



Photo Credit: Frank J. Methe

# Alleluia!

## Christ is Risen!

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Blessed Easter to you all!

This is such a joyful time of year. Easter renews everything as Jesus Christ is truly risen. As we celebrate and give thanks for this great gift, we, like little children, ask for more from our loving God, we ask our Lord Jesus Christ to renew us and to renew our world!

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the beginning – all and end – all of the Christian faith. If Jesus was not raised from the dead, Christianity does not offer us ultimate Hope. If He did rise from the dead, then Christianity is the fullness of God's revelation, and Jesus Christ must be the center of our lives. Indeed, each one of us some day will die and be restored to eternal life. Our eternal life with Him is Jesus' greatest desire. He came to reconcile us to the Father, to bring all of us back home to the Father. Jesus' suffering and death were the necessary evil He faced, so that we might be free, now and for all eternity. It is Easter that explains our destiny and gives our lives purpose and meaning, even in the midst of the struggles we face.

So many in our world need to know the hope and peace of Easter. In this time when our brothers and sisters around the world face war, in our society that pushes faith and religion aside, and when we do not witness our faith or make our practice a priority, Easter gives us the opportunity to ask Jesus to help us make Him the center of our lives. It will change our lives and the lives of all of those around us too!

Our celebration of Easter this year once again affirms that Christ is indeed who He said He was: the Savior of the world. He is God made man who suffered, died, and rose for us. This is certainly something to celebrate as Easter comes anew to us this year!

I am grateful to be celebrating Easter with you this year here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. It has been a joy to begin to get to know you over these months. Please know of my love, prayers and gratitude for you, and please pray for me. Happy Easter!

*+ James F. Checchio*

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# Pope Leo Gifted with Prayers and a “Taste” of New Orleans



Photo Credit: © Vatican Media

## Staff Report

On March 23, Most Reverend James F. Checchio Archbishop of New Orleans along with Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond and Mrs. Gayle Benson met with Pope Leo XIV in his private library in the Apostolic Palace. The 35-minute meeting was marked by warm dialogue and meaningful exchanges. Joining the delegation meeting with Pope Leo was Saints and Pelicans Senior Vice President of Government Relations Greg Bensel and Mrs. Benson’s brother, Wayne LaJaunie.

During their conversation, the group discussed the unique family connections between Pope Leo XIV and the city of New Orleans, with particular emphasis on the historic St. Louis Cathedral. The discussion also touched upon the health and vitality of the Catholic community in New Orleans, the work being done to promote the causes of the Servant of God Henriette DeLille and Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, as well as other matters relevant to the archdiocese. The Holy Father was particularly interested in the area Catholic Schools and expressed gratitude for the cooperation offered by the State of Louisiana in assisting our children with the opportunity of choosing a Catholic education. Throughout the meeting, the Holy Father discussed his deep family roots in New Orleans and his appreciation for the strong culture of faith in Louisiana.

In a particularly inspiring point in the meeting Archbishop Checchio presented the Holy Father with a Spiritual Bouquet from the priests, deacons and Catholic school students of the Archdiocese of New Orleans that totaled tens of thousands of hours of prayer for Pope Leo and his

intentions over the upcoming year. Along with the Spiritual Bouquet, the Holy Father received a “taste of New Orleans” as a gift from the local church including a bag of local coffee, locally made pralines, a recipe for Shrimp Remoulade from Galatoire’s Restaurant, a Christmas ornament featuring St. Louis Cathedral, a commemorative medallion from Saint Pope John Paul II’s 1987 visit to New Orleans and several books about St. Louis Cathedral and the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Mrs. Benson included a personalized New Orleans Saints jersey featuring the #14. In turn, Pope Leo blessed the group and personally handed each attendee a blessed rosary.

A key point in the conversation was Mrs. Benson’s update on the current renovation and restoration of the St. Louis Cathedral. The Holy Father thanked her and all the benefactors of this worthy and important endeavor for the Archdiocese and the city of New Orleans.

Archbishop Checchio received the Holy Father’s permission to name the upcoming renovation of St. Louis Cathedral rectory into the Pope Leo XIV Center for Evangelization in honor of the Holy Father and his family who lived in New Orleans for 200 years and attended Mass at the Cathedral, a gesture that moved the Holy Father deeply.

Mrs. Benson expressed her hope that the Holy Father would visit New Orleans during a future United States visit, highlighting reasons why the city should be a priority for a U.S. papal journey.

Following the audience, the group proceeded to the U.S. Embassy of the Holy See to meet with Ambassador Brian Burch. They discussed potential programs between the Holy See and the city of New Orleans.



Photo Credit: © Vatican Media



Photo Credit: © Vatican Media

**Top: Archbishop James Checchio, Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond, Mrs. Benson and the New Orleans delegation meet with Pope Leo. Above, Archbishop Checchio presents the Spiritual Bouquet and gifts from the people of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.**

# The Archbishop's Schedule

**Thursday, April 9** - 8 a.m. Finance Council Meeting. Private event

**Friday, April 10** - 11:30 a.m. St. Elizabeth's Guild Volunteer Activists Luncheon, Hilton New Orleans Riverside

**Friday, April 10** - 5:30 p.m. St. Joseph Seminary College Alumni Day Mass and Celebration, St. Joseph Seminary College, St. Benedict

**Saturday, April 11** - 10:30 a.m. Archdiocesan Youth Leadership Awards Celebration, St. Dominic Church, New Orleans

**Saturday, April 11** - 4 p.m. Mass of Installation, Corpus Christi-Epiphany, New Orleans

**Sunday, April 12** - 10:30 a.m. Mass, Our Lady of the Lake Church, Mandeville

**Sunday, April 12** - 2 p.m. Jubilarian Mass and Celebration, St. Rita Church, New Orleans

**Wednesday, April 15** - Visit Archdiocesan Catholic Charities Sites

**Thursday, April 16** - Our City, Our Cathedral Campaign Gathering, Houma-Thibodaux

**Friday, April 17** - 11:30 a.m. Heads of School Event. Private event



Photo Credit: St. Agnes Le Ti Thanh Parish

On March 15, Archbishop Checchio joined with Vietnamese priests, religious and seminarians at the annual Tet celebration at St. Agnes Le Ti Thanh.

