, 631 State St., New Orleans. Spiritually walk with Jesus on his journey to Calvary.

*February 22*

Lenten Mission: led by Father Jeffrey Montz Feb. 22 – 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi 631 State St., New Orleans.

*February 26*

Mass followed by Lenten Reflection starting at 5 p.m. at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor 2701 State St., New Orleans "Rend your hearts not your garments" - presented by Father Joshua Rodrigue.

*March 10*

CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office & Young Catholic Professionals New Orleans 631 State Street New Orleans present Christ in the City & Young Catholic Professionals Executive Speaker Series at 6:45 p.m. Archbishop Checchio will preside at Christ in the City, the 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, then present at the Executive Speaker Series hosted by Young Catholic Professionals New Orleans.

*March 2*

Lenten Mission: March 2 – 4 at St Martin de Porres, 5621 Elysian Field Ave. New Orleans.

**Northshore**

*February 28*

Lenten Mission at St. John of the Cross 61030 Brier Lake Drive, Lacombe.

*March 2*

Our Lady of the Lake Parish, 312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, "40 Days of Ignatian Fire: Awakening the Heart." John Iennusa will speak on journeying through Lent: Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius, March 2 – 4.

Lenten Mission: Mary, Queen of Peace Church, 1501 West Causeway Approach, Mandeville, March 2 – 4. The Lenten Mission will be led by Dr. Carol Razza, whose dynamic teaching and pastoral wisdom speak powerfully to both heart and mind. Theme: Into the Deep: Deep Encounter, Deep Surrender, Deep Mission.

*March 7*

Ladies Guild Prayer Breakfast at St. John of the Cross, 61030 Brier Lake Drive, Lacombe.

*March 16*

Lenten Mission: March 16 – 17, led by Father Jeffery Montz, "Come to the Heart of Jesus," at Sts. Peter and Paul 66192 St. Mary Drive., Pearl River.

*March 19*

Lenten Mission led by Deacon Phil McManamon at Our Lady of Lourdes 400 Westchester Blvd., Slidell. "Last Words of Jesus and the Beatitudes." The last words of Jesus on the Cross seen in light of the Beatitudes. Meditations based on Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

*Lenten calendar continued on p. 15*

*Lent*

at The Cenacle on the Lake

**Retreats for Women**

February 19 - 22, 2026	Women of Manresa Retreat	Fr. Flavio Bravo, SJ
March 6 - 8, 2026	Women's Silent Retreat	Srs. Sue & Kathleen, MSC
March 13 - 15, 2026	Women's Silent Retreat	Fr. Bryce Sibley
March 26 - 29, 2026	Women of Manresa Retreat	Fr. Jeffrey Harrison, SJ

**March 17, 2026 10:00 am Reconciliation Service and Individual Confessions**

**Days of Prayer and Reflection**

March 4, 2026	Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC	"All the World's a Stage"
March 10, 2026	Mr. Matt Rouso	"Pope Leo Challenges"
March 11, 2026	Mrs. Betty-Ann Hickey	"Awakening the Restless Heart to God's Presence"

**Other Upcoming Events**

February 4, 2026	Dr. Veters & Fr. Krafft	"The Path to Interior Freedom"
February 10, 2026	Mr. Matt Rouso	"Pope Leo Challenges"
April 8, 2026	Mrs. Ty Salvant	"Seeing God at Work in my Life"
April 15, 2026	Ms. Aline Harbison	Scripture & Sips: Bible Travel Trivia
May 7, 2026	Mrs. Lorraine Hess	Rosary & Rose'



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# History

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Saturday, February 28, 2026  
11:00am

St. Louis Cathedral  
Jackson Square \* New Orleans, LA.

Celebrant: Rev. R. Tony Ricard  
Music Provided By:  
Archdiocesan Mass Choir



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Office of  
Black Catholic Ministries



For More Information Call (504) 861-6207

# The 2026 Friday Fish Fry Schedule

## Jefferson Parish

**Archbishop Rummel High School Fishing Club**, 1901 Severn Ave., Metairie, Fridays of Lent starting Feb. 27 – March 17, – 6 p.m. or until they run out. Drive thru only on Severn. Menu includes fried fish and sides. Price TBA

**Divine Mercy Parish**, 4337 Sal Lentini Parkway, Kenner, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27; Menu for Feb 20, March 6, 13, 20, and 27 by the Knights of Columbus: \$15 fried fish plate: Served with roasted Cajun potatoes, mixed vegetables, and a Cartozzo's dinner roll. Coca-Cola, Sprite, bottled water and dessert; also available for \$1 each. Menu for Feb. 27 by the Men's Club: choice of \$15 fried fish plate served with French fries and corn; \$15 fried shrimp plate served with French fries and corn.

**Mary, Help of Christians Parish**, 600 1st Ave, Harvey, Feb. 20 – March 27 (Fridays), 4 – 8 p.m.; Fish plate: \$12 Shrimp plate: \$14 Combo plate: \$13 Fish, shrimp and combo plates, all come with fries, coleslaw, hush puppies and fries. Crawfish pies and numerous types of desserts available. Dine-in or take-out.

**Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish**, 8617 W. Metairie Ave., Metairie, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 4 – 7 p.m.; \$10 plate fried fish, boiled corn, potatoes, bread; \$12 crawfish pie plate, boiled corn, potatoes, bread; \$8 shrimp etouffee; \$5 individual crawfish pie; \$4 bread pudding.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church**, 1908 Short St., Kenner, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 3 – 6 p.m.; The meal is \$13 and includes fried fish, potatoes, corn, other side dishes (as posted), and a roll. Drive-thru service available.

**St. Angela Merici**, 901 Beverly Garden, Metairie, Feb. 27, March 13, and March 27; Fried Fish: \$10 Child plate \$12; Adult

plate (includes two fish filets, fries, coleslaw and bread) Grilled Fish: \$14 (includes 2 fish filets, green peas, coleslaw and bread) Fried shrimp \$14 (includes 12 shrimp, fries, coleslaw and bread) Soup – \$5 Chesse Pizza – one slice \$3 French Fries-\$3.

**St. Ann Church & Shrine** (Knights of Columbus Council #3465), 4940 Meadowdale St., Metairie, Feb. 20, March 6, 20, 5:30 p.m.; \$12 plates, fried fish, corn, potatoes, bread; Mac & Cheese \$3 March 20 Menu TBD \$12 plates.; Drive-thru Only on Meadowdale St. **St. Ann Men's Club**, Feb. 27, March 13 and 27, Feb. 27 and March 13 Dine-in or Drive-thru fish (fried or baked) or shrimp plate \$12; combo Plate \$15; mac and cheese \$3; March 27 - Drive-thru only same menu.

