Eight decades of love
By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Hands held tightly, smiles never leaving their beaming faces, a simple glance sending messages of the heart, Lloyd and Audrey Schroeder could be mistaken for a couple still in the early stages of love.

But this Gonzales couple, who are New Orleans natives, is a relationship that has spanned more than three decades, a relationship that has been filled with the joy of raising a tight-knit family and the anguish of losing a young child.

Their travels have taken them around the world, and Audrey’s love of the New Orleans Saints remains as intense as it was when she and her husband were active in the Touchdown Club.

“I love my Saints,” she said during a recent visit to the couple’s Gonzales home, a neighborhood where Irma Thomas was once their neighbor.

“As much as she loves her children and grandchildren, she loves the Saints more,” the couple’s oldest daughter, Pam Strickland, joked, sparking a hearty laugh and a nod of the head from her mother.

The Schroeders, who will celebrate their 74th wedding anniversary in June, are one of several couples scheduled to participate in the annual Diocesan 25th, 50th, 65th & Over Wedding Mass and Reception on Feb. 23 at 2 p.m., at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Baton Rouge. The Mass is sponsored by the Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“We are together 99 percent of the time and enjoy each other’s company,” said Lloyd Schroeder, whose first job out of high school was helping build the Higgins boat in New Orleans that would change the tenor of World War II. “We have a very close family.”

Theirs was a romance that began on the playground of St. Ann Church in New Orleans. As Audrey, 14 at the time, was watching the Catholic Youth Organization team compete, she quipped to a friend, “I like that little blonde-haired fellow.”

At that time, the St. Ann CYO was preparing for its annual day trip to Abita Springs, the only caveat being each person was required to have a date. “(Audrey’s) mother owned a grocery store and I like to eat,” Lloyd, who was 15 at the time, said. “So who was my 99 percent?”

It was the first date for either one and they would never date anybody else.

St. Gabriel celebrates milestone
By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

On Feb. 2, people gathered during a picturesque, sun-drenched day at St. Gabriel Church in the hamlet of St. Gabriel and celebrated the fact that they and their ancestors have been living “his-story” for 250 years along the banks of the Mississippi River.

The community of St. Gabriel was founded in 1768 by Acadian exiles sent by the Spanish Governor Don Antonio DeUloa to settle on the Coast of Iberville, known as Manchac.

“The Acadians left because they wanted to freely live their religion without conflict and they wanted to freely worship God,” said Father Charlie Landry, pastor of St. Gabriel.

The Acadians, a traditionally community-oriented and religious people, built a church to express their faith.

“The beauty of the old church symbolizes the generations that have gone before us ... it’s all about the history of salvation,” said Father Landry.

Made out of cypress from nearby swamps, the old St. Gabriel Church was built sturdy and solid, simple in design, but impressive. It is one of the oldest churches in the state and perhaps one of the oldest surviving church structures of the entire Mississippi River Valley.

The church, believed to have been built upriver from its present site, was moved several times because of the flooding of the Mississippi River.

In 1772, the church was dismantled, moved onto a Spanish land grant and dedicated to St. Gabriel the Archangel. French and Spanish priests served the parish.

In December 1887 the church was again moved to its present site. At that time, its timbers were found...
DID YOU KNOW

Anointing of the Sick

People might often be concerned that a friend or loved one who receives anointing of the sick, whether in the hospital or their home, might be nearing death.

But receiving the church’s sacrament of physical and spiritual healing is not always a prelude to one’s passing.

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, “In the church’s sacrament of anointing of the sick, through the ministry of the priest, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them. It is Jesus who gives comfort even from physical ailment. His cures were signs of the arrival of the kingdom of God. The core message of his healing tells us of his plan to conquer sin and death is by living and rising.”

Jesus’ healing ministry continues through the church, passed on when he instructed the apostles and sent them out on their mission: “With that, they went off, preaching the need of repentance. They expelled many demons, anointed the sick with oil and worked many cures” ( Mk 6:12-13).

At his ascension, Jesus instructed the apostles and declared that “the sick upon whom they lay their hands will recover” ( Mk 16:18).

According to the USCCB, the Rite of Anointing reveals there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.

The anointing of the sick is given with the hope that, if it’s God’s will, the person will be physically healed from illness. But the primary outcome is spiritual healing, in that the one being anointed will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, so they can cope with the difficulties that infirmities of illness and old age bring.

Pope Innocent I (d. 417), in his letter of instruction to Deceutius, asserted that the letter of St. James clearly refers to the sacrament and that the bishop must bless the oil, a bishop or priest must administer the sacrament, and the sacrament complements the sacrament of penance, conveying the forgiveness of sin.

About the 12th century, the sacrament became commonly known as “Extreme Unction,” probably for two reasons: This anointing concluded the series of sacramental anointings during a person’s spiritual life — beginning at baptism and followed by confirmation and possibly holy orders, and concluding with extreme unction; and this anointing more and more was used for those in “extremis” or at the point of death.

The Second Vatican Council addressed the usage of the sacrament in its Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963): “Extreme Unction,” which may also and more fittingly be called ‘anointing of the sick,’ is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as one of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived” (#73).

The anointing of the sick consists essentially of a priest anointing the forehead and hands of the sick person. The anointing is accompanied by the liturgical prayer of the celebrant asking for the special grace of this sacrament.

Anointing of the sick sometimes is confused with the “last rites,” which are given to a Catholic who is gravely ill or beginning to be in danger of death.

The Bible passage of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses is well known. Think back when you first read and/or studied this passage. Picture Moses, the grumbling Israelites, stone tablets, perhaps the golden calf incident or the 1956 film “The Ten Commandments” directed Cecil B. DeMille, depicting the Exodus story, etc.

Now, think about learning the actual commandments. Perhaps one may recall memorizing the Ten Commandments as a youth to prepare for a test. A strong memory for me happened in the fourth grade in Catholic school when tasked with writing and reciting the commandments from memory and in order. It was stressful but impressive.

I wonder if any of us realized back then that the Ten Commandments are the natural moral law given by God, who is love; a law given with love and for love. God’s loving law guides us in virtue and forms us to be what we are called to become: saints. The Sixth and Seventh Ordinary Time Sunday Mass readings present the mystery of the love behind the law of God. "Joy in following the law"

The second is the pursuit of perfection in love which fulfills (completes) the law. Jesus takes the old way of living and invites us to a new way of loving. How easy is it for us to pray for our enemies? How can we turn the other cheek?

The old law called the Israelites to be virtuous citizens. The new law, fulfillment by Jesus, calls us to be virtuous citizens, to love deeply and to become saints. The first is the path of moral law; the second is the pursuit of perfection in love which fulfills (completes) the law.

