



Back to School 2026-27



Photo courtesy of Holy Cross School/Andrew Moncada

To welcome students back for the 2026-27 school year, Holy Cross School celebrated a Votive Mass of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus with archdiocesan Vicar General and Holy Cross alumnus Father Patrick Williams on Aug. 14. With construction underway in the Student Center, the school community returned to an old Holy Cross tradition: Mass outside. For many of the students, it may have been a new experience, but for Holy Cross, it was a return to their roots and to long traditions that stretch over 175 years.

THE CLARION HERALD

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The Heart of Catholic Education



Dr. RaeNell HOUSTON
Secretary of Catholic Education & Faith Formation

The start of a new school year always brings a wonderful sense of anticipation. Classrooms have been prepared, hallways are once again filled with activity and teachers and school leaders have spent countless hours planning, praying and preparing to welcome their students. Across the Archdiocese of New Orleans, there is a renewed spirit of hope and

excitement as we begin the 2026-27 academic year.

Earlier this month, Catholic school educators from throughout the archdiocese gathered as one family for our annual Day of Formation. It was truly beautiful to see so many teachers, administrators, pastors, chaplains and staff members united in faith, prayer and shared mission. Their presence demonstrated both the magnitude and the profound impact of the ministry of Catholic education across our archdiocese.
(see **HEART** p. 8)

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Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes
Archbishop-emeritus of New Orleans



Photo courtesy of the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations

Before the start of the new school year, the seminarians of the Archdiocese of New Orleans gathered for the annual Summer Seminarian Gathering—several days of formation and friendship along with Archbishop James Checchio and vocations director, Father David Ducote.

Special Intentions Unite Us in Prayer



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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The issue date for this edition of the Clarion Herald is Aug. 29, a day that is etched in the minds of New Orleanians as the day Hurricane Katrina changed the city and the surrounding region forever. As we observe 21 years since the storm's landfall, know that I am praying for our city and that your resilience in recovery is incredible. May God continue to bless our city of New Orleans!

Next month I have a couple of special prayer intentions that I ask you to remember. Sadly, Sept. 11 will be an emotional day for our country, as it will be the 25th anniversary of the horrific terrorist attacks that changed so much in our world and took the lives of too many innocent people. In the Diocese of Metuchen, where I served before coming here as your archbishop, we had many victims who had worked for the investment companies headquartered in the New York twin towers and lived in New Jersey. Many parishes had permanent memorials which reminded us to pray for them, their families and for peace in our world. So, I ask you all to pray anew for the victims and their families and for all affected by that day's tragic events. Of course, prayers for peace in our lives, our country and world are good too.

Gratefully, we have a special celebration this year that gives us a reason to offer thanks as an archdiocese as on Sept. 14, Archbishop Emeritus Alfred Hughes will celebrate a special and rare milestone – 45 years as a bishop! Archbishop Hughes was 48 years old when he was ordained an auxiliary

bishop, so you can do the math yourself and figure out his current age! There are not many bishops who celebrate 45 years as a bishop.

Indeed, we have much to be grateful for as now 25 of those 45 years have been spent serving the faithful of this wonderful Church of New Orleans. Since his retirement as Archbishop of New Orleans in 2009, Archbishop has been serving as a spiritual director at Notre Dame Seminary and teaching too, as well as serving others both within the archdiocese and across our country in various ministries. The Bishops of New Jersey and Pennsylvania were fortunate to have Archbishop as our retreat master a couple years ago. He had beautiful insights and reflections for us on our episcopal ministry and deepening our friendship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Little did I know that I would be blessed to share more directly in priestly and episcopal ministry with him here!

Being a bishop is a great joy. It is hard to get your mind around being called to be a successor of the Apostles who were such outstanding witnesses to Christ by how they lived and even gave their lives for Christ and His Church, His dear people. Visiting and praying with you, our priests, deacons and those in consecrated life, our two seminary communities and throughout our 104 parishes, as well as our schools, prisons, nursing homes and other institutions is truly a joy and what energizes us bishops for all the administrative duties that fall in our laps.

Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us bishops that above all, we are to be witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. The Apostles found the tomb empty and then set out to share that joyful, life changing news with all, becoming witnesses to hope for our world. The Apostles lived in such challenging times, and we have

our challenges, too. Deepening my friendship with Christ through private and communal prayer certainly keeps me focused on my task at hand. By praying and interacting with all our lay faithful, clergy, religious and deacons, learning from them about Christ and helping to spread His message of mercy and hope to all in need, we carry on the task that the Apostles set out on.

Archbishop Hughes has generously given himself to this for the past 45 years. Even now, he continues to serve rather than sit back and relax! He is a man in love with Jesus and all of you and this is still the focus of his life. There is much that can be said, but to put it simply, New Orleans is blessed with the ministry of a holy man of God and I ask you all to join me and Archbishop Aymond, another emeritus archbishop but not retired, active and good shepherd for us, in thanking God for Archbishop Hughes and his fruitful ministry on behalf of God's kingdom. I know he is so grateful for you, as am I.

So, on behalf of all in our archdiocese, congratulations, Archbishop Hughes and thank you for all you have done and still do for our archdiocese and Church. We pray you will have many more years of good health and joyful service to the beloved people of our archdiocese.

Know of my love, prayers and gratitude for all of you and please remember to pray for me too!



Archbishop's Schedule

Saturday, August 29 - 9 a.m. Parish Faith Formation Leader Gathering, St. Rita Church, New Orleans

Saturday, August 29 - 10:15 a.m. Respect Life Office's- Jazzed for Life, Schulte Hall, Notre Dame Seminary

Saturday, August 29 - 11:10 a.m. Pazos Education Fund Luncheon, private event

Saturday, August 29 - 5:30 p.m. Mass and Pastor Installation, St. Benedict Church, Covington

Sunday, August 30 - 9 a.m. Mass, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Destrehan

Sunday, August 30 - 11 a.m. Mass, 25th Anniversary of Parish Founding, Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos, New Orleans

Monday, August 31 - 2 p.m. #iGiveCatholic virtual meeting

Tuesday, September 1 - 9 a.m. School Mass for Consecration to the Sacred Heart of St. Catherine of Siena, Metairie

Tuesday, September 1 - 4:30 p.m. Catholic Community Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, private event

Wednesday, September 2 - 6 p.m. Mass of the Holy Spirit, Tulane University, New Orleans

Monday, September 7 - Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9 - Friday, September 11 - Priest Convocation, private event

Saturday, September 12 - 10 a.m. Confirmation, St. Anselm Church, Madisonville

Saturday, September 12 - 4 p.m. Mass, St. Angela Merici, Metairie

Saturday, September 12 - 6 p.m. Blue Rose Ball, St. Michael Special School, New Orleans

Sunday, September 13 - 10 a.m. Mass, Pastor Installation, Assumption of Mary Church, Avondale

Sunday, September 13 - 2 p.m. Mass, God's Special Children, St. Francis Xavier Church, Metairie

Prayer for Protection During Hurricane Season

*Lord Jesus Christ, our God in the flesh!
As You saved Your apostles from perishing in a storm
by calming wind and wave on Your command,
so now keep us safe and sound during hurricane
season.*

*Grant us favorable and benign weather.
Protect us from the unpredictable elements of nature.
Spare us from storm, flood, fire, illness, injury,
disaster and sudden death.*

*Preserve us from all evil and harm, for we, though
sinful, are nonetheless the work of Your hands
— and You, together with Your Father who has no
beginning and Your holy, good and life-giving Spirit,
are our God, in whom we live, move and have our
being, now and ever, and for ages and ages.*

Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!

