



Photo Credit: Frank J. Methé



Archbishop James Checchio shares his reflection during the Order of St. Louis Ceremony on March 8 at St. Catherine of Siena where nearly 200 local Catholics were honored for their exemplary service and dedication to their church parishes.

Order of St. Louis is a Family Affair

by Kim Roberts

The Order of St. Louis IX award is among the highest honors in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and always something to be celebrated, but this year presented a unique experience for two local families as a father and daughter, along with her husband and two brothers were honored together during a ceremony celebrated by Archbishop James Checchio at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Metairie on March 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Donald Lassere, Jr., Holy Spirit Church, Algiers and his daughter and son in law Jessica and Rick Doherty, Visitation of Our Lady, Marrero and brothers Tyler and Zachary Bastian, Basilica of St. Stephen received this honor side by side as a testament to their family's enduring service to the church.

Archbishop Philip Hannan established the Order of St. Louis in 1975 to annually honor

laypersons who have contributed their time and talents to the church, often as "unsung parish heroes." Over the past 50 years, more than 10,000 men and women have received the medallion as a token of thanks for their Christ-like service to the church.

"When we received our letter notifying us that we were receiving this honor, I first reached out to our pastor to verify it was meant for us," said Jessica. "I did not feel like we deserved this medal and feel really blessed to have been nominated. We went out to dinner with my parents and brought the letter to surprise them, I put it on the table waiting for a reaction and to my surprise my dad said 'Oh, I got one of those too.'"

Jessica knew receiving this medal from the archdiocese was a high honor and receiving it at the same time as her father was such a blessing and very special.

According to Lassere, "I was happy, elated and

moved to receive this honor and when I found out my daughter and son-in-law were receiving the same honor at the same time it was a very special experience. I'm so thankful we were able to sit together and receive our medals together. I am proud of my daughter for her accomplishment. They are also leading the way through their involvement with the church which makes me even prouder."

The Dohertys, parents of four boys, have been parishioners of Visitation of Our Lady for more than 20 years and have served as leaders of the marriage preparation program for engaged couples and altar server coordinators. Rick has been a parish school of religion teacher and Boy Scout Cub Master for 12 years.

"Between the school and church, we feel like Visitation is a second home," Rick said. "We weren't looking for recognition for any of the volunteer work that we do. We are doing our part for the church and school to honor God." (see **FAMILY** p. 5)

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Photo Credit: St. Luke the Evangelist

Above: Archbishop Checchio blesses a family following Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist on March 1. Left: Archbishop Checchio with Salesian Provincial Sister Thuy Huong Nguyen and the school community at Our Lady of Prompt Succor School in Westwego following their school Mass on March 2.



Photo Credit: Sisters of the Holy Family

Archbishop James Checchio with Sisters of the Holy Family, Sister Sylvia Thibodeaux and Sister Alicia Costa after visiting the Sisters' ministries on March 4.



Photo Credit: Pope John Paul II High School

Pope John Paul II High School in Slidell hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building on March 9 at the future construction site on campus. This new building will be the third on campus to serve the diverse interests of the growing student population. Joining school representatives to ceremonially break ground on the new building were Archbishop Checchio and School Superintendent Dr. RaeNell Houston.

The Spirit is Moving in Our Local Church

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

It seems like Ash Wednesday was ages ago! I hope that you are still sticking to your Lenten promises and have gotten into the spirit of the Season as we prepare for Easter. Although a penitential season, there have been so many uplifting events over these past couple of weeks in our Archdiocese that I could almost forget about the penitential nature of Lent! I have to truly focus and have to double my efforts for prayer, fasting and almsgiving when not attending these or other gatherings.

One fascinating event was the opening of the Vietnamese New Year Festival. What a lovely and crowded gathering of this community. Our Vietnamese community is so welcoming of everyone and the gathering is a wonderful time of celebration with such good food too! It was certainly the largest Tet celebration I have ever attended.

The Rite of Election was beautiful with over 730 participants who will receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil. What a wonderful sight it was, both our Rite here in the city and the other on the Northshore. This is the highest number of catechumens and candidates we have ever had. A blessing from God which is appreciated and needed!

We also had a joyful day of prayer with over 700 men at the annual NOLACatholic Men's Conference. It was inspiring to see men from all over our Archdiocese representing different ethnic communities participate. We were able to provide a translator for the many Spanish-speaking Latino men who came so they could benefit from all the talks.

The St. Louis Awards earlier this month filled the church. Being able to thank so many valued and effective collaborators in building God's Kingdom here in our beautiful Archdiocese was a treat for me. It is amazing how generous you all are in helping to make our parishes and ministries so effective. While we formally thanked those who were nominated by their parishes, indeed I want to thank all of you who

assist. You are a blessing and may God reward you for your generosity.

These events are in addition to many other gatherings I was able to participate in during Black History Month or our gathering of so many of our priests for a Lenten Holy Hour together. It is always a delight to pray with my brother priests.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it is easy to see the Holy Spirit operating amongst us. Even during this penitential season, there are still so many events that lift our spirits and call upon us to be ever thankful to God for the many blessings He showers down upon us.

Know of my love, prayers and gratitude for you and for all you do to contribute to the building of God's Kingdom here in Southeastern Louisiana. It is a blessing to share in this mission with you all!

God bless,

+ James F. Checchio

The Archbishop's Schedule

March 21-27 - In Rome

Friday, March 27 - noon USCCB headquarters meeting, private event

Saturday, March 28 - 4 p.m. Mass, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Westwego

Sunday, March 29 - 8:30 a.m. Mass, St. Mary Magdalen Church, Metairie

Sunday, March 29 - 11 a.m. Mass, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans

Sunday, March 29 - 5 p.m. St. Augustine High School Fundraiser, Drago's, Metairie

Tuesday, March 31 - 10 a.m. Chrism Mass, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans followed by Priest Luncheon

Thursday, April 2 - 7 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Last Supper, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans

Friday, April 3 - 3 p.m. Good Friday Services, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans

Saturday, April 4 - 8 p.m.. Easter Vigil Mass, St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans



Photo Credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

Nearly 100 priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans gathered at St. Rita Church in New Orleans for a Lenten Morning of Prayer with Archbishop Checchio on March 5.



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Donald Lassere, Jr. of Holy Spirit Parish in Algiers poses with his daughter Jessica Doherty and her husband Rick of Visitation Parish in Marrero. All three members of the family were conferred with the Order of St. Louis at the 2026 ceremony on March 8.



Photo Credits: Kim Roberts

Brothers Tyler and Zachary Bastian were conferred into the Order of St. Louis together at the March 8 ceremony at St. Catherine of Siena. The brothers were honored by Good Shepherd Parish for their commitment and service to the parish.