The anointing of the sick sometimes is confused with the “last rites,” which are given to a Catholic who is gravely ill or beginning to be in danger of death.
Homeless encampments more visible, on the rise

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Homeless encampments are becoming increasingly visible in the Greater Baton Rouge area, even encroaching into the suburbs, and the number of women occupying those outdoor habitats are also on the rise, according to St. Vincent de Paul Society personnel who participated in a recent census.

Mental illness among the homeless is also increasing at an alarming rate, according to Debra Blacher, director of Shelter and Residential Services at St. Vincent, and Linda Reed, assistant director of Housing and Residential Services.

Blacher and Reed were among seven teams of volunteers who participated in a nationwide census of the homeless population on a chilly Jan. 27 night. St. Vincent executive director Michael Acaldo said the Housing and Urban Development annually asks agencies serving the homeless community to perform an annual point-in-time count, usually on a Monday in late January.

“The count gives every community as well as a national level, the homeless count in the United States,” Acaldo said. “It also puts the Louisiana Housing Corporation in a better position to say our numbers are up. That plays a critical role. LHC has done a great job of bringing dollars to Louisiana, which we are a beneficiary of.”

Police accompanied Belchar and Reed and volunteers from a number of other agencies, including Volunteers of America, Star Corporation and LHC, from a distance throughout the night. Besides providing security, albeit from a distance so as not to scare off the homeless population who is still reeling from three random murders in their community, Belchar said police input was also needed to identify areas where encampments have been established.

“The police were fantastic; they see places on a normal basis that we are not familiar with,” she said.

Specific areas citywide were identified, including those around Florida Boulevard, Siegen Lane, College Drive, Government Street, North Boulevard, Airline Highway and Plank Road.

“We graciously approached (the homeless community), and we were very respectful to the person we were looking for,” said Reed, who has participated in the survey for the past five years. Belchar said they asked individuals how they were doing and if they would be agreeable to talk for a few minutes. The survey was streamlined from the cumbersome paper format to digital, thanks to a new app that was recently developed.

“Once we were able to get their attention and build some trust, we would ask such questions as where they slept the previous night, how long they have been homeless and how long they have been in a particular spot.” Reed said, adding that they were also able to gather added data such as military background and, if applicable, any time spent in jail and if they were released in the past 90 days.

During the course of the night, which approximately lasted from 7-11 p.m., each homeless person was given a brown bag dinner, toiletry items and a new blanket.

“They were extremely appreciative and cooperative,” Reed said, although she added that one women ran into a nearby doorway. “Mental illness is the number one challenge.”

Reed also noted the homeless community is aging, with the average age from 45 to 62. She said serious health issues are also becoming increasingly common among homeless males.

“(The census) shows what we have been seeing, and citizens throughout the community can see, there are more visible homeless street people than maybe five years ago,” Acaldo said. “People living in encampments, that particular part of the homeless population is increasing.”

“There are also more and more people hanging out and almost living on bus benches,” he said. “In the past people did not want to be bothered so they did not want you to know where they were.”

He has noticed an increasing number of the homeless population preferring to spend the night outdoors, a recent trend in the Baton Rouge area but one that has been trending nationwide for the past several years.

“Some people feel more comfortable outside,” Acaldo said. “There are no walls, doors, boundaries. Some of it has to do with mental disorders.”

Reed cited a number of mental health issues facing the homeless, mainly trauma, abuse, domestic violence, education and addiction.

“The challenge is greater today than it was three years ago,” she said. “It’s like another world today. What concerns me is how do we eliminate the problem.”

As an example she cited that mental health issues have contributed to individuals returning to the street after having been relocated to permanent housing. She said even after being relocated to an apartment, some individuals require supportive case management, and without that support a return to the streets is a high possibility.

Acaldo said the census provides local, state and federal leaders information so they can identify potential funds to address needs throughout the homeless community. He said everyone in shelters throughout the city were also counted, although he admitted there are likely other areas of encampments that he is not aware of.

He said the federal government uses a multiplier based on statistical data from throughout the country to arrive at an estimate number of homeless.

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Lloyd’s attraction was such that when he met Audrey, he knew she would be his wife.

“She was pretty, she was young, a good girl,” he said.

The courtship years included walking from their midcity neighborhood to the Saenger and Lowe’s theaters in downtown New Orleans, buying movie tickets at 26 cent apiece. Then it was back to Audrey mother’s grocery store, where, Lloyd said, “they had ham on the bone and I would make a sandwich.”

Attending carnival balls and sporting events were also included but Lloyd noted “no bars, no drinking,” although one “special night” brought them to the famed Blue Room at the Roosevelt Hotel, where their mutual friend stiffed them for the tab.

Five years later, on June 11, 1946, the couple was married and that is when their tapestry of life was launched. The couple visited Europe on 10 occasions, with the French Riviera being Lloyd’s favorite, and Paris the favorite of Audrey. Their travels have also taken them to Hong Kong, Tokyo, Hawaii and many domestic locations.

But their deepest love is with their family that includes five surviving children ranging in ages from 73 to 58, 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. The children and grandchildren are scattered throughout the south but for holidays they are often all together.

Previously, the family tradition was to gather every Sunday at the family home with up to 30 people present.

“Our house (in Harahan) was the house everybody came to,” Strickland said. “They were always together. I’ve never heard them say a bad word unless it was during a Saints game, and that was mild.”

Added Audrey, “All of my children and grandchildren are blessings from God.”

After leaving Higgins, Lloyd spent 19 years in sales before he and two partners purchased a machine company, a business he would own until he retired at the age of 79.

The Schroeders remain active even as they approach the centennial milestone. Only recently has Lloyd hired a gardener but Audrey, who inherited a love of cooking from her mother, continues to whet her husband’s appetite with her own specialties.

“I’m a good cook, and he likes to eat,” said Audrey.

Asked to name his favorite dish, Lloyd hesitated, but when pressed, he admitted “crawfish bisque,” before immediately rattling several more favorites, much to the delight of his wife.

The Schroeders do frequent area restaurants, courtesy of gift cards given to them by their children and grandchildren. Carrying on a long-standing tradition, they also make monthly visits to a local casino so Audrey can play the “one-armed bandits,” an activity she has enjoyed for years. But their life has not been without tragedy, having to deal with the death of their young son who was born with special needs and died at the age of nine. Although the death of a child can often put a strain on a marriage, Lloyd said the only inconvenience was a lack of sleep while tending to the child’s needs.

“There was never any strain on the marriage; we lived through it and were happy to do it,” he said.