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Making God's Love Known in the Classroom and Beyond

By: Sarah McDonald

At both Archbishop Hannan High School in Goodbee and Pope John Paul II High School (PJP) in Slidell, there are two new faculty members on campus with new positions and a very distinct wardrobe: a Roman collar. For the 2026-27 school year Archbishop James Checchio has established the full-time position of Director of Catholic Identity and Mission at each of the Northshore high schools, appointing Father David Doyle to Hannan and Father Kevin Seay to Pope John Paul II.

"There is something particularly beautiful about having our priests present in the daily life of our Catholic schools," said archdiocesan Secretary of Catholic Education and Faith Formation Dr. RaeNell Houston. "The appointments of Father David Doyle and Father Kevin Seay as Directors of Catholic Identity and Mission will allow them to accompany our young people in a very intentional way – not only by celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, but also by teaching, participating in campus ministry, walking the halls, attending school events and simply being a consistent priestly presence in the lives of our students, faculty and families."

When asked about his thoughts when Archbishop Checchio approached him about the new assignment, Father Seay leaned into his previous experience on school campuses.

"I thought about how much I loved being at Mount Carmel Academy as their chaplain and leading the CYO at St. Catherine," said Father Seay whose previous assignment was Parochial Vicar at St. Catherine of Siena in Metairie. "It was always a joy to walk through the halls of the St. Catherine of Siena's grammar school, so it is wonderful to be present where students spend so much of their time."

Father Doyle, who had previously floated the idea of a full-time position at Hannan, said he was overcome with excitement about the possibilities for evangelization and bringing students closer to Christ in his new role.



Father David Doyle



Father Kevin Seay

"I actually didn't think I would be appointed to full-time ministry at the high school," said Father Doyle. "Both the school and I had requested it, but were told no, so I was very excited when I got the phone call informing me of my assignment to Archbishop Hannan High School."

"I'm lucky in the aspect I've been the part-time chaplain at Hannan for the last two years, so I already know the students, faculty and staff, and have a good relationship with everyone there," said Father Doyle. "The only real difference now is that I'm at Hannan 'all day every day' and teaching classes. The reaction has been overwhelmingly positive, from administration, faculty, staff, students and families. In fact, I haven't heard of one negative statement about my presence on campus. From daily Mass to teaching, to just being around has been wonderful, and I think the administration would say the same."

"Father David has made a tremendous impact to our school community over the last two years as our Chaplain and I am very excited as he serves our community as our Director of Catholic Identity," said Hannan's Head of School Dennis Schexnaydre. "I thank Archbishop Checchio and Dr. Houston for their support and commitment to this important role for our Hawks."

The official job description for the role of Director of Catholic Identity states that the position is appointed directly by the bishop as an expression of his "pastoral care for the students and staff of the Catholic high schools in the archdiocese." The purpose of the new

position is to teach, sanctify and lead the school community to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church. The newly appointed directors aim to accomplish their goal through increasing the sacramental opportunities on campus, such as celebrating daily Mass and establishing increased and regular opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enhancing the liturgical experience of students by working with campus ministers and student leaders to plan school-wide liturgies and other praise and worship opportunities.

Both priests will be in the classroom as well as teaching theology and will supervise the Campus Ministry programs. Beyond these daily responsibilities is a ministry of presence at school activities and functions outside of the ordinary school day.

"I could not be more excited or grateful to welcome Father Seay to Pope John Paul II Catholic High School," said Head of School Kimberlie Kilroy. "Our school is built upon three foundational pillars – faith formation, leadership and academic excellence – and faith must always remain at the center of who we are and everything we do."

"Saint Pope John Paul II had an extraordinary love for young people and dedicated so much of his ministry to evangelizing the youth, challenging them to know Christ personally and to courageously live out their faith," added Kilroy. "Our archbishop's decision to place a full-time priest within his diocesan schools beautifully embodies that same mission." (see [CATHOLIC IDENTITY](#) p. 15)



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July 25, 2026

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BACK TO SCHOOL 2026-2027

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Creating Healthy and Happy Student Lunches is on the Menu

By: Kim Roberts

While the new federally sanctioned guidelines for school lunches don't go into effect until the 2027-28 school year, the Archdiocese of New Orleans Food and Nutrition Services is hard at work ensuring students in Catholic schools receive nutritious and tasty menu offerings throughout this school year.

Ellen Gauthreaux, executive director of food and nutrition services of New Orleans Inc., said, "This year we are focusing on reducing sugar and sodium in the food we serve at schools and focusing on more lean protein sources. I anticipate our breakfasts focusing more on proteins than grains this year, serving more egg and chicken sausage patties and less sweet offerings like pancakes or waffles."

She added that the federal 'Make America Healthy Again' initiative containing the new guidelines for school lunches has not been released by the FDA yet, it is going through the chain of command and various federal offices before it is released to the public for the comment period and ultimately implementation at the school level.

"Even though the guidelines have not been released, we are working on aligning our school lunch programs now to the proposed dietary rules so we will be ready after the comment period and the USDA has reviewed all the information and made the final ruling."

"This year the students will see a lot of food options they like, just reformulated to remove those added sugars," she said. "Also, they will see as the year progresses the removal of artificial dyes from food product offerings and a focus on using less processed food with the focus on the nutrient density of foods and removal of ingredients that are harmful. We want to provide the most nutritious food to the children and develop their palates to accept a cleaner menu, which can be a challenge at times."

Currently, Gauthreaux and her staff of 250, and growing daily, serve approximately 13,000 lunches a day to archdiocese schools and 2,200 breakfasts per day (not all schools serve breakfast). They work with 47 school cafeteria kitchens and an additional nine satellite locations, which is a school that does not have a kitchen onsite where the food is transported to the site to be served by food service staff.

"We have four area supervisors that are always in the schools along with our dietician and training coordinator, and I go out as frequently as possible for site visits," Gauthreaux said. "We all try to go out and visit the schools and even serve on the line when we can. The kids are so precious and sweet, it is so great to be able to visit with them."

She added, weekly lunch menus are



Photo courtesy of Food and Nutrition Services of New Orleans, Inc.

Students at St. Christopher the Martyr School in Metairie go through the cafeteria line under the watchful eye of the cafeteria worker.

established at the central office and the staff registered dietician helps create menus to make sure they are meeting all regulatory targets including the proper number of calories and fat, leafy green vegetables, etc. The team also meets with school representatives to assess student preferences and make modifications where needed.

"We do work with schools to customize to their preferences especially considering we work with such a large area and there are specific regional differences to take into consideration," Gauthreaux said. "My students in Metairie eat differently than my students in the city, and my students on the Northshore have different preferences as well. You can even have pockets within those pockets so we have to be mindful of everyone so they receive meals they will eat."