FAMILY

Lassere, the 72-year-old father of two, has no plans of slowing down. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, directs altar servers during Mass and is a member of the pastoral council at Holy Spirit.

“It is nice to know that the volunteer work I do is appreciated by Father Pat Collum (pastor Holy Spirit Church), and I plan to make as much time as possible to serve the church. It has been a bonding experience to receive this honor at the same time as Jessica and Rick, something sacred we shared together.”

Brothers Tyler, age 28 and Zachary, age 24, Bastian, grew up serving as altar servers at the Basilica of St. Stephen at Good Shepherd Parish. They served through their high school years at Holy Cross, college years at Dillard University and the University of New Orleans and continue to altar serve as adults.

“I have to admit that I did not know what the Order of St. Louis award was when I received the letter,” said Tyler. “It has been a surreal experience to a degree. Even though this is not the end of our

altar serving, to receive this type of recognition for something we don’t (expect recognition for) is an honor. Serving is a part of us, a way to get close to the church in general, and this honor is amazing. It is going to be a great feeling to have a picture with the new archbishop and I’m glad people know what we stand for.”

Tyler also added that he and Zachary are humbled by Monsignor Christopher Nalty’s (pastor Good Shepherd Parish) nomination and support of their faith journey.

The brothers not only serve on the altar, but they also train and mentor the younger altar servers at the parish. Their service to the church has included service hours spent in high school cleaning the church, serving as Eucharistic Ministers at Holy Cross and both have received the Archdiocese Altar Server of the Year Award. “I have found serving for the last 16 years, we’ve met a lot of different people, had a lot of different experiences and grown closer to God,” said Zachary. “But being recognized for this honor speaks volumes and is appreciated –we are not doing this to receive an honor, but it is nice to be recognized.”

He added, “My Catholic faith means more now

that I’m older knowing how life has progressed, praying deeper and giving thanks outside Mass, has transformed who I am today. I lean on it when I need to and give thanks and praise to God. I know he will be there with me always and I will be o.k.”

Tyler said that altar serving gave him a good foundation for faith and life and knowing every single Sunday he would be going to church and serving gave him something to look forward to.

“Our parents are excited and proud we are receiving this medal,” Tyler said. “They have always been supportive of our altar serving and inspired us to take on the faith when we were five years old.”

In addition to the Bastian brothers, the Doherty and Lassere, this year’s honorees also included those that are second generation honorees, a set of distant cousins and honorees with siblings who have been recognized in previous years – a testament to the importance of sharing the faith in family life.

Find the complete listing of the 2026 Order of St. Louis Medallion recipients on page 15 of this edition.

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Medjugorje Message
of February 25, 2026

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Celebrating the Year of St. Francis in Uptown New Orleans

by Kim Roberts

Marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed the Jubilee Year of Saint Francis from Jan. 10, 2026 to Jan. 10, 2027. As part of this special Jubilee Year, the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary issued a decree granting a plenary indulgence (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, interior disposition of complete detachment from sin and a pilgrimage to churches dedicated to Saint Francis) to mark the anniversary year of the popular saint's death.

Father Nile Gross, pastor St. Francis of Assisi, New Orleans, said outside of Mary, probably the most popular saint in the church is Saint Francis and as the only church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans named for the saint, they are making plans for the Year of Saint Francis.

"Right now, we have three planned pilgrimage days, July 31, Sept. 17 and Oct. 30, where pilgrims can come to the church to receive a plenary indulgence and tour the church as well," he said. "But any time a parish or church wants to come, they can call the office to make arrangements for a Mass with a visiting priest that joins them."

Located at 631 State St., St. Francis of Assisi Church will have confessions at 9 a.m., Mass and prayers at 10 a.m. and tour of the church will be available at 10:30 a.m. during pilgrimage days. Regular church hours are 7 a.m.–4 p.m. Also, on Saint Francis' Feast Day, Oct. 4, Archbishop Checchio will celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

"Our hope is that visitors coming to our church during this special time will gain from this experience what a true pilgrimage is meant to be – traveling to a holy destination, taking time to pray and offering time to develop a deeper faith with Saint Francis who is someone that gave up everything for the love of Christ," Father Gross said. "When it comes to our faith, Saint Francis is a great example of what we truly need and any pilgrimage is putting aside worldly things and believing in faith to grow closer to Christ."

He added, this is a great honor and spiritual gift for our parish community. "We will be working with the archdiocese to plan special events and spiritual opportunities throughout the year to make our church more accessible for pilgrims. Details will be shared as they become available. Remember this indulgence is a gift of the Church and may be received more than once."

According to the decree, Pope Leo has established from Jan. 10, following the closing of the church's Jubilee Year, until Jan. 10, 2027, a special Year of Saint Francis may be



Photo Credit: Kevin Barroco/Smart Media

St. Francis of Assisi Church, located at 631 State St. in New Orleans will host special pilgrimage days on July 31, Sept. 17 and Oct. 30 in observance of the Jubilee of St. Francis

proclaimed, in which every Christian, "following the example of the Saint of Assisi, may himself become a model of holiness of life and a constant witness of peace."

Noting previous jubilee celebrations related to the works of Saint Francis – such as the eighth centenary commemorations of the first Nativity scene, as well as his composition of the "Canticle of the Creatures" and his receiving of the stigmata – the decree stated that "2026 will mark the culmination and fulfillment of all previous celebrations."

In its decree, the Apostolic Penitentiary also announced plenary indulgences will be granted to Catholics "under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father), which can also be applied in the form of suffrage for the souls in Purgatory."

The sick, the elderly and caretakers unable to leave their homes can also obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions "if they join spiritually in the Jubilee celebrations of the Year of Saint Francis, offering their prayers to the Merciful God, the pains or sufferings of one's life."

In a statement announcing the decree's promulgation, the Franciscan Friars invited Catholics to take part in the Jubilee celebrations and hope that Saint Francis' example would inspire participants "to live with authentic Christian charity towards our neighbor and with sincere longings for concord and peace among peoples."

The Italian friar who founded the Franciscan orders is the patron saint of animals, ecology and the environment and lived from 1181-1226,

dying at the age of 44. He was canonized just two years later in 1228. Today Saint Francis is honored on his feast day with parishes around the world holding ceremonies blessing animals in honor of his patronage to animals and the environment.

"What I hope people remember about Saint Francis in today's world when people seem anxious and full of fear, he showed if you put everything else aside you can live a life of joy with Christ," said Father Gross. "This pilgrimage provides a freedom for people that is not overloaded by darkness and the negative forces of the world where we can disengage from everything else and focus on our faith and family and experience that faith and joy of Christ."

For a video tour of St. Francis of Assisi Church, visit <https://www.stfrancisuptown.com/parish-events> or call (504) 891-4479 for more information.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.

