



Photo Credit: Cheryl Dejoie-Methe

On Feb. 22, more than 500 men, women and children participated in the Southshore celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Dominic Church in New Orleans. Over 700 individuals are preparing to enter the Catholic Church during Easter this year.

“Rebuild My Church”

by Kim Roberts

More than 720 people are preparing to enter the Catholic Church this Easter through their parish Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) programs. Archbishop James Checchio presided over his first Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion in New Orleans at St. Dominic Church on Feb. 22. This number represents, nearly 100 more candidates than in 2025, a figure that has more than doubled over the past five years.

Nearly 500 people, 236 Catechumens and 261 Candidates, participated in Sunday's celebration. Another 230 people participated

in a Northshore celebration at Most Holy Trinity in Covington on Feb. 23.

During his homily, Archbishop Checchio talked about St. Francis of Assisi and his devotion to Jesus and rebuilding the church.

“We need to be like St. Francis and fall more in love with Jesus and follow his example by changing our lives and hearts first.”

- Archbishop Checchio

“Jesus told St. Francis to rebuild his church and he took it literally, but we need to also look at the broader call of renewing our Christian vows for ourselves and the community,” he said. “We need to be like St. Francis and fall more in love with Jesus and follow his example by changing our lives and hearts first.”

“The Gospel is a call to holiness and Christian values,” he added. “St. Francis answered the call with authenticity and joy and that is what Jesus is asking of you as you enter the final intense preparations for a conversion to a deeper life in Christ.”

see **RITE OF ELECTION** p. 4

THE CLARION HERALD

7887 Walmlsey Ave., New Orleans, LA 70125
(504) 596-3035
clarionherald@clarionherald.org
<http://clarionherald.org>



Archbishop James F. Checchio, JCD, MBA
Publisher
Sarah C. McDonald
Executive Editor
Kim Roberts
Content Development Associate/
Staff Writer

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Photo Credit: Cheryl Dejoie-Methe

Archbishop Checchio shares a smile as he greets those leaving the Southshore Rite of Election celebration on Feb. 22 at St. Dominic Church in New Orleans



Photo Credit: Mary, Queen of Vietnam



Photo Credit: St. Michael's Special School

At top: Archbishop James Checchio visits with pastor Rev. Thien Nguyen and parishioner volunteers at Mary, Queen of Vietnam Parish during the opening night of the annual Vietnamese New Year Festival on Feb. 20. Above: On Feb. 20, Archbishop Checchio visited St. Michael's Special School in New Orleans for their first Lenten Stations of the Cross and is pictured with Head of School Dr. Cissy LaForge and St. Michael's students.

Be Reconciled to God this Lent

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Holy Mass on Ash Wednesday, we heard Saint Paul in the second reading implore us: "Be reconciled to God" (*Reconciliamini Deo*, 2 Cor 5:20). I chose those words as the motto for my episcopal service. They echoed in my heart during prayer throughout the Year of Mercy in 2016, the same year I was ordained a bishop. In many ways, they are words of encouragement that beautifully express the heart of Lent. This sacred season calls us to return to the Lord with all our hearts—and to help others do the same.

As we approached the altar to receive the ashen cross traced upon our foreheads as a mark of our repentance, we marked the beginning of conversion. We heard once more the call: "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." In doing so, we renew the promises of our Baptism and recommit ourselves to the penitential practices highlighted in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday—fasting, almsgiving and more frequent prayer, all ways to help us keep our focus on Christ.

To live Lent well, we must keep our gaze fixed on Christ—especially on His love revealed through his wounds on the Cross. When we reflect on Jesus' wounds and His arms outstretched in love for us, we come to know more deeply the mercy of God. At the same time, our hearts become more sensitive to the wounds of others helping us to understand how we are called to be merciful and compassionate to them. We are called to help others in need through almsgiving—a pillar of our Lenten journey.

Let us not allow this moment of grace and opportunity to focus our lives more on Christ this Lent pass us by. Consider one concrete way you might draw closer to the Lord this Lent: more attentive participation at Sunday Mass, a few extra minutes of daily prayer, time spent before a crucifix reflecting on the love poured out for us so that we might be reconciled to the Father. Small, faithful steps can bear abundant fruit.

I must admit, my Mardi Gras this year certainly prepared me for Lent! I had always thought of Mardi Gras as a single evening, but I quickly learned otherwise here in New Orleans. Just as the celebrations were more intense than I expected, so I pray that our

Lenten journey may be more intentional and wholehearted—so that we may truly be "reconciled to God" and become instruments of reconciliation with one another.

The First Sunday of Lent always brings the beautiful Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for those preparing to enter the Church at Easter. This year, more than 720 individuals participated—an extraordinary blessing. Only a few years ago, the number was in the 200s. This remarkable growth is a cause for deep gratitude to God.

The Holy Spirit is at work among us. May we be attentive and courageous—inviting others to consider the Catholic faith, and gently encouraging those who have drifted away to return home.

Blessed Lent everyone! Know of my love, prayers and gratitude for you, and please pray for me!

In Christ,

+ James F. Checchio

The Archbishop's Schedule

Saturday, March 7 - 4:30 p.m., Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church, LaPlace

Sunday, March 8 - 11 a.m., Mass for Jefferson Parish First Responders, St. Catherine of Siena Church, Metairie

Sunday, March 8 - 2:30 p.m., Order of St. Louis IX Ceremony, St. Catherine of Siena Church, Metairie. Archbishop Checchio will present medallions to members of the laity for outstanding service to the Church.

Tuesday, March 10 - 6:30 p.m., Christ in the City, St. Francis of Assisi Church, New Orleans

Wednesday, March 11 - 4:30 p.m. Catholic Community Foundation Board of Directors' Meeting – private event

Thursday, March 12 - 10 a.m. Seminaries Board of Trustees Meetings. St. Joseph Seminary – private event

Friday, March 13 - 10 a.m. LCCB Meeting – private event

Saturday, March 14 - 4 p.m., Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Belle Chasse

Sunday, March 15 - 3 p.m., Silver Anniversary Celebration, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, New Orleans

Sunday, March 15 - 5:30 p.m. TET Celebration, St. Agnes Le Thi Thanh Church, New Orleans

Tuesday, March 17 - 11:30 a.m., St. Patrick's Day Mass for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, at St. Patrick's Church in New Orleans

Wednesday, March 18 - 9 a.m., Mass, Catholic Women in Action's Southshore Lenten Morning of Reflection, St. Rita Church, New Orleans

Thursday, March 19 8:15 a.m., St. Joseph Altar and Father/Son Mass, Stuart Hall School, New Orleans

Thursday, March 19 - 10 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church and Shrine, Gretna

Friday, March 20 - 9 a.m., Mass at St. Stephen School, New Orleans



RITE OF ELECTION

He added, "In Christ you will bear fruit and bring him to others as you evangelize and bear witness here in our archdiocese. You will become our church's best evangelizers by devotion to Christ and answering his call. The church needs you; Jesus needs you, our parishes need you to volunteer and witness."

Archbishop Checchio reminded those in attendance that Christ now anoints them and all the baptized and confirmed to be Christians and carry on his mission. We should all be witnesses to others now for Christ by how we live and speak.

"Starting today, set a vision for your life. God is with you today and every day," he said. "We are blessed to have you for his church. Count on my prayers, gratitude and love for what you are doing – we are with you, support you and want to experience Christ with you. God Bless you all."

Note: Catechumens are unbaptized adults or older children who are preparing to receive the sacraments. Candidates are adults or older children already baptized into another Christian denomination who seek full initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

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Remembering Dr. Norman C. Francis



Photo credit: Xavier University
Norman Francis receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush in 2006.

by Nate Tinner-Williams
Black Catholic Messenger

Norman C. Francis, a Civil Rights activist who served as the first lay president of Xavier University of Louisiana (XULA) for more than nearly half a century, has died in New Orleans. He was 94 and no cause of death was released. His family announced the news in a statement on Feb. 18, the day of his passing.

"While many knew him as the former president of Xavier University, as a civil rights leader, and as a respected voice for justice and equality on both the local and national stage, we knew him simply as Daddy—a man whose greatest joy came from family gatherings, quiet moments of prayer and encouraging those around him to live with purpose and kindness," they said.