**St. Agnes Men's Club**, 3400 Jefferson Highway Feb. 27, March 13 and 27. Dinners served in the MAC. \$15 plate – fish, shrimp, fries, coleslaw and iced tea. Other beverages and desserts will be available for purchase. A Family Bingo will be held in conjunction with the March 27 event.

**St. Benilde Church**, 1901 Division St., Metairie Feb. 20, March 6 and 20, \$14 fried fish plate; \$14 fried shrimp plate; \$14 fish/shrimp combo; \$15 Thai shrimp taco; \$8 seafood gumbo and \$5 fries, \$4 cheese pizza slice and \$3 drinks available All fried plates come with boiled potatoes, corn and bread.

**St. Catherine of Siena**, 105 Bonnabel Blvd., Metairie, **Knights of Columbus** (cafeteria) March 13 and 20, 5:30 – 7 p.m.; \$18 plates and up. Menu varies weekly and will include fish, shrimp, or combo plate with coleslaw/salad and hushpuppy, or cheese pizza. **SCS Men's Club** (cafeteria), Feb. 27 and March 6, 5:30 – 7 p.m. \$18 plates, fish, shrimp, soft shell crab or combo platter. Fries, salad/coleslaw and hushpuppy, or cheese pizza.

**St. Clement of Rome**, 4317 Richland Ave, Metairie, Feb. 27 and March 6, 5:30 p.m. \$14 fried catfish plate; \$15 fried catfish and shrimp combo plate; \$16 fried shrimp plate; \$15 crawfish Riley pasta; \$3 slice of pizza. Desserts and beverages available for purchase.

**St. Cletus Parish**, 3600 Claire Ave., Gretna, Feb. 18, 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 27, Oyster, Shrimp and fish plates and Po-Boys. Plates are served with your choice of white beans or fries, salad and bread. Desserts and drinks are available for purchase.

**St. Edward the Confessor**, 4921 W. Metairie Ave., Metairie, Feb. 27 and March 13, 5:30 – 7 p.m., \$14 fish plate; \$14 shrimp plate; \$15 combo plate; \$4 crawfish pie and \$3 French fries. Plates contain fish, shrimp, or both, hush puppies and boiled red Cajun potatoes.

**St. Francis Xavier** (Knights of Columbus 8546) 444 Metairie Road, Metairie, Feb. 27 and March 13, 6:30 – 8 p.m., \$15 adult plate, fried fish, potatoes, coleslaw and bread; \$10 child's plate; \$10 seafood gumbo. \$10 cheese pizza, 2/slice.

**St. John Paul II Church**, 6851 River Road, Waggaman, Feb. 20 and 27, Mar. 6, 13 and 27 Dine-in or take-out only lunch: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. dinner: 5 – 7 p.m.; \$15 plate – fried fish or blackened fish plate with Cajun boiled corn, potatoes, homemade dinner roll. Shrimp and okra gumbo plate with potato salad, boiled corn and homemade dinner roll. Shrimp and grits plate with green beans and homemade dinner roll.

**St. Joseph Church and Shrine Westbank**, 610 6th St, Gretna, Feb. 27, 5 – 7 p.m.; \$15 plate, fried catfish, baked macaroni, salad and bread; \$15 shrimp and grits dinner, salad and bread.

**St. Louis King of France**, 1609 Carrollton Ave., Metairie, Feb. 27 and March 6, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$15 platters – catfish platter, shrimp platter and combination catfish and shrimp platter. Your choice of two sides: corn, French fries, or mac and cheese. Also available: pizza by the slice, single side items of French fries, mac and cheese. Canned drinks and water available for purchase. Dine-in and drive-thru are available. Drive-thru entrance is on Carrollton Avenue and exits onto Lake Avenue parking for dine-in is available on Lake Avenue. Sponsored by the SLKF Men's Club.

**St. Mary Magdalen Church**, 6425 West Metairie

## LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY

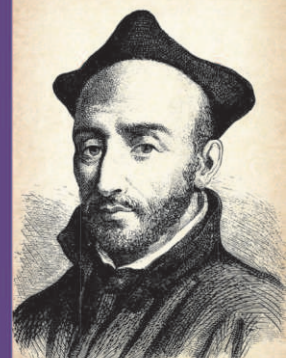
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# What's Cookin' at Your Parish?

Ave. Cafeteria, March 6 and 27; Fried fish and/or shrimp dinners with potatoes, coleslaw and bread. Gumbo, cheese pizza, desserts and drinks sold separately.

**St. Matthew the Apostle Parish**, 10021 Jefferson Highway, River Ridge, Feb 20, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m., \$15 shrimp pasta (Knights of Columbus in MBC) pre-sale tickets sold after all Masses Feb. 7, 8, 14 and 15, Feb. 27, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., \$15 fish plate (CYO in cafeteria) pre-sale tickets sold after Masses Feb 21, 22 and March 6, 6 – 8 p.m., \$15 shrimp plate (Men's Club in cafeteria, pre-sale tickets sold after Masses Feb 28 and Mar 1.

**St. Philip Neri**, 6500 Kawanee Ave., Metairie, Feb. 27 and March 13 Early bird (AGE 65+) 4:30 p.m.; Drive-thru 5 – 7:30 p.m., Dine-in 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. NOTE: March 13 – will be drive-thru only 5 – 7:30 p.m., \$15 – Adults and \$7 children, real domestic catfish dinner plates.

**Visitation of Our Lady**, 3500 Ames Blvd., Marrero, Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, and all Fridays of Lent; \$11 fish po-boy, \$12 half and half po-boy, \$13 dinners served with fries, bread, hush puppies and cole slaw; \$12 shrimp plate, \$14 half and half plate, \$15 specialty plates: baked potato with crawfish etouffee and fried shrimp, \$13 broiled fish with garlic butter, \$17 broiled fish topped with etouffee and rice; \$7 childrens' shrimp plate, \$8 sides, \$8 french fries, \$2 potato salad, \$3 baked potato, \$3 coleslaw, \$2 hush puppies, \$2 drinks; desserts available. Cash, checks, credit cards and Apple pay. Complete menu available online at vol.org.

## Orleans Parish

**All Saints**, Church Hall: 300 Ptolemy St, New Orleans, Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18. Every Friday starting on Feb. 20 at 10 a.m.; Fried fish, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, vegetable, bread, dessert.

**Blessed Francis Seelos**, 3037 Dauphine St, New Orleans, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5 – 7 p.m.; \$15 plate, fried catfish, coleslaw, veggie, bread, dessert and drink.

**Blessed Trinity Catholic Church**, 3900 General Taylor St., New Orleans, Feb. 20, 27, March 13, and 27; \$13 fish plate.