“I have a strong devotion to my faith and the Blessed Mother is my favorite,” Audrey said of her coping mechanism. “She has helped me a lot.”

As far as offering tips to young couples, Lloyd said it is important to marry someone who shares the same standards, the same ideals and the same beliefs. And they both agree to never go to sleep angry.

“I don’t think he has a bad bone in his body,” Audrey said, her eyes shining while giving her husband an extra squeeze as they were holding hands.
Faith bridges the spiritual gap

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Dr. Edward Sri encouraged Catholics to plunge into the mysteries of living authentic Christian love and being a disciple during a visit to the Diocese of Baton Rouge on Jan. 29-30.

Sri, the founding leader of Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), spoke at St. Ann Church in Morganza, the Catholic Life Center in Baton Rouge and Christ the King Church and Catholic Center at LSU.

At the Catholic Life Center, Sri talked about missionary discipleship.

Sri said a good picture of discipleship is portrayed in Michaelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio’s painting, “The Calling of St. Matthew.”

In the painting, the man commonly identified as St. Matthew is with four other men in the tax revenue office when Jesus walks in and points to St. Matthew in a “follow me” gesture. Jesus is surrounded by light, as the light of the world, and steps into St. Matthew’s darkness. He appears to be pointing to his chest as if asking, “Me?”

“I love the expression of Matthew’s face, it shows conflicting emotions,” Sri said.

St. Matthew is shocked — “I am a tax collector, (and have taken advantage of and hated by the Jews) are you sure you want me to follow you?”

But he also appears to be thinking about it. He knows his life will be drastically changed and is not sure he wants to do it,” Sri said.

“This is the difficult moment of struggle between Matthew the tax collector and Matthew the disciple,” said Sri.

People have those intense moments when Jesus asks them to come closer to him. They must decide whether to follow Jesus or the ways of the world.

“We all have to constantly renew our encounter with Jesus,” Sri said. “Do we feel the call to love him and serve him more?”

The best definition of discipleship is “imitation,” according to Sri.

In the first century, Jewish world rabbis invited disciples to learn his way of life. Disciples walked “in the dust of the rabbis’ sandals.”

Some Catholics commend themselves for attending Sunday Mass and following the rules and practices of the faith but that is only the beginning, according to Sri.

He noted many subway systems have an audible or visual “mind the gap” message warning rail passengers to be cautious crossing the gap between the train and the station platform.

Applied spiritually, this means being aware of areas where one needs conversion, such as giving children, family members or neighbors needed attention; taking time for daily prayer; and how they get from where they are to where God needs them to be.

Sri mused the “universal call to holiness” has a mystique that could be set to a “Star Trek” theme song.

He drew from his experiences as a father of eight children to illustrate the call to holiness.

He recalled the time his daughter Eleanor wanted to jump to him. He coaxed her, “You can do this.” But lacking coordination, her feet would not leave the ground and she became frustrated.

Likewise, adults, as grown children of God, may feel like they are “stuck” and their spiritual life is not taking off. At that point it is important to not get discouraged.

Sri also pointed to the story of the apostle St. Peter denying he knew Jesus during his passion. After Pentecost, St. Peter went to jail and died for his faith in Jesus.

Sri further noted one doesn’t have to be perfect to be holy.

He talked about the time his daughter Josephine was a young child and proudly said, “Here Daddy,” and handed him a page with scribbles on it. He asked her what was and she said, “It’s a picture of you.”

“I never (raised my voice and) said, ‘That’s a terrible picture. Don’t you ever do that again until you get it perfect.’ I was able to see what was in her heart,” said Sri.

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Sri concluded by saying discipleship leads to being a missionary disciple.

He said church leaders see a need for evangelization in their own congregation. He said leaders understand a person who has “surrendered their lives to God” does not describe the average person showing up on Sunday.

Those in faith formation and ministry must share the ABCs of church history and their own stories and live their faith, Sri said.

Missionary disciples teach others so they can teach others, according to Sri. They reach out to those on the peripheries and proclaim the Gospel.

He said when Pope Francis called for the church to be “a church with open doors,” it means the doors also swing out so members can serve and evangelize others.

“Discipleship is continued accompaniment of others,” Sri said.

...
What is a good Catholic Bible?/ Can heaven be happy with some missing?

Q

My wife realized that my Bible is not Catholic when I could not locate the Book of Sirach in it. What is a good Catholic Bible, with a contemporary translation from Greek? (My ultimate preference would be a Catholic Bible with the Old Testament translated from Hebrew and the New Testament from the Greek if such a thing exists.) (Albany, Oregon)

A

There are several translations of the sacred Scriptures that have been approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for devotional use and study by Catholics; any translation that bears an imprimatur may be used for these purposes.

But your best bet, I would think, is the 1986 edition of the New American Bible; that is the only translation approved for liturgical use at Masses in the United States, and so the wording would be familiar to you.

In his 1943 encyclical on Scripture study, “Divino Afflante Spiritu,” Pope Pius XII wrote: “Ought we to explain the original text which, having been written by the inspired author himself, has more authority and greater weight than any even the very best translation, whether ancient or modern.”

The New American Bible follows that prescript: Composed over a period of 25 years by some 50 biblical scholars, it uses the original and oldest available texts of the sacred books Hebrew for the Old Testament, Greek for the New Testament.

Q

I am a “cradle Catholic” of 75 years, now home-bound. We are taught that if one follows the teachings of the church, is a good person and dies in the state of grace, then that person will go to heaven. But suppose some close loved ones don’t make it there? How can we be happy in heaven without them?

I asked an extraordinary minister of holy Communion, and the reply was, “Let’s hope God in his mercy forgives them, too.” But to me this seems to negate the existence of hell. Please help this confused Catholic. (Atlanta)

A

The question you pose has, I would suppose, challenged every reflective Christian for centuries. Various theories have been suggested. One is that hell exists only as a concept, not in reality, and that God will find a way to forgive everyone and bring them finally to heaven.

But to me that seems to conflict with Matthew 25, where Jesus pictures himself at the final judgment separating the faithful from the unfaithful, casting some into “the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Another suggestion is that our memories will fail us in eternity and that those who are lost will simply vanish from our minds. I’m not enthused about that theory either since it seems unlikely that, once our bodies are perfected in heaven, we will simply lose our minds. What do I feel certain about is that heaven will be better than we can ever imagine it.

In Revelation (21:4), we’re told that God “will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away.” I also believe, along with St. Paul in 1 Corinthians (2:9), that “eye has not seen, and ear has not heard... what God has prepared for those who love him.”