-Prayer of St. Francis

Little Wonders: Lenten Sacrifices

by Betty-Ann Hickey

Every year when Lent begins, people probably start asking you, "What are you giving up for Lent?" Chocolate? Sweets? Video games? Those are all good choices, but Lent is about something even bigger. At Mass on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel told us that Jesus went into the desert. He didn't go there by accident. The Holy Spirit lead him there. In the quiet of the desert, without noise or distractions, Jesus listened closely to God.

Lent is a little like that desert for us. It's a special time when God invites us to slow down and make time for him. Life can feel very busy. We have school, sports, activities, screens, worries, but Lent gently presses pause and helps us remember and focus on what matters most.

Lent isn't meant to be six weeks of being uncomfortable just so we can go back to normal afterward. Lent is more like training camp for the heart. God uses it to help us grow stronger on the inside, so we can make good choices all year long. After 40 days of fasting, Jesus was

tempted. The devil didn't tempt him with obviously bad things, but with shortcuts: "Fix your hunger right now. Show off your power. Skip the hard part." Jesus says no. He reminds us that we don't live just by food or comfort, but by trusting God and listening to his word.

That's why we fast and practice self-control during Lent. When we give something up, we learn to wait, to listen and to let God fill us with something better than quick satisfaction. Learning to listen is the first step toward change. When we listen to God's word at Mass, we also learn how to listen to other people. We learn to listen to our parents and we learn to listen to people who are hurting, lonely, or treated unfairly. Lent helps open our ears and our hearts.

It's good to give up things we like, but Lent is also a good time to break out of bad habits. For example Pope Leo suggested at the beginning of Lent that we give up using hurtful words. That means no gossip, no mean comments, no teasing and especially being careful of how we talk online. Words are powerful. Choosing kind words isn't just for Lent; it's a way to love like Jesus every day, but Lent is a good time to start.

Lent also isn't meant to be lived alone. After the devil left Jesus, angels came to help him. We need help too. That's why we celebrate Lent with our family and with our Church family. We pray together, go to Mass, pray the Stations of the Cross and support one another.

So this Lent, try asking a new question. Not just, "What am I giving up?" but "What is God helping me grow into?"

God is training us to listen better, love more deeply and choose what is right, even when it's hard. And when Lent ends, we don't go back the same. We walk forward with Jesus, ready for the joy of Easter and a life filled with his love.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

-Matthew 4:4

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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2026 Distinguished Catholic School Alumni Celebrated



Photo Credit: Cheryl Dejoie Methé

Staff Report

Earlier this month, Schulte Auditorium at Notre Dame Seminary was filled with smiles and a cheerful celebration of the gift of Catholic education as 60 Catholic school alums were honored by their Alma Maters for their continued service and contributions. The Distinguished Graduate Ceremony is sponsored annually by the Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation with this year's celebration falling on Feb. 27.

Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond lead the program with an opening prayer and presented the awards while thanking all of the honorees for their service and for "keeping the light burning for Catholic Education."

Dr. RaeNell Houston, superintendent and executive director of the Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation also thanked the award recipients for their hard work and love of Catholic education. Deputy Superintendent of Schools Martha Mundine read short biographies for each distinguished alumni as they received their awards and had photos taken with Archbishop Aymond and Dr. Houston.

John A. Guerra S.J., St Pius X School, Class of 2009; Amber Peskin, Ursuline Academy, Class of 1999; Ann Marie Skansi, St. Scholastica Academy, Class of 1988; Arlea Barré Keller, Mount Carmel Academy, Class of 1984; Ashley Biehl, St. Angela Merici School, Class of 2022.

Bivian "Sonny" Lee III, Resurrection of Our Lord School, Class of 1995; Blaise Matthew Falcon, St. Cletus Catholic School, Class of 2015; Brian Beadle, St. Charles Catholic, Class of 1987; Brock Anderson, St. Joan of Arc School, Class of 1992; Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., Brother Martin High School, Class of 1978.

Carson Strickland, Holy Name of Jesus School, Class of 1995; Charlotte Shelley, St. Philip Neri, Class of 1984; Clare Carpenter Muscarello, St. Christopher, Class of 1984.

David Clements, Sr, Our Lady of Prompt Succor School - Chalmette, Class of 1993; Deacon Nathan Simoneaux, St. Matthew the Apostle School, Class of 1966; Douglas N. Currault II, Archbishop Shaw High School, Class of 1982.

Erin Washington, St. Katharine Drexel

Preparatory, Class of 2009; Father Jason E. Brauning, S.J., St. Charles Borromeo School, Class of 1996.

George Fiset, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Kenner, Class of 1976; Jaclyn Whitman Ezzo, St. Benilde, Class of 2001; Jay Roth, Archbishop Rummel High School, Class of 1981; Joseph Christian McGowan, St. Edward the Confessor, Class of 2011; Judy Paternostro Baldassaro, Immaculate Conception School, Class of 1997.

Kelly Chisholm Pizza, Our Lady of Lourdes, Class of 1995; Kevin Carpenter, Our Lady of Perpetual Help BC, Class of 1993; Lauren Johnson, St. Peter School - Covington, Class of 1998.

Lillian Kidd, Our Lady of the Lake, Class of 1996; Lillian Russell Moran, St. Alphonsus School, Class of 1954; Lincoln Brennan, Sr., St. Francis Xavier, Class of 1939; Lyndsey Manalla Dyle, Archbishop Chappelle High School, Class of 2003.

Madeline Lipani Suer, Cabrini High School, Class of 1971; Maria LaFleur, St. Catherine of Siena School, Class of 1986; Mary Beth DeLuca, St. Ann School, Class of 1988; Matt Baer, De La *continued on p. 10*

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Salle, Class of 1974; Mayor Belinda Cambre Constant, St. Joseph School, Class of 1970; Michael B. Cooper, Saint Paul's School, Class of 1971; Michelle Maher, Academy of Our Lady, Archbishop Blenk, Class of 1982.

Najeeb M. Thomas, MD, Christian Brothers School, Class of 1985; Ninette Alsop Edmiston, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Class of 1968; Pamela Wright Fulham, St. Leo the Great School, Class of 1961; Peter Mansfield, Jesuit High School, Class of 1996.

Reagan Hightower, Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic School, Class of 2012; Reverend Kevin Seay, Stuart Hall, Class of 2006; Ronnie P. Voorhies, Archbishop Hannan High School, Class of 1994; Ryan Hebert, St. Therese Academy, Class of 2023; Ryan Higgins, Pope John Paul High School, Class of 1997.

Sabrina Harris, St. Mary's Academy, Class of 1975; Sharon Kleefisch, St. Andrew the Apostle, Class of 1980; Sister Mary Michaeline Green, O.P., St. Mary's Dominican High School, Class of 1953; Stacey Truax, St. Clement of Rome, Class of 1995; Steve Cosse, Holy Cross High School, Class of 1965; Suzanne C. Buras, St. Dominic School, Class of 1966.