**Center of Jesus the Lord**, 1325 Louisiana Ave., New Orleans, Feb. 20, 27, Mar 6 (lunch only), 13, 20, 27, 5 – 7:30 p.m.; \$15 plate, fried fish, hush puppies, boiled corn and potatoes. \$15 plate, blackened fish, hush puppies, boiled corn and potatoes. \$15 plate, shrimp & okra gumbo with rice, potato salad and bread.

**Holy Cross High School**, 5500 Paris Ave., New Orleans, Feb. 27 (Carry-out only) 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.; \$15 plates, fried fish, macaroni and cheese, green beans, garden salad, bread and chocolate chunk cookies available for an extra \$2 each.

**Mater Dolorosa** (Knights of Columbus), 1230 S. Carrollton Ave, New Orleans, Feb 27, Mar 13 and 27, 5 – 8 p.m.; \$15, two fish filets, French fries, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, garlic bread and soft drinks/water.

**Our Lady of the Holy Rosary**, 3368 Esplanade Ave., New Orleans, Feb. 27, March 6 and 13, 5:30–7:30 p.m.; \$12 plate, fried catfish, fries, coleslaw and green beans; beverages and desserts sold separately.

**St. Francis of Assisi** (Boy Scout Troop 55) 631 State St., New Orleans, Feb. 27, March 13 and 27, 6 – 8 p.m., \$15 adult plate, fish, shrimp, combo; \$11 child plate, fish, shrimp.

**St. Joseph Rebuild Center/Lantern Light** 1803 Gravier St., New Orleans, Feb. 20, noon – 6 p.m., Fried or baked fish, coleslaw, vegetable, dessert and water.

**St. Josephine Bakhita**, 3501 North Miro St., New Orleans, Every Friday during Lent, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., \$15 plate, pick-up or delivery for orders of 10 or more. To place orders, please call the parish office (504)945-3186.

**St. Maria Goretti** (Knights of Columbus), 7300 Crowder Blvd, New Orleans, Feb. 20, March 6, 20 and 27, noon – 5 p.m.; \$15 plate, fried or baked fish, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, vegetable, roll, dessert.

**St. Martin de Porres**, 2212 Prentiss Ave., New Orleans, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. or until we run out. \$15 plate, two pieces of fish (baked or fried), macaroni and cheese, vegetable, salad (green or potato), dessert and a beverage.

**St. Paul the Apostle**, 6828 Chef Menteur Highway, New Orleans, Feb. 20 and Mar. 27, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; \$12 plate, crispy fried fish, baked macaroni and cheese, potato salad, peas, dessert and a bottled beverage.

**St. Peter Claver Parish**, 1923 St. Philip St., New Orleans Parking Lot Pickup, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.; \$15 plate, \$1 drinks – fried fish, potato salad, macaroni and cheese and green beans; water and dessert.

**Ursuline Academy**, 2635 State St., New Orleans March 27, 5 – 8 p.m.; Fried fish plate includes two fried fish filets, green beans, macaroni and cheese and bread. Pizza by the slice and macaroni and cheese sides are available for purchase. Beverages: Soft Drinks/Water (\$1) Beer and Wine (\$5). All in support of our Serviam Annual Fund. Pre-order tickets go on sale Feb. 18 at uanola.org/fish-fry.

## Northshore

**Holy Family Friends of St. Francis**, 1220 14 Ave., Franklinton, Feb 20 and 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 4 – 7 p.m., \$12 plate, fish, fries, mixed vegetables, coleslaw and brownie.

**Mary, Queen of Peace Church**, 1501 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5 – 6:30 p.m.; \$12 adult plate, \$6 child plate, \$20 | “Coop Special” Dinner includes choice of fried or baked fish, fried shrimp, green beans, French fries, macaroni and cheese, salad and a dinner roll. Weekly featured entrée, the “Coop Special,” changes each week. Desserts include soft-serve ice cream, along with coffee, tea and lemonade.

**Most Holy Trinity**, 501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 4 – 7 p.m.; \$15 plates and \$20 platters, fried fish, shrimp, crawfish pies, hush puppies, macaroni and cheese or French fries, coleslaw, dessert and soft drinks.

**Our Lady of Lourdes**, 345 Westchester Place, Slidell, Feb. 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., dine-in or drive-thru, \$12-14 plates with fried fish or shrimp, crab-boiled smashed potatoes, salad, roll and dessert; grilled shrimp salad and shrimp pasta also available. Contact (504) 722-5610 for information.

**Our Lady of the Lake Church** (Knights of Columbus Council 9240), 312 Lafitte St, Mandeville, Feb. 20 and 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27; \$12 adult dinners - two pieces fried fish or one whole baked filet; choice of three sides; bread, dessert and beverage. \$7 child's plate (10 years or younger) One-piece fried fish; choice of two sides bread, dessert, beverage. Available sides: French fries, green beans, coleslaw.

**Sacred Heart of Jesus**, 28088 Main St., Lacombe Feb. 20 and March 6, 4 – 6:30 p.m.; \$12 plate, fried fish, potato salad, green beans, macaroni and cheese, roll and dessert.

**St. Benedict Church**, 20370 Smith Road, Covington, Feb. 27, March 13 and March 27 \$13 plate, fish or shrimp dinner, tater tots, coleslaw and French bread. Inside dining, brownie and canned drinks or water for \$1.

**St. Genevieve Church**, 58025 St. Genevieve Lane, Slidell, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27 11 a.m. – 6 p.m., \$10 plate, fried fish, potato salad, green peas and roll.

**St. Jane de Chantal**, Abita Springs (Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #12529), 72040 Maple St., Abita Springs, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, \$13 plates – fried catfish plate, fried shrimp plate, combo plate with fries or boiled potatoes, coleslaw, French bread. Side gumbo \$ 7, drinks \$1, desserts \$1.

**St. John the Baptist** (Knights of Columbus), 11345 St. John Church Road, Folsom, every Friday in Lent, except Good Friday, 4 – 7 p.m.; \$12 per dinner. Includes fried catfish, baked see [FISH FRYS](#) p. 15

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## Lenten Activities calendar continued

### March 23

Lenten Mission presented by Father Andrew Gutierrez at St. Luke the Evangelist 910 Cross Gates Blvd Slidell March 23 – 24 at 6:30 p.m. Reflection on virtue and the power of Christ's light in our lives.

Lenten Mission, March 23 – 25 at 6 p.m. presented by Father Todd Lloyd at St. Peter Church, 125 East 19th Ave. Covington March 23 – 25. 6 p.m. Topic, Mary, the First Disciple. Mass offered March 25.