So I guess that my answer to your question is that I simply don’t know but that I’m not worried about it. It’s one of those (many) things that I’ll just have to let God figure out.

Q

At a recent Mass I attended, I noticed a teenager seated near me who was chewing gum during the Mass. I was not overly alarmed because I have seen other people (of all ages) chew gum at Mass. But I was appalled when I watched that young man parade forward to receive holy Communion while still chewing his gum. Should the priest have refused to give him Communion? (West Linn, Oregon)

A

Canon law (Canon 919.1) tells Catholics that they are to abstain from all food and drink (with the exception of water or medicine) for at least one hour before receiving holy Communion.
Faith helps maintain the magic of Valentine’s Day

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

A day that some jokingly, or maybe not, contend is a conspiracy concocted by a popular greeting card company and the floral industry is either a highly anticipated day of romance or one that is immensely feared, the latter more dominant among the male population.

Valentine’s Day is a roux of roses, chocolates, cards and candlelight dinners, with the purpose of expressing one’s romantic feelings toward his or her partner, or at the minimum staying out of trouble by remembering to send flowers and presents (chocolates and never buy that popular refrain from your partner “you should not have bought candy because I am on a diet” because failure to do so can have grave repercussions).

But those warm and fuzzy feelings so gushy on Feb. 14 can be as fleeting as they are fickle, according to Darryl Ducote, director of the Office and Marriage Family Life for the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

“(Valentine’s Day feelings) can be very intense at the beginning of a relationship, drawing two people together and creating an idealized image of each other that overlooks one another’s flaws and deficiencies,” he said. “Over time, however, reality intrudes into those idealized images and a more realistic image of each other emerges. As a result, romantic feelings can dwindle.”

Ducote said when those warm and fuzzies begin to wane, perhaps even before the roses are droopy and the chocolate melted, some lovers assume they will need to create grand gestures to rekindle those feelings. Those gestures might include exotic vacations, private weekend getaways, and yes, even more roses, chocolates, cards and candlelight dinners.

However, what psychologists have discovered is that the secret to lasting romance depends on much more mundane experiences.

More than 40 years of research with married couples, conducted by the Gottman Institute of Seattle, has revealed that romantic feelings are maintained by a couple’s simple attempts to connect with one another on a daily basis. The scientists noticed that husbands and wives made frequent “bids” for their partner’s attention, affection, humor or support.

If the other spouse responded positively to the “bid,” a connection was made. If the other spouse did not respond positively, an opportunity for connection was lost, research showed. The scientists described these responses to the “bids” as either “turning towards” versus “turning away.”

The researchers noticed that the “bids” were usually not grand gestures but simple interactions, such as, “Did you see this article in the paper today?” or “I had the strangest dream last night.” If the other spouse responded positively, such as, “Tell me about that article” or “What was your dream?” their connection was strengthened.

Adversely, if the bid was ignored and the other partner “turned away,” their connection weakened like a wilted rose.

These simple responses had a significant impact on the quality of their relationship. The researchers coined the term “emotional bank account” to describe this impact.

They recognized that every time one of these simple connections was made, it was equivalent to making a deposit in the couple’s “emotional bank account.” Thus, the more couples “turned toward” each other, the greater their emotional bank account.

The building up of their emotional bank account not only served as a cushion when times got rough, but also served as the most significant key to lasting romance. Once couples understand this simple “key,” they can make a greater effort to notice when their partner is making a “bid” and respond positively.

Although the gestures associated with Valentine’s Day are certainly welcome, they are not the model for lasting romance. The real answer is the couple’s faith and awareness of the need to connect in simple ways every day, not just on Valentine’s Day.

The real answer is the couple’s faith and awareness of the need to connect in simple ways every day, not just on Valentine’s Day.

DOYLE ▼
from page 6

Planning a St. Joseph Altar?
The Catholic Commentator will be publishing a list of St. Joseph Altars in the Diocese of Baton Rouge in our Feb. 28 issue.

The deadline to be included is Feb. 19.

If you would like to submit a listing, include:
• Date and time(s)
• Place of viewing including street address
• Contact name and phone number

and send to email wkoch@diobr.org; or FAX to 225-336-8710.

The St. Joseph Altar form is on our website thecatholiccommentator.org
Men of the Immaculata Conference set Feb. 29

By Richard Meek
The Catholic Commentator

Secularism and relativism can often blur the lines of truth but spiritual infallibility can only be found in the Scriptures. Defining that truth is the theme of the fourth annual Men of the Immaculata “Call to Battle,” scheduled Feb. 29 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at St. George Church in Baton Rouge.

The conference will feature national and local speakers, as well as chef John Folse preparing lunch and offering his own personal testimony. Priests will also be available throughout the day for confession.

“Pilate asked Jesus, ‘What is truth?’” conference chairman Mark Herman said. “And that is our theme.

“In today’s society, where there is no real truth, but it’s what people think or feel, we are trying to draw it back to the spiritual truth and the Scriptures and the word of God.”

Speakers include Father Wade Manezes CP, a popular fixture on EWTN television and radio, and Jeff Cavins, creator of the Great Adventure Bible Study series that many church parishes use as an evangelization tool.

Closing out the day will be a presentation by St. Helena Church in Amite pastor Mark Beard, a dynamic speaker who often sprinkles in bits of his own humor to drive home points.

“(Father Beard) is quite energetic and will give us a good chance to send the guys off on fire and ready to go out and tackle the challenges of the world and faith,” Herman, in his second year as chairman, said, “He will give us the call to action and to recognize the everyday things we can do to stand up to truth in the world in which we live. He will send the men forth with that sense of direction and fight for the truth.”

Bishop Michael G. Duca is scheduled to welcome the expected crowd of 1,200 men, and he will also celebrate Mass.

Herman said the speakers’ talks will be geared toward the theme, focused on having the man continue to return to prayer, specifically back to Scripture and the sacraments, because that is where the truth is ultimately found.

“We need to have that beacon of truth, which is Jesus Christ,” he said. “We as Catholics receive it through the sacraments and are blessed to have Christ present in the tabernacle, in the Eucharist. We can’t stray from that. If we do we are going to get caught up in the confusion of the world.”

The rosary, which Herman calls a “spiritual weapon” to fight the daily spiritual war, will be led by Sister Dolce Maria Flores HMSS at 2 p.m.

Father Manezes will lead off the conference at 8:30 a.m., explaining the challenges society faces today, and encouraging the men to turn to the Bible for the truth. Father Manezes, who is based in Auburn, Kentucky, will often spend one to two weeks at a time at EWTN headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama, celebrating the televised daily Mass. He is also the host of Open Line Tuesday on Catholic Community Radio and one who not only utilizes digital media but also radio and television to discuss the tenets of the faith.