TaJahne Pugh, St. Benedict the Moor, Class of 2010; Valentine Emile Haaga, Annunciation Church, Class of 1958; Vicky Eschmann, St. Rita, Class of 1985.

Bringing Christ to the Slidell Streets



Photo Credit: James Elorriaga

On Feb. 21, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Margaret Mary Parishes in Slidell came together to host their annual Eucharistic procession through the streets of Slidell. The procession began at Our Lady of Lourdes and traveled six miles to St. Margaret Mary taking three hours. Hundreds of Catholics joined the procession praying on foot, and even by scooter, to be a bold witness of faith and to give glory and honor to the True Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. The procession, which has become a Lenten tradition, was organized through the efforts of both parish communities and the leadership of the Knights of Columbus Council 2732.



Brother Martin High School 2026 Alumnus of the Year



Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C. Class of 1978

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A Guide to Holy Week - March 29 - April 4, 2026



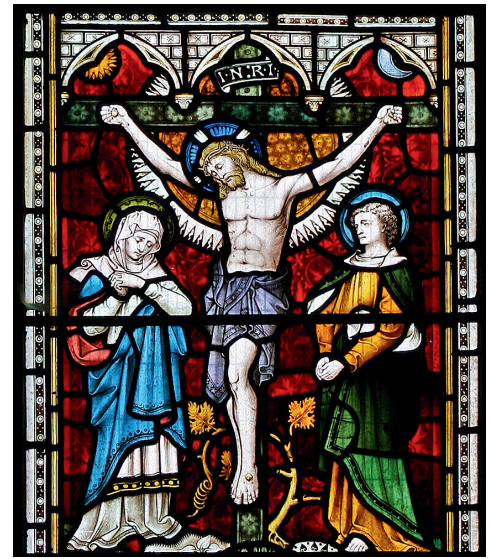
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

We begin with Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, where the crowds waving palm branches greet him with hosannas and fervent chants: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Just a few days later, those same crowds will turn on him and demand of Pontius Pilate: "Crucify him!"



Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday the Sacred Triduum begins. It is on this day, Catholics around the world commemorate the Last Supper: Jesus' final meal with his disciples, instituting the Eucharist. Jesus also kneels down to wash the feet of the apostles and gives them a new commandment (a "mandate") to love one another as he has loved them, instituting the priesthood. He then goes with his apostles to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane before being handed over.



Good Friday

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the Christian year. Jesus goes before Pilate and is condemned to death, stripped of his garments and whipped beyond torture before being forced to carry his cross through the streets of Jerusalem. He is then crucified and gives over his spirit to the Lord. This is the only day of the year that Mass may not be celebrated. After the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross, those in attendance leave the church in silence, contemplating the agony, death and burial of Jesus.

Chrism Mass

In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the priests of the archdiocese gather with the archbishop at St. Louis Cathedral for the annual Chrism Mass on the Tuesday of Holy Week. During this Mass the sacred oils and chrism used in sacramental ministry in every parish for the coming year will be blessed. As a group, the priests will renew the promises made at their ordinations to serve the people and God. A blessing of the day is hundreds of students representing Catholic schools in the area are able to attend annually.



Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday concludes the Holy Triduum. The Easter Vigil always begins after sunset and with the church in darkness. The Paschal (Easter) candle is lit outside the church then the congregation processes into the church with the lit Easter candle singing "The Light of Christ!" Those words and the procession with the Paschal candle symbolize that the Risen Christ comes to bring light into our darkness and invites each of us to be open to that light through our continued prayers and our actions to bring about peace to restless hearts.



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GOOD FRIDAY '9-church walk' options



Good Friday Nine Church Walk

A New Orleans Good Friday tradition for many Catholics is to make a special devotion by solemnly walking to nine area churches to pray and reflect on the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Nine Church Walk is closely associated with an ancient Roman Practice of visiting seven churches on the Evening of Holy Thursday. There are at least 16 Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of New Orleans where pilgrims are welcomed and invited to spend the day prayerfully reflecting on the Lord's suffering and death on Good Friday. The map provides a guide for a Good Friday pilgrimage through New Orleans, but feel free to make up your own devotional route in your community.

1. Holy Name of Jesus, 6367 St. Charles Ave.
2. National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 2701 State St.
3. St. Francis of Assisi, 631 State St.
4. Basilica of St. Stephen, 1025 Napoleon Ave.
5. The Church of St. Henry, 801 General Pershing St.
6. Our Lady of Good Counsel, 1307 Louisiana Ave.
7. St. Katharine Drexel, 2001 Louisiana Ave.
8. St. Mary's Chapel, 1516 Jackson Ave.

9. St. Mary's Assumption, 923 Josephine St.
10. St. John the Baptist, 1139 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd.
11. St. Patrick, 724 Camp St.
12. Immaculate Conception (Jesuit on Baronne), 130 Baronne St.
13. Our Lady of Guadalupe, 411 North Rampart St.
14. St. Augustine Church, 1210 Governor Nicholls St.
15. St. Mary's Italian at the Ursuline Convent, 1116 Chartres St.
16. St. Louis Cathedral, 615 Pere Antoine Alley (Jackson Square)

The Liturgies of Holy Week at St. Louis Cathedral will be both broadcast live on WLAE-TV and live streamed on thedailymass.com. Palm Sunday Mass will be broadcast at 11 a.m. on Sunday, March 29. The Chrism Mass is at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 31. The remaining broadcast schedule includes The Mass of the Lord's Last Supper on Thursday, April 2 at 7 p.m., Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Friday, April 3 at 3 p.m. and Easter Sunday Mass on Sunday, April 5 at 11 a.m.



Most Rev. James F. Checchio
Archbishop of New Orleans
cordially invites everyone to the
St. Louis Cathedral
for Holy Week



Holy Thursday

April 2, 2026

Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 pm



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

Stations of the Cross
12:00 Noon

Passion of the Lord
3:00 pm



Holy Saturday

April 4, 2026

Easter Vigil
8:00 pm



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Masses at
9:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt is in
St. Anthony's Garden following
the 11:00 am Mass



2026 Order of St. Louis XIV Honorees

On March 8, Archbishop James Checchio conferred the Order of St. Louis IX Medal on nearly 200 local Catholics in recognition of their leadership and dedication of service to the Church, in their parishes and throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The 2026 Order of St. Louis honorees are:

Mr. Cornell Alfonso, Our Lady of Lourdes, Violet.

Mrs. Doris Banks, St. Martin de Porres; Mrs. Melody Barousse, St. Peter, Covington; Ms. Dawn Bassett, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chasse; Mr. Tyler Bastian, Good Shepherd Parish; Mr. Zachary Bastian, Good Shepherd Parish; Mr. Wesley Battiste, St. Raymond and St. Leo the Great Catholic Church; Mr. Jeffrey Beale, St. Genevieve; Dr. Mary Elizabeth Benson, St. Francis of Assisi; Mr. Thomas and Letha Berner, Our Lady of the Lake; Mrs. Glenda Brown, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Covington; and Ms. Mary Burns, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church, Chalmette.