### River Parishes

#### February 19

Journey Through Lent - Ascension of Our Lord will host a Journey Through Lent each Thursday in Lent immediately after the 8:30 a.m. Mass to discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday Mass. Date are Feb.19, 26, March 5, 12, 19 and 26

#### March 4

Lenten Mission, March 4 – 5, 7 p.m., St. Charles Borromeo Church, 13396 River Road Destrehan. topic: Walking through Lent

with Saint Francis of Assisi.

### March 8

Lenten Mission, 8 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church 1 Rectory Lane, Hahnville. Speaker Daniel Fitzpatrick "Restoring the Lord's Day: How Reclaiming Sunday Can Revive our Human Nature." Parish meal and mission at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Rectory Lane, Hahnville. Mission speaker Deacon Jesse Watley will present No Easter without Good Friday: Preparing Spiritually for Holy Week.

### March 9

Lenten Mission, March 9 – 11, at St. Joan of Arc Church 529 W. 5th Street LaPlace. Desert Spirituality – Meeting Jesus at the well, presented by Father José I. Lavastida, J.D.

### March 10

Lenten Mission at St. Anthony of Padua, 234 Angus Dr. Luling, March 10 – 11. Brother Ron Travers and Deacon Lloyd Huck will present Taking up the cross of Christ.... We serve the kingdom of God.

### March 26

Married Couples' Stations of the Cross and Social at Ascension of Our Lord Church 1900 Greenwood Dr, Laplace, The Stations of the Cross for Married Couples focuses on strengthening the marital bond between husband and wife by focusing on the sacrifices Jesus made during his passion. Each station offers a short meditation and prayer for the married couple. The Stations will end with a special blessing for married couples and will be followed by a social.

*"Let us prepare our souls for fighting with temptations, and understand that the more zealous we are for our salvation, the more determined must be the assaults of our opponents."*

*-Pope Saint Leo the Great*

## FISH FRYS

cheese potatoes, coleslaw and hush puppies Both drive -thru and dine-in services are available. We also sell desserts.

**St. John of the Cross** (Knights of Columbus), 61030 Brier Lake Dr., Lacombe, Feb. 27, March 13 and 27, 4:30 – 7 p.m.; \$12 plate, fried domestic catfish, wild caught gulf shrimp or combo, desserts. served with smashed potatoes, green beans and hushpuppies and more.

**St. Luke the Evangelist**, 910 Cross Gates Blvd, Slidell, Feb 20 and 27, Mar 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5 – 8 p.m.; \$12 plates, fried or baked fish with choice of two sides from French fries, coleslaw or smashed potatoes with a Hawaiian roll. Dine-in, carry-out or drive-thru. Desserts sold by Ladies Club: bread pudding, cake and brownies.

**St. Peter**, 125 E 19th Ave., Covington, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, Knights of Columbus Fish Fry in the school cafeteria: Dine-in 5:30 – 7 p.m., Drive-thru 5 – 7 p.m., \$13 catfish, shrimp, fries, bread and choice of potato salad or coleslaw. Desserts available for purchase.

### Plaquemines Parish

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, (KC's #6357), 8968 LA-23, Belle Chasse, Feb. 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5:30 – 8 p.m.; \$15 plate, fish Dinner with fries, coleslaw and bread; \$15 shrimp plate with fries, coleslaw and Bread and miscellaneous baked goods will also be available for sale.

**St Patrick Church**, 28698 Highway 23, Port Sulphur, Fridays during Lent, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Fish plates.

### River Parishes

**Ascension of Our Lord**, 809 Greenwood Drive, Laplace, Feb.18, 20, 27 and March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Adult Plate: 2 large pieces of fish, fried or grilled, Cajun boiled potatoes and corn, \$13 Child Plate: 2 large pieces of fish, fried or grilled, Cajun boiled potatoes and corn, \$10

**Our Lady of Grace Church**, 772 LA-44, Reserve Every Friday during Lent except Good Friday 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.; \$15 plate, fried fish, baked spaghetti, veggies, potato salad, bread and dessert. A La Carte items include extra fish, \$3 each extra fish patties \$5. Each soft drink \$2, each bottled water \$1.

**St. Anthony of Padua** (Knights of Columbus Council 2409), 234 Angus Drive, Luling, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 5 – 7 p.m., \$15 catfish plate: fish, fries, hushpuppies, vegetable and bread OR Seafood Gumbo w/ potato salad and bread. Drinks and desserts also available for purchase.

**St. Charles Borromeo Church**, 13396 River Road, Destrehan, Feb. 27, March 13 and 27 4 – 7 p.m.; \$15 (advance) fried fish, French fries, corn on the cob, green salad, bread, and dessert. \$20 at the door. Drive-thru only through bus canopy.

**St. Joan of Arc**, 529 W 5th St., Laplace Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20 and March 27; \$14, fried Des Allemands fish plate (includes potato salad, corn, hushpuppies, roll, dessert); \$16, fried Gulf shrimp plate (includes potato salad, corn, hushpuppies, roll, dessert); \$16, fried fish and shrimp (includes potato salad, corn, hush puppies, roll, dessert); \$17, crawfish etouffee with rice, two pieces of fish, corn,

potato salad, hush puppies, roll, dessert; shrimp pasta salad - small \$7, entree \$14; Five seafood kickers \$8; Five cheese sticks \$5; soft drinks \$2; beer \$3.

**St. Mark Church**, 10773 River Road, Ama, Feb. 20 and 27, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 4:30 p.m. – phone orders begin; Lenten dinners, dine-in or takeout. Choice of fried shrimp, fried fish, shrimp stew, coleslaw and bread. Child's plate of fried fish or shrimp with French fries. Drinks and baked goods available.

**Sacred Heart Church** (Knights of Columbus), 375 Spruce St, Norco, Feb 20, 27, March 6,13, 20 and 27, 4 – 7 p.m.; \$15 plate; \$10.00 for onion mums.

### St. Bernard Parish

**St. Bernard Church**, 2805 Bayou Road, St. Bernard, Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13,20 and 27 Dinner with two sides: shrimp or fish plate \$20; stuffed crab (2) plate \$26; Seafood plate \$28: Sides for an extra cost: baked mac & cheese, coleslaw, fries, green bean casserole, potato salad, shrimp fettuccini, shrimp fettuccini, shrimp jambalaya, seafood gumbo, white beans and shrimp, stuffed crab, po-boys, soft drinks.

*For additions and updates to this list visit <https://nolacatholic.org/friday-fish-fry>. To submit your parish, school, or ministry fish fry, send an email to [kroberts@clarionherald.org](mailto:kroberts@clarionherald.org).*

## “No tentarás al Señor, tu Dios”

1° Domingo de Cuaresma  
Mateo 4: 1-11  
Febrero 22, 2026

Queridos hermanos: hemos comenzamos ya el camino de la Cuaresma. Son cuarenta días que la Iglesia nos regala para volver el corazón a Dios, revisar nuestra vida y dejarnos renovar por su gracia. No es un tiempo triste, sino un tiempo de oportunidad, de regreso, de conversión. La Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos ayuda a entender por qué necesitamos convertirnos y cómo podemos hacerlo.