“He’s a great speaker and a very intelligent priest and does a really good job of taking things and bringing it to the lay person in a way they can understand,” Herman said. “He enjoys speaking on the tenets of the faith, especially the graces we receive through the sacraments, and how that can be applied through everyday life.”

Herman said Cavins’ talk will focus on the Bible and the truth through God’s word.

Herman said St. George pastor Father Paul Yi, who has attended the conference in the past, will offer remarks throughout the day, and the conference chairman is also hopeful he will be able to persuade Father Yi “to bless us with his beautiful voice. I want the men to hear the gift he has been given.”

Included in the gathering will be about 40 seminarians from Notre Seminary in New Orleans, a group that is being organized by Deacon David Dawson of Baton Rouge.

Each man attending will be given a bag that includes multiple books, including a Magnificat Lenten guide. Herman is hopeful that if someone does not have a Lenten plan established, the books will serve as a guide to help each man grow and be a different person when the Easter season arrives.

The cost is $60 per person, or $30 for those from 13 to 25, and that includes lunch prepared by Folse.

Visit Menoftheimmaculata.com to register.

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Students take faith-filled journey to Washington

By Debbie Shelley
The Catholic Commentator

Fueled with passion to stop the harrowing toll that legalized abortion has inflicted on their generation as well as future generations, hundreds of youth from the Diocese of Baton Rouge joined thousands of their peers in converging on the nation’s Capitol to demand the overturning of Roe V. Wade during March for Life January 24.

The journey to their destination was a faith-filled experience. The students visited the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama and the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Motherhouse in Nashville, Tennessee. While in Nashville, they celebrated Mass with the sisters, who accompanied them for the rest of the pilgrimage.

There were also several diocesan priests, seminarians and religious who journeyed alongside the youth as they developed their pro-life view and faith.

“It is hard to pick one particular highlight of the trip; there were many. I loved adoration, the bus games, the bus companions, the march itself and basically the rest of the entire trip,” said Sarah Degeyter, 16, a junior at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge.

“However, there is one thing that I couldn’t deny was my favorite part of the trip. We had sisters from two different convents join us for the pilgrimage.

“First, the Hospitaler Sisters (who serve the Metanoia House in Zachary, which works with victims of sex trafficking), and second, the Dominican sisters from Nashville. I became very good friends with a Hospitaller, and I am still keeping in touch with her even after the trip. It is obvious that being around women who have dedicated themselves to God would change the atmosphere of the trip, but it was also the constant reaffirmation that this was a loving, joyful trip that they carried with them.”

Once in Washington, D.C., the youth had a whirlwind schedule that included visiting Arlington National Cemetery, the Bible Museum, Union Station, the Smithsonian Museum and the National Holocaust Museum.

The pilgrims also participated in a rosary walk at a Planned Parenthood Clinic and the White House.

“The events on the schedule all have a way of relating to abortion. I’ve been able to relate the genocide of the Holocaust to the genocide of abortion because now I have that experience; I’ve prayed at Planned Parenthood and I’ve been to the Holocaust museum,” said Degeyter. “It’s not just something I’m passing down from other people.”

The teens attended Mass at the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception and St. Matthew Cathedral.

Degeyter found the trip educational, and it increased her confidence in talking with people who are pro-choice.

“One thing that I’m sure everyone on the March for Life can agree upon is the education,” she said. “No matter which bus you are on ... it is clear that you are prepared to be a warrior for life. There is an educated mentor, seminarian and priest on every bus. The mentors teach us about what happens during abortions, statistics, how it degrades women, how someone should react, and how someone could counter a disagreement about abortion. They played some sections of documentaries on the bus to show us the world of women who have had abortions. It was absolutely eye-opening.”

Like Degeyter, Kathy Vu, 16, also a junior at St. Michael, found her faith had increased as well as her knowledge.

“This year was my first year attending the March for Life. I was inspired to go on this pilgrimage because of the stories I have heard from people who went the previous year. I was told of everyone finding God through the improvement of each person’s faith,” said Vu.

She said her highlights were the march and attending adoration.

“Before going on this trip I had struggled with prayer and my relationship with God, but now I feel closer to God than I ever was before,” Vu said. “This trip inspired me to help people understand that the meaning of pro-life is more than fighting for the life of the unborn babies but also for the babies who didn’t have a chance at life. The most important thing I learned is that sometimes we may not feel like God is listening to us, but he is, we just have to trust in his timing.”

The zeal of the pilgrims inspired adults who were with them at the Capitol.

“The March for Life was one of the most amazing experiences of our lives,” said Tammy Pearl of Baton Rouge. She and her husband, Wayne, are the parents of Evangeline “Evie” Love Pearl, 3, who has Downs Syndrome. The Pearls were instrumental in the passage of “Evie’s Law” in 2019. The law prohibits discrimination against those with disabilities who need an organ transplant.

The Pearls talked to the youth during the pilgrimage.

Tammy Pearl, who attended SEE LIFE PAGE 14
From page 1

ANNIVERSARY ▼

Looking to the past and present history of St. Gabriel, the old church has a special meaning to her because it is where her grandparents were married. She was baptized in the new church and she and her husband married there as well.

Noting there are new people attending every Sunday Mass, Bonnette’s dream for St. Gabriel’s future is that it will continue to cherish the experiences and long-term support of its older members while embracing the gifts and talents new members bring.

“I’m so grateful that people are coming around the altar to hear the word of God,” Bonnette said. “How exciting to know that our church is still doing that.”

She remarked on the sentiments of the attendees that the beauty of St. Gabriel is in its faith community.

Lawrence Bajus, who has been a member of St. Gabriel for 24 years and whose great-granddaughter recently received First Communion there, agreed.

“I would like to see us continue that friendly atmosphere and the togetherness,” Bajus said. “When I first attended St. Gabriel five years ago, it was like finding a ‘treasure in their own backyard’ for Michelle and Michael Tubre. They lived in St. Gabriel, but had been attending a larger church parish. Deciding to make a change, they came to St. Gabriel and now call it home.

“They’ve made a lot of friends in a short time,” said Michelle Tubre, who plays the organ for the choir. ‘We love for young people to build families here, because it’s a great place to raise a family.”

“Our faith has grown since we’ve been a member here,” said Michael Tubre, a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Bishop Duca encouraged attendees of the St. Gabriel Church to pass on their history, heritage and faith to the next generation during his homily.