Mr. Michael Calamari, Our Lady of Lourdes; Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Stacy Cantrell, All Saints Catholic Church; Mr. Richard Carbo, Christ the King; Mr. Joseph R. Casanova, Our Lady of Guadalupe; Ms. Gina Caulfield, St. Joachim; Mr and Mrs Chris Cazaubon, St. Joseph Church & Shrine; Mrs. Stella Chase-Reese, St. Peter Claver; Mr. and Mrs. Kim Chatelain, Mary, Queen of Peace; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Micki Chehardy, St. Catherine of Siena; Mr. and Mrs. Chad Chiasson, Holy Family (Luling); Mrs. Sharon Chrestia, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clesi, St. Agnes; Mr. Richard Coffey, St. John the Baptist, Folsom; Mrs. Cheryl Cook, Sts. Peter and Paul; Mr. Christopher Countiss, Archdiocese of New Orleans; Ms. Marie Cousin, St. Genevieve; Mr. and Mrs. Doug Cresap, Mary, Queen of Peace; and Mr. and Mrs. Henry and Dawn Curole, St. Clement of Rome.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Penny D'Amico, St. Patrick Catholic Church; Miss Maria Davila, Christ the King; Mr. Anthony Difulco, Mary, Help of Christians; Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Jessica Doherty, Visitation of Our Lady; Mr. and Mrs. James Donovan, St. Matthew the Apostle; Dr. Kenneth and Mrs. Barbara DuBois, II, St. Pius X; Mrs. Christine Soto Dufrene, St. Michael the Archangel; Ms. Margaret Duplessis, Assumption of Our Lady Mission and Mr. and Mrs. Drew Durand, St. Maria Goretti. Ms. Y'Annika Anjane' Edwards, Our Lady of Grace; Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Peggy Englande, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church; and Tabetha Stewart Ezell, Annunciation Church.

Ms. Julie Fabregas, St. Mary Magdalen; Mrs. Cecilia Fagan, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Lacombe; Mr. Eddie Fauchaux, St. John

Paul II Church; Mr. William Fisher, Sts. Peter and Paul; and Ms. Blanca Adeli Flores, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Latin Mass Community.

Mr. Roland H. and Mrs. Adrienne C. Gieger, St. Christopher the Martyr, Metairie; Mrs. Myrna Gorman, St. Edward the Confessor; Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Mary Guarisco, St. Anthony of Padua, Luling; Mrs. Alison Guarisco, St. Andrew the Apostle; and Mr. Ched and Mrs. Jennifer Guidry, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Belle Chasse.

Miss Abigail Lauren Halberg, Tulane Catholic; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamilton, St. Matthew the Apostle; Mr. Lee and Mrs. Claire Hayden, St. Benedict; Mrs. Rosi Healy, St. Patrick's; Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hebert, St. Jane de Chantal Church Abita Springs; Mrs. Joan Hernandez, St. Bernard; Mrs. Peggy Hernandez, St. Rita; Ms. Krystal Amanda Hooker, Our Lady of Grace; and Mr. Robert Howard, III and Mrs. Kathryn Howard, St. Benilde.

Mrs. Liz Joiner, St. Rita; Mr. and Mrs. Garry and Mary Ellen Jordan, St. Anselm; and Mrs. Mable Julien-Taylor, Blessed Trinity Church New Orleans.

Mr. Craig Karl, St. Ann Church & National Shrine; Mrs. Joan Kathmann, Divine Mercy; Mr. Charles F. and Mrs. Gail F. Kernion, III, St. Christopher the Martyr, Metairie; Mrs. Patricia Kilbert, St. John the Baptist - Edgard; Ms. Katherine Kolthoff, Good Shepherd Parish; Mr. and Mrs. John and Jane Kuchler, St. Edward the Confessor; and Mrs. Stephanie Kuhn, St. Anthony Catholic Church, Jean-Lafitte.

Mr. Miguel and Mrs. Kettelie Lafontant, St. Joseph Haitian Community; Ms. Diane Landry, St. Martha Parish; Mr. Donald Lassere, Jr., Holy Spirit Catholic Church; Mr. Thomas LeBon, St. Patrick's/St. John the Baptist; Mrs. Cindy Lemoine, St. Agnes; Mr. Kenneth Lemoine, St. Agnes; Mr. Gavin Lewis, St. Peter Claver; Mr. Joseph Lindley, Jr., St. Peter, Covington; Emile (Jay) Loetzerich and Terry Loetzerich, St. Alphonsus Parish of New Orleans; Mr. Brandon and Mrs. Kaye Lomasney, Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Covington; and Mr. Allen Lorio and Mrs. Catherine Lorio, St. Francis Xavier.

Dr. and Mrs. Scott Macicek, St. Catherine of Siena; Mrs. Deirdre Macnamara, St. Pius X; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Madere, St. Ann Church and National Shrine; Ms. Dorothy Maggiore, Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Kenner); Mr. Irwin J. Marant, Jr., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Latin Mass Community; Ms. Charley Martin, St. Martha Parish; Mr. Barry Matherne, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church; Mrs. Darlene Matthews, St. Margaret Mary Church; Mrs. Belinda Maudit, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church; Mr. and Mrs. Danny and Lisa Mayfield, Holy Name of Mary; Mrs. Susan McArthur, Christ the King; Dr. and Mrs. Scott and Jane McMurray, Holy Name of Jesus; Mrs. Beverly McSweeney, St. Dominic; Mr. Michael J. Miller, St. Katharine Drexel; Mr. and Mrs. Alton Minor,

St. Josephine Bakhita; Mrs. Gloria Miramon, St. Luke the Evangelist; Mr. Glenn E Mitchell, St. Joseph Church and Shrine; Mr. Henry Montalbano, St. Angela Merici; Ms. Joyce Mumford, St. David Catholic Church; and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Murray, Center of Jesus the Lord.

Ms. Pamela Nastasi, St. Angela Merici; Mr. John and Mrs. Stacey Neill, Our Lady of the Lake; Bon and Hong Nguyen, Our Lady of Lavang, New Orleans; Mr. Phêrô Cảnh Văn Nguyễn and Ms. Maria Nam Thị Võ, St. Joseph Church (Algiers); and Mr. and Mrs. Pat and Karen O'Brien, St. Rita - New Orleans.