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# Divine Mercy Sunday a Special Place for Namesake Parish

by Kim Roberts

Celebrated the first Sunday after Easter, April 12 this year, the Feast of Divine Mercy is observed locally and around the world just as Jesus instructed in his messages to Sister Faustina in the 1930's.

A relatively new feast on the liturgical calendar, Saint Pope John Paul II established the Divine Mercy Sunday on April 30, 2000, during Saint Faustina's canonization Mass with the goal of enhancing the Easter season by focusing on Christ's mercy and the forgiveness. While most parishes in the archdiocese observe Divine Mercy Sunday in some way, for Divine Mercy Church in Kenner, the only church in the archdiocese named for Divine Mercy, this day is observed in a truly special way.

"Our parish, situated in the far reaches of Kenner is a unique bilingual parish that was named after Jesus (the Divine Mercy), thinks of Saint Faustina as our patron saint and Saint Pope John Paul II as our secondary patron," said Father Austin Barr, parochial vicar Divine Mercy Church. "Saint Faustina and Saint Pope John Paul II have so much to do with the universality of the Divine Mercy Sunday around the world. We try to do it up big on that day."

It was revealed in Saint Faustina Kowalska of Poland's diary that it was Jesus himself who asked for the feast to be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter.

"Saint Faustina's diaries teach us so much about the mercy of God celebrated throughout the year," he added. "Divine Mercy Sunday is a reminder about the connection with the pascal mystery of his life, death and resurrection and the fact we are all saved by God's mercy and grace. Hope comes from God's mercy."



Photo Credit: Becky Defatte

Divine Mercy Church has activities planned to help those of all ages participate in a special way on Divine Mercy Sunday. The day's observances will begin with 12:30 p.m. Mass followed immediately by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 2 p.m. the parish will host a children's craft in the church Narthex and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed in Spanish in the Church. At 3 p.m., the Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed in English followed by Benediction at 3:45. Confessions will also be available from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

"Saint Faustina, chosen by Christ, was the

first apostle of the Divine Mercy," Father Barr said. "She realized the true depths of the mercy of God united. It is important that we as Catholics follow the necessary steps during Divine Mercy Sunday, provided to us through her diaries, to choose forgiveness for ourselves and for those that have died. Divine Mercy gives us a way to be forgiven and give back to a God that has given us so much."

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), to observe Divine Mercy Sunday in a solemn way, one should:

see [MERCY](#) p. 8

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  - b. Submit three **current** letters of recommendation
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# From Fire to Glory: Notre-Dame's Restoration and the Promise of Easter

by Christian George  
Special to the Clarion Herald

On April 15, 2019, six days before Easter, Paris awoke to flames climbing the roof of Notre-Dame Cathedral. The world watched in horror as the spire burned like a torch above the Seine, painting the sky a deathly orange. Crowds gathered along the riverbanks to witness the iconic Gothic masterpiece yield to the inferno. Some wept. Others prayed. And as the roof collapsed, Notre-Dame seemed, for one terrible moment, like a skeleton: exposed and wounded, suspended between ruin and resurrection.

With Ezekiel, many wondered, "Can these bones live?"

## Paris Comes to New Orleans

Nearly seven years later, on March 14, 2026, I carried that question with me into St. Louis Cathedral to hear Philippe Villeneuve, chief architect of Notre-Dame's restoration, recount how the bones and stones of the great cathedral of Paris had been rebuilt.

Hosted by the Alliance Française of New Orleans and the Catholic Cultural Center of New Orleans during Francophonie Festival 2026, with support from the French General Consulate in Louisiana and Villa Albertine New Orleans, the lecture came at a providential moment, with New Orleans, too, preparing to restore its own cathedral. Villeneuve spoke like a man on fire, his broken English no match for the white-hot force of his message.

"I have loved this cathedral since I was five years old," he said. His grandfather first gave him books about Notre-Dame, and later, seeing the cathedral in person, he fell in love with its architecture. When he watched it burn in 2019, he knew almost at once that it must be rebuilt as it was. That conviction did not spare him the years that followed: toxic lead, immense scaffolding, an army of artisans, and the burden of resuscitating one of the world's most beloved cathedrals.

## A Faith Fueled by Fire

Christianity spread to Paris the hard way: through a faith set ablaze by tongues of fire (Acts 2:3). Tertullian wrote, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," and from that costly witness, the message of Jesus spread from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria and, in time, into Gaul (current day France). By the time the cornerstone of Notre-Dame was laid in 1163 under Bishop Maurice de Sully, the ground beneath it had already been prepared by earlier churches reaching back to the 4th century.