The beginning of the school year is busy for the schools; a lot of work goes on in the summer in food and nutrition services as well.

"We work year-round at the central office, closing out financials, planning for the year, awarding bids for food vendors and supplies (an annual task), offering classes for managers and staff to fine tune training to meet regulatory requirements, making sure menus are in compliance, and looking at new menu items," she said. "From our summer planning, we decided to bring a tangerine chicken and veggie fried rice meal to the schools that I think should be popular. It is delicious."

Part of the central office's planning includes

compliance with federal laws. School meals have to have a minimum and maximum number of calories averaged over the week, which is dependent on the grade level. They also have to meet a standard for saturated fat, sodium and added sugars, while offering a certain amount of grain and protein per day and week. Even subgroups of vegetable are regulated.

"Hands down, the most popular lunch we serve is brunch for lunch – even over chicken nuggets," Gauthreaux said. "We either offer chicken and waffles or pancakes and sausage served with baby carrots, sauteed potatoes or fresh fruit. Growing up this was always a special meal to have breakfast for dinner so we pulled from some of those experiences and it was a huge hit with the students."

To further encourage the students to eat lunch, every month the food and nutrition department sponsors a nutrition day introducing a new fruit or vegetable to engage students to try something new.

"We typically look at food items that are in season and are products of the state of Louisiana like sweet potatoes or strawberries," she said. "I remember one time I was at St. Anthony in Gretna and we were serving blood oranges and the students asked if it was real blood in the oranges, how the blood got in there and my favorite question, did Jesus put the blood in the oranges. I love being part of the lunch process and seeing how the student's minds work."

HEART

This year's theme, "The Heart of Catholic Education," reminded us that the heart of Catholic education is not a program or building. The heart of Catholic education is Jesus Christ. He is the reason our schools exist, the source of our mission and the One whom we hope every student and family will encounter through us.

This message carries particular significance following Archbishop Checchio's consecration of the Archdiocese of New Orleans to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart reminds us that Christ does not love us from a distance. His is a heart filled with compassion, mercy, courage, patience and sacrificial love. As Catholic educators, we are called to make that love visible through our presence, our words, our decisions and our service.

During our Day of Formation, each educator was invited to consider one word describing what his or her school community most needs from the Heart of Jesus this year. For some, that word may have been courage – the courage to respond faithfully to new opportunities and challenges. For others, it

may have been mercy, unity, hope, healing or renewal.

As our students return, I invite every member of our Catholic school community to consider that same question: What does your school community most need from the Heart of Jesus this year? Whatever word comes to mind, let it become a prayer for the months ahead. Ask Christ to provide that grace and to show each of us how we may help make it present within our schools.

A new school year offers us the gift of a fresh beginning. It brings new students, new teachers, new friendships and new opportunities to grow. It also renews our responsibility to ensure that every young person entrusted to our care is formed spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. Catholic education seeks not only academic achievement, but also the formation of the whole person in Christ.

Our schools are communities in which faith and learning are united; where students are challenged to recognize their God-given gifts; and where they are prepared to use those gifts in service to the Church and the world. They are places where children should know that they are seen, known and loved by God.

As we begin this exciting new year, I offer my sincere gratitude to Archbishop Checchio, our pastors and chaplains, our school leaders, our teachers and staff, and all who support the ministry of Catholic education. I am especially grateful to our parents and guardians for the sacred trust they place in us when they choose a Catholic education for their children.

Please join me in praying for all our students, families and educators. May Christ renew our hearts, strengthen our schools and guide us throughout the year ahead.

May our classrooms be filled with curiosity and joy, our communities with faith and unity, and our schools with the love of Jesus.

Welcome back!
May God bless the
2026–27 school year!



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ACADEMY OF THE
SACRED HEART

Best Catholic League Season Ever? Not So Fast My Friend!

By: Nick Underhill
courtesy of Rouses

Let me start by assuring that what you're about to read is completely true. Some of the details will be hard to believe, I know, but you're going to have to have a little bit of faith if you didn't witness firsthand because it seems too ... perfect.

If you live in Louisiana or one of the surrounding states, you know about the mighty Catholic League. These schools have appeared in documentaries, books and many graduate from playing on Friday nights to nationally televised Saturday football games. Many of their players are so good that they become one-name guys in the NFL. Tyrann and Leonard and Ja'Marr prove that theory.

And somehow, last year almost feels fake. But you have to believe me when I tell you this: Seven of the eight teams in District 9-5A went undefeated in district play last September. And combined, the league went 23-1 against outside competition. The lone loss – Archbishop Rummel, 27-26, at Lafayette Christian – came in the season opener before anybody had really figured out who they were yet.

I tried to figure out how many guys got scholarships, but when it's at the scale it was last year and your goal is to be completely accurate, you tend to back off of estimates and guesses and uncertainties. So let me just say this: The league itself had at least 20 players get Division 1 scholarships. Again ... that's from eight schools.

Ron Brocato has been writing about this league since before some of these coaches were born, and even he called last year one of the strongest, top to bottom, that he's seen in decades. In an interview last September, Jay Roth, the Rummel coach, put it another way. Roth is the winningest coach in league history, and he doesn't sugarcoat much: "It's a brutal, brutal district. There are no weeks off."

Best Catholic League season ever? People will

debate that – it's what we do here. But the answer, whether it was 2025 or some season in the 1970s, isn't the important part. The fascinating thing is whether or not this is slowing down.

It doesn't seem so.

So before we look ahead to this season, a quick history lesson to get you up to speed or just to refresh memories. The Catholic League, at least as we know it, dates back to 1955. St. Aloysius won the first title. It's been the gravitational center of New Orleans football ever since. Eight schools, 55 combined state championships.

There are many things about this league that are a reflection of the city itself, but maybe none more so than this fact: Almost half the coaches in the league are alumni of the league. Brice Brown played at Karr, then came back and won six state titles there as head coach. Scott Wattigny coaches Holy Cross, his alma mater. Mark Bonis, a Jesuit guy, has run Brother Martin's program since 2009. So the league is developing men who run the league, and then that league often runs the state. Seven of the teams ranked in the state's top 15 last year. What that means is that there are no weeks to coast. It's almost like like playing in the SEC, where every week, every game, every snap carries ramifications that end up being a measuring stick and can decide fates.

What that adds up to, for the city, is something close to religion – no accident, given who runs half of these schools. If you've never been here, ask a stranger in New Orleans where they went to high school and watch how fast the answer comes. Even better, ask them where their friend or neighbor or co-worker went and the answer comes just as fast.

Which one is the best? This league has been settling that question in the Superdome for seven decades. Saints owner Gayle Benson sees a version of the same thing happening on Sundays. "The Saints bring our community

together and unifies," she said. "The Catholic League does much the same." She called it "a vital part of New Orleans' rich tradition" and said she's looking forward to a season built on what she called "the spirit of teamwork and perseverance" this city has always run on.