La primera lectura nos presenta el momento en que el ser humano se deja engañar por la tentación. Adán y Eva desconfían de Dios y creen que pueden decidir por sí mismos lo que está bien y lo que está mal. El pecado nace cuando el corazón deja de confiar en Dios. Este relato nos muestra algo muy actual: muchas veces creemos que sabemos más que Dios, que podemos vivir sin Él, y poco a poco nos alejamos de su voluntad. El pecado no empieza con una acción, sino con una actitud interior de desconfianza.

El salmo responde a esta realidad con una



Fr. Manuel  
SOLARZANO, O.P.

oración muy conocida: “Misericordia, Señor, hemos pecado.” Es la oración del que reconoce su falta y vuelve a Dios con humildad. La Cuaresma comienza reconociendo que necesitamos la misericordia del Señor. No se trata de culpas, sino de pedir un corazón nuevo.

San Pablo nos ayuda a entender el contraste: por un hombre entró el pecado en el mundo, pero por otro hombre, Jesucristo, llega la salvación. Donde hubo desobediencia, ahora hay obediencia. Donde hubo caída, ahora hay gracia.

El Evangelio nos presenta a Jesús en el desierto, siendo tentado por el demonio. Es muy importante notar que Jesús vive lo que nosotros vivimos: la tentación. Las tres tentaciones tienen algo en común: Convertir las piedras en pan: buscar solo lo material, vivir solo para las necesidades inmediatas. Tirarse del templo: usar a Dios para nuestro

beneficio, querer que Él haga lo que nosotros queremos. Adorar al demonio a cambio de poder: poner otras cosas en el lugar de Dios. Jesús responde a cada tentación con la Palabra de Dios. Él no discute, no negocia, no dialoga con la tentación. Simplemente se apoya en Dios. Aquí está la gran enseñanza: donde Adán cayó, Jesús vence. Donde el ser humano desconfió, Jesús confía plenamente en el Padre.

Las lecturas de hoy se unen claramente: En el Génesis vemos la caída por la desconfianza. En el salmo vemos el corazón arrepentido que pide perdón. En Romanos vemos la esperanza que trae Cristo. En el Evangelio vemos cómo Jesús vence la tentación confiando en Dios.

La Cuaresma es ese camino: reconocer nuestra fragilidad, pedir misericordia y aprender a confiar en Dios como Jesús lo hizo. Hermanos, todos pasamos por tentaciones. Todos experimentamos momentos de debilidad. Pero hoy la Palabra nos dice que no estamos solos. Jesús ya pasó por el desierto y nos muestra cómo vencer: confiando en Dios.

see **SOLARZANO** p. 19


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FOR  
WE HAVE  
SINNED.**

**PSALM 51**



## Flourishing Sisterhood: A Sign of God's Love



Sister Elvira  
**BROWN, MSC**

My congregation, Marianites of Holy Cross, was founded in France. I probably never would have heard of them if some brave, faith-filled French and Irish Sisters had not journeyed across the ocean to America, arriving in Louisiana in 1849. Later they made their way to my hometown Plaquemine, Louisiana, where they founded St. John School and staffed it for more than 100 years. I was blessed to be there with them for 12 of those years, and the Sisters were truly a sign of God's love for my classmates and me.

There were so many of us when my classmates and I, as "Baby Boomers," began 1<sup>st</sup> grade that we needed two classes, so the first lay teacher was hired. As we moved up, lay teachers increased. Although it was a co-ed school, the girls were in one class and the boys in the other from third grade on. The school had no janitor, so the Sisters cleaned the building. It wasn't called "work study" then, but, to help pay my tuition, I helped clean up every school day and spent many Saturdays assisting at the Convent.

I entered the community in September, just five days after my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Our Sisters make the three vows of Poverty, Celibate Chastity and Obedience. Many of the Sisters also make a fourth vow, "that of Foreign Missions." I never made that one as I felt that it was included in my vow of Obedience "to go wherever I am sent." In addition, I never expected to be sent to a foreign mission since I'd never left Louisiana, and I have a hard time learning other languages.

I was initially assigned to teach elementary school, and I lasted five years. After Vatican II, our Congregation along with many others entered a period of experimentation. For us, it included "open placement" which gave us more freedom in choosing our assignments.

By then, I realized that it would be better for me and the children if I did something else. After that and whenever I met new people, I was often asked "What do you teach sister?"

And I would reply "I hope I teach someone something every day, but I don't do it in a classroom anymore."

Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit for 40 years, my "something else" alternated between using my clerical skills to support education at our college and a local high school and my pastoral skills in parish and diocesan ministry in New Orleans and in Charlotte, North Carolina.

During my annual retreat in 2009, through a delightful encounter with a hummingbird which I took as a sign from God, I gained a deeper realization of his presence with me and his delight in me. At that same time, our congregational leaders were looking into the possibility of beginning a new mission in Africa. My curiosity led me to seek more information about this project. Through the guidance of the Spirit, at the age of 67, I found myself journeying with two other Sisters to Yalgo, Burkina Faso in the Sahel of West Africa.

As it happens, the national language there is French, and the native language of the area where I lived is Mooré. Sr. Pauline is a nurse from Canada and is fluent in French and English. She is from Burkina; she knows French, Mooré and a little English. She has some medical training. I'm from Louisiana, I know English and a few French phrases. Our primary ministry was establishing a medical center for that area, though my medical skills are limited to removing splinters, cleaning minor scrapes and cuts, and applying bandaids.

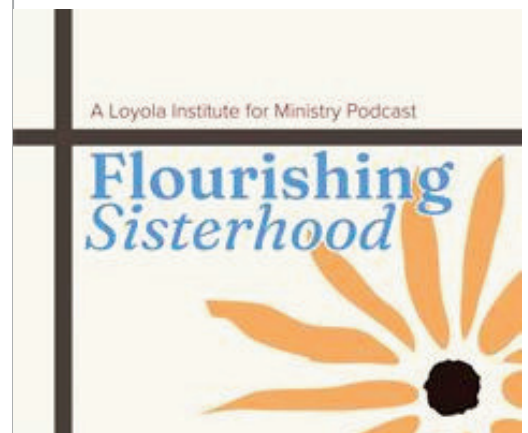
One Sunday morning after Mass, I was talking with a doctor visiting from France. He said something to me in French, and I used my limited French to reply "Je ne pas comprends français"--"I do not understand French."