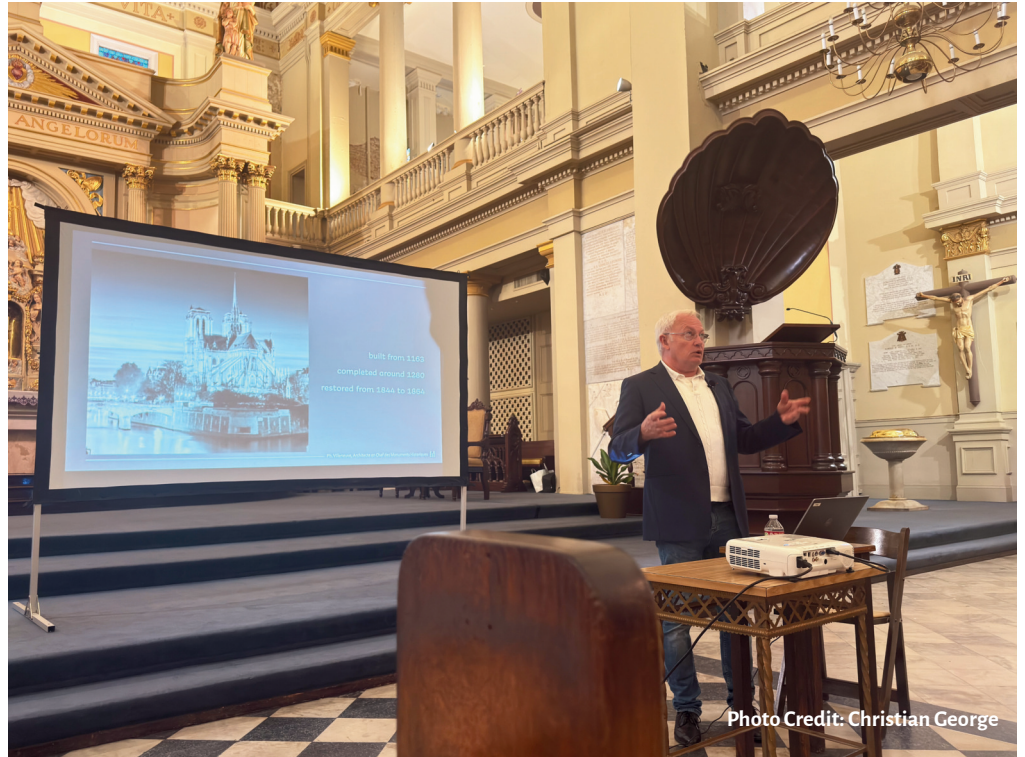


Photo Credit: Christian George

*Philippe Villeneuve, chief architect of Notre-Dame's restoration, delivers his lecture on the grand cathedral's restoration at St. Louis Cathedral on March 14.*

This was the age of the Gothic arch and the rib vault, and soon, the flying buttress. Crossing the cathedral's threshold, medieval pilgrims, many of them unable to read and scarcely having ventured beyond their own villages, were confronted with a premonition of Paradise: walls rising to impossible heights and windows casting biblical stories in vivid color.

## Doubting Thomas

Across the centuries, Notre-Dame endured desecration, neglect, and political fury, most dramatically during the French Revolution of 1789, when Christian symbols were defaced and sacred space repurposed to suit a new order. In 1831, author Victor Hugo immortalized the cathedral in *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, helping France see again what it was in danger of losing.

A few years later, Eugène Viollet-le-Duc took up the work of restoration, returning Notre-Dame to the national imagination. Among his most striking additions was the oak-framed, lead-covered spire, rising roughly 315 feet above Paris. At its base stood a copper statue of St. Thomas, gazing up at the spire. Viollet-le-Duc gave the apostle his own face, as if to place himself forever beneath the burden of what he had built.

It is difficult to imagine a more fitting patron for the restoration of Notre-Dame than

Doubting Thomas, the apostle who said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).

Just four days before the 2019 fire, Villeneuve noted, the copper statues at the base of the spire, including Thomas, had been removed for restoration.

"At some point in the future," he said, "I'm going to put Viollet-le-Duc back in front of the spire. He will see that it's a new spire."

## What Should Rise Again?

In the years that followed, Notre-Dame became the object of global grief, fascination and debate. Nearly \$1 billion in donations poured in from 150 countries, enough to make possible one of the most ambitious restoration efforts in modern history.

But what, exactly, should rise in its place? Some proposed a radically reimagined cathedral, with glass, gardens, crystal spires and even an open-air rooftop swimming pool. Villeneuve resisted that impulse. "We must avoid the competition," he said, warning against any plan that would "destroy the cathedral and all the character." Notre-Dame was not, in his mind, a blank slate for modern self-expression. It was an inheritance, one that (see [FIRE](#) p. 17)

## MERCY

- Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter;
- Sincerely repent of all our sins;
- Place our complete trust in Jesus;
- Go to Confession, preferably before that Sunday;
- Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast;
- Venerate the Image of The Divine Mercy – as drawn by Sister Faustina (To venerate a sacred image or statue simply means to perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents, in this case, our Most Merciful Savior.); and
- Be merciful to others, through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf.

Additionally, to obtain the special graces (plenary indulgence) associated with Divine Mercy Sunday, the Church requires:

- Sacramental Confession (on or near the day).
- Eucharistic Communion.
- Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

- Participation in devotions to Divine Mercy (or, if unable, reciting the Chaplet and other prayers before an image of Jesus).

“Parishioners just spent a lot of time looking at their own sins during lent, Divine Mercy Sunday is the perfect way to gain God’s mercy,” said Father Barr. “We brought our failures to God, and now we celebrate his mercy. In addition to Mass, maybe consider doing the novena and entering more deeply through the plenary indulgence and take time to turn to confession.”

In his book, *Memory and Identity* (2005), Pope John Paul II, also from Poland, referenced Divine Mercy Sunday and Saint Faustina’s Diary by mentioning records of 14 occasions when Jesus requested a Feast of Mercy.

In addition to the parish’s activities, Father Barr added that all Catholic should remember not to take God’s mercy for granted and suggested that everyone pray the Divine Mercy Novena, which officially begins on Good Friday.

“If our ultimate goal is getting to heaven, we are banking on God’s mercy, so we should not take it for granted,” Father Barr said. “We really celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy in this parish and seek God’s mercy. His mercy is

endless and inexhaustible. We know all those multitude of sins will be forgiven and cast into a burning furnace.”

To learn more about devotion to the Divine Mercy, visit <http://www.thedivinemercy.org>.

*“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. ... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.”*

*The Words of Jesus Christ to Saint Faustina*

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# Around the Archdiocese with Archbishop Checchio



Photo Credit: Archdiocese of New Orleans

Archbishop James Checchio and Father Andrew Gutierrez recently met with staff and missionaries from Christ in the City, a Denver-based apostolate, as they prepare for a three-week summer mission in New Orleans. Through this initiative, college students and young adults will have the opportunity to build relationships with the poor, grow in the Christian life living in the community and engage with the local Church in formation and evangelization.

Visit <https://christinthecity.org/> to learn more about their program dedicated to forming young Catholics who, with God's grace, are the future of the Church through lived experiences.



Photo Credit: Archbishop Rummel High School

On March 18, Archbishop Checchio attended the annual Beast Feast at Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie where he met students and alumni who came together for an evening of fellowship and unique menu items. He is pictured here with school chaplain Father Kurt Young and Rummel students.



Photo Credit: Tyler Neil

On March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Archbishop Checchio visited several St. Joseph Altars to bless them and to pray with those who gathered to celebrate the feast day. Above he is pictured with the parish children from St. Joseph Gretna, who participated in the traditional Tupa Tupa. Find more photos from St. Joseph Day in a digital photo album at [clarionherald.org](http://clarionherald.org).



Photo Credit: St. Stephen School

Archbishop Checchio visited St. Stephen School in New Orleans on March 20 to celebrate school Mass and visit with the students who were very impressed by his pectoral cross. He is pictured here with a student and pastor of Good Shepherd Parish Msgr. Christopher Nalty.