"His legacy lives on not only through his accomplishments and leadership, but through the countless lives he inspired, the students and communities he uplifted, the public officials he advised, and the values he passed on to us. We will remember his gentle

strength, his unwavering integrity and his deep passion for equity."

Born in 1931 in segregated Lafayette, Louisiana, where his parents—a barber and shoe-shiner father and a stay-at-home mother—raised him Catholic and sent him to parochial schools. He was one of five children and his brother, Joseph A. Francis Jr., SVD went on to become Auxiliary Bishop of Newark. Francis would later note that the racial injustice in his hometown inspired his call to activism.

Though he had initially planned to enter the military out of high school, Francis was encouraged by one of his high school teachers, from the Sisters of the Holy Family, to instead attend college, securing him a scholarship to attend Xavier University in New Orleans.

Francis matriculated to New Orleans in 1948 and graduated as valedictorian and student body president, earning a degree in mathematics before pursuing a legal career. In 1952, he became the first Black student to enroll at Loyola University New Orleans' College of Law, where he was prohibited from living on campus due to his race. He continued to live and serve at Xavier while making the 2.5-mile commute to Loyola until his graduation in 1955.

Francis' racial justice activism began small, including breaking social barriers with his White classmates at Loyola, before his law degree opened the opportunity for more direct advocacy. After a brief Army stint—in which he was assigned partly to menial labor despite being a lawyer—Francis' first law firm stint involved representing the Congress of Racial Equality, as well as XULA students who took part in lunch counter sit-ins to protest segregation in Louisiana's public accommodations.

Francis' professional career with XULA also began early. He was hired as dean of men at the school in 1957, shortly after his return to

civilian life. He maintained the role during his time as a civil rights lawyer, in which he also served with the U.S. Attorney's Office to assist with integrating federal agencies.

While dean of men at Xavier, Francis was central to the university's decision to house the 1961 Freedom Riders, who took part in protest rides on segregated interstate buses. They famously received housing under the cover of night at a XULA dormitory on the orders of Francis, following the riders' being flown to New Orleans after facing White supremacist terrorism in Alabama.

At Xavier, Francis rose through the ranks of university administration throughout the 1960s, becoming executive vice president in 1967, second-in-command to M. Maris Stella Ross of the school's founding religious order, St. Katharine Drexel's Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

While serving as a vice president, Francis took part in the convening of U.S. Catholic higher education leaders that produced the 1967 Land O'Lakes Statement, which famously promoted academic independence and autonomy. It also led to a greater focus on lay leadership, which soon took hold with force at Xavier itself.

In 1968, Francis was named as the university's first lay president, becoming not only the first Black president of a Catholic university in the United States, but also the first lay president of a Catholic university in the South.

His 47-year presidency included guiding the school to its status as a top producer of Black medical professionals, as well as its stellar reputation in the broader STEM field. Under his leadership, enrollment more than tripled, and a campus expansion led to the school's prominent facade in the Gert Town neighborhood of the Crescent City. An exponentially increased endowment strengthened the school's financial footing,

see **FRANCIS** p. 8



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A Labor of Love

by Kim Roberts

After the death of her husband of 57 years in 2017, Sandra Scalise Juneau asked herself, "What's next for me now?" Having written a food column since the 1960's, the Northshore-based Sicilian grandmother knew her way around the kitchen and always had a book idea on the back burner, but the time was never right.

"I heard about a presentation on the Southshore about people interested in publishing cookbooks and thought, this might be my chance," she said. "I had often thought about gathering my family's traditional recipes into a cookbook, but life always got into the way. I drove across the Causeway in a blinding rainstorm to get to the event and was able to meet with the editor for LSU Press to share my idea. After many emails and discussions, we worked out the details for my book."

The 85-year-old Juneau had already compiled a following and was considered an expert on the topic of St. Joseph altars having traveled the country sharing her family history, tradition, altar symbolism and recipes of the Sicilian custom devoted to St. Joseph.

"The vision I had for my cookbook needed to include centuries-old family recipes, vintage pictures and descriptions of altars as I experienced them in my Sicilian-Louisiana family. I also wanted to include the history, traditions and religious symbolism of the earliest Sicilian St. Joseph altars," Juneau said. "I placed my faith in St. Joseph that the deal with LSU Press would come through and on March 19 I received an email congratulating me that my project was approved. Thank you, St. Joseph."

The cookbook publishing process took about two years and the book, truly a labor of love, "Celebrating with St. Joseph Altars: The History, Recipes and Symbols of a New Orleans Tradition," was released by LSU Press in March 2021 (The Year of St. Joseph). Part of the Southern Table series, it contains 60 traditional Sicilian recipes and 40 vintage photographs.

"There's also a how-to section for those who have never made an altar," said Juneau, "including a step by-step timeline."

"I learned about St. Joseph altars from my two Sicilian grandmothers," added Juneau. "I have one of my grandmother's tools and feel her hands guide me to this day as I carve the cuccidati (elaborately decorated fig-filled pastries). It is a very spiritual experience to work on the altar each year." Juneau said she feels blessed to have this tradition to pass on to others especially when after Hurricane Katrina people lost their own family recipes and contacted her for help.



Photo Credit: Christine Bordon

Cookbook author Sandra Scalise Juneau cuts cuccidati, elaborately decorated fig-filled pastries that traditionally adorn St. Joseph Altars.

"I felt it was important for me to assist these families with their altars. The recipes were important and so was the altar itself – each item is full of symbolism and why we do the things we do."

As part of her research for the cookbook, Juneau went back to where it all began in Sicily. She went back to her roots to get the answers to questions she had about her family altar and to perfect recipes on the island of Sicily. The cookbook is now in its third printing.

"This whole process has been so gratifying for me," she said. "I have met the most extraordinary people and learned so much about St. Joseph and altars. I love teaching what I know."

Each year she does several 45-minute presentations across the metro area which include a question-and-answer session and recipe samples when the space allows. "Each year more and more people pop up wanting to know the history and recipes of the St. Joseph Altar," she said.

St. Joseph altars originated during the Middle Ages as a way for Sicilians to thank St. Joseph for relief from a drought. Food on the altar went to feed the poor and needy. In the late 1800s, when Sicilians immigrated to New Orleans, they brought the custom with them.

Items on the altar reflect typical Sicilian crops like lemons, wheat and figs. The foods symbolize the Holy Family. For example, the rose design on baked goods honors Mary, the fish represents Jesus and breadcrumbs in the stuffed artichokes symbolize the sawdust from St. Joseph's carpentry work. The ever-popular fava bean—or "lucky bean"—represents the plant

that sustained Sicilians and their livestock during the drought.

"When the Sicilians came to South Louisiana, they had nothing in their pockets, just what was in their hearts: spirituality, work ethic and traditions," Juneau said. "They planted those traditions in the fertile Louisiana soil, and it has flourished over these many years. I started experiencing the altar at five years old when I was selected to be Mary and I was always in kitchen with my maternal grandmother who started the St. Lucia society in New Orleans in 1927. She had a strong faith and had a huge St. Joseph altar in her home."

Juneau said it has been gratifying to her when she goes into a group, and they are rolling and cutting dough and the stories come rolling out too. "To be a part of that labor of love is an extraordinary process to experience," she added. "It is important to impart this information to the younger generation to carry on. I'm very humbled by this and have the joy of meeting so many people through this process."

In his forward to Juneau's book, Archbishop Gregory Aymond wrote, "Her hope, as well as mine, is that as you read this book, you will be drawn not only to know more about the St. Joseph altar, but to more deeply appreciate the rich tradition and generous spirit of hospitality it embodies."

A native New Orleanian of Sicilian heritage, Sandra Scalise Juneau has created cultural exhibits for public display at the Hallmark Card Company in New York, the Louisiana World's Fair and the Louisiana Folklife Festival. St. Joseph Altars she designed remain on permanent exhibit at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum and the American Italian Cultural Center in New Orleans. She lives in Madisonville and is a graduate of St. Mary's Dominican High School Class of 1958.