He then asked me, "Then why are you here?" A question I had often asked myself. I was never more sure of my answer to any question than I was at that moment when I responded, "I'm here because this is where God wants me to be right now!" And for the next six years by my presence in Burkina Faso, I continued to be a sign of God's love for His people.

So maybe I never made the official "vow of foreign missions," but I lived it – not by mastering languages or medicine, but by showing up and loving God's people. Like the Sisters who came before me, I crossed an ocean of faith. And in the end, I was exactly where God wanted me to be.

*Sister Elvira Brown is a Marianite Sister of the Holy Cross. She 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.loyno.edu/lim>.*

*You can listen to the "Flourishing Sisterhood" podcast Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. on Catholic Community Radio or your favorite podcast streaming service.*



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## From Autopilot to Abiding



**Gina STERNFELS**  
NOLACatholic Parenting

I've noticed that the topics I write about most are often the areas where I need the most growth. People may assume that writing about something means you've mastered it... but, for me, it usually means God is still working on my heart there. He consistently calls me into that awareness so I can come to him sooner.

One of those areas is living on autopilot. In the busy world we live in, I am constantly on the go, doing all the things and checking all the boxes. I have lists for everyone in my family... and, if I'm honest, even a list for my lists. Productivity comes naturally to me. But so does the inner dialogue that drives it.

"You don't have time!" "You can rest later!" "You should...!" "You're running late!" When I stop and listen, I notice something about that voice... it speaks with urgency. It feels pressured. It sounds like exclamation points in my mind.

When I have a moment of awareness, I can ask myself, "Is that the voice of God guiding my day?"

If Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Advocate, would his voice sound frantic and demanding? Or would it call me into peace?

Psalms 46:10 says, "*Be still and know that I am God.*"

Just reading that invites my body to slow down. It calls me to pause... to breathe... to remember that I am not meant to run this day alone.

I am reminded of the Gospel story of Martha and Mary. Martha was busy tending to the responsibilities of the home, working hard to serve.

Mary sat at the feet of Jesus, listening and present with him. When Martha expressed her frustration, Jesus gently responded, "*Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her.*" Luke 10:41-42

It wasn't that Martha's work didn't matter. It did. But Jesus was inviting her to see that presence with him must come first, even amid her responsibilities. Jesus offers the same invitation to us.

My role and responsibilities as a caregiver matter to Jesus. Many of us carry heavy loads, caring for children, supporting loved ones with disabilities and walking alongside aging parents.

Even in that reality, Jesus reminds us that we are not meant to carry it alone.

In Matthew, Jesus tells us to live yoked to him; grace meets us in the work of the day when we are connected to him. The burden shifts. Not because the tasks disappear, but because we are no longer holding them by ourselves. He also reminds us that he can give us rest in him. And yet, when I run on autopilot, I forget that. My thoughts become hurried. Judgmental. Urgent. I am learning that the voice of urgency is not the voice of God. God's voice is steady. Peaceful. Gentle.

When I take even a small pause in my day, something shifts. In that stillness, he lifts the weight from me as I breathe in his peace. I release the pressure. I remember he is with me and within me.

And in that awareness, the exclamation points of the inner dialogue begin to fade. My thoughts soften. My body slows. My mind realigns. I am humbled by my Creator. It is a metanoia moment, a real turning from worldly urgency to divine presence that leads to a renewal of mind, as stated in Romans 12:2, "*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*"

I do not have to be driven by pressure, but guided by the peace of God, his gentle compassion meeting me in each moment and leading me toward that renewal of mind. Like Martha, our days may be full of responsibilities that matter deeply. But like Mary, we are still invited to sit at the feet of Jesus, even if only for a moment. Perhaps it is the simple invitation for us all. God is not asking us to do more... but to abide more deeply with him in all that we do.

*Gina Sternfels graduated from Immaculata High School and LSU, where she studied fine arts and psychology. She now resides on the Northshore with her husband, Roland and three boys. She is passionate about disabilities as she has a son with autism and participates on the Archdiocese Commission on Persons with Disabilities. With Roland, she has been part of Catholic Engaged Encounter for many years.*

**NOLA**  
**CATHOLIC**  
**parenting**

## Black History Month Mass Set for Feb. 28

All are welcome to celebrate faith, culture and heritage at the Black History Month Mass hosted by the Office of Black Catholic Ministries at 11 a.m. on Feb. 28 at St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans. The celebrant will be Father R. Tony Ricard and music provided by the Archdiocesan Mass Gospel Choir. This special liturgy will honor the rich faith tradition and contributions of Black Catholics to our Church and community.

Shuttle service will be available from Saint Peter Claver NOLA, St. Maria Goretti Parish, St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church and St. Katharine Drexel Church. A \$5 donation per person is requested to help defray the cost of the bus. RSVP for a bus seat at [bcatholics@arch-no.org](mailto:bcatholics@arch-no.org).

The Mass will be broadcast live on WLAE-TV for those unable to attend in person.

## SOLARZANO

En qué áreas de mi vida he dejado de confiar en Dios? Cuáles son las tentaciones que más se repiten en mi vida? Busco la ayuda de la Palabra de Dios para enfrentar mis luchas? Estoy dispuesto a aprovechar este tiempo de Cuaresma para cambiar?

Iniciemos esta Cuaresma con un corazón humilde y decidido. Acerquémonos más a la oración, a la Palabra de Dios y a los sacramentos. Dejemos que Jesús nos acompañe en nuestro desierto y nos enseñe a confiar plenamente en el Padre. Que esta Cuaresma sea un verdadero camino de conversión y renovación para cada uno de nosotros. Amén.



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## Around the Archdiocese

**Annulment Writing Workshop** - The Annulment Writing Workshop Ministry of the Archdiocese of New Orleans will be hosting a five-week workshop on the following Tuesday evenings: February 24, March 3, March 17, March 24, and March 31 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. We will meet in The Siena Room, St. Dominic Catholic Church, 775 Harrison Avenue, New Orleans. Workshop fee: \$25. For more information, contact the Metropolitan Tribunal at (504) 861-6315 or [tribunal@arch-no.org](mailto:tribunal@arch-no.org). Registration closes March 3 at 5 p.m.

**Lenten Evening of Reflection with Father Joshua Rodrigue**, Feb. 26, 5 p.m., *National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor*, 2701 State St., New Orleans. The evening will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. with the presentation and reflection to follow.

**Black History Month Mass**, Sat., Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. at *St. Louis Cathedral*. All are welcome to celebrate the observance of Black History Month. Fr. Tony Ricard will be the homilist.

**Mass Hosted by God's Special Children**, March 1, 2 – 3 p.m., *St. Francis Xavier Church*, Metairie. Repeats every first Sunday of the month.