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# Interfaith Prayer Service

## *April is Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month*

The Archdiocese of New Orleans will co-host an Interfaith Prayer Service for Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month on April 13 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Dominic Church, 775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans.

The New Orleans Region is dedicated to ensuring that all children can be safe. The service is being held to show shared support and collaboration amongst adults to create secure environments where children can pray, learn and play.

To learn more about the Child and Youth Protection Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans visit, <https://nolacatholic.org/ocyp>.

## God Chose YOU to Protect His Children

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has zero tolerance for abuse. God has chosen you to protect His children. If you have cause to believe a minor has been abused, contact the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (1-855452-5437) or local law enforcement.



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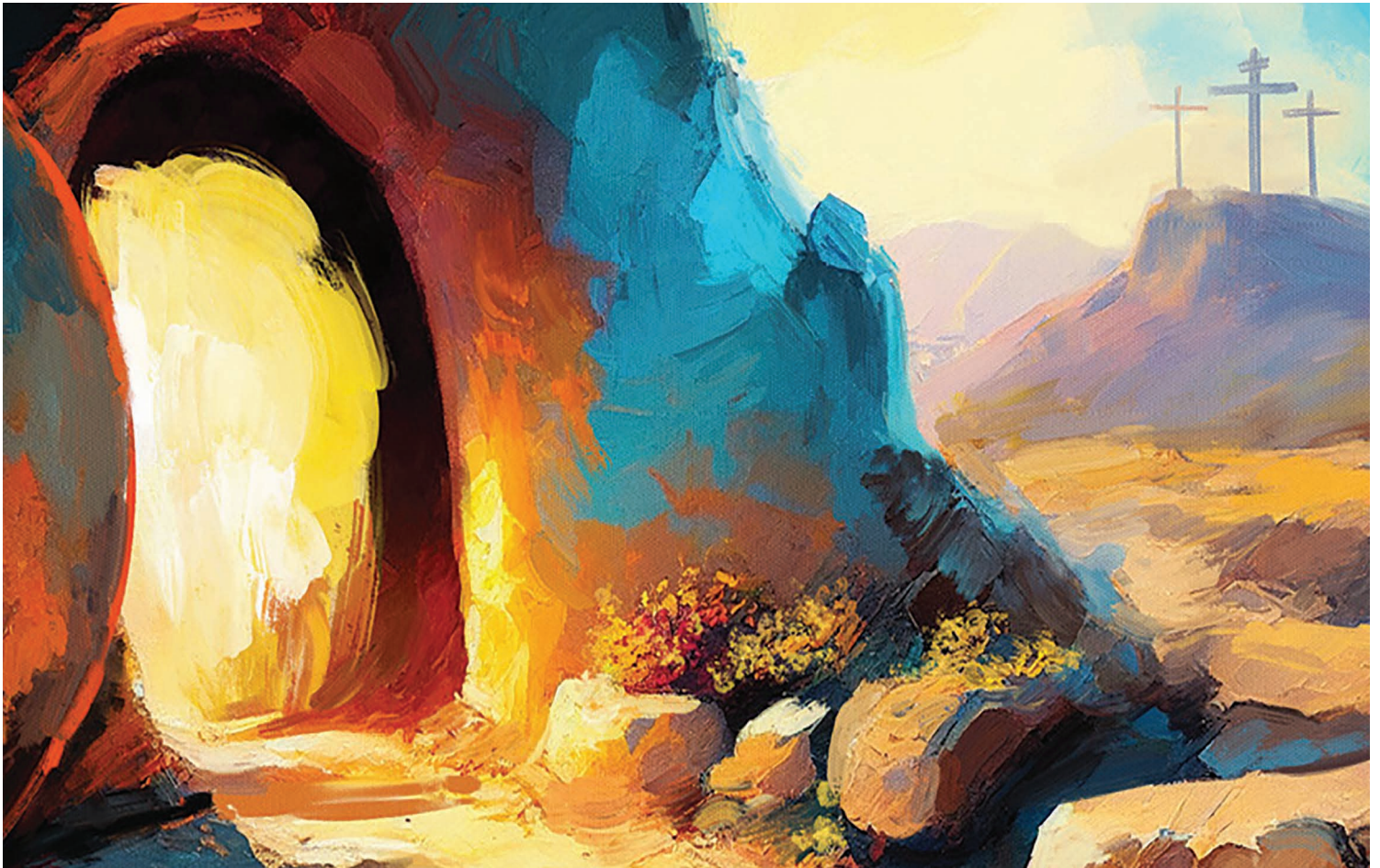
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# Lent

## 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

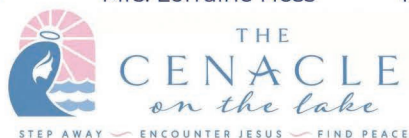
**March 17, 2026 10:00 am Reconciliation Service and Individual Confessions**

### Days of Prayer and Reflection

March 4, 2026	Sr. Judy Gomila, MSC	"All the World's a Stage"
March 10, 2026	Mr. Matt Rousso	"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 Rousso	"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'



For more information, visit [neworleansretreats.com](http://neworleansretreats.com) or call (504) 267-9604.



# An Invitation to Renewal Through the Sacred Heart of Jesus



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

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

It has been a great joy for me to begin my ministry among you here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. In these months, I have been deeply encouraged by your love for Jesus Christ, your devotion to your families and your fidelity to our Catholic faith. You are truly a blessing to our local Church, and I thank God for each of you.

In this spirit of gratitude and hope, I would like to invite you to take part in a very special moment in the life of our Archdiocese. This June, I will consecrate the Archdiocese of New Orleans to the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Louis Cathedral on Sunday, June 14. This act of consecration continues a long and beautiful tradition in our local Church. In 1874, Archbishop Napoleon Perché entrusted our Archdiocese to the Sacred Heart, placing our people under the loving care of Christ. Now, in our own time, we renew that same act of trust, asking the Lord to guide and strengthen us today. It is an opportune time for us to turn anew to our Lord for His protection and love.

This year carries a special significance, as the bishops of the United States will consecrate our nation to the Sacred Heart at our meeting in June, marking the 250th anniversary of our country. Together, these moments again invite us to turn anew to the Heart of Jesus and to entrust ourselves – our parishes, our families and our hearts – to His merciful love.