FRANCIS

contributing to Francis' national profile as a vaunted figure in higher education.

Outside of Xavier, Francis was also active in civic life, co-founding the Liberty Bank and Trust Company in 1972, which today is one of the nation's oldest and largest Black-owned banks. He was also instrumental in the construction of the Superdome and chaired the United Negro College Fund, the Southern Education Foundation and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In 1983, Francis helped prepare a landmark report for the U.S. Department of Education's National Commission on Excellence in Education, titled "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform." The document detailed the situation of American schools, warning of the need for increased rigor and government intervention.

The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 also put Francis and XULA on the map, with the submerged campus prompting Francis to postpone his retirement and assist the school's rapid recovery and rebuilding efforts. The university

reopened just four months after the deadly storm, with Francis then in his early 70s.

"President Emeritus Norman C. Francis dedicated his astounding effort to the flourishing of the human community, to full freedom of the oppressed, especially the descendants of the enslaved – it is the love to which we are called as disciples of Christ," said current XULA president Dr. Reynold Verret. "The nation is better and richer for his having lived among us."

Francis received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush in 2006, one of the many accolades during his six-decade career, which ended with his retirement in 2015.

Francis received roughly 40 honorary degrees beginning in the late 1960s, was named a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II, and received the University of Notre Dame's Laetare Medal—the highest honor for American Catholics—in 2019. He also became the namesake of a major thoroughfare in New Orleans in 2021, taking the place of Confederate president Jefferson Davis.

A documentary on Francis' tenure at XULA, "Dr. Norman C. Francis: A Legacy of Leadership," premiered on PBS in 2022, and a

life-size bronze statue of Francis was unveiled at XULA in 2024, just ahead of the school's centennial year.

"At Commencement, I looked at every student who came up those steps, I shook their hands, and I said, 'I see me in you,'" Francis said then of his connection with students during his years as president.

"That was my feeling for what happened over the 60 years I was at Xavier. It touched me." Francis, who continued to make public appearances at the school as recently as last year, reportedly entered hospice care earlier this month and was surrounded by family prior to his death.

Francis was predeceased by his parents, Joseph Sr. and Mabel Coco Francis; his wife Blanche; sisters, Velma Boykin and Pauline "Penny" Navarre; and brother, Joseph Francis Jr. He is survived by his six children, Michael, Tim, David, Kathleen, Patrick and Christina; 11 grandchildren; and a sister, Mabel Bailey.

Francis' funeral services began with him lying in state and a family program at Xavier University's Convocation Center on March 2. Visitation and Mass of Christian Burial took place at St. Louis Cathedral on March 3 with Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Archbishop-emeritus of Washington, D.C. as the principal celebrant.



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2026 St. Joseph Altars Around the Archdiocese

The Solemnity of St. Joseph is March 19

Jefferson Parish

Archbishop Chapelle High School
8800 Veterans Memorial Blvd., Metairie,
Public viewing: March 18 noon - 8 p.m. and
March 19 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Candles are \$5 each
and can be placed on the altar or on the
Rosary table. Visit <https://www.archbishopchapelle.org/st-josephs-altar> to purchase and learn more.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

1908 Short St., Kenner, Public viewing:
March 19, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.; lunch served 11
a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday only. March 21, 3
p.m. - 6 p.m.; March 22, 8 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Blessing: March 19, 10 a.m. Lunch will be
served on March 19, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

St. Agnes Parish

3310 Jefferson Highway, Jefferson, Public
Viewing: March 18 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., March 19
8 a.m. - 7 p.m.. Also during all Masses,
March 20 - 22. Blessing: March 18 at 6 p.m.
Altar pastries and cakes, as well as a cash
donation will be distributed to the needy in
our community.

St. Angela Merici

901 Beverly Garden Drive, Metairie, Public
viewing: March 18, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.; March 19,
10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Blessing: March 19, 10:30
a.m. Tupa Tupa March 19, 10:30 a.m. Free
meals from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. or when the
meals run out.

St. Ann Church and Shrine

4920 Loveland St., Metairie (behind Church),
Public viewing: March 18, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.;
March 19, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Blessing: After 8:45
a.m. Mass, March 18. Italian cookies and St.
Joseph candles available. Food from Altar
donated to local charities.

St. Catherine of Siena

1643 Metairie Road, Metairie, Public viewing:
March 19, opened until 6 p.m.; March 20, 9
a.m. - 6 p.m. Blessing: March 19, after 9 a.m.
Mass. The Altar will be located in the
Melancon Center, first floor of the new
parish center.

St. Clement of Rome

4317 Richland Ave., Metairie, Public viewing:
March 18, noon - 8 p.m.; March 19, 8 a.m. - 8
p.m. Blessing: March 18, noon

St. Francis Xavier - St. Joseph Altar Society

215 Betz Place, Metairie, Public viewing:
March 18, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; March 19, 9 a.m. - 5
p.m. Blessing: March 19, 2 p.m.; Tupa Tupa
March 19 after 8 a.m. Mass in the school
auditorium. Meal served on March 19 from
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. or when food runs out.

St. John Paul II

6851 River Road, Waggaman, Public viewing:
March 19, noon - 6 p.m. Blessing: March 18,
6:00 PM; Tupa Tupa March 19, 11 a.m. Fig
cookies, rock cookies, cocoon cookies (aka,
Italian wedding cookies or pecan delights),
stuffed artichokes and to-go plates will be
available for a donation.

St. Joseph Church & Shrine

Corner of 7th and Newton Sts., Gretna, Public
viewing: March 18, 5 - 7 p.m., March 19, noon - 4
p.m. Blessing and Tupa Tupa: March 19
following 10 a.m. Mass with Archbishop
Checchio. March 18 Prayer Service in gym, 5
p.m. (prior to viewing); March 19, 10 a.m. Mass
followed by Tupa Tupa to gym for blessing;
Altar open for viewing and food served
noon - 4 p.m.

St. Joseph the Worker

455 Ames Blvd., Marrero, Public viewing:
March 19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Blessing: March 19,
9:45 a.m. Food will be served at 10 a.m.;
Blessed candles will be available.

St. Philip Neri

6500 Kawanee Ave., Metairie, Public viewing
March 19 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Blessing: March 19 at
10 a.m., Children's story time at 4 p.m., Living
Rosary at 4:30 p.m., Children's choir
performance at 5 p.m., Italian meal served
from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Learn more at <https://snpnparish.net/stjoseph>.

Orleans Parish

All Saints Church

1441 Teche St., New Orleans, Public viewing:
March 14, 5 - 7 p.m.; March 15, 7 - 11:30 a.m.;

March 16, 6:30 - 7 a.m. March 17, 6:30 - 7 a.m.;
March 18, 6:30 - 7 a.m.; March 19, 6:30 a.m. - 7
p.m. Blessing: March 19, 6 p.m. Mass and
Blessing St. Joseph Altar at 6 p.m. followed by
a spaghetti dinner, all are invited at 7 p.m. in
the parish hall.

Brother Martin High School

4401 Elysian Fields Ave., New Orleans (James B.
Branton Chapel on the campus), Public
viewing: March 18, 2 - 6 p.m.; March 19, 8 a.m. -
6 p.m. Blessing: March 18, 2 p.m. Blessed bags
will be available, and candles will be available
with a donation.

Cabrini High School and The Elenian Club

1400 Moss St., New Orleans (Sacred Heart
Chapel on campus) Public viewing: March 18
and 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Traditional St. Joseph's
Altar feast in school cafeteria.

Immaculate Conception Church

130 Baronne, New Orleans, Public viewing:
March 18, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; March 19, 9 a.m. - 4
p.m. Blessing: March 19, 12:30 p.m. Lunch
served in Lenes Hall on March 19 beginning at
12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Loyola University New Orleans

Located in the lobby of Starbucks in the Danna
Student Center, Public viewing: March 19,
noon - 5 p.m. Blessing: noon

Mount Carmel Academy

7027 Milne Blvd., New Orleans, Cafe Campbell
Public viewing: March 19, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Blessing: March 19, 8 a.m.