Mrs. Emma Patzan, St. Jerome; Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Tammy Ann Payne, Holy Family (Franklinton); John Baptist Tuynh Quoc Pham, and Maria Kim Hai Tran, St. Agnes Le Thi Thanh; Mr. Joey Plaisance, Visitation of Our Lady; and Mr. Tim Purvis, Our Lady of Lourdes. Mr. and Mrs. Troy Roche', St. Anthony Gretna; Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Janeen C. Rodrigue, St. Charles Borromeo; Mrs. Norean Amedeo Rojas, St. Cletus Catholic Church; Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Kelly Rose, St. Dominic; Mr. and Mrs. Todd Ruiz, Ascension of Our Lord; and Ms. Dawn Russell, Our Lady of Lourdes, Violet.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sauzer, Holy Family (Luling); Miss Shari Schexnayder, St. Charles Borromeo; Ms. Marilyn R. Schulin, St. Anselm; Mr. and Mrs. James Simms, St. Maria Goretti; Mr. and Mrs. John and Grace Skinner, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church; Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Patricia Smith, Infant Jesus of Prague Mission; Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Anne Southworth, St. Philip Neri; Mr. Stephen St. Angelo and Mrs. Tammy St. Angelo, St. Francis Xavier; and Mrs. Lynn Suprean, St. John of the Cross.

Mr. Rafael Tejada and Mrs. Wendy Tejada, St. Jerome; Ms. Doloros Tinson, St. Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. James and Jennifer Tonglet, St. Margaret Mary Church; Mrs. Quynh Vo Tran, St. Andrew the Apostle; Mr. Chuong and Mrs. Tinh Tran, Resurrection of Our Lord Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Cate Uzee, St. Philip Neri.

Mr. William Vanderbrook, St. Mary Magdalen; Ms. Sandra Liseth Vargas, Our Lady of Prompt Succor; Mr. Louis and Mrs. Jane Villarrubia, Divine Mercy; and Mrs. Rebecca Villarrubia, St. Louis King of France.

Mrs. Margaret Weber, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church; Dr. Susan Weishar, Ph.D, St. Anthony of Padua, New Orleans; Mr. Dirk Wild, Archdiocese of New Orleans; and Mrs. Bernadine Williams, Mater Dolorosa.

Mr. Beau Zeringue, St. Mark Catholic Church - Ama and Mrs. Laura Zeringue, Holy Family (Franklinton).

“Lázaro, sal de allí!”



Fr. Manuel
SOLARZANO, O.P.

5° Domingo de Cuaresma
Juan 11: 1-45
Marzo 22, 2026

Queridos hermanos: A medida que avanzamos en la Cuaresma, la Palabra de Dios nos conduce hoy a contemplar uno de los signos más profundos del Evangelio: la vida que vence a la muerte. Las lecturas de este domingo nos hablan de esperanza, de renovación y de un Dios que no se resigna a ver a su pueblo atrapado en la muerte, sino que sale a su encuentro para devolverle la vida.

La primera lectura, del libro del profeta Ezequiel, nos presenta la visión de los huesos secos. Es una imagen fuerte: un pueblo sin vida, sin esperanza, que se siente perdido. Sin embargo, Dios promete abrir los sepulcros y hacer que su pueblo vuelva a la vida. No se trata solo de una restauración material, sino de una renovación interior: “Infundiré mi espíritu en ustedes y vivirán.” Dios es capaz de

dar vida incluso donde parece que todo está perdido.

El salmo de hoy recoge este clamor desde lo profundo: “Del Señor viene la misericordia y la abundancia de la redención.” Es la oración de quien reconoce su fragilidad y espera confiadamente en el Señor. Es el grito de quien sabe que, aun en la oscuridad, Dios puede levantarlo.

La segunda lectura, de la carta de san Pablo a los Romanos, nos recuerda que el Espíritu de Dios habita en nosotros. No estamos destinados a la muerte, sino a la vida. El mismo Espíritu que resucitó a Cristo es el que actúa en nosotros y nos conduce a una vida nueva.

Pero es en el Evangelio de hoy, donde esta promesa alcanza su máxima expresión en el relato de la resurrección de Lázaro. Jesús llega a Betania cuando Lázaro ya lleva cuatro días en el sepulcro. Humanamente, todo está perdido. Marta le dice: “Señor, si hubieras estado aquí...” Es la expresión de nuestra propia experiencia cuando sentimos que Dios llega tarde.

Sin embargo, Jesús no llega tarde: llega en el momento preciso para revelar algo más

grande. No solo viene a curar una enfermedad, sino a mostrar que Él es la resurrección y la vida. Antes de obrar el milagro, Jesús pide fe: “Crees esto?” La fe es la llave que permite que la vida nueva se manifieste.

Cuando Jesús grita: “Lázaro, sal fuera!”, no solo llama a un muerto a la vida. Nos está llamando a cada uno de nosotros a salir de nuestros propios sepulcros: el pecado, el resentimiento, la tristeza, la falta de esperanza, la rutina espiritual. Muchas veces estamos vivos por fuera, pero muertos por dentro. Y Jesús, en esta Cuaresma, nos llama por nuestro nombre para devolvernos la vida.

Las lecturas de hoy nos muestran que Dios no se resigna a nuestra muerte espiritual. Él abre sepulcros, infunde su Espíritu y nos llama a salir a la vida nueva. La Cuaresma es precisamente ese tiempo en que el Señor quiere sacarnos de aquello que nos tiene atrapados.

- Cuáles son los “sepulcros” en los que hoy me encuentro encerrado?

see **SOLARZANO** p. 17

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Flourishing Sisterhood: My Sojourn in New Orleans



**Sister Cecilia
DIMAKU, SSH**

My Congregation, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is an indigenous institute founded in Nigeria in 1975. Founded at the wake of the Nigerian civil war, we are to be a sign of love, unity and forgiveness in a broken and divided world. We are to bring the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to wherever our Congregation sends us. So when in 2005 I was missioned to New Orleans, I said my FIAT, gathered my things and off I went.

As pilgrims we are always on the go. We begin a new journey each time we are called upon to get up and go. My assignment to the Sisters of the Holy Family in 2005 came after I had had 12 years of very challenging leadership service in my congregation. Challenging because we were the first indigenous team after Sister Sylvia departed. Everything we did was the first time.

I arrived at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans on Wednesday August 25, 2005 just two days before Hurricane Katrina. I tell people if that had been my first time in the United States I would probably have gone back to Nigeria. The Katrina experience was traumatic to me, as it was to the Sisters and all those who experienced it. It was a huge shock for me to see the poverty, sufferings, anguish and helplessness of many during that time.

The Sisters of the Holy Family of New Orleans played an important role in the coming into being of our Congregation. They have continued to support us, spiritually, financially, morally and otherwise. My congregation's "YES" to their request for one of us to come to help them is a way to say 'thank you' to the sisters for all they have done to help establish our

congregation. That was why I did not write home to my Superior General to say I was coming back to Nigeria after Katrina. I decided to stay and weather it out with the Sisters.