In the nine weeks leading up to the consecration, beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12, all of our parishes have been asked to pray in preparation for this important moment of grace. I encourage each of you to take part as fully as you are able – especially through prayer at Mass, and in your homes for those who are unable to attend. A special

## A Brief History of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Every year, 19 days after Pentecost, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. But where did that tradition originate?*

*Devotion to the wounded heart of Jesus has its origins in the 11th century, when pious Christians meditated on the Five Wounds of Christ. It was not until the 1670s that a pious sister by the name of Margaret Mary Alacoque began to report visions of Jesus. He appeared to her frequently and in 1674, Margaret Mary reported that Jesus wanted to be honored under the figure of His Heart of flesh. In 1675, during the octave of Corpus Christi, Margaret Mary received the vision which came to be known as the “great apparition.” Jesus asked that the modern Feast of the Sacred Heart be celebrated each year on the Friday following Corpus Christi, in reparation for the ingratitude of men for the sacrifice which Christ had made for them.*

*The devotion became popular after St. Margaret Mary's death in 1690, but the feast was not established as an official feast for all of France until 1765. On May 8, 1873, the devotion to the Sacred Heart was formally approved by Pope Pius IX; and 26 years later – on July 21, 1899 – Pope Leo XIII urgently recommended that all bishops throughout the world observe the feast in their dioceses and so it continues today.*

moment of unity in prayer across the Archdiocese will take place on June 4, from 6-7 p.m. A Holy Hour, held in every parish before the Blessed Sacrament, will mark the beginning of the novena leading to the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and will be offered for renewal and hope.

A central part of this initiative will be the invitation for every household to enthrone in their home the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the same day as the Archdiocesan consecration. I strongly encourage you to prepare for this by obtaining a simple 8x10” frame for the image and designating a place of honor for it in your home. These images of the Sacred Heart will be blessed and distributed in every parish of the Archdiocese during Masses on June 13-14. I also encourage each household to prepare spiritually for the enthronement by praying a novena – either on the Sundays leading up to the consecration or during the nine days immediately beforehand. This simple but meaningful act can become a powerful source of grace, reminding us daily of the Lord's presence and His love for us. Additional materials, prayers and resources for this time of preparation can be found at [nolacatholic.org/sacredheart](http://nolacatholic.org/sacredheart).

My hope is that this consecration will mark the beginning of a deeper renewal in our Archdiocese – a renewal of faith, of family life and of our mission to share the love of Christ with others. The Heart of Jesus burns with love for each of us, and He desires to draw us closer to Himself.

I ask you, therefore, to enter into this time with open hearts, with trust and with hope. Let us place ourselves confidently under the care of the Sacred Heart, knowing that He will guide us and strengthen us for whatever lies ahead.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your families. Please also remember to pray for me.

With gratitude and every good wish, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

*+ James F. Checchio*

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



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# Prayer in Preparation for the Consecration of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to the **SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
fountain of eternal life,  
Your Heart is a glowing furnace of Love.  
You are my refuge and my sanctuary.

O my adorable and loving Savior,  
consume my heart with the burning fire  
with which Yours is inflamed.

Pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Your love.

Let my heart never rest until it finds You,  
who are its center, its love, and its happiness.

Let my heart be united with Yours.  
Let my will be conformed to Yours in all things.

May Your Will be the rule of all my desires and actions. Amen.



## Sunday Intentions

April 12 - Christ's Protection over our  
Archdiocese and City

April 19 - Peace among Nations & for  
Immigrants and Refugees

April 26 - An End to Racism

May 3 - The Defense of All Human Life

May 10 - Addictions and Mental Health

May 17 - Vocations to Priesthood and  
Consecrated Life

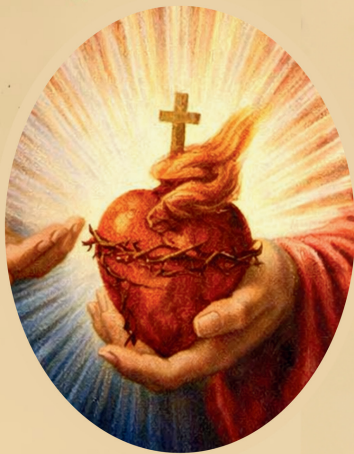
May 24 - Marriages and Families

May 31 - Those Distant from the Church

June 7 - The Faithful Departed



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
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## Novena in Preparation for Enthronement of the Home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

To be prayed by households on Sundays beginning Divine Mercy or for the nine days prior to Enthronement

### **O my Jesus, You have said:**

“Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you.”

Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of...

*(state your personal intention)*

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

### **O my Jesus, You have said:**

“Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in My name, He will give it to you.”

Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of...

*(state your personal intention)*

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

### **O my Jesus, You have said:**

“Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

Encouraged by Your infallible words I now ask for the grace of...

*(state your personal intention)*

Our Father... Hail Mary... Glory Be...

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You.

### **O Sacred Heart of Jesus,**

for Whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted,

have pity on us miserable sinners

and grant us the grace which we ask of You,

through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Your tender Mother and ours.

Amen.



THIS IS  
THE DAY  
THE LORD  
HAS MADE;  
WE WILL  
*rejoice* AND  
*be glad.*

PSALM 118

## Se han llevado del sepulcro al Señor y no sabemos dónde lo han puesto



Fr. Manuel  
SOLARZANO, O.P.

### *Domingo de Resurrección*

*Juan: 20: 1-9*

*Abril 5, 2026*

Queridos hermanos: Hoy celebramos el misterio central de nuestra fe: la Resurrección de Jesús. La tumba vacía nos habla de la victoria de la vida sobre la muerte, de la luz sobre la oscuridad y de la esperanza que nunca se apaga. La liturgia de este día nos invita a reconocer que Cristo resucitado nos encuentra en nuestra vida cotidiana y nos llama a vivir como personas nuevas, llenas de fe, esperanza y amor.

La primera lectura, tomada del libro de los Hechos de los Apóstoles, nos recuerda que Pedro, lleno del Espíritu, proclama que Jesús fue enviado por Dios, murió y resucitó, y ahora está vivo para siempre. La fuerza de este testimonio radica en que Pedro y los apóstoles no hablan de teorías, sino de un encuentro real con Cristo, que transforma su vida y la de quienes escuchan su mensaje. La resurrección

no es solo un hecho histórico, sino una realidad que nos invita a vivir con valentía y alegría.