“Let us rejoice and be glad we’ve had 250 years,” said Bishop Duca, adding that it is through perseverance the Acadian ancestors formed a faith community and built the church in St. Gabriel, and it will be through the determination of current members the legacy will be carried on.

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Diocese celebrates CSW

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Baton Rouge kicked off Jan. 27 with the annual Distinguished Graduates Banquet at the Renaissance Hotel in Baton Rouge.

A reception hour before the event was resplendent with smiling faces, hugs and laughter as honorees and their special guests gathered with faculty and clergy members of their alma maters.

The 29 Distinguished Graduates credited their Catholic education with laying the foundation for success both professionally and personally. More than 350 people attended the banquet, which recognized graduates from several generations ranging from the Class of ’62 to the Class of ’05.

Another important event during CSW, the Catholic Schools Mass, was celebrated at St. Gerard Majella Church in Baton Rouge. More than 150 Catholic school students, faculty members and parents attended the Mass celebrated by Bishop Michael G. Duca along with Father Tat Hoang CSsR, pastor of St. Gerard Church, and several priests and deacons from the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Following Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Gerard Majella Church in Baton Rouge, awards were presented to Glynis Davis, a teacher at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge, for Distinguished Educator; Ellen Lee, principal at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge, for Distinguished Administrator; and Father Gregory Daigle, pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine, for Distinguished Clergy.

Dr. Melanie Palmisano, superintendent for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, welcomed everyone to the Mass and thanked God “for the ministry of Catholic education.” She also noted the gifts received through a Catholic education.

“Students, you are privileged to be in a Catholic school, where each day you learn about your faith and the world,” Palmisano said.

She then pointed to opportunities for charity and leadership to help complete students’ education which would benefit them now and in the future.

“You will be able to take the Gospel values that you are taught today and apply them throughout your life, making this world a better place and helping you to become closer to God,” said Palmisano.

During his homily, Bishop Duca noted the similarity between the Gospel reading of Jesus’ parable of the sower and the seed with Catholic education. The bishop said the seed that landed on fertile soil, with a good foundation and nutrients, thrived.

“Your Catholic education cannot just grow on water, it has to have other aspects, it can’t just be book learning,” Bishop Duca told the students.

“As a human person, you cannot just grow on just water, you need food, too ... It’s the same thing with your mind. Your mind has to be fed. Your mind has to have its nutrients to bring it alive. It helps you to grow and understand the world, it helps you mature. And your education feeds your mind with knowledge with sciences, how the world runs and works; with math and biology, and calculus and physics later on.

“But also you learn about art and creativity, you learn about literature and how to read ... but all that is still not enough. You need something else, something that your schools provide ... you learn about God in your life and with that you open a whole other dimension of who we are as human beings, that we’re created in God’s image and likeness. You open up within yourself a new potential, a new way of seeing things.”

Following the Mass, Glynis Davis, a teacher at St. Joseph’s Academy in Baton Rouge, received the Distinguished Educator Award; Ellen Lee, principal at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Baton Rouge received the Distinguished Administrator Award; and, Father Gregory Daigle, pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church in Plaquemine received the Distinguished Clergy Award.

Also, Baton Rouge Mayor Sharon Weston Broome presented Bishop Duca and Palmisano with a proclamation for Catholic Schools Week. There was also a proclamation from Governor John Bel Edwards for the State of Louisiana as well as from East Baton Rouge Civil Parish, Iberville Civil Parish, Pointe Coupee Civil Parish, West Baton Rouge Civil Parish, along with the cities of Donaldsonville, Gonzales and New Roads.

More than 350 people attended the banquet, which recognized graduates from several generations ranging from the Class of ’62 to the Class of ’05. Father Paul Yi, pastor of St. George Church in Baton Rouge, talks with St. George School principal Jack Nelson before the event.
Donations emphasize students’ commitment to social justice

By Bonny Van
The Catholic Commentator

Shortly before the start of the 10 a.m. Catholic Schools Week Mass at St. Gerard Majella Church in Baton Rouge, a trailer from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge was set up in the parking lot to accept donations from hundreds of school children and faculty members who would be arriving soon.

Within 45 minutes, the trailer was full, weighed down with lawn-sized garbage bags filled with donations, boxes of kitchen items, cookware, diapers, baby wipes and baby shampoo. The donations to Catholic Charities are an important part of Catholic Schools Week “to emphasize our commitment to social justice and service to others as a community,” according to Michael Miller, assistant superintendent for Catholic schools in the diocese and coordinator of the donation drive.

“I believe that this teaches students that as followers of Christ we are called to help and serve others outside our own school and parish communities,” said Miller. “Our actions and our deeds as well as our life should reflect that call.”

“It’s very important to give donations because everybody deserves to have a very healthy life,” said Carli Bourgeois, a sixth-grader at St. Peter Chanel School in Paulina. “We need to treat people the way they deserve to be treated.”

The donations were taken to a warehouse to be distributed to clients served by all of the agencies at Catholic Charities. Stephanie Sterling, a member of the executive team at Catholic Charities, said the items last for an entire year.

“Around the time that the Catholic Schools Week distribution comes up again, we’re at the end of those donations,” said Sterling.

She said the donations are also used to help other areas of the diocese without other available resources. Catholic school students have averaged $17,500 in donations annually to Catholic Charities.

“The donations are extremely important and beneficial to the clients we serve who are in dire need of basic items,” Sterling said. “The clients that we help include pregnant homeless women, formerly incarcerated men, refugees new to our country, newly formed families. A lot of the donations go to new moms, who need basic items.”

Braylin Wright, an eighth-grade student at Mater Dolorosa School in Independence, believed it was good “to bring us all together to help out others because that’s what Jesus wants us to do.”

Before Mass, students and their principals carried gifts representing their donations to the altar.

During Catholic Schools Week, students from throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge donate items for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. Students have averaged $17,500 in donations annually to Catholic Charities. The items are distributed throughout the year.