There's a new face on the faith side of it this year. Archbishop James Checchio now leads the Archdiocese of New Orleans which most of the Catholic schools that make up this league are part of. He's picked up fast on something locals already know – these games are about more than the scoreboard.

"It is about our strong Catholic schools helping our young men recognize their own gifts and talents through discipline, respect, commitment, cooperation and loyalty," he said, tying it to Pope Leo's recent prayer intention for sports as "an instrument of peace, encounter and dialogue."

Before coming to New Orleans, Checchio spent time as a priest assigned to an NFL team – "an enjoyable assignment," in his words – and now he says he's just glad to watch the local version up close, starting this fall.

OK. We're caught up.

So, the thing, last year, Edna Karr didn't lose. They won 27 straight, including a 49-14 title-game beatdown of fellow Catholic League power St. Augustine, in the Superdome, for a second consecutive state championship. It was the eighth in program history, sixth under Brown.

That wasn't even the craziest part. Did you see the signing day photos? Twenty-five guys. One of the biggest classes you'll ever see. Not just here. Anywhere.

A signing class that size would gut most programs for a couple of years. But, remember, this is the Catholic League – the place that sends guys who only need one name to the NFL. If you want to make a bet on one of them right now, Easton is the safest pick. (see FOOTBALL p. 10)

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In some circles, he's already a one-name guy. For everyone else, we're talking about Easton Royal, the Brother Martin receiver, who is the No. 1 receiver in the country. He's currently committed to Texas – though LSU and Florida haven't gone away, and this recruitment is going to be one of the loudest storylines in the state. Royal owns Louisiana's state record in the 100 meters at 10.17 seconds. People who track recruiting for a living have started comparing him to Ja'Marr, which is a good standard to Chase.

Karr has also reloaded fast. Defensive end Juelz Batiste has offers from Auburn, Florida State, Texas and Ole Miss. Zyion Wesley is considered the best offensive lineman in the area, with Nebraska, Auburn and Ole Miss all in pursuit. Running back Jermond Macklin has a Florida State offer.

St. Augustine, coming off its own trip to the title game, has a receiver room that half the SEC would like to raid. Miguel Whitley's offer list includes LSU, Ohio State, Texas and Texas A&M. Rayquan Williams has Auburn, Ole Miss and Florida State after him.

And that's before you get to the rest of the league. John Curtis defensive back Prentice MacKyeon put up 47 tackles and six interceptions and already holds 17 offers, Florida among them. Holy Cross corner Savoy

Guidry broke up 15 passes and has offers from Ole Miss, Stanford and Florida State. Jesuit's Griffin Vorhaben is a 6 foot-6-inch, 305-pound tackle drawing looks from Stanford and Vanderbilt, and the Blue Jays also have a state champion hurdler, Ja'ir Burks, lining up at receiver. Rummel has two backs, Jaden Terrance and Coryn Hawkins, who look like they could go places.

Nearly every school in this league has a Power Four prospect walking its hallways right now, today.

This league is steeped in history, but it's also willing to change. The big story this year is that Chalmette landed back in the league – and “landed back” is the right phrase, because this isn't new for the Owls. They were in this league for years, going back to 1970, when the old LIALO folded and Chalmette came aboard. Warren Easton, after two seasons here, is moving out to a district built around Jefferson Parish.

What's funny is that Chalmette actually fought the placement. Appealed it more than once, hoping to land in a Northshore district instead. Can't blame them. It's tough here. The LHSAA said no. So St. Bernard Parish's public school is walking straight into the toughest district in the state, ready or not – and there's something almost poetic about

that, because this league was never really about the word Catholic in its name. Karr isn't Catholic. Easton wasn't. Chalmette isn't. It's about a standard, not a denomination. Now the Owls get seven Friday nights a year to see where they actually stand against it.

Imagine the alternative reality, though. The first LHSAA realignment draft last November actually had Karr leaving this league entirely. That idea died fast. A Catholic League without the two-time defending state champion in it would've been a something completely different, and, thankfully, everyone involved realized the mistake quickly.

So, now Karr is chasing a three-peat this fall with a 27-game win streak on the line, and almost nobody who built that streak is still on campus. Brown has cleared this particular hurdle before, but replacing a three-year starting quarterback and a historically dominant defense in the same offseason is tough ... which is exactly why the rest of the league likes where it's standing.

St. Augustine is back off a title-game run with arguably the best receiver room in the city. Brother Martin has the No. 1 receiver in the country and a quarterback, Hudson Fields, who threw for 2,500 yards last season. John Curtis is still John Curtis, and 28 state titles do (see [FOOTBALL](#) p. 19)

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New School Leaders for a New School Year



Angelle Bourgeois-Woodson
St. Philip Neri School



Shannon Culotta
St. Louis King of France School



Carol Ann Chatelain Dufrene
St. Scholastica Academy



Kristin France
Our Lady of Lourdes School

Angelle Bourgeois-Woodson, Principal St. Philip Neri, Metairie

Angelle Bourgeois-Woodson will serve as the principal of St. Philip Neri School for the upcoming school year. She is a proud graduate of Cabrini High School and is an award-winning educational leader with experience in both Catholic and public education.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of New Orleans and holds an Educational Leader-Level 2 certification. Throughout her career, she has served in leadership roles at the school, district and state levels, including mentor teacher, teacher leader, assistant principal and principal. Additionally, she has worked as a leadership development coach with the Leadership Development Institute at Louisiana State University, coaching school and district level leaders.

"I am truly honored and blessed to serve as the principal of St. Philip Neri. This is a wonderful community with a rich tradition of faith, academic excellence and service. I am grateful for the opportunity to build upon the strengths and traditions that make this school special while embracing new opportunities to grow, innovate and prepare our students for

the future and to become the saints that God created them to be."

"Our school theme this year, 'Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like Yours,' is not just a theme, but a call to how we will lead, learn, serve and live. My hope is that together we will build a school where faith comes alive, excellence inspires, every child knows they are deeply valued and every heart is formed to live with purpose, lead with courage, serve with love and make a positive difference in the world," she said.

Shannon Culotta, Principal St. Louis King of France, Metairie

St. Louis King of France School has selected Shannon Culotta as its new principal this school year. She is beginning her 29th year as a Catholic educator and is a product of Catholic education herself. Culotta attended Catholic elementary and high schools before earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from the University of New Orleans. Her entire professional career has been dedicated to serving students, families and educators in Catholic schools.

Culotta began her career as a teacher at St. Catherine of Siena School, where her love for

elementary education grew into a passion for supporting and developing teachers. During her 19 years at St. Catherine, she transitioned into school leadership as assistant principal and later served at Ursuline Academy for seven years in several leadership roles, including elementary dean of students, elementary principal and dean of student services for the Academy. Most recently, she served for two years as assistant principal at St. Angela Merici School.

"I feel especially blessed to serve as the principal at St. Louis King of France School and look forward to building a school community that is firmly rooted in Christ. One where students are challenged academically, nurtured spiritually and surrounded by teachers and families who recognize that each child is a precious gift from God," she said. "I believe there is something truly special about the close-knit community of St. Louis King of France and the opportunity to know and care for each child as an individual."