However, when a friend of mine in Ohio got me an admission at CTU in Chicago with everything paid for including room and board, I was tempted to accept the offer as an escape to what I was experiencing. But, as I wrestled with the idea and the fact it would mean 'abandoning' the Sisters I was sent to help, I was very distressed. I mentioned my struggles to Sister Doris, who gently and calmly said: It is now that we have lost everything that you want to leave us." That tore my heart, and that night I made up my mind to reject the offer from CTU. My friends were disappointed. However, they gathered all the money they had raised for my room and board and sent it to me.

As ugly as the hurricane experience was, the witness of the women religious in the United States was an experience that gave me joy and hope amidst the sufferings caused by the storm. As the saying goes, "from every evil, God brings out goodness." The love, unity and generosity I witnessed from the many consecrated religious women deepened my appreciation of my vocation and commitment to religious life. Religious women offered whatever knowledge and expertise they had toward the rebuilding of the many religious houses that were destroyed.

My sojourn in the U.S. and in New Orleans in particular is an experience that has given me a wider vision of life and a great appreciation of my vocation as a Catholic consecrated person. It took Hurricane Katrina to bring out the goodness and generosity of people. As much as I was pained by the sufferings of people during this time, I was so touched by the generosity I saw in people from all over the country.

My original assignment here in New Orleans was supposed to be for two years. I was looking forward to the end of those two years – but somehow, two turned into four, then another two... and now, it's been 20 years! Twenty

years later, I'm still saying FIAT, still finding that love multiplies, even in the aftermath of a storm.

To God be the glory.

Sister Cecilia Dimaku is a Sister of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 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.




SOLARZANO

- Creo verdaderamente que Jesús puede devolver vida a lo que parece perdido?
- Qué áreas de mi vida necesitan escuchar hoy la voz de Cristo?
- Estoy dejando que el Espíritu de Dios renueve mi corazón en esta Cuaresma?
-

Hermanos y hermanas, dejemos que Jesús se acerque a nuestro sepulcro y escuchemos su voz que nos llama a la vida. No tengamos miedo de salir. Que esta Cuaresma sea un verdadero paso de la muerte a la vida, confiando en que del Señor viene la misericordia y la redención copiosa. Amén.

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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**

Celebrating Our High School State Champions: LHSAA Soccer

LHSAA DIVISION I GIRLS'



STATE CHAMPIONS



DOMINICAN  1 - 1 
PENALTIES >

LHSAA DIVISION II GIRLS'



STATE CHAMPIONS



ST. SCHOLASTICA  2 - 0 

LHSAA DIVISION III GIRLS'



STATE CHAMPIONS



ARCHBISHOP HANNAN  2 - 1 

LHSAA DIVISION IV GIRLS'



STATE CHAMPIONS



POPE JOHN PAUL II  1 - 1 
< PENALTIES

LHSAA DIVISION I BOYS'



STATE CHAMPIONS



JESUIT  2 - 1 

The 2026 LHSAA Soccer State Championships were held from Feb. 25, through Feb. 28, 2026, at Strawberry Stadium on the campus of Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. The four-day event featured championship matches for both boys and girls across all four divisions. Congratulations to all area Catholic Schools who competed!

Did you know?

Saint Carlo Acutis was an avid soccer fan and loved to play the sport despite his not being very good at it? Saint Carlo Acutis, pray for us!

2026 LHSAA Wrestling

The 2026 LHSAA State Wrestling Championship was held Feb. 6–7, 2026, at the Brookshire Grocery Arena in Bossier City.

LHSAA Individual Wrestling State Champions

Division I

- 106 - William Fontenot, Brother Martin
- 113 - Connor Ayala, St. Paul's
- 120 - Michael Barnett, Jesuit
- 132 - Anthony Oubre, Holy Cross
- 144 - Matthew Krail, Holy Cross
- 150 - Robert Morse, Holy Cross
- 175 - Rylee Reeves, Holy Cross
- 190 - Caleb Shartle, St. Paul's
- 215 - John Martinez, St. Paul's
- 285 - Will Berry, Jesuit

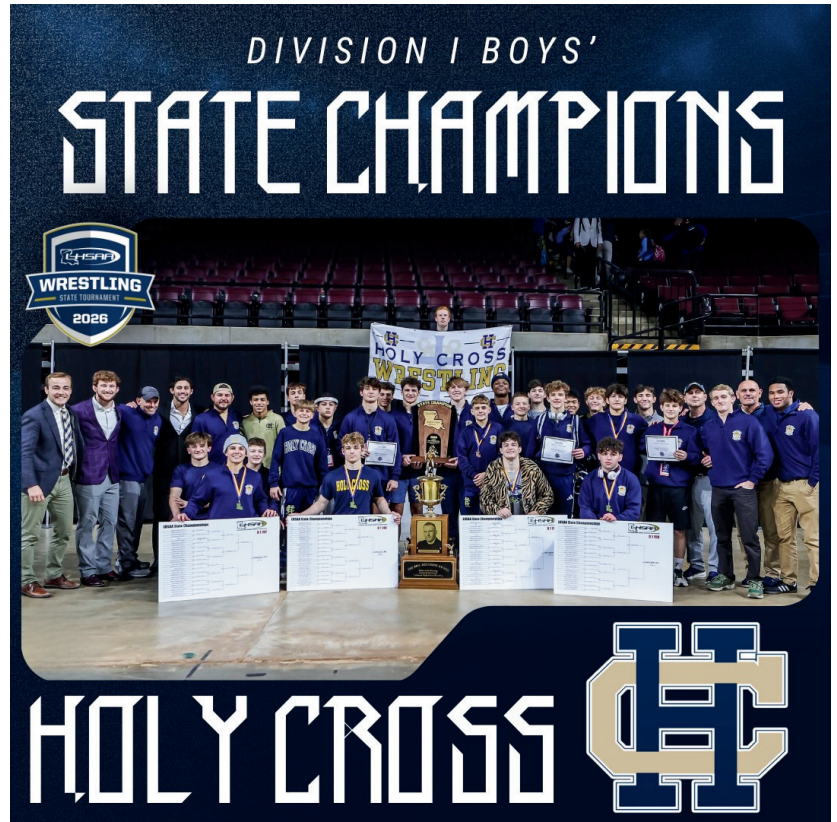
Division II

- 120 - Landen Modica, Archbishop Rummel
- 150 - Gage Ahysen, Archbishop Rummel
- 175 - Noah Yonker, Archbishop Hannan

Division III

- 113 - Ben Schmidt, De La Salle High School
- 175 - Robert Lewis, De La Salle High School

*"I would like for us to pledge to keep this holy;
because in this way, our efforts will be able to make
us win that victory for which we are all striving"*
-Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati



PRINCIPAL POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Louis, King of France Catholic School - Metairie, Louisiana

SCHOOL PROFILE:

St. Louis, King of France Catholic School was founded in 1953 and has a long-standing history of serving the academic and spiritual needs of children in the Bucktown area. With approximately 300 students currently from infants through 7th grade, St. Louis has one of the largest early childhood education centers within the Archdiocese of New Orleans. St. Louis, King of France Catholic 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 **April 10, 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:



CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND FAITH FORMATION

Mike Buras, Associate Superintendent

mburas@arch-no.org

7887 Walmsley Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70125-3496

The Road to Lent Can be A Long Journey



Greg ZAMBRANO
NOLACatholic Parenting

During Lent and life, most people do not mind sacrifice as long as they know it is the correct path. Knowing more about my relationship with God and getting closer to him is absolutely worth it.