St. Augustine Church

1210 Governor Nicholls, New Orleans, Public
viewing: March 19, noon - 6 p.m., Blessing:
March 19, 12:15 p.m.

St. Dominic

775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans, Public viewing:
March 14, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.; March 15 - 19, 9
a.m. - 6 p.m. Blessing: March 14, 4:30 p.m. The
altar is in the church.

Find more St. Joseph's Altar listings on p. 10

ST. CHRISTOPHER SUMMER PROGRAM

June 1st-July 17th (7 weeks)

REGISTRATION #1

Open to current St. Christopher Students ONLY

March 24th

3:30pm-5:30pm
School Library

REGISTRATION #2

April 29th

3:30pm-5:30pm
School Library

REGISTRATION #3

May 14th

3:30pm-5:30pm
School Library

\$200 PER WEEK PER CAMPER

All program fees must be pre-paid. No daily rates. Days cannot be carried over from week to week.

Program Hours: 8:30am to 3:15pm - **Before Program Care:** 7:00am to 8:30am - **After Program Care:** 3:30pm to 6:00pm

Pre-K 3 thru 7th grade is open to everyone. Pre-K students MUST be fully potty trained.

The summer program for Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and students who turn 5 after June 1st will be in the Early Education Center. The summer program for K students turning 5 before June 1st through 7th grade will attend in the gym.

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SUMMER PROGRAM

**Swimming, Sports, Arts & Crafts,
Sno-Balls, Field Trips and Spacewalks.**

St. Joseph Altars

St. Francis of Assisi

631 State St., New Orleans, Public viewing: March 19, 8 a.m.–7 p.m. Blessing: March 19, following 6 p.m. Mass. Reception at the Rectory.

St. John the Baptist

1139 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., New Orleans, Public viewing: March 21, 5 p.m.–7 p.m.; March 22, 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Blessing: March 21, 5:30 p.m.; Tupa Tupa March 22, noon. Dining March 22, noon–3 p.m. All leftover food will be boxed at 3 p.m. for the homebound by the outreach ministry.

St. Rita

2729 Lowerline, New Orleans, Public viewing: March 19 after 7 a.m. Mass–6 p.m.; March 20 after 7 a.m. Mass–6 p.m.; March 21 after 8 a.m. Mass–4 p.m.; March 22 after 7 a.m. Mass–5 p.m. Blessing: March 19 after 7 a.m. Mass

Northshore

Holy Family

1220 14th Ave., Franklinton, Public viewing: March 19, begins with Mass and Blessing of Altar and viewing follow in the parish hall. Blessing: March 19 following 10 a.m. Mass followed by Tupa Tupa and meal.

Mary, Queen of Peace

1501 W Causeway Approach, Mandeville (Parish Center), Public viewing: March 20, 4–8 p.m.; March 21, 2–6 p.m.

Most Holy Trinity

501 Holy Trinity Drive, Covington (Family Center), Public viewing: March 19, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Blessing: March 19, 9:30 a.m.

Our Lady of the Lake

312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, Public viewing: March 14, 3–5:30 p.m.; March 15, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Blessing: March 15, 9 a.m.; Tupa Tupa immediately following the blessing. Traditional St. Joseph meal will be served March 15 beginning after the 9 a.m. Mass until food runs out.

Our Lady of Lourdes

345 Westchester Blvd., Slidell, Public viewing: March 14, noon–6 p.m. Blessing: March 14, 11 a.m. Food will be served.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Latin Mass Community

4465 N Causeway Blvd, Covington, Public viewing: March 20, noon–4 p.m. Blessing: March 20, 11 a.m. Blessed bags, memorial candles, meal and salt will be available.

St. Jane de Chantal

72040 Maple St, Abita Springs, Public viewing: March 19 noon–6:30 p.m. Blessing: 9 a.m., after 8 a.m. Mass; Tupa Tupa 9:30 a.m. Meals available on March 19, noon, until food runs out.

St. John the Baptist

11345 St John Church Road, Folsom, Public viewing: March 22, 4–7 p.m., March 23, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Blessing and Tupa Tupa: March 23, noon

Saint Luke the Evangelist

910 Cross Gates Blvd., Slidell, Public viewing: March 19 following Mass at 8:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Blessing of the Altar following procession after Mass.

Saint Peter

125 East 19th Ave., Covington, Public viewing: March 15, after 8 a.m. Mass. Blessing: March 15, 9 a.m.

Sts. Peter & Paul

66192 St. Mary Drive, Pearl River, Public viewing: March 19, 11a.m.–4 p.m. Blessing: March 19, 11 a.m.

see **ALTARS** p. 13

BROTHER MARTIN 2026 SUMMER CAMPS



BROTHERMARTIN.COM/SUMMERCAMPS

Brother Martin High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies.

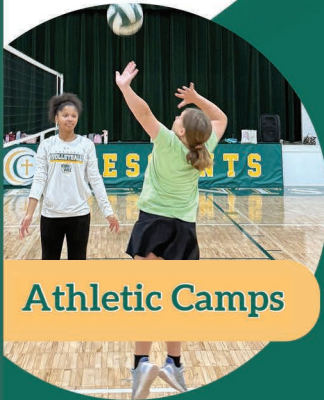
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minimum balance.



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Eligibility Requirements

Accounts require minor to be 13 up to age
18. Parent or legal guardian must be a joint
owner. Joint owner must authorize minor
account to enroll in digital mobile services.
After authorization, minor will have own
mobile app login.



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& Trust Company**

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*Message and data rates may apply. Please check with your service provider for specific fees and service charges. Certain qualifications apply for mobile deposits. To pay bills you must enroll for Bill Payment services using our digital mobile app or digital banking. Account opening is subject to approval and must be opened in a Gulf Coast Bank & Trust Company branch. Additional terms and fees may apply. See banker for complete details.

What's Cookin' in Your Kitchen for St. Joseph's Day?

Pasta Milanese

While there are versions of Pasta Milanese that include meat or poultry the traditional dish is meatless, which is why it is associated with the St. Joseph's Altar meal. Traditional Sicilian Pasta Milanese is a savory-sweet pasta dish featuring a rich tomato sauce with fennel, anchovies, garlic, raisins and pine nuts, topped with toasted, sweetened breadcrumbs ("mudrica") to represent St. Joseph as the carpenter.

Prep time: 20 minutes, cook time: 1 hour; yields 4-6 servings

Ingredients

- 1 lb. long pasta such as bucatini or spaghetti
- 1 large fennel bulb chopped
- 1 large sweet onion, diced
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 oz anchovy fillets or 2 Tbs anchovy paste
- 1 Tbs minced garlic
- 1 can (6 oz) tomato paste
- 1 jar (28 oz) passata
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/4 cup toasted pine nuts
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 tbsp sugar (optional)
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Topping: 1 cup plain breadcrumbs toasted in 2 tbsp olive oil with 1 tbsp sugar and a pinch of cinnamon

Instructions

1. In a large pan, sauté the chopped fennel, onion and anchovies in olive oil over medium-low heat until the onion is translucent and the anchovies have melted (10–15 minutes). Then add the garlic and saute until fragrant.
2. Stir in the tomato paste and cook for 1–2 minutes. Add the passata, toasted pine nuts, raisins and optional red pepper flakes and sugar.
3. Simmer on low for 30–45 minutes until the sauce is thick and flavorful. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Meanwhile, cook the pasta in boiling salted water until al dente. Note: pasta water should be salty like the sea!
5. For the topping: in a small skillet, toast the breadcrumbs, sugar and cinnamon in the olive oil over medium high heat, stirring occasionally until breadcrumbs are a rich brown color, careful not to burn.
6. To serve: toss the cooked pasta into the sauce until well coated. Top each individual serving with the sweet toasted breadcrumbs.

*St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus,
pray for us!*

Baked Stuffed Fish

A staple of a traditional St. Joseph Altar is a baked stuffed fish, typically using whole redfish or snapper, is prepared seasoning the fish with olive oil, herbs and lemon and stuffing the cavity with a mixture of seafood and vegetables then baking at a high heat until flaky.