Carol Ann Chatelain Dufrene, Head of School

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Theresa Hebert
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School



Brianna Nelson
St. Matthew the Apostle School



Lexis Nunez
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Chalmette



Brigid Van Timmeren
St. Cletus School

alumna Carol Ann Chatelain Dufrene head of school for the 2026-27 school year making her the first lay graduate of SSA to lead the school in its 123 year history. At the heart of her leadership is a commitment to the Benedictine pillars of prayer, work, study and community, and to ensuring that the traditions and values of SSA continue to shape the experience of every student. Dufrene earned her bachelor's degree in social studies education from Southeastern Louisiana University and a master's degree in educational leadership from the American College of Education.

Dufrene's entire career has been spent in all-girls Catholic education in schools whose missions are centered on faith, sisterhood and the formation of young women. Throughout her career, she has been passionate about creating a school community where young women are challenged to grow, supported in their journey and encouraged to become confident, compassionate women of faith.

Highlights of her career include teaching AP government, government and psychology at Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans and serving as dean of students at Academy of the Sacred Heart. She returned to SSA in 2021 as dean of students and associate head of school.

"I am honored and privileged to serve my alma mater, a place that played such an important role in shaping who I am. I look forward to leading SSA into the future while honoring the rich history, traditions and values that have made St. Scholastica so special to generations of young women," she said.

Kristin France, Principal
Our Lady of Lourdes, Slidell

Our Lady of Lourdes School has chosen Kristin France as its principal for the upcoming school year. She brings more than 13 years of experience in education and a

passion for creating a school community where faith, academic growth and a strong sense of belonging come together.

France earned her bachelor's degree in education from Louisiana State University and spent 12 years in the classroom before moving into school leadership. During her years as a teacher, she continued her education in mild/moderate exceptionalities, further strengthening her commitment to meeting the individual needs of every student. She later earned her master's degree in educational leadership and technology from Southeastern Louisiana University. France joined the leadership team at Our Lady of Lourdes as assistant principal before being named principal.

"I am committed to building upon the traditions that make Our Lady of Lourdes special while continuing to move the school forward," she said. "My focus is on strengthening academics, supporting teachers, improving communication and creating opportunities for every child to grow in faith, character and leadership. Above all, I believe a Catholic school should be a place where children know they are loved, challenged, supported and called to become the person God created them to be."

Theresa Hebert, Principal
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Kenner

Theresa Hebert will serve as the principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School for the 2026-27 school year. She brings experience, heart and a deep commitment to the ministry of Catholic education.

Hebert was born and raised in the New Orleans area attending Catholic schools. She is an alumna of Archbishop Chapelle High School and has 24 years of experience as an educator, with 14 of those years in Catholic schools.

During her career, she has served as a middle school math teacher, principal of St. Mary

Magdalene School and assistant principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Hebert holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Louisiana State University and master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Holy Cross.

"I am blessed and honored to begin my role as principal of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School. I look forward to leading this amazing school and faith-filled family community into the future as we build upon the strong academic and faith foundation. I pray that in living out our motto, 'Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,' that God will bless our school, faculty, students and families as we begin the 2026-27 school year," she said.

Brianna Nelson, Principal
St. Matthew the Apostle, River Ridge
St. Matthew the Apostle School has selected Brianna Nelson as its principal for the upcoming school year. She is entering her 15th year in Catholic education.

Throughout her career, she has served in various educational capacities, from classroom teacher to school administration to archdiocesan administration. She holds a bachelor's degree from Tulane University in child psychology and early childhood education and a master's degree in literacy studies from the University of Texas at Arlington.

As a St. Matthew parishioner and parent, Nelson has a personal connection to the community she now serves as principal. She is passionate about strengthening the school's Catholic identity, fostering a joyful and connected community and providing students with an excellent education rooted in faith.

"I believe Catholic schools have the unique opportunity to form the whole child and am committed to ensuring that St. Matthew is a place where students are known, loved,

(see **LEADERS** p. 15)



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CATHOLIC IDENTITY

"The summer was very different from regular parish life," said Father Seay. While I helped around the archdiocese filling in as needed, I also had time to read and talk with many theology teachers around the diocese." He added that he was able help during the PJP service week and vacation bible school, which was a great way to meet some of the students.

"It's been funny watching some of my fellow faculty members try to figure out whether or not they want to change their behavior now that a priest is always around, but overall, they see it as a blessing for the entire school community," said Father Seay. "My hope for the students is that they feel more connected to the Church and that they have a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church."

"Having Father Kevin present on our campus every day gives our students something truly invaluable: the opportunity to encounter Christ through the daily presence and witness of the priesthood," continued Kilroy. "He will be here not only to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments, but also to walk alongside our students in the ordinary moments of their lives – to teach them, mentor them, pray with them, celebrate their successes and guide them through their struggles."

"In a time when young people are searching for meaning, identity and purpose, I can think of no greater investment we can make than placing Christ more deeply at the center of their formation," she concluded. "This is more than the addition of a full-time chaplain to our faculty; it is a powerful commitment to the Catholic identity and



Photo courtesy of Archbishop Hannan High School

future of Pope John Paul II Catholic High School and to forming the next generation of disciples and leaders for our Church."

"Father David's positive influence inspires our students, faculty and parents to draw closer to Christ as we become the people that God calls us to be," added Schexnaydre. "It is my humble privilege to partner with Father David as we support the faith formation of our Hannan community."

"Our Catholic schools are about forming the whole person and helping young people come to know Jesus Christ and discover the unique vocation God has given each of them," added Dr. Houston. "Having joyful priests serving alongside our school leaders, teachers and campus ministers strengthens that mission tremendously. It gives students the opportunity to see the priesthood up close – not as something distant from their everyday lives, but through priests who know them, teach them, pray with them and accompany them. I am deeply grateful to Archbishop Checchio for his commitment to our young people and for making this kind of investment in the Catholic identity and mission of Archbishop Hannan and Pope John Paul II."

"There is a sign on the front doors at Hannan reminding everyone who enters that Christ is the reason this school exists," added Father Doyle. "As a priest, I am a visible reminder of this. I hope and pray that being present in every aspect of campus life, from the chapel to the classroom to the sidelines at all the different sports, to simply having fun with the students at school events, that they know they are loved by God. Do I hope that my presence inspires vocations? Of course. But more importantly, I want everyone to know just how much God loves them."

"There is so much reason for hope for the future of our Church," added Father Seay. "We can look online and on social media about everything that's wrong with the world but spending time with the youth tells a different story. There are a lot of heroic young men and women out there and a lot of people who love their faith."

"I am where I am today because when I was in elementary and high school, priests at my parish taught me how to fall in love with God," concluded Father Doyle. "At the end of the day, I want to share this love of Christ and his Church."

LEADERS

challenged and encouraged to grow into the people God created them to be," she said.

Lexis Nunez, Principal

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Chalmette

Lexis Nunez will serve as the new principal of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School for the 2026-27 school year. Nunez's roots run deep in the school community having been a student, teacher, coach and parent at Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Nunez previously taught at OLPS and served as athletic director and director of student conduct and discipline.

She holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the University of Louisiana Lafayette and a master's degree in educational leadership from the American College of Education. Nunez is currently pursuing her doctorate degree in educational leadership.

"Becoming principal of Our Lady of Prompt Succor School is truly a full-circle moment for me, and I am incredibly blessed and

excited to begin this new chapter. My hope for this school year is to continue building a community where our students are challenged to grow academically, strengthened in their faith and encouraged to become the people God created them to be," she said. "As we celebrate 75 years of OLPS, our message of 'One Team. One Mission. Season 75' reminds us that we are all part of something bigger than ourselves. I am excited to honor our past, embrace the present and help prepare OLPS for an even brighter future."

Brigid Van Timmeren, Principal

St. Cletus, Gretna

St. Cletus School has chosen Brigid Van Timmeren as its principal for the upcoming school year. She brings more than 26 years of experience in education and a lifelong commitment to faith, music, student achievement and servant leadership to the position.

Van Timmeren holds a bachelor's degree in music and vocal performance from Loyola University and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Holy Cross.

Her commitment to Catholic education and ministry is deeply rooted in her faith. For more than 30 years, Van Timmeren has served as music director at St. Rita of Cascia parish in Harahan, sharing her gifts of music, faith and leadership with the parish community.

Throughout her career, she has served as a music teacher and spent eight years as a teacher leader. The last four years she has been a master teacher at Metairie Academy for Advanced Studies. In these leadership roles, she provided professional development and instructional support for teachers, fostered collaboration, analyzed student data to improve achievement and served as a member of the instructional leadership team.

"I am passionate about cultivating a school culture rooted in Christ, where teachers are valued and supported, students are encouraged to reach their God-given potential and faith and academic excellence go hand in hand," she said. "I believe servant leadership is not simply a leadership style, but a calling to serve others with humility, compassion, courage and purpose."

El que pierda su vida por mí, la encontrará



Fr. Manuel
SOLORZANO, O.P.

Read this reflection in English online
at clarionherald.org.

22° Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Mateo 16: 21-27

Agosto 30, 2026

Queridos hermanos: La Palabra de Dios de este domingo nos presenta una enseñanza exigente: seguir a Jesús es aprender a entregar la vida. Nuestra fe no consiste solo en creer en Cristo, sino en caminar detrás de Él, aceptar su camino y dejar que transforme nuestra manera de pensar y de vivir. A veces quisiéramos un cristianismo sin sacrificio ni cruz; pero Jesús nos recuerda que la vida verdadera pasa por la entrega, el servicio y el amor.

Jeremías, en la primera lectura, expresa su cansancio y desánimo, pero reconoce que la Palabra de Dios arde dentro de él como un fuego ardiente que no puede apagar. También nosotros podemos cansarnos o sentirnos incomprensidos; sin embargo, cuando Dios nos llama, su Palabra nos sostiene y nos impulsa a seguir adelante.

El salmista dice hoy: Mi alma está sedienta de ti, Señor, Dios mío. Este salmo nos recuerda que nuestro corazón busca seguridad, afecto, reconocimiento y bienestar, pero solo Dios puede saciar su sed más profunda. Por eso necesitamos buscarlo cada día en la oración, la Eucaristía, su Palabra y el servicio.

Por su parte en el Evangelio, Jesús anuncia que debe ir a Jerusalén, sufrir, morir y resucitar. Pedro no lo acepta y quiere apartarlo de ese camino. Por eso Jesús lo corrige con fuerza: Tu modo de pensar no es el de Dios, sino el de los hombres. Pedro ama a Jesús, pero todavía no comprende que el amor de Cristo pasa por la cruz. También nosotros podemos querer decirle a Dios cómo debe actuar: que nos quite los problemas, que evite el sufrimiento, que todo salga según nuestros planes. Pero seguir a Cristo exige confianza: Señor, no siempre entiendo tus caminos, pero confío en ti. Por eso Jesús dice: Si alguno quiere venir en pos de mí, que se niegue a sí mismo, tome su cruz y me siga. Negarse a sí mismo no es desprenderse, sino poner a Cristo en el centro. Tomar la cruz es vivir las dificultades unidos a Él. Y seguirlo significa caminar detrás de Jesús, sabiendo que nunca cargamos la cruz solos. Finalmente, el Señor pregunta: De qué se sirve a uno ganar el mundo entero si pierde

su vida. Esta pregunta nos invita a revisar nuestras prioridades y a recuperar lo esencial: nuestra relación con Dios, la familia, la oración, el amor y el servicio.

Por tanto, las lecturas de hoy nos invitan a buscar a Dios, renovar nuestra manera de pensar y seguir a Cristo incluso cuando el camino incluya la cruz. No tengamos miedo: Él no promete una vida sin dificultades, pero sí promete caminar con nosotros.

- Estoy dispuesto a seguir a Jesús también cuando su camino no coincide con mis planes?
- Qué cruz estoy viviendo actualmente y cómo puedo llevarla unido a Cristo?
- Qué cosas están ocupando el primer lugar en mi vida?
- Estoy dejando que el Evangelio transforme mi manera de pensar y de actuar?
- Mi corazón tiene verdadera sed de Dios?

Hermanos y hermanas: Pidamos al Señor una fe verdadera y comprometida. Que, ante las dificultades, no nos alejemos de Cristo, sino que caminemos más cerca de Él. Y que podamos decir cada día: Señor, quiero seguirte. Enséñame a llevar mi cruz, a confiar en ti y a entregar mi vida por amor. Que María Santísima nos acompañe y nos enseñe a decir siempre sí a Dios. Amén.

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2026-2027 ADMISSIONS EVENTS

New Rosary Garden Promotes Devotion to the Blessed Mother

Following the first school-wide Mass of the 2026-27 School Year on Aug. 14, Archbishop-emeritus Gregory Aymond blessed and dedicated the new Rosary Prayer Garden on the campus of Archbishop Rummel High School in Metairie. The sacred space features a statue of Mary in her title of Our Lady of the Rosary, custom landscapes and a peaceful interior courtyard designed for student prayer, reflection and community gatherings. The dedication was attended by student representatives as well as alumni and friends of Archbishop Rummel High School.

The new prayer garden is part of the high school's master plan that also included the complete renovation of the interior courtyard made possible by the Palmisano Foundation, which was completed over the summer.



Photo courtesy of Archbishop Rummel High School

Living Liturgically: Select Memorials and Feasts in the Month of September

- Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great - Sept. 3
- Memorial of Saint Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) - Sept. 5
- Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Sept. 8
- Memorial of Saint Peter Claver - Sept. 9
- Holy Name of Mary - Sept. 12
- Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross - Sept. 14
- Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows - Sept. 15
- Memorial of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian - Sept. 16
- Memorial of Saint Joseph of Cupertino - September 18
- Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions - Sept. 20
- Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist - Sept. 21
- Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest - Sept. 23
- Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul - Sept. 27
- Memorial of San Lorenzo Ruiz, first Filipino Saint - Sept. 28
- Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels - Sept. 29
- Memorial of Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church - Sept. 30

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Seasonal Routines and Listening to God



Gina

STERNFELSNOLACatholic Parenting
Columnist & Blogger

August is when we typically get back into our routines. It's a time to shift from summer gratitude to the fall season and focus on new beginnings. Some of us are not quite ready for school to start, while others are looking forward to it.