Lent is an opportunity, through sacrifice, to see our direction and to make sure we are headed towards him. Sometimes small sacrifices like waiting can give us a moment to see that we are heading in the correct direction.

Have you ever stood in line for a very long time and after waiting for the line to move, you get to the front and find out you are in the wrong line? Or you did not have to be in line at all? There was no point of your having spent hours shuffling your feet towards the front of the line. All of that time in the line was wasted.

This reminds me of boarding a plane and before the plane would move at all the captain tells everyone that there is a mechanical failure and we have to get rebooked on a different flight. The whole plane load of people rushes to the airline counter to make the line with hope to be at their destination by the end of the day.

Whenever I take my kids to an amusement park and they choose the ride that they want to go to, we check that we are in the right place. The majority of us stand in line and one person out of the bunch goes to the front of the line to make sure that we are being led where we want to go. At the same time, we check for wait times to see if it is a good idea and worth standing in the hot sun. If it is two hours in line for a ride that you know later in the day you can get on in 20 minutes or less, then we would circle around, have lunch and come back. If not, my family won't mind waiting in line and enjoying conversation because we are where we want to be.



As a young child that always enjoyed riding my bike, climbing trees and visiting the park, standing in lines always seemed like a punishment because I had not yet learned the concept of sacrifice.

As an adult I became a man, giving up childish ways. I attempt in the name of truth and justice to pursue the journey towards God.

On Feb. 17, Shrove Tuesday I observed the Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus, a joyful and fulfilling way to start the long journey of Lent. Visiting Christ in the tabernacle, honoring his countenance through prayer, and preparing for Lent by going to confession.

If we start Lent with the source of all truth and grace, the journey is guaranteed to be a success. We always want to make sure we are in the right place leading us to where our hearts truly desire to be at the end, with God Lent done properly will bring us closer to God.

The reduction in the worldly noise around us that Lent brings gives us the true inspiration and direction to keep going. If Christ is your desire during this long Lenten journey, sacrifice is absolutely worth it. You are in the right place.

Greg Zambrano was born in Colombia and raised in Miami. After serving in both the Marine Corps and the Air Force for 10 years, he became a stay-at-home father. He and his wife have two daughters who are now home-schooled. They enjoy going to nearby parks and playgrounds, especially when the weather cools down. They attend Mass at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Shrine on State Street.

Around the Archdiocese

Woman's New Life Clinic 25th Anniversary Mass, March 25 at 11 a.m. at St. Rita Church New Orleans, 2729 Lowerline St.

Evening of Confession, March 25 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in all area Catholic Churches.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion - March 28

Chrism Mass, March 31 at 10 a.m. at St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans

Holy Thursday - April 2

Good Friday - April 3

Easter Sunday - April 5

Beginning Experience Weekend Retreat, April 10-12 at *The Cenacle on the Lake*, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie. Beginning Experience Weekend® Retreat program transforms lives for those experiencing divorce, separation or death of a spouse. For more information or to register contact Liz (504) 858-1813, lzbthreis@yahoo.com or Tiffany (504) 495-3553, tiffanycrowson@earthlink.net.

St. Elizabeth's Guild 54th Annual Volunteer Activists Awards Luncheon, April 10, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, 2 Poydras St., New Orleans. Doors open at 10:45 a.m. with the luncheon beginning promptly at 11:30 a.m. Patron Party from 10 a.m. -10:45 a.m. within the ballroom. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://onecau.se/stelizabethsguild> or by calling Volunteer Activist Luncheon Chairman Anita Hymel at (985)703-0831.

Enjoy Your Marriage Workshop with Greg and Julie Alexander, April 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at *Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church*, 1501 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville. To register, visit <https://www.maryqueenofpeace.org/marriage-enrichment>. For more information, contact Audrey Huck at ahuck@maryqueenofpeace.org.

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WILLWOODS COMMUNITY
ANNUAL GALA

SATURDAY, APRIL 25



Honoring:

**2026 Servus Fidelis honore
Pat Fenerty Andras**

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

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



Photo Credit: Nicole Jefferson

Dr. Mark Williams, Dr. RaeNell Houston, Archbishop James Checchio, Julie Talbot and Rep. Kirk Talbot at the Aspiring Scholars Donor Reception on Feb. 26, Archbishop Checchio hosted the reception to celebrate and give thanks for the success of Aspiring Scholars this year, to thank outgoing-leader Julie Talbot and to introduce Dr. Mark Williams as the new state director.



Photo Credit: Chris O'Neill

Archbishop Checchio and Archbishop-emeritus Alfred Hughes with representatives of the Hispanic Apostolate after the NOLACatholic Men's Conference at St. Dominic Church on Feb. 28. The Hispanic Apostolate offered simultaneous translation services to the Spanish speaking men who attended. 750 local Catholic men participated in 2026, the second largest turnout in conference history.




Photo Credit: Cedric Ellsworth

On March 7, the Office of Black Catholic Ministries hosted a Sankofa Lenten Morning of Reflection gathering over 100 people for the morning of prayer and reflection. As part of the day, those gathered offered a special prayer and blessing for Archbishop Checchio in his new role as archbishop.



Photo Credit: Sarah McDonald


Archbishop Checchio speaks with Jefferson Parish Constable Allen Leone and representatives of the Constable's Office at the Jefferson Parish Blue Mass coordinated by the Knights of Columbus and held on March 8 at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Metairie.



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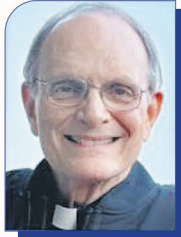
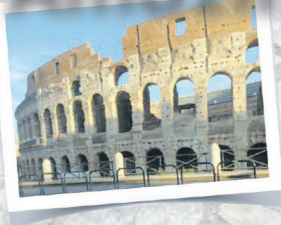
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Amazing Pilgrimages, 2026 Especially for You and Your Family...



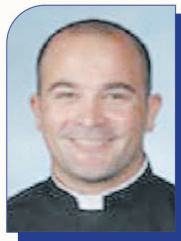
Father Joe Palermo of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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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