El salmista proclama hoy con júbilo: “Este es el día del triunfo del Señor. Aleluya”. Es un canto de victoria y agradecimiento. Nos recuerda que Dios ha vencido a la muerte y que su misericordia nos acompaña siempre. La alegría del salmo nos invita a celebrar y a dejar que la luz de Cristo ilumine nuestra vida y nuestras decisiones.

La segunda lectura, de la carta a los Colosenses, nos asegura que en Cristo resucitado ya hemos comenzado a vivir una vida nueva. Si hemos resucitado con Él, nuestras preocupaciones terrenales deben quedar atrás y nuestro corazón debe estar puesto en las cosas de arriba. La resurrección nos transforma desde dentro: nos llama a vivir en comunión con Dios, con esperanza y amor renovados.

Por su parte el Evangelio, según san Juan, nos presenta a María Magdalena y a los discípulos frente al sepulcro vacío. La sorpresa y el asombro de los primeros testigos reflejan la realidad de nuestra propia experiencia de fe: a veces necesitamos abrir los ojos del corazón para reconocer a Jesús presente entre

nosotros. La tumba vacía nos muestra que Cristo ha vencido la muerte; su resurrección es el fundamento de nuestra fe y la luz que nos guía en la vida diaria. Jesús nos invita a seguirlo, a vivir con esperanza y a ser testigos de su amor en el mundo.

La Resurrección de Cristo nos recuerda que la vida siempre vence y que la esperanza nunca se pierde. Este Domingo de Pascua nos llama a abrirnos al encuentro con Jesús resucitado, a dejar que transforme nuestra vida y a vivir con alegría, fe y amor generoso.

- Reconozco a Jesús resucitado en mi vida cotidiana?
  - Qué actitudes o preocupaciones debo “dejar atrás” para vivir como una persona nueva en Cristo?
  - Cómo puedo compartir la alegría de la Pascua con mi familia y comunidad?
  - Mi vida refleja la esperanza y la luz que Cristo nos ofrece?
- Hermanos y hermanas, celebremos con gozo la victoria de Jesús sobre la muerte. Que esta Pascua nos inspire a vivir con fe, esperanza y amor renovados, siendo testigos de la resurrección en cada gesto y palabra. Dejemos que Cristo resucitado sea nuestra luz y fuerza diaria, y proclamemos con alegría: Cristo ha resucitado! Aleluya! Amén.

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# FIRE

should be restored as faithfully as possible to its last known 19th-century form.

## A Measured Mercy

As Villeneuve began preparing for the restoration, one problem quickly became clear: there was no complete modern blueprint of Notre-Dame's interior.

Yet nearly a decade before the fire, in 2010, Andrew Tallon, a professor at Vassar College in New York, had created an extraordinarily detailed laser scan of the cathedral, preserving its dimensions with astonishing precision. Neither Tallon nor anyone else could have known how indispensable that record would become.

Villeneuve pointed to that unlikely miracle in his lecture. "We have exactly the dimensions of the original ones," he said, "because we used the 3D LiDAR renderings." Providentially, Notre-Dame's bones had been measured before they were broken, and Tallon's scans became an indispensable guide to the restoration.

But precision alone would not be enough. To finish the project in five years would require a different kind of rigor.

In the aftermath of the fire, the collapsed roof's lead became a grave danger to workers. Robots were sent in to clear debris. Workers wore protective gear and followed strict decontamination protocols, showering even before lunch breaks, a precaution observed even by French President Emmanuel Macron during his visit to the site.

## Keeping the Scar

The fire did more than char Notre-Dame. It pierced it.

"The hole was already there," Villeneuve said of the breach left by the fallen spire. What followed was not only reconstruction, but discernment. Vaults had to be stabilized. Walls blackened by water, dust, and pollution had to be painstakingly cleaned. Even the Grand Organ, with its

8,000 pipes, had to be dismantled and restored after lead dust settled into its lungs.

The timber framework alone covered an area roughly equal to three Superdome floors. To recreate the dense roof known as "the forest," France turned again to oak, felling about 1,000 trees from 200 forests, many 150 to 200 years old.

"We used the same tools, the same materials, the same wood, exactly the same method of construction," Villeneuve said.

And yet, for all his devotion to fidelity, Villeneuve did not want every trace of the fire to disappear.

Inside Notre-Dame's Pietà, drops of molten lead had fallen from the ceiling onto the pierced hand of Christ. But rather than erase the wound, he chose to leave it there, allowing Christ to keep His scar.

"I imagined the symbol of Mary's cathedral crying tears of lead onto the hand of her son. To me, it was evidence that we have to keep these traces in his hand."

## Risen, Indeed

At the reopening ceremonies on December 7 and 8, 2024, Notre-Dame welcomed roughly 1,500 dignitaries, among them U.S. First Lady Jill Biden, President-elect Donald Trump, Britain's Prince William, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, along with bishops, clergy, donors, firefighters and craftsmen.

The blond limestone, once dimmed by soot, shone again with what reporters called a "celestial brilliance." Restored stained-glass windows poured light across the ribbed vaults, while the new oak-and-lead spire rose once more above Paris.

During the liturgy, the Archbishop of Paris blessed the Grand Organ in the ancient rite of its "awakening," addressing it eight times before it answered back with 8,000 cleaned pipes. The cathedral that had once seemed mortally wounded stood radiant again.

Thomas, too, found his way back. Villeneuve had promised that Viollet-le-Duc would stand

again to gaze upward at the new spire. And at the summit, cresting the cross, stood the rooster, which Villeneuve coined his "phoenix." Long a Christian sign of resurrection, it recalls the Apostle Peter, whose own doubt and denial were restored by Christ after the resurrection.

## Making All Things New

Sitting in St. Louis Cathedral, only weeks from Easter, I found myself looking up at the ceiling, at sagging plaster and peeling paint, feeling old questions rise within me. Why do we need cathedrals in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Why pour so much blood and treasure in sacred architecture? What's the return on investment? And beneath them all was the oldest question of all: Can these bones live?