Photo by Bonny Van | The Catholic Commentator
**The Grudge**

Screen Gems

Drab second English-language remake of a hit 2003 Japanese horror tale about a haunted house whose malign influence infects and follows all who enter it. This time out, the most prominent of its ensemble of victims is a recently-widowed police detective (Andrea Riseborough). As she and her troubled partner (Demian Bichir) investigate the death of a specialist, which it's set, director William Eubank's destruction are not inclined to let them pass in peace. Like the ocean depths in which it's set, director William Eubank's monster movie is dim and murky as it alternates between the boredom of spending time in the company of one-dimensional characters and brief outbursts of nasty mayhem. Brief but intense scenes of violence with much gore, a few uses of profanity and a couple of milder oaths, at least one rough and several crude terms. O; R

**Underwater**

Tedious survival slog follows an electrical engineer (Kristen Stewart) and some of her colleagues (led by Vincent Cassel) as they escape the severely damaged underwater drilling facility where they've been living and working and head for the shelter of a similar structure nearby. But the mysterious creatures that inflicted the destruction are not inclined to let them pass in peace. Like the ocean depths in which it's set, director William Eubank's monster movie is dim and murky as it alternates between the boredom of spending time in the company of one-dimensional characters and brief outbursts of nasty mayhem. Brief but intense scenes of violence with much gore, a few uses of profanity and a couple of milder oaths, at least one rough and several crude terms. O; R

**Parasite**

This South Korean feature begins as a sly comedy, then takes a surprising turn. It's about a family of four who least doubles as thugs and the role of the crime lord's beloved wife (Michelle Dockery), is pitched as the opening salvo is a blackmail scheme. An energetic pace, witty exchanges and the effective spinning of the plot's many wheels-within-wheels cannot compensate for the lighthearted outlook on brutal mayhem that marks this well-crafted but amoral film. Pervasive violence with much gore, including an attempted rape, implied aberrant sexual behavior, a narcotics theme, relentless rough and crude language. O; R

**The Turning**

Universal

Director Floria Sigismondi's loose, updated adaptation of Henry James' classic 1898 novella-long horror story "The Turn of the Screw" provides the occasional jolt on the way to a thoroughly incoherent ending. A newly hired live-in nanny (Mackenzie Davis) at an isolated country mansion presided over by an austere housekeeper (Barbara Marten) is gradually unnerved by the sinister behavior of her initially endearing young charge (Brooklynn Prince) and of the girl's sullen, aggressive older brother (Finn Wolfhard). Is the manor haunted? Is the lad possessed? Or is the protagonist going mad? While James keeps readers on a knife edge with alternative possibilities, screenwriters (and brothers) Chad and Carey W. Hayes can't seem to decide what direction their script should adopt, so they wind up veering all over the place. Since one of the possible ghosts had a taste for sadistic sex and a character meets a briefly glimpsed bloody death, their film is strictly for grown-ups. Some violence with momentary gore, occult and mature themes, including aberrant sexuality, an image of rear nudity, partial nudity, at least one profanity and a milder oath, a single rough and a couple of crude terms. A-III; PG-13

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**Motion Picture Association of America ratings:**

- **G** – General audiences; all ages admitted
- **PG** – Parental guidance suggested; some material may not be suitable for children
- **PG-13** – Parents are strongly cautioned to give special guidance for attendance of children under 13; some material may be inappropriate for young children
- **R** – Restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian
- **NC-17** – No one under 17 admitted

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**LIFE ▼**

From page 9

the march with Evie, was touched by her encounters with the youth and the march. "We went to D.C. hoping to share our story and change at least one life," said Tammy Pearl. "But instead, we’re the ones who left changed. This whole experience fulfilled. I highly recommend that if it’s possible for any teenager to attend this diocesan pilgrimage, they do so with expectations of falling deeper in love with their faith."

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An ‘exciting life’

By Richard Meek

The Catholic Commentator

Father Joel LaBauve had admittedly reached a crossroad in his life.

Six years removed from taking a leave of absence from the priesthood, Father LaBauve understood a decision was looming that would decide his future.

So he went to the one place where he knew he could find the silence to converse with God, that being his boyhood church of St. John the Baptist in Brusly.

“I remember sitting in church after Mass one day and just praying with all of my heart, saying ‘Okay God, I have to choose a career path or a commitment (to the priesthood) and put my heart and soul into it,’ he said. ‘It was the most clear revelation I had ever had. (God said) ‘You don’t want to leave the priesthood.’

“I enjoy it so much, I loved being a priest. So I came back.”

Although at the time he already had been ordained for 39 years, Father LaBauve said it was then, at the age of 44, when he “committed to being a priest for life.”

“I became happy as a lark and have been to this day.”

In a low-key celebration, Father LaBauve recently marked his 50th anniversary of ordination during a Mass.

“When you are young, you are full of life and energy,” he said. “You want an exciting life.”

But when Bishop Tracy, the founding bishop of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, saw Father LaBauve greatly admired, left, a void was created.

“That was very hard on me,” Father LaBauve admitted. “It was a very disillusioning time.”

He eventually took a three-monthleave of absence and upon returning spent three years as parochial vicar at St. Patrick Church in Baton Rouge, which had been established six months earlier.

“That was a wonderful experience,” he said. “The parish was vibrant, very dynamic.”

Father LaBauve’s first pastorate was at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in St. Francisville, an assignment that lasted eight months before he was appointed pastor at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church in White Castle. Little did he realize life-altering events awaited him.

“I was anxious to do things without a lot of consultation,” he said. “When you are young you think you know everything.”

Not all of his decisions were met favorably by parishioners, including removing the last seven rows of pews in the church so people would move closer to the front.

Differences with his parochial vicar also surfaced, but no challenge was greater than the early morning fire at the rectory when Father LaBauve woke up to see the back of the house engulfed in flames. The crime remains unsolved.

Father LaBauve was ordained by Bishop William D. Borders on Feb. 6, 1970. To Father LeBauve’s right is Father Stanley Ott, who would be installed as the third bishop for the Diocese of Baton Rouge on March 25, 1983.

The Catholic Commentator file photo

**PRAYER FOR SEMINARIES**

Lord, bless those preparing for the priesthood in the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge.

May their hearts overflow with love and generosity, as they grow in wisdom and faith. May their example inspire others to grow in wisdom and faith. May their hearts overflow with love and generosity, as they grow in wisdom and faith. May their example inspire others to grow in wisdom and faith.

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Divided country needs to heal

An impeachment trial that splintered the nation has finally concluded with the acquittal of President Trump being heralded by some and scorned by others.

Regardless of one’s political dogma, however, it’s imperative for the healing process to begin in a country that is perhaps as divided as it’s ever been, an era when uncompromising partisanship has stagnated progress.

Now is the time for our country’s leaders to cross the aisle and extend a hand of compromise and reconciliation, make mutual commitments to bury the theaters that both parties have been guilty of in the past months, including during the recent State of the Union address, and work together to shutter the divisiveness.

But that reconciliation must extend far beyond the political arena. The months leading up to the trial, and the actual trial, have fractured families and friendships, pitted workers against co-workers and elevated the toxicity of social media to where it has become little more than a toxic waste site for those spewing their vitriol.