Prep time: 20 minutes, cook time: 30-40 minutes depending on size; yields 4-6 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 whole Redfish or Red Snapper (approx. 3–4 lbs), cleaned and scaled
- 3 tbsp olive oil, divided
- 1 sweet onion, finely chopped
- 1 bell pepper, finely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 lb. shrimp, peeled and chopped (optional)
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup parsley, chopped
- Lemon slices (for garnish)
- Salt, pepper, cayenne and thyme to taste

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees
2. Rub the entire fish (inside and out) with olive oil, salt, pepper and thyme and set aside.
3. Make the Stuffing: In a skillet, sauté onion, bell pepper and celery in olive oil until softened (about 6 minutes). Add garlic and cook for 1 more minute.
4. If using shrimp, add to the stuffing mix and cook for 3-5 minutes, allowing flavors to blend. Remove from heat and stir in the breadcrumbs and parsley. Let it cool slightly.
5. Stuff the cavity of the fish with the mixture then place the fish on a foil-lined baking sheet topped with parchment paper.
6. Place the lemon slices on top of the fish and drizzle with remaining oil. Bake for 30–40 minutes until the fish flakes easily with a fork.



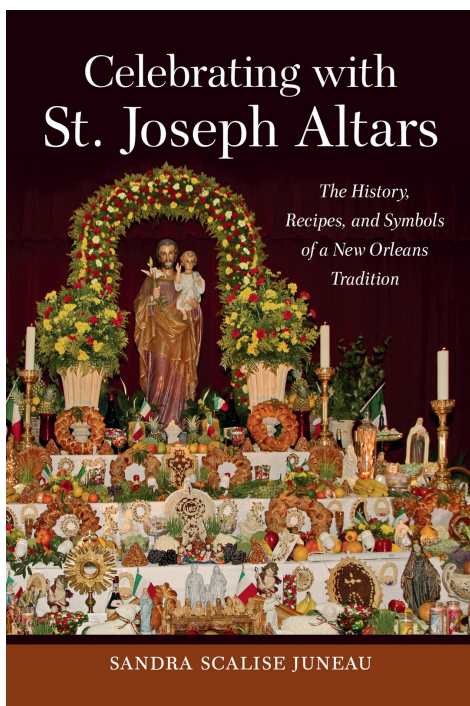
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"To be a part of the labor of love is an extraordinary process to experience. It is important to impart this information to the younger generation to carry on. I'm very humbled by this and had the joy of meeting so many people through this process."

-Sandra Scalise Juneau

Pictured right: The cover of Juneau's cookbook featuring traditional Sicilian recipes from her family and a how-to guide to building a St. Joseph Altar.

In advance of St. Joseph Day on March 19, Juneau has a series of presentations throughout the metro area including: "Learn About the History of the St. Joseph's Altar," March, 9, St. Clement of Rome (in the church), 4317 Richland Ave., Metairie, 6:30 p.m. after daily Mass—presented by Women of Faith.

Sandra Scalise Juneau's Favorite Recipe:

Pignolati

Yields 6-8 large or 36 bite-sized pignolati stacks.

With just three basic ingredients, these sugar-coated bits of fried pasta dough, mounded into pyramid shapes are said to represent pinecones, the simple toys of the Child Jesus. The making of pignolati is truly one of those labor-of-love projects. In some Sicilian dialects they are called gigis and in northern Italy they are known as struffoli.

Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1 quart vegetable oil

Directions:

1. In a deep pot or electric fryer, heat cooking oil to 375°F.
2. Lightly grease a shallow baking pan with sides and the insides of 4 teacups. Set aside.
3. Gradually add 1 cup flour to beaten eggs to form dough. If dough is too sticky to handle, add more flour. Working dough with hands to form a smooth consistency, knead, separate into two equal parts. Place in a bowl, cover and set aside for 10 minutes.
4. Taking a small ball of dough, roll into 1-inch wide by 12-inch long pencil-like strips. Cutting on a 45-degree angle, cut each dough strip into 1/2-inch pieces. Set aside cut pieces of dough onto a floured linen towel and keep covered with another linen towel.

Repeat the process until all the dough has been rolled and cut.

5. Add into heated oil, one cup of cut dough pieces at a time, stirring to keep pieces from sticking together, and fry until light golden colored. Drain on paper towels and set aside.
6. Into a heavy skillet over medium heat, add 1/2 cup sugar and stir with a wooden spoon until sugar is melted to a thin, light golden colored syrup. Reduce heat to simmer and add several cups of fried dough to the hot syrup. Stir until pieces are completely coated. Turn sugared pieces into lightly greased pan. Add remaining sugar to skillet and repeat process until all fried dough pieces have been sugared.
7. To form pignolati into pinecone-shaped mounds, using a wooden spoon, pack sugared pignolati into greased teacups. Allow pignolati to set for several minutes, then remove from cups and work quickly with hands to form into mounds. Set aside to cool completely.
8. To form small, bite-sized mounds, working quickly with a wooden spoon, press together three sugared pignolata pieces and allow to set for several minutes then set aside to cool completely. When thoroughly cooled, bite-sized sugared pignolati may be placed in waxed soufflé cups. Bite-sized pignolati mounds or pinecone-shaped mounds sealed in plastic wrap may be stored in air-tight tins and kept in a cool, dry place for up to one week.
9. The fried dough pieces, after being fully cooled and before being sugared, may be stored in air-tight tins and kept in a cool, dry place for up to one week.

ALTARS

River Parishes

Ascension of Our Lord

1900 Greenwood Drive, LaPlace, Public viewing: March 19 following 8:30 a.m. Mass until noon and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., March 20 from 9 a.m. – noon. Blessing when altar opens following 8:30 a.m. Mass.

Holy Family Church

155 Holy Family Lane, Luling, Public viewing and blessing: March 19, following 10 a.m. Mass. Altar festivities begin in hall after Mass.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

1 Rectory Lane, Hahnville, Public viewing: March 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.; March 16, after each Mass and until 5 p.m.; March 19, 8 a.m. Mass followed by Rosary, Altar viewing from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Memorial candles available for a \$3 donation. Cookies, blessed candles, oil and holy water will also be available for a donation. Blessing: March 15, 10 a.m., immediately followed by Tupa Tupa.

St. Anthony of Padua

234 Angus Drive, Luling, Public viewing: March 19, 6 a.m. – 7 p.m. Blessing: March 19, 11:15 a.m. Lunch served on March 19, 11:30 a.m. until sold out

St. Charles Borromeo

13396 River Road, Destrehan, Public viewing: March 19, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Blessing: March 18 (this is a private blessing with the school) Cookies and blessed items will be available for donations

St. Joan of Arc

529 W. 5th St., LaPlace, Public viewing: March 18, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; March 19, 9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. Blessing: March 18, 9 a.m.; Tupa Tupa March 19, 11 a.m. Meals: March 19, noon – 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Cookie Sales after all weekend Masses starting Feb. 28 and at Altar while supplies last.

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O most chaste spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who implored your help and sought your intercession were left unassisted.

Full of confidence in your power I fly unto you and beg your protection. Despise not O Guardian of the Redeemer my humble supplication, but in your bounty, hear and answer me.

Amen.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 28
NOON-8 PM

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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.

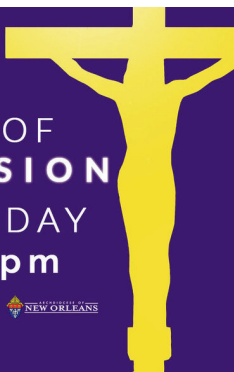


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Holy Cross School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school.





**EVENING OF
CONFESSION**
WEDNESDAY
5-6:30 pm

nolacatholic.org 

**MARCH 11
MARCH 18
MARCH 25**

in all Catholic parishes in
the Archdiocese of
New Orleans

*"Do not be afraid! Accept the
invitation of the Church and of
Christ the Lord!"*

*-Pope Leo XIV
Regina Caeli, May 11, 2025*

GUIDE TO CONFESSION

nolacatholic.org 

- 1 Prepare** - Prayerfully compare your life to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the example of Christ.
- 2 Go to confession** - After the priest welcomes you, both of you make the Sign of the Cross. Begin your Confession by saying,

"Forgive me Father for I have sinned. It has been [length of time] since my last Confession. These are my sins..."
- 3 Act of Penance** - The priest offers suitable advice and gives you an act of penance, which may include prayer, self-denial or works of mercy.
- 4 Prayer of the Penitent** - Pray a prayer, such as the **Act of Contrition**, expressing sorrow for your sins and a desire not to sin again.
- 5 Absolution** - The priest extends his hands over your head and prays the Prayer of Absolution, making the Sign of the Cross over your head during the final words. You respond, "Amen".
- 6 Dismissal** - The priest sends you forth to go in peace. Continue to express your conversion through a life renewed according to the Gospel and the love of God.



ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy

www.nolacatholic.org/parishes

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Lenten Mass Schedule in the French Quarter

The three pillars of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and the Mass is considered the highest, most perfect, and most sublime form of prayer.

To that end, this Lent, Cathedral rector Father Patrick Williams and the staff of the Catholic Cultural Center invite the community and visitors to the city "to return to God" in two sacred spaces, both in the heart of the French Quarter.

Each Friday at 7:30 a.m., Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church, at the Old Ursuline Convent Museum, New Orleans, a rare chance to worship in this historic chapel, which no longer hosts regular weekly Mass.

Later each Friday, at 11:30 a.m., Stations of the Cross will be prayed at St. Louis Cathedral, prior to the start of the 12:05 p.m. Mass.

LENTEN MASS TIMES AT ST. MARY'S



FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 7:30 A.M.
FRIDAY, FEB. 27, 7:30 A.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7:30 A.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 7:30 A.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 7:30 A.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 7:30 A.M.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP.



**CATHOLIC
CULTURAL CENTER
OF NEW ORLEANS**
ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL | OLD URSULINE
CONVENT MUSEUM

"Return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning" -- Joel 2:12

“Señor, dame de esa agua; así no tendré más sed”

3° Domingo de Cuaresma
Juan 4: 5-42
Marzo 8, 2026

Queridos hermanos: Seguimos avanzando en nuestro camino cuaresmal, un tiempo que la Iglesia nos ofrece para renovar el corazón y volver a lo esencial. Las lecturas de este domingo nos presentan una imagen muy profunda y necesaria para nuestra vida espiritual: la sed. Sed de agua, sed de sentido, sed de Dios. Hoy la Palabra nos invita a reconocer nuestra sed interior y a descubrir que solo Cristo puede saciarla.

La primera lectura, del libro del Éxodo, nos muestra al pueblo de Israel caminando por el desierto. Tienen sed y comienzan a quejarse contra Moisés y contra Dios. La sed física revela una sed más profunda: la falta de confianza. Dudaban de la presencia de Dios en medio de ellos: “Está o no está el Señor en medio de nosotros?” Dios, sin embargo, no responde con castigo, sino con misericordia. Hace brotar agua de la roca. Esta escena es una figura muy clara de lo que Dios hace con nosotros: incluso cuando dudamos, cuando reclamamos y cuando desconfiamos, Él sigue



Fr. Manuel
SOLARZANO, O.P.

ofreciendo el agua que da vida. El salmista retoma esta experiencia y nos exhorta con fuerza: “Señor, que no seamos sordos a tu voz.” La verdadera sed no está solo en la garganta, sino en el corazón que se endurece y deja de escuchar a Dios. La Cuaresma es precisamente el tiempo para volver a escuchar su voz, para dejar que su Palabra penetre en nosotros y ablande nuestro corazón.

La segunda lectura, de la carta de san Pablo a los Romanos, nos recuerda que esta agua que Dios nos ofrece es su amor derramado en nuestros corazones por el Espíritu Santo. Cristo murió por nosotros cuando aún éramos pecadores. No tenemos que merecer ese amor; simplemente acogerlo. Pero es en el Evangelio de hoy donde esta imagen alcanza su plenitud. Jesús se encuentra con la samaritana junto al pozo. Es mediodía, la hora de más calor, la hora en que nadie suele ir por agua. Ella va sola, probablemente por vergüenza, por su historia, por su vida desordenada.

Y allí, en su rutina, en su cansancio, Jesús la espera. Jesús le dice: “Dame de beber.” Parece que Él tiene sed, pero en realidad es Él quien quiere saciar la sed de ella. Poco a poco, el diálogo va revelando la verdad: esa mujer ha buscado saciar su sed afectiva, existencial y espiritual en muchas relaciones, en muchas “fuentes”, pero sigue vacía. Entonces Jesús le ofrece agua viva: una vida nueva, una relación nueva con Dios, una dignidad nueva. Y lo más hermoso es que Jesús no comienza reprochándole su pasado. Primero despierta su deseo, luego ilumina su verdad, y finalmente la transforma en misionera. La mujer que llegó al pozo avergonzada, regresa al pueblo anunciando: “Vengan a ver a un hombre que me ha dicho todo lo que he hecho.” Aquí está la clave cuaresmal: dejar que Jesús nos encuentre en nuestro pozo, en nuestra rutina, en nuestra historia, en nuestras heridas, y permitir que Él sacie nuestra sed más profunda.

Por tanto, las lecturas de hoy nos muestran que todos tenemos sed. Sed de amor, de paz, de sentido, de Dios. Y muchas veces intentamos saciarla en lugares que no pueden llenarnos.

see **SOLARZANO** p. 19

DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

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URSULINE  ACADEMY

Flourishing Sisterhood: Chasing an Unknown That Became a Reality

by Sister Andria Donald, S.S.F.

I was not raised Catholic, nor had I ever seen a nun as a child. No one around me ever spoke about nuns. In fact, my first encounter with nuns came through the movie "The Nun's Story", which ignited within me a deep, consuming desire to become a nun.

Later in my early teens, I caught a glimpse of four nuns in a car while walking with a friend. I turned to her and said, "Oh, I wish I could become a nun," to which she replied, "Audrey, maybe one day, you too could become a nun." Thus, when my school counselor asked what I wanted to do after graduation, without hesitation, I said, "I want to be a nun." His advice? "Go to college and major in Early Childhood Education."

In the meantime, while at band practice at St. Anne's Secondary School, I encountered and was drawn to a group of women who gathered at St. Anne's Church on Wednesday evenings to pray the Rosary. I would arrive early just to pray with them. And as a band member, playing in church processions meant I had to attend Mass. I found myself enjoying Mass more than I expected and, eventually, I became Catholic.

Through an introduction by my sister's Catholic friend who lived with religious sisters at Ozanam Home, I met Sisters Joan and Maria Goretti, which marked the beginning of my discernment journey. As a result, I attended a vocation retreat and subsequently came across an article in the "Catholic Opinion" about the Sisters of the Holy Family which, founded in 1842 in New Orleans, was the second Black religious order established in the United States.

After much prayer, I felt moved by the Holy Spirit to write to them. To my surprise, I received a response and introduction to their novice mistress, with whom I

corresponded regularly. Their charism spoke deeply to me, and I felt called to apply for entry, but an unexpected obstacle arose while acquiring a visa to travel to New Orleans.

This setback, however, would not derail me or my discernment. That summer, to my utter amazement, I received a letter from the superior general of the Sisters of the Holy Family conveying that I could enter the order in Belize, Central America. It was there that the Sisters of the Holy Family were the first African American Catholics to serve as missionaries: establishing schools, pastoral programs and assisting the elderly, among other missions and ministry work.

I entered. I became a postulant in Belize and, one year later, arrived in New Orleans for my novitiate.

Everything in New Orleans was new to me. I had never before seen a clothes dryer. Fries came in "large" or "small" sizes. No one drank hot tea—only coffee. Moreover, adjusting to American culture was challenging, including shifting from my British spellings of words, such as "centre" instead of "center." Thankfully, my novitiate companion, a brilliant Xavier University graduate, helped me navigate these cultural shifts.

While my time in New Orleans was meaningful, my heart remained in Belize, longing for the warmth of the people and the familiar way faith flourished there and resonated deeply with me. Before making my simple profession, I requested to return to Belize for ministry. My request was granted with the condition that I spend every summer in New Orleans, which I did for three years.