God is all about seasons, and He is with us in each one. As we get our kids settled into new school routines, let us not fall back into old routines that do not serve us. As parents, grandparents and caregivers, let us care for ourselves the way God calls us and rely on His guidance. We expect our children to be obedient, but are we offering that same obedience when God calls us?

In my parenting as the "responsible one," I have always struggled with busyness versus the silence and heart-to-heart time God calls me to. As a caregiver of someone with autism, I have many thoughts about what I am supposed to do: "I should be good at this by now," or "I am not doing enough." These became automatic habits while attempting to organize everything. Those thoughts led to judgment, mixed emotions and self-reliance. I do, and do, but it does not lead me to lean on God.

The awareness, I know God does not speak to me that way. Instead, He can illuminate this old pattern and bring me closer to Him. God is teaching me to come to Him when thoughts, feelings and behaviors push me to do more and more. I am learning to turn back toward Him sooner to break this cycle.

Working with families like mine, those with disabilities, usually children and adults with nonspeaking autism, I am learning I cannot only focus on what the other person needs. My son with autism guides me, and God works through him. I continue to learn that how I show up matters.

As a spelling practitioner, I work with nonspeaking individuals and their families to develop a new way to communicate their true thoughts and desires one letter at a time. It is a process that requires patience, compassion and openness to learning. I do not have all the answers, but I am open to His guidance here.

This process teaches me that my regulation is key. Can I listen to God and allow Him to guide me in changing my old patterns and habits this new season?

I cannot focus only on whether the person in front of me is regulated if I do not show up with His peace to share with that family I am working with, my own son, or my family. I get to grow in awareness of what I bring into each room. My thoughts, emotions and internal state affect how I show up for another person.

That realization has made me look at my relationship with God differently too. While God has taught me this through my experiences with disability, this truth applies to all of us. How we show up matters in every relationship and every season.

Am I regulated and receptive enough to hear where God is leading me? That requires me to slow down and be open to what He wants to share. I can have His peace, but listening to His voice helps me know He is leading and inviting me to follow.

That is where obedience comes in. Psalm 19:12 states, "By them, your servant is warned; obeying them brings so much reward." Perhaps part of that reward is what I am learning about regulation – the peace that comes when I stop relying only on myself and become receptive to God's direction.

Maybe this new school year is an opportunity to look at our routines differently. While setting routines for everyone else, we can ask: What needs to

stay or go? Where does God need more room? What might He be asking me to do differently?

The main call is to make room to hear God and obey Him, allowing His peace to change not only ourselves but how we show up for those around us. Our children are not the only ones invited into a new season of learning and growth. God may have something He wants to teach us too, helping us listen more clearly and respond more faithfully.

Thank You, God, for always being there for us. You make Yourself present and remain faithful even when we are unaware. Help us trust You when we are struggling. Help us listen for where You are leading and give us the courage to obey Your call. You are so good and worthy of our obedience!

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



FOOTBALL

most of the talking there. Holy Cross and Jesuit both took real steps forward. Chalmette shows up with nothing to lose and old ground to reclaim.

Roth told someone last year that there are no weeks off in this league. That's going to apply again – maybe more than ever. Last year, this league proved it could be great from top to bottom, all at once, in the same season. This year decides who actually inherits the throne. Given how much talent

is still walking through these hallways, 2026 might be the most wide-open, version of this league in years.

And that's one of the things that makes this league so New Orleans. There's always hope here, in everything we do, even when things look tough. That's where every team in the Catholic League stands right now, as they get ready to write a new story.

This column was first printed in the Rouses Magazine, the in-store magazine of Rouses Market. Learn more at <https://www.rouses.com/about/rouses-magazine/>.

A Prayer for Those Involved in Sports

O God, you gave us bodies – as well as minds and hearts – with which to praise and worship you. Our sports and exercises are a fitting use of gifts and talents you have given us. Bless our workouts and the games we play, and those with whom we exercise or compete. Give us strength, endurance, courage and agility as we compete or train. Keep us safe and healthy as we celebrate our physical and mental skills in sport.

Amen

Around the Archdiocese

Two Days of Prayer, "Make Melody in Your Hearts to the Lord," Sept. 9–10, *The Cenacle on the Lake*, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie. Two days of Prayer with Sister Judy Gomila, MSC and Pattie Gros Harris, PT. Overnight accommodations and meals available. Register, neworleansretreats.com or (504) 267-9604.

Bishop Fernand Cheri, III Gospel Music Festival 2026, "Healing Hearts Through the Power of Praise," Sept. 12, 5 p.m., *St. Martin de Porres Community Center*, 2241 Mendez St., New Orleans. Admission is free with donation for Second Harvest Food Bank, Vendors, concessions stands and security provided.

St. Michael Blue Rose Ball Sept. 12, 6–11 p.m., *Hyatt Regency New Orleans*, 601 Loyola Ave. Entertainment, cocktails, dinner, dancing, silent and live auction. Individual tickets \$225, email jgallagher@stmichaelspecialschool.com.

God's Special Children Mass, Families and friends Mass, Sept. 13, 2–3 p.m., *St. Francis Xavier Church*, 444 Metairie Road, Metairie.

Peace, Justice and Healing Mass Sept. 15, 7 p.m. *Our Lady of Perpetual Help*, 8968 Hwy. 23 Belle Chasse. An opportunity to come together

to worship and bring peace, comfort and healing to victims of violence, injury and injustice and thank those who put themselves in harm's way to protect our communities. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction will conclude the liturgy. Hospitality will follow.

Christ in the City

Sept. 15, 7 p.m., the monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration for Young Adults in their late teens, 20s, and 30s, sponsored by the Youth & Young Adult Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of New Orleans - in the Chapel at Notre Dame Seminary (2901 S. Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans.) Following the event, a social hour will be held. For more information, please visit nolacatholic.org/citc

Archdiocese Evening of Confession

Sept. 16, 5–6:30 p.m., Archdiocese-wide.

The Bible, Bunco and Bubbles

Sept. 23, 6 p.m., *The Cenacle on the Lake*, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie. Join us as we reflect on selected Scripture passages, play Bunco and share snacks. Attendees must be 21 or over. \$25/person & \$40/couple. Register: <https://neworleansretreats.com/the-bible-bunco-and-bubbles-september-23-2026> or call (504)267-9604.

NOLA Catholic Youth Conference, "Made For More,"

Sept. 26, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., at *Jesuit High School*, 4133 Banks St., New Orleans. The youth of the Archdiocese of New Orleans are invited to gather for the annual NOLA Catholic Youth Conference. Interested youth are encouraged to register through their church parish.

Catholic Community Foundation Annual Dinner

honoring the priests of the Archdiocese of New Orleans with the Saint John Paul II Award Oct. 1, at the *Hilton New Orleans Riverside*. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. Visit <https://ccfnola.org/annual-dinner> or contact Micki Andry at 504.596.3044 or mandry@ccfnola.org to register.