After the lecture, I carried some of those questions to Villeneuve, whose name, fittingly enough, means "new city." "When I arrived in Paris just after the fire," he recalls, "I felt that the young man I had been before was dead. A new man stands before you because deep in my heart, I wanted to see my cathedral again."

Before leaving the cathedral, I also spoke with architect Kevin Morris of Holly & Smith and archaeologist Dr. Ryan Gray of the University of New Orleans. Together, they stand at the threshold of restoring New Orleans' own cathedral, a project expected to cost tens of millions of dollars and one that carries the hope of making St. Louis Cathedral the first fully endowed cathedral in the United States.

## From Fire to Glory


For a cathedral, the return on investment is generational, spiritual and eternal. More than stone, it's a symbol that lifts our eyes and hearts from our phones, raising our gaze to something higher and holier, to the Christ who makes all things new.

As Father Doug Busch, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Church in Mandeville, said, cathedrals remain "vital symbols of faith, beauty, communal identity and refuge." They call us to look upward, outward and inward, and to ask of ourselves the question: Can these bones live? Easter answers with a loud and victorious yes.

It reminds us that fire does not get the last (see [GLORY](#) p. 21)

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# Transformative Gift Focuses on Faith Formation at Chapelle



Photo Credit: Archbishop Chapelle High School

Mrs. Gayle Benson presented a ceremonial check for \$3.5 million to Archbishop Chapelle High School during a special Mass held on March 16. Mrs. Benson is pictured center with representatives of the Chapelle community. Pictured left to right: Audrey Dubuc, Maria Eaton, Connie Dantagnan, Mrs. Benson, Susan Panzavecchia, Dr. RaeNell Houston and Chloe Tujague.

by Kim Roberts

In 1962, on a plot of land adjacent to the water tower on the newly created Veterans Memorial Boulevard, five sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and four lay teachers welcomed 236 freshman students to Archbishop Chapelle High School.

Today, nearly 65 years later, the school is honoring the legacy of the founding sisters as they plan construction of Incarnate Word Hall which will transform the school campus with a new chapel, Theology classrooms, day care and parking lot setting the foundation for the next 60 years of spiritual, academic and social excellence at the school.

On March 16, Archbishop Chapelle High School received a transformational \$3.5 million gift from Mrs. Gayle Benson to support the construction of their new Incarnate Word Hall. This gift is the largest single gift in the school's history and will help bring to life a new center for faith formation on campus.

"Mrs. Benson's gift is not only remarkable in its generosity, but also is a profound statement of faith in our students, our faculty and the future of this school," said Head of School Connie Dantagnan. "Her commitment will help ensure that generations of young women will continue to grow in knowledge, faith and leadership within these walls."

Incarnate Word Hall will include a new chapel large enough for grade level liturgies, along with six theology classrooms designed to deepen students' understanding of their faith. The building will also serve as a gathering place for the Chapelle community and will

invite alumnae to return to campus to celebrate weddings and baptisms.

"We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Benson for her extraordinary generosity and visionary support," said Dr. RaeNell Houston, Superintendent and Executive Director of the Department of Catholic Education and Faith Formation Archdiocese of New Orleans. "Her remarkable gift makes Incarnate Word Hall possible and will have a lasting impact on our students, strengthening both faith formation and academic excellence for generations to come."

Benson's generosity reflects her longstanding commitment to Catholic education and her belief in the importance of forming future generations of women leaders. Through this gift, she joins the many supporters helping Archbishop Chapelle High School continue its legacy of educating young women rooted in faith.

"The donation from the Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation will allow us to advance in reaching our goal to start construction of Incarnate Word Hall in 2027," said Dantagnan. "It exemplifies to the Chapelle community and beyond the importance of supporting Catholic education. Mrs. Benson has embraced the Chapelle community and knowing that she has invested in Archbishop Chapelle High School solidifies the future of our school as we live out our mission to develop our students spiritually, academically and socially. With this beautiful gift, we are about \$3 million short of our goal of \$10 million to complete the project."

The project will be completed in phases with

the first phase set to begin in July. A two-story shed/storage facility will be completed soon, and shortly thereafter, the building which currently stands on the site of Incarnate Word Hall will be removed. Construction of Incarnate Word Hall is slated to begin in 2027.

"The students are overjoyed about this project. Incarnate Word Hall will be the home of a beautifully designed chapel to hold 275 people, which will allow grade levels to celebrate Mass as a class," said Dantagnan. "They are also looking forward to six new state-of-the-art classrooms, a necessity due to our increasing student enrollment. The faculty and staff are embracing this project because they will directly benefit from the addition of a new faculty and staff childcare center. Faculty and staff will gain immediate access to childcare, making the balance between work and home life easier to navigate."

"Incarnate Word Hall represents an exciting investment in the future of Archbishop Chapelle High School. With a new chapel at its heart and 10 additional classrooms, this building will strengthen both the spiritual and academic life of our school community for generations to come," said Dr. Houston.

To learn more about Archbishop Chapelle High School's plans for Incarnate Word Hall, visit <https://www.archbishopchappelle.org/incarnate-word-hall>.



## Around the Archdiocese

### 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](mailto:lzbthreis@yahoo.com) or Tiffany (504) 495-3553, [tiffanycrowson@earthlink.net](mailto: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.–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](mailto:ahuck@maryqueenofpeace.org).

### Archdiocesan Youth Leadership Awards

**Celebration**, April 11 at *St. Dominic Catholic Church*, 775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans. Archbishop Checchio will preside over the Mass honoring youth leaders from around the Archdiocese of New Orleans and present the 2026 St. Timothy Award Winners.

### Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12

**2026 Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving**, April 12 at 2 p.m. at *St. Rita Church*, 2729 Lowerline St., New Orleans. Archbishop Checchio will celebrate Mass honoring all religious, priest and deacon jubilarians in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. A reception will follow at St. Mary's Dominican High School.

### Monthly Eucharistic Hour To Pray For

**Vocations**, April 13 from 6 p.m.–7 p.m. at *Mary, Queen of Peace Catholic Church*, 1501 W. Causeway Approach, Mandeville.

**Interfaith Prayer Service for the Prevention of Child Abuse**, April 13, 6:30 p.m., *St. Dominic Church*, 775 Harrison Ave., New Orleans. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the Department of Children and Family Services.