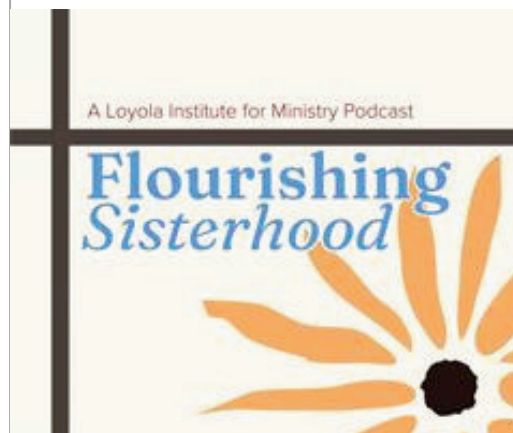
As I reflect on my journey, I see how God's providence led me to a congregation dedicated to serving those in need, as the sisters in Belize embodied the charism of the Sisters of the Holy Family through dedication to education and pastoral care. They walked with the people, offering solace and guidance, while ensuring that even the most vulnerable felt the presence

of God's love. And, upon returning to New Orleans, I became immersed in the rich history and legacy of the sisters who had tirelessly ministered to the marginalized since 1842. Their unwavering commitment to education, social justice and care for the elderly inspired me. I witnessed firsthand how their work transforms lives, bringing hope to those cast aside by society.

This mission of service, rooted in the Gospel and enlivened by Henriette DeLille's vision, has been my guiding light. Each day, I am reminded that our call as Sisters of the Holy Family is to be living witnesses of Christ's love in a world yearning for justice and mercy.

I once saw four nuns in a car and thought, 'I wish I could become a nun.' What felt like a lofty dream became my deepest reality. Today, as a Sister of the Holy Family, I am living proof that a quiet longing placed in God's hands can become a life poured out in love. It has been fulfilling beyond measure, and I am grateful.

Sister Andria Donald, S.S.F. 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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Photo credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

Pictured right: Archbishop Checchio presides over the Northshore celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at Most Holy Trinity Church in Covington. Over 200 men, women and children preparing to enter the Catholic Church at Easter participated in the Northshore celebration.

What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA / formerly known as RCIA) is a process of conversion through which a faith community journeys with individuals called either to new life in Christianity and the sacraments of initiation or the completion of the sacraments of initiation for Catholics or Christians seeking full communion in the Catholic Church from another Christian tradition. It is an ongoing process of conversion adapted to the needs and call of each individual seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church.

The Samaritan Woman at the Well



**Charlotte
PHILLIPS**

NOLACatholic Parenting

On this third Sunday of Lent, we hear from the Gospel of John the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. We are all familiar with this story from hearing it every three years on the third Sunday of Lent. For anyone who went to Catholic school, this story showed up more than once in Religion class.

The story of the woman at the well is filled with so much goodness for us to reflect on and pray with. Knowing some historical background makes this story even more notable.

John 4:6 tells us, *"Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon."*

Including the time of day is an important detail. During the Gospel times, the Samaritan women would have travelled together to the well in the early morning or evening to avoid the hottest part of the day. The woman is by herself because the other women have excluded her, or because she chose to exclude herself out of fear of being judged by them.

Jesus sits down next to the Samaritan woman and asks for a drink to quench his physical thirst. During Jesus' time, Jews and Samaritans did not get along with each other. It would have been unheard of for a Jew to start a conversation with a Samaritan, especially a Jewish man starting a conversation with a Samaritan woman. The Samaritan woman said to Jesus, *"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"* (John 4:9). Jesus then offers the woman "living water" to quench her spiritual thirst.

As Jesus and the woman are talking, we learn

she is at the well alone because she had had five husbands, and the man she is currently with is not her husband. The woman begins to understand that Jesus is the Messiah, runs into town to tell the other Samaritans, and they invite Jesus to stay with them. John 4:41-42 tell us, "Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, 'We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.'"

Jesus, full of love and compassion, went against the social norm of the time. Not only did he talk to a Samaritan woman he knew had sinned, but he also offered her "living water." Each of us are made in the image and likeness of God. We also all sin against our God. But like the woman at the well, Jesus offers us love and compassion. He offers us "living water."

When praying with this scripture during Lent, I invite you to approach this story from one of two ways.

1. When in our lives have we been like those excluding the Samaritan woman? When have we judged and excluded others because of something they have done, forgetting that Jesus pours out his living waters to all of us?
2. When have we felt like the Samaritan woman ourselves? When have we sinned against our God and excluded ourselves from our community of faith, forgetting that God already knows our faults yet offers us mercy, forgiveness and "living water" despite our sins?

Charlotte Phillips has a Bachelor of Arts in theology and a Master of Pastoral Studies from Spring Hill College. Currently, she is the Program Assistant for the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center. Charlotte enjoys Ignatian Spirituality, listening to live music and spending time with her family. She is a parishioner of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.



Pescado Frito en el Apostolado Hispano

2525 Maine Ave. Viernes de Cuaresma, del 27 de febrero al 20 de marzo, a partir de las 11 a. m. Plato: \$15 filete de pescado o camarones empanizados con papas fritas; \$20 pescado frito entero estilo tipitapa (salsa de tomate y cebolla) con arroz, tostones o papas fritas. Reserve su comida con anticipación al 504-467-2550.

SOLARZANO

La Cuaresma es el tiempo para volver al pozo verdadero, donde Cristo nos espera con el agua viva.

Qué "sed" profunda reconozco hoy en mi corazón? En qué "fuentes" he intentado saciar mi vida sin encontrar verdadera paz? Estoy dispuesto a dejar que Jesús me hable con verdad sobre mi vida? Mi encuentro con Cristo me está convirtiendo en testigo para otros?

Hermanos y hermanas, no tengamos miedo de acercarnos al pozo. Jesús nos espera allí. Dejemos que su Palabra ablande nuestro corazón y que su gracia sacie nuestra sed. Que esta Cuaresma sea un verdadero encuentro con Cristo, el único que puede darnos el agua viva que salta hasta la vida eterna. Amén.

Around the Archdiocese

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 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

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

Christ in the City, March 10, 6:45 p.m. at *St. Francis of Assisi Parish*, 631 State St., New Orleans. Archbishop Checchio will join local Catholic young adults for 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.

Catholic Women in Action Northshore Lenten Morning of Reflection, March 18, 9

a.m. at *St. Rita Church*, New Orleans. A special Lenten Morning of Reflection: meet and greet Archbishop James F. Checchio for his first Catholic Women in Action Committee event. Mike & Dottie Ellis will offer a heart-warming reflection after Mass celebrated by Archbishop Checchio. Marian Stations of the Cross will follow the reflection talk. For more information, please contact Kathi Zimmerman at 504.527.5794 or kzimmerman@ccfnola.org.

Born to Run, March 21, 7:30 a.m., *Bonnabel Boat Launch*, Metairie. Join or form a team today at www.womasnewlife.com/borntorun

Notre Dame Seminary Gala, March 21 beginning at 6 p.m. at *Notre Dame Seminary*, 2901 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans. Step into the heart of seminary life. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the seminary and enjoy a firsthand view of the place that prepares the next generation of priests. Attendees will also have the chance to meet and connect with the seminarians themselves. This event promises an unforgettable evening filled with inspiring experiences and lively fellowship. Visit <https://nolacatholic.org/events/nds-gala> to buy tickets and learn more.

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.

St. Dominic Crawfish Cookoff, March 28 from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at *St. Dominic Parish*, 775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans.



LENTEN CALENDAR

For a listing of Lenten missions, days of reflection, and other special events including Stations of the Cross and Lenten Friday Fish Frys visit nolacatholic.org/lent.