Annual Red Mass

Oct. 5, 9:30 a.m., *St. Louis Cathedral*, New Orleans. The Saint Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association announces the celebration of the 74th Annual Red Mass, invoking the Holy Spirit upon the bench and bar of the State of Louisiana. Archbishop James Checchio will be the principal Celebrant and Homilist. Members of the bench and bar of the State of Louisiana, as well as the public, are invited to attend.

Called to Lead

Girls' Night Out: September 11th
Open House: October 22nd
Spend the Days: Sept.-Nov.



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Around the Archdiocese in Pictures!



Photo Credit: Betty-Ann Hickey

On the Feast of St. Lawrence on Aug. 10, the community of deacons gathered for Mass and to celebrate their special vocation of service to the Church at St. Anselm Parish in Madisonville.



Photo courtesy of St. Catherine of Siena Parish

On Aug. 6, Archbishop James Checchio celebrated Mass at St. Catherine of Siena in Metairie and blessed the new columbarium at the parish. A columbarium is a place where cremated ashes are perpetually interred

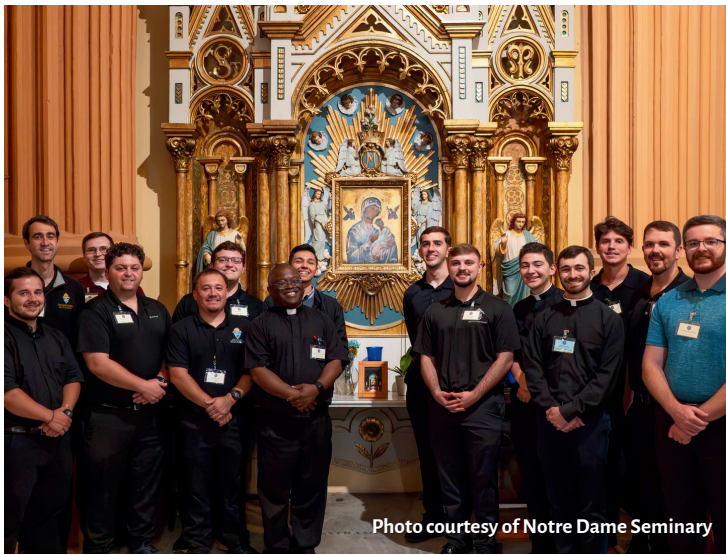


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Seminary

Before the official start of the semester, the new seminarians at Notre Dame Seminary participated in Orientation Week which included a field trip to the National Shrine of Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos.



Photo credit: Sarah McDonald

For welcome home Sunday on Aug. 16, St. Rita Parish in New Orleans welcomed Aspiring Scholars for a special back pack blessing for the start of school. As the Aspiring Scholars families left, each was gifted with a bottle of Holy Water, a car Rosary and a pencil case to use for the new year.



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JESUS HEALS THE BODY AND SOUL YOU JUST BELIEVE AND TRUST

Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 16th - 6:00 pm
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
2008 Short St., Kenner, LA 70062
504-464-0361

Thursday, SEPTEMBER 17th - 7:00 pm
ASCENSION OF OUR LORD
1900 Greenwood Dr., Laplace, LA 70068
985-652-2615

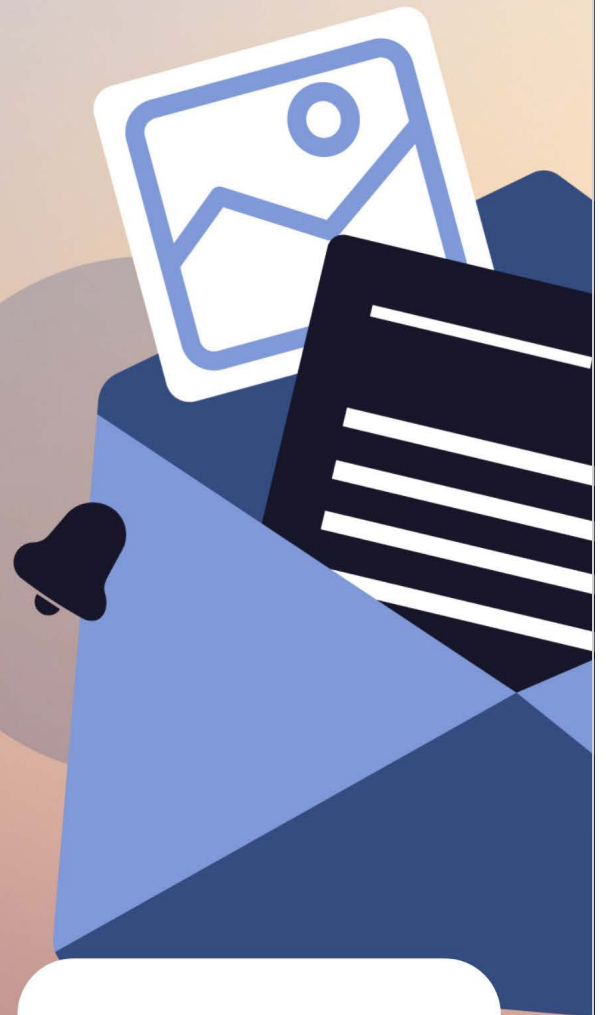
Friday, SEPTEMBER 18th - 6:00 pm
ST. JEAN VIANNEY
16166 S. Harrells Ferry Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816
225-753-7950



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A Summer of Service at Catholic Charities

Service never sleeps at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans and the summer season is no time for slowing down! Here we feature a collection of photos from various service projects sponsored at and for Catholic Charities programs throughout the summer. A special thanks to all who give of their time so generously to service the clients and participants of Catholic Charities programming. To learn more about the ministry of Catholic Charities visit www.ccano.org. Photos courtesy Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans.



Over the summer, Judge Amanda Calogero and the members of the St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers' Association lead a day of services at Padua House. Their generosity, enthusiasm and commitment to the community made a meaningful impact as Catholic Charities strives to serve others with dignity and compassion.



Catholic Charities Pregnancy Services was the recipient of a local grant through Walmart's Spark Good initiative from the Walmart Neighborhood Market Harvey—Manhattan Blvd. The funds were used to provide hope and essential resources to expectant mothers in the community.



Christmas came early at Padua House as residents celebrated a joyful Christmas during a July gathering. Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special visit, spreading smiles as they handed out gifts to the participants.



PACE participants were happy to welcome an incredible group of young men and women from the Salesian Youth Ministry during their 2026 Salesian Gospel Roads Summer Service Retreat.

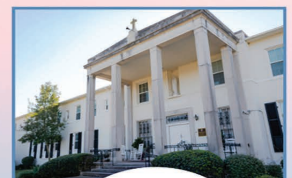
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Visit neworleansretreats.com or call 504-887-1420 to learn more. The peace you're looking for is waiting here for you.





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12:30pm Praying of the Rosary

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS ON TV

4:00pm Basilica of St. Stephen

SUNDAY MASS ON TV

11:00am St. Louis Cathedral

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