### The Hope & Purpose Ministries Annual Charismatic Eucharistic Revival Conference,

April 18, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at *Divine Mercy Parish*, 4337 Sal Lentini Parkway, Kenner. This year's theme, "Eucharistic Revival Fire!", is inspired by the words of Jesus: "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing!" To register and learn more, visit: [www.HopeandPurpose.org](http://www.HopeandPurpose.org)

**Christ in the City**, the monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults in their late teens, 20s, and 30s, sponsored by the CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, will be on April 21 at 7 p.m. at *St. Francis Assisi*, 631 State St., New Orleans.

**Mass for Vocations**, The Archdiocese of New Orleans will celebrate the annual Mass for Vocations on April 26 at 11 a.m. at *St. Louis Cathedral*, New Orleans. Archbishop Aymond will preside. All priests, sisters, brothers, deacons and people of the archdiocese are cordially invited to attend. Seminarians, women and men in formation for consecrated life and diaconate candidates will join together in thanking God for their vocation. Everyone present will be invited to pray for those who serve the Archdiocese of New Orleans as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons.

## 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](http://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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# Abuelo and Our Lady



**Vivian MARINO**  
NOLACatholic Parenting

My grandfather, whom I lovingly called Abuelo, had a quiet devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Few in our family knew of this. As the story goes, one day when I was visiting my grandparents, probably around the year 2001, my grandmother mentioned that my grandfather had planned to donate a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe to their church parish, St. Pius X in New Orleans. Curious, I asked her why because this was something out of the ordinary for him. She told me he had not explained his reasoning but only said that it was something that he himself needed to know. In fact, that afternoon, they had planned to go together to choose the statue he would donate to the church.

Because it was unlike him to keep anything from others, especially his wife, I decided to ask him myself. I approached him and said, "Abuelo, I heard you are buying a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe today and donating it to the church. May I ask why?" I asked gently, out of love and curiosity. He simply smiled and replied, "It is something only I will know."

After that, I did not press the matter. I sensed it was something he wished to keep private and hold quietly in the stillness of his heart. Years later, shortly before he died in Oct. 2021, I casually shared the story with his son, my father and his daughter, my aunt. Neither had heard the story, and until that moment, I had never spoken of it myself. I even mentioned it to my grandfather near the end of his life, but by then he was far gone, and I knew it was not the time to ask. This was something he intended to carry with him to the grave and he did.

Each year, when the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe arrives, Dec. 12, I think of him. In fact, I wear a medal of Our Lady around my neck every day, and it reminds me of him and his devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Recently, on her Feast Day, while praying the rosary in the morning, my Abuelo came strongly to mind. I was walking on the treadmill, praying and reflecting, and I found myself wondering why he had entrusted Our Lady of Guadalupe with a prayer so urgent and deeply personal. Why did he go to her? And more importantly, what prayer did she answer?

In that quiet moment, something came straight to my heart; it was as if an understanding washed over me. You see, my grandfather was an only child, and he was deeply loved by his mother, whom he cherished in return. What came to me was this: at the point in time he made this petition, his mother had passed years prior. When he needed prayers, when he was so desperate for an answer, he no longer had his earthly mother to turn to. So he went instead to his heavenly Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, entrusting her with his prayer, confident that she would hear him and answer it.

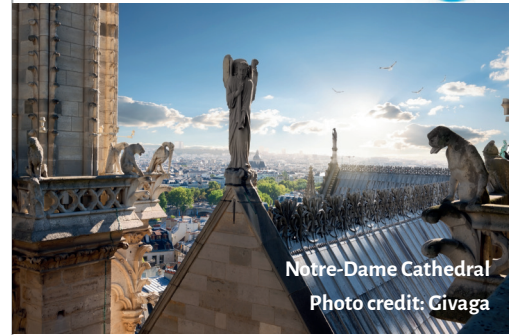
In that moment, it became clear to me that what he prayed for no longer mattered. What mattered was that he went to the ultimate Mother, to Mary, who is more Mother than Queen, and the request was heard, answered and the impossible became possible. The encounter left such a lasting impression on him that it immediately ignited a lifelong devotion to her.

I am reminded by what our Lady of Guadalupe said to Juan Diego. Our Lady said to him, "Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

I truly believe that at the instant my Abuelo turned to Our Lady of Guadalupe, these words were imprinted on his heart specifically, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" And at that moment, the truth

came to light: the love of a mother is never taken away, only transformed.

*Vivian Gonzalez Marino is a wife and mother of four living in the New Orleans Lakefront area. She graduated from St. Mary's Dominican High School, LSU with a bachelor's degree in science, and then earned her master's in exercise physiology at the University of New Orleans. Her favorite online community is "Many Hail Mary's at a Time."*



Notre-Dame Cathedral  
Photo credit: Civaga

## GLORY

word. That the Christ who raised Lazarus from the dead and declared, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25), will also "give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you" (Romans 8:11).

Christians are right to place all our eggs in the Easter basket. And that is the kind of hope worth preserving – a hope that gives the Crescent City something to smile about.

*Christian George received his PhD in Historical Theology from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. He and his wife, Rebecca, publish Mandeville City Lifestyle.*

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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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**CUORESENDO  
2026**



Photo Credit: Cheryl Dejoie Methe

On March 5 ACCESS Pregnancy and Maternity Services of Catholic Charities hosted the annual Joie de Vive (Joy of Life) fundraiser. Photographed here are Archbishop James Checchio with Catholic Charities President & CEO Cynthia Hayes and ACCESS supporters.



Photo Credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

On March 15, Archbishop Checchio presided over the Silver Anniversary Prayer Service at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in New Orleans. Twenty-six local Catholic couples, each celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, came together for the prayer service.




Photo Credit: Nicole Jefferson

From March 20 - 22, Teen CROSS hosted the Junior High Retreat at Camp Abbey. The weekend retreat consisted of opportunities for the young people to grow in faith and fellowship as they met other young Catholics from around the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Teen CROSS is sponsored by the Archdiocesan CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office.



Photo Credit: St. Mary's Dominican High School


St. Mary's Dominican High School's annual Easter Egg Roll on March 14 featured an abundance of Easter eggs on the lawn. In addition to the egg "hunt" sponsored by the Dominican Alumnae Association, the day featured a variety of craft stations, more than 4,000 colorful Easter eggs, photos with the Easter Bunny and a butterfly release.



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