**All the World's a Stage: A Day of Prayer with Sister Judy Gomila**, March 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at *The Cenacle on the Lake*. In this monologue from "As You Like It," life is compared to a stage and suggests that we are merely players who have scenes with entrances and exits. The Day of Prayer embraces the metaphor for our human and spiritual experiences: comedy, tragedy, soap opera, etc. in our common call to holiness. Visit [neworleansretreats.com](http://neworleansretreats.com) to learn more or to register.

**Roads to Recovery, Community Forum and Fair about Addiction**, March 5, 6 p.m., *St. Angela Merici Church*, Metairie.

**Evenings of Confession** - March 11, 18 and 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in every Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of New Orleans during three consecutive Wednesdays during Lent.

**Shaped by Grace: How Sacred Ritual Awakens the Restless Heart to God's Presence**, presented by Betty-Ann Hickey, March 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at *The Cenacle on the Lake*. Visit [neworleansretreats.com](http://neworleansretreats.com) to learn more or to register.

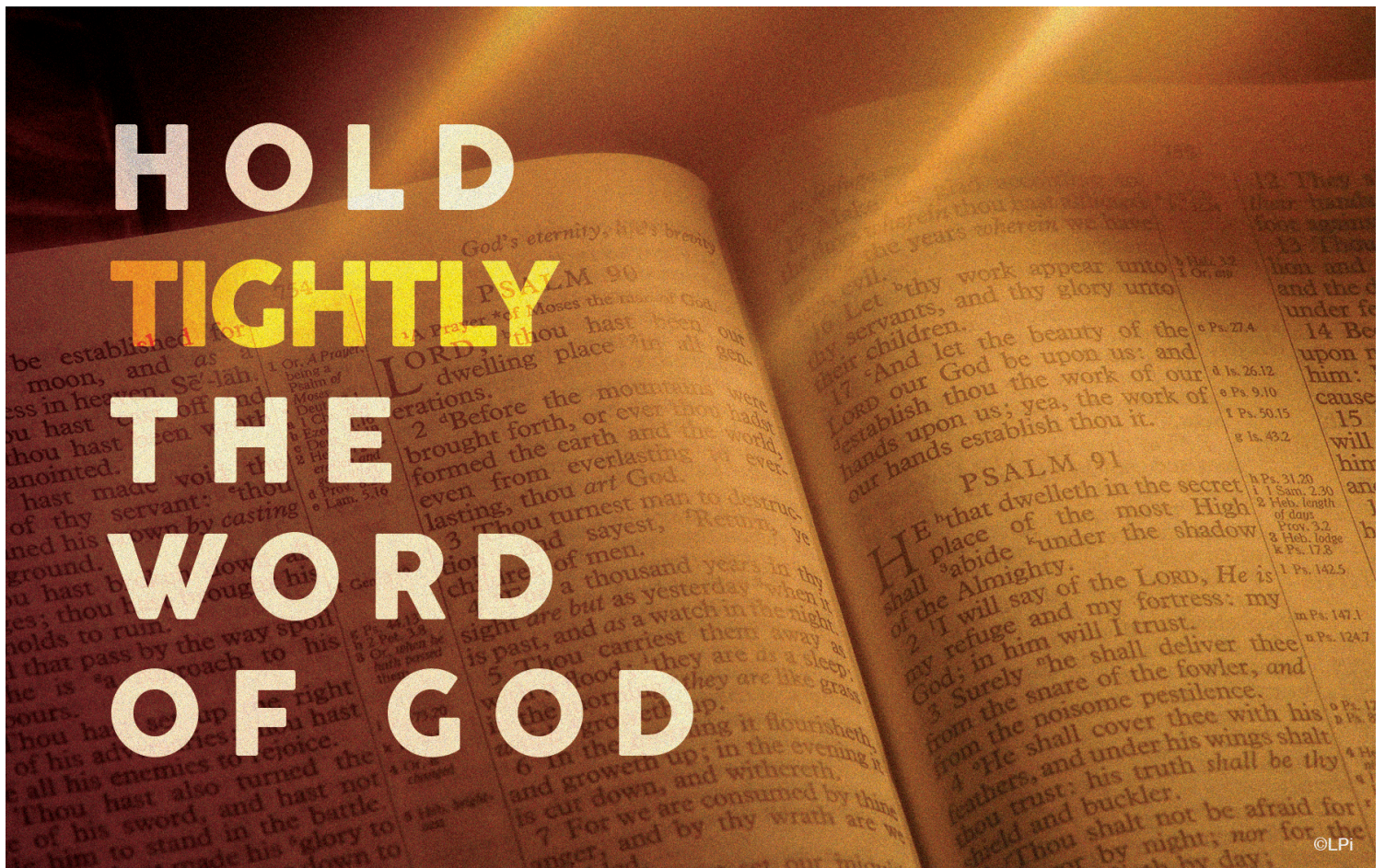
**Lenten Morning of Reflection**, March 7, *Notre Dame Seminary – Schulte Auditorium*, 8:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast; 9 a.m. Morning of Reflection. Adult-focused morning offers an opportunity to pause, pray and prepare our hearts for Easter. Sponsored by the Office of Black Catholic Ministries. Toregister email [bcatholics@arch-no.org](mailto:bcatholics@arch-no.org)

**Order of St. Louis Award Ceremony**, March 8, 2:30 p.m., *St. Catherine of Siena*.

**Born to Run**, March 21, 7:30 a.m., *Bonnabel Boat Launch*, Metairie. Join or form a team today at [www.womasnewlife.com/borntorun](http://www.womasnewlife.com/borntorun) Register: [replace](mailto:replace)

**Dialogues des Carmélites with the New Orleans Opera**, March 24, March 26, March 28 and March 31 (times vary), *Old Ursuline Convent Museum*, 1100 Chartres St., New Orleans. Based on the true story of Carmelite nuns executed during the French Revolution.