All of this comes during the runup for the fall elections, a critical time when voters will decide if they are satisfied with the current administration or voice their disapproval at the ballot box. Control of each chamber of Congress will also be up for grabs, and what is critical to remember is that these elections will have far-reaching implications, from the fate of unborn babies, the status of immigrants, climate control and influence myriad other issues.

Hopefully the acerbity of the past few months will begin to fade, and the focus shifted to the unveiling of platforms permeated by solutions rather than additional rhetoric so voters can discern which candidates adhere to their own beliefs.

Of course, where is God in this conversation and why is he seemingly an afterthought? What is his role? For without God, without the country looking into its collective conscience, the chasm of today will only continue to fester.

Progress will only be seen when God becomes the moral compass for a political fraternity that has seemingly lost its direction. Only when morality and empathy replace political agendas will the healing begin.

Far too much is at stake to risk staying the current course in terms of political dissent emitting from both parties. The blessing is your voice can send a message of harmony.

The Bible is a love letter from God

On Jan. 17, I alerted the readers of The Catholic Commentator that Pope Francis had declared the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time to be henceforth an annual celebration of “The Word of God.” His general intent was to encourage us to read the Bible frequently. As I write this, it is the afternoon of that Sunday. Along with many other priests, I preached on that topic earlier at a Mass for the retired Sisters of St. Joseph at their chapel on the corner of Hundred Oaks and Parker streets. When I got home, I went to my computer to check my emails, and there was a column by Ines San Martin, Rome reporter for the Catholic Newsletter, Crux, about Pope Francis’ homily the same morning. Her opening sentence was: “Pope Francis on Sunday compared the Bible to a ‘love letter’ from God to humanity, and said that those who follow Jesus should read it daily, keeping the Gospel at hand ‘on our cell phones,’ being open to his word and not just going to him with some ‘rote prayers.’”

Good works alone are not enough, Pope Francis said. We have to listen to God’s call daily. “He who alone knows us and who loves us fully, leads us to push out into the depth of life. That is why we need his word: so that we can hear, amid the thousands of other words in our daily lives, that one word that speaks to us not about things, but about life,” the pope said. What a good reason for reading the Bible!

Jesus’ main message, according to Pope Francis, is that God is near. Christ’s preaching took up where St. John the Baptist ended, with what was not so much a warning as an invitation, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Repent means change your life so that you are more open to receive God into it. Indeed, as Pope Francis noted, the appearance of Jesus meant that “The one who dwells in heaven has come down to earth: he became man. He has torn down walls and shortened distances. We ourselves did not deserve this: He came down to meet us. He wants to stay with us and give us the beauty of life, peace of heart, the joy of being forgiven and feeling loved.”

Throughout the Bible the words of Old Testament prophets and the New Testament preaching of Jesus challenge us to give up selfish attitudes. In the words of Pope Francis: “The time when you lived for yourself is over; now is the time for living with and for God, with and for others, with and for love.” It was not just a coincidence that Pope Francis picked that Sunday to celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God. The Gospel reading during Mass has Jesus referring to the people in the region of the “Galilee of the Nations” who were promised by the prophet Isaiah that they who lived in darkness would receive God’s own light. The light, of course was Jesus, and contrary to what some Jews in his day believed, he was to be the light of the nations, all peoples and cultures, not just of the Jews, and we are to be his evangelizers today.

This is a favorite theme of Pope Francis. He said, “Here there is a message for us: The word of salvation does not go looking for untouched, clean and safe places. Instead, it enters the complex and obscure places in our lives. Know, as then, God wants to visit the very places we think he will never go.” We have to be careful, because we often close the door to his word, afraid of letting his truth “Stir our hearts.”

Jesus is calling us to spread his message just as he called ordinary workers in his day. The Gospel for this Sunday of the Word of God ends with Jesus recruiting Peter and his brother Andrew and James and his brother John to follow him and help in his ministry of evangelization. They, ordinary fishermen, hoped that he was the promised one that the Scriptures they had heard in their synagogue spoke of. Pope Francis closes his homily by urging us to read the Bible daily and discover for ourselves that God is close indeed. On Valentine’s Day read from his love letter.

FATHER CARVILLE is a retired priest in the Diocese of Baton Rouge and writes on current topics for The Catholic Commentator. He can be reached at johnnycarville@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editor should be typed and limited to 350 words and should contain the name and address of the writer, though the address will not be printed. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Catholic Commentator, P. O. Box 3316, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3316, or to tcc@diobr.org.
W

hat does it mean to be big-hearted, magnani-
mous?

Once during a baseball game in high
school an umpire made very a unfair call against our
team. Our whole team was indignant and all of us
began to shout angrily at the umpire, Swearing at him,
calling him names, loudly venting our anger. But one
of our teammates didn’t follow suit. Instead of shout-
ing at the umpire he kept trying to stop the rest of us
from doing so. “Let it go!”
he kept telling us. “Let it go, we’re bigger
than this!” Bigger than what? He wasn’t
referring to the umpire’s immaturity,
but to our own. And we weren’t “bigger
than this,” at least not then. Certainly I
wasn’t. I couldn’t swallow an injustice.
I wasn’t big enough.

But something stayed with me from
that incident, the challenge to “be big-
ger” inside the things that sligt us. I
don’t always succeed, but I’m a better
person when I do, more big-hearted,
just as I am more petty and smaller of
heart when I don’t.

But just as our teammate challenged
us all those years ago, we remain chal-
lenged to “be bigger” than the pettiness
within a moment. That invocation lies at the very heart
of Jesus’ moral challenge in the Sermon on the Mount.
There he invites us to have “a virtue that’s deeper than
that of the scribes and the Pharisees.” And there’s
more hidden in that statement than first meets the eye
because the scribes and Pharisees were very virtuous
people. They strove hard always to be faithful to all the
precepts of their faith and were people who believed
in and practiced strict justice. They didn’t make unfair
calls as umpires! But inside of all of that goodness
they still lacked something that the Sermon on the
Mount invites us to, a certain magnanimity, to have
big enough hearts and minds that can rise above being
slighted so as to be bigger than a given moment.

Let me offer this example of what that can mean:
St. John Paul II was the first pope in history to speak
out unequivocally against capital punishment. It’s
important to note that he didn’t say that capital
punishment was wrong. Biblically we
do have the right to practice it. St.
John Paul conceded that. However,
and this is the lesson, he went on to say that,
while we may in justice practice capital
punishment, we shouldn’t do it because
Jesus calls us to something higher,
namely, to forgive sinners and not execute
them. That’s magnanimity, that’s being
bigger than the moment we’re caught up with.

St. Thomas Aquinas, in his moral
astuteness, makes a distinction that one