PRINCIPAL POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Philip Neri Catholic School - Metairie, Louisiana

SCHOOL PROFILE:

St. Philip Neri was founded in 1961 and has been providing a stellar, well-rounded spiritual, academic, and physical education for thousands of students over the years. Serving approximately 800 students currently from infants through 7th grade, St. Philip is one of the largest Catholic elementary schools and early childhood centers within the Archdiocese of New Orleans. St. Philip Neri School is seeking a charismatic leader who will foster a Catholic school environment while overseeing the school's spiritual needs, academic achievement, operational vitality, and governance.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal candidate possesses the following qualifications and experience:

- Be a practicing Catholic
- Holds a graduate-level degree in a field of Education or related discipline (School Administration preferred)
- Minimum of five years of leadership experience preferred

SALARY: Based on qualifications and experience **CLOSING DATE:** Applications accepted until **March 20, 2026**

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Submit an Administrator Application form, résumé, references, transcripts and three current letters of recommendations
 - a. The Administrator Application form may be downloaded from the **Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation** website as follows:
 - Go to noladceff.org website
 - Click on tab "Career"
 - Click "Administrator Application"
 - b. Submit three **current** letters of recommendation
 - Current Pastor who can attest to moral character and parish involvement
 - Someone who can attest to prior teaching experience
 - Someone who can attest to educational administrative ability
2. Submit the above and any additional supporting materials to:



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Mike Buras, Associate Superintendent

mburas@arch-no.org

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LCCB Principles and Priorities for the 2026 State Legislative Session

The Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops (LCCB) is an agency of the Roman Catholic Bishops of the state, who constitute its board of directors. The LCCB, which has as its foundation the teachings of the Catholic Church, serves to coordinate education of the people through joint pastoral statements; to promote collaboration in shared projects among Catholic dioceses and other institutions; and to communicate and interact with local, parish, state and federal bodies.

With the 2026 Louisiana Legislative Session beginning March 9, the LCCB has provided an overview of the principles and priorities guiding the legislative agenda this year.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred from conception to natural death and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and euthanasia. The value of human life is being threatened by cloning, embryonic stem cell research and the use of the death penalty.

- Support legislation to reduce human trafficking and strengthen post-care services, including the Metanoia Model, right to speedy trial and use of closed circuit so victims are not re-traumatized.
- Support La. Right to Life initiatives, including hospital reporting requirements of pregnancy complications, pregnancy resource awareness and safe-haven education.
- Continue efforts to limit use of the death penalty, Monitor and respond to state legal actions affecting juvenile sentencing, related release for hospice care to family for life in prison inmates.
- Support Restorative Reproductive Medicine practices to deal with infertility and identify doctors in Louisiana who practice this method supported by the Catholic Church

Call to Family, Community and Participation
Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe

people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

- Strengthen Catholic education and expand parental choice options.
 - Protect religious character and catholic educational approach; Funding of GATOR; Ballot initiative with removal of trust funds...ensure backfill.
 - Increase support for State tuition donation tax credit and federal scholarship tax credit programs.
- Support legislation that strengthens families, including:
 - Support Fatherhood initiatives and foster care improvements.
 - Support Quality Adoptions Resolution; Expand childcare/early childhood funding.
 - Expand mental health access and funding, aligned with the USCCB Mental Health.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

- Support poverty-reduction initiatives and implementation of the Empowering Families to Live Well Council Act to address our 49th child poverty ranking.
- Strengthen efforts addressing homelessness, including housing stability and support services.

Solidarity in Restorative Justice/Immigration

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences. We are our brothers and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that if you want peace, work for justice.

- Support rehabilitative justice models for non-violent juveniles.
- Support retroactivity of the

- non-unanimous jury law; consider parole review rather than retrial.
- Strengthen re-entry programs for justice-involved individuals.
- Uphold dignity and respect for the immigrant community; apply CST principles.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

- Improve workforce development programs that allow individuals to work without losing essential benefits known as the benefits cliff.
- Support efforts to increase the minimum wage, particularly for single mothers.

Care for God's Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

- Support research/legislation improving air and water quality in under-served communities.
- Expand research/resolution on environmental risks to unborn children and maternal health.
- Continue remediation of orphaned wells, run off from plants and lead pipes affecting development of children.
- Monitor carbon capture and data center projects, emphasizing community input, environmental safeguards and common good positive workforce impacts. Use principles of subsidiarity and common good.

To receive updates from the LCCB during the legislative session, visit <https://laccb.org/action/>.



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February 27	March 13
	March 20
	March 27

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SATURDAY, APRIL 25



Honoring:

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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:
Affordable Housing · Faith and Marriage · TheDailyMass.com · WLAE-TV

For Tickets & Information, visit Willwoods.org or call (504) 830-3717



Photo Credit: St. Mary's Dominican High School

St. Mary's Dominican High School student Cece Wanko '29 adds food items to a collection bin during St. Mary's Dominican High School's annual food drive. Led by Dominican's Campus Ministry Club, 2026 marked its 27th year collecting food for Second Harvest. Donations to Dominicans' Food Drive filled 18 pallets, with a total of 83,182 items. The total count of 12,241 pounds equated to 10,200 meals.



Photo Credit: Kim Roberts

St. Martin de Porres Parish kicked off the Friday Fish Fry tradition on Feb. 20 featuring a menu of both fried and grilled fish. St. Martin de Porres is one of the parishes that begins their Lenten meatless meals at lunch and serves until the meals are sold out. For the fish fry schedule visit nolacatholic.org/friday-fish-fry-calendar.



Photo Credit: Notre Dame Seminary

On Feb. 7, Notre Dame Seminary faced off against St. Ben's Seminary in their annual basketball showdown — and the "Hunchbacks of Notre Dame" brought home the victory. Thanks to Archbishop Rummel High School for hosting.



Photo Credit: Archbishop Chapelle High School

For the 2026 Make a Difference Day, Archbishop Chapelle High School's entire student body, along with their faculty and staff, went out into the community to serve 25 incredible organizations across Louisiana.



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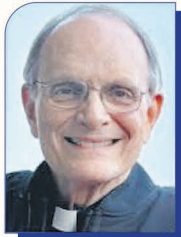
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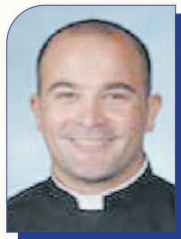
Father Joe Palermo of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Father Joe cordially invites you to join him **November 8-18, 2026** for a spiritually enriching Pilgrimage. Pilgrimage highlights take you to **Brussels and Bruges Belgium, Amsterdam, Holland and Fatima and Lisbon, Portugal**. **Daily Mass, numerous religious sites, along with city tours and exciting sightseeing are scheduled.**



Trip Brochure

- **Brussels and Bruges, Belgium** - Saint Michael Saint Gudula Cathedral, National Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Banneux with "first-degree" relics of various Saints, Church of Our Lady with its sculpture of Madonna and Child by Michelangelo and the Basilica of the Holy Blood with the venerated relic of Christ's blood.
- **Amsterdam, Holland** - Basilica of Saint Nicholas with venerated relics of Bishop Saint Nicolas of Myra, Our Lord in the Attic Church.
- **Fatima and Lisbon Portugal** - The Sanctuary of our Lady of Fatima, Chapel of the Apparitions, Fatima Light and Peace Museum, with its important displays of religious artifacts and pilgrim offerings, Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary.



Father Michael Lamy of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church

Father Michael's Pilgrimage to Italy and Paris has a few spaces still available, departing **July 9-18, 2026**, and he wants to let you to not wait too much longer to file your tour application. Pilgrimage highlights take you to **Florence, Assisi, Rome and Paris**. Daily Mass, numerous religious sites, along with city tours and exciting sightseeing are planned.



Trip Brochure

- **Florence and Assisi** - Chiesa Nuova, Basilica of San Francesco,
- **Rome** - Vatican City with St. Peter's Basilica, plus **content to be written**.
- **Paris** - Notre Dame, Saint Chapelle plus **content to be written**,



Father Tony Ricard, Campus Minister of St. Augustine High School

Father Tony is excited to take you on a Pilgrimage, **November 12-20, 2026**, filled with both Spirituality and Inspiration as he leads you to Pavia, Florence and Rome, Italy. Daily Mass, numerous religious sites, along with city tours and exciting sightseeing are planned.



Trip Brochure

- **Pavia** - The tomb of St. Augustine, enjoy Mass at San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro.
- **Florence** - Duomo Basilica and Church of Santa Croce in Florence.
- **Rome** - St. Peter's Basilica, Saint John Lateran Archbasilica, Saint Mary Major Basilica, and the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

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