*For a listing of Lenten missions, days of reflection, and other special events please see p. 10. For a listing of Lenten fish fries please see p. 11. Updates and additions to these listings will be made at [nolacatholic.org/lent](http://nolacatholic.org/lent).*



# Congratulations Cheerleaders! Way to Represent the Archdiocese



Photo Credit: Fuselier Family

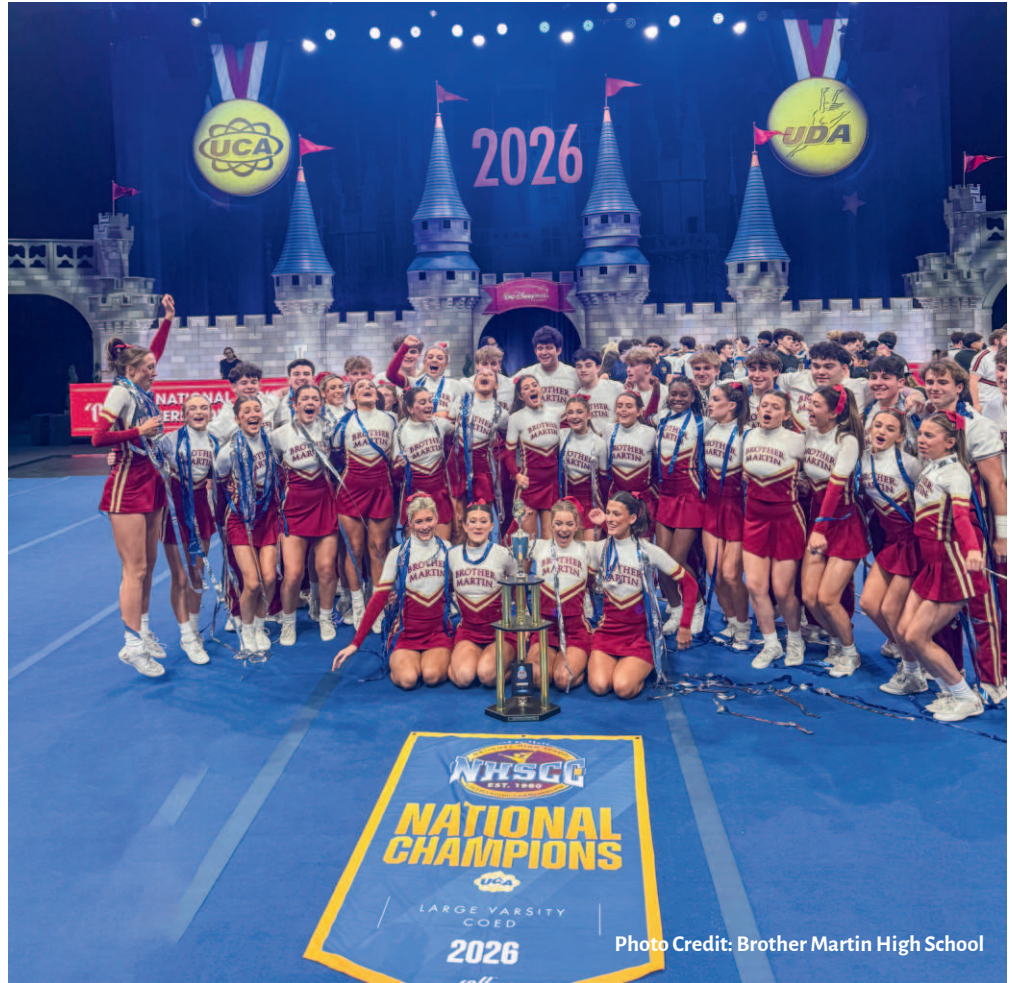


Photo Credit: Brother Martin High School

### Standard of Excellence

Brother Martin High School's cheerleading squad won first place in the Large Varsity Coed Division II (the squad's second win in this division) at the 2026 UCA National High School Cheer Competition at Walt Disney World's ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, FL, from Jan. 30-31. The Crusaders competed against teams from across the country, winning their fifth title and third consecutive championship after victories in 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2025.

"Being the highest-scoring team in the entire

competition is a direct reflection of the standard that defines Brother Martin. Winning our fifth national championship in seven years speaks to the consistency, discipline and expectations that are built into this program," said Blake Mulligan, head coach.

"Everything we do is intentional and designed to prepare our athletes not only for cheerleading, but for life beyond their high school careers. The support from our administration, the dedication of our coaching staff, and the trust and commitment of our athletes are what truly separate this program."

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**Lenten Fish Fry Nights**  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 20	March 6
February 27	March 13
	March 20
	March 27

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# VIACRUCIS

## Horario de Viacrusis:

- Apostolado Hispano - Viernes 5:30 p.m - Metairie  
San Jerónimo - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - Kenner  
Divina Misericordia - Jueves 7:00 p.m. - Kenner  
San Clemente de Roma - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - Metairie  
Beato Francis Xavier Seelos - Viernes 6:30p.m. - New Orleans  
San Alfonso - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - New Orleans  
Inmaculada Concepción - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - Marrero  
Nuestra Señora del Pronto Socorro - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - Westwego  
Ascención del Señor - Viernes 7:30 p.m. - La Place  
La Anunciación - Viernes 7:00 p.m. - Bogalusa  
Santa Juana de Chantal - Jueves 6:30 p.m. - Abita Springs  
Sagrada Familia - 6:00 p.m. - Franklinton  
Santa Margarita María - Viernes 7:30 p.m. - Slidell  
Nuestra Señora Del Pronto Socorro - Viernes 7:30 p.m.  
Divina Providencia - Jueves 7:00 p.m. -Metairie  
San Antonio de Padua (Bilingüe)- Viernes 7: 00 p.m. - New Orleans  
Cristo Rey - Viernes 8:00 p.m. - Terrytown



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**CUORESMO  
2026**



Photo Credit: St. Ann Church and Shrine

*Like in so many parishes around the archdiocese, the St. Joseph Altar Committee at St. Ann Church and Shrine in Metairie have been hard at work baking hundreds of the traditional Italian cookies for their annual St. Joseph's Altar. Look for the 2026 listing of St. Joseph's Altars in print in the March 7 edition of the Clarion Herald and online at [nolacatholic.org/stjosephaltars](http://nolacatholic.org/stjosephaltars).*



Photo Credit: Notre Dame Seminary

*On Feb. 5, Notre Dame Seminary hosted the annual Sips with Seminarians event filled with creativity, community and friendly competition. Congratulations to the D1 class, who won the popular vote with The Scarlet Cord, and to the C1 class, who earned the judges' choice award for their Blue Molokai.*




Photo Credit: Kim Roberts



Photo Credit: Sarah McDonald

*On Feb. 11, Archbishop Checchio was joined by Archbishop-emeritus Hughes and Archbishop-emeritus Aymond to bless and dedicate the new Archdiocese of New Orleans Pastoral Center on the campus of St. Rita Parish, New Orleans. The renovated office space will house administrative offices of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, New Orleans Catholic Cemeteries, School Food Services and other archdiocesan offices.*



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*Schedule:*

**Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m.**

*St. Francis Xavier Church | 444 Metairie Road*

**Cocktail Reception at 6:30pm**

**Dinner at 7:30pm**

*in Metairie*

**The evening will benefit the ministries of Willwoods Community:**  
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**For Tickets & Information, visit [Willwoods.org](http://Willwoods.org) or call (504) 830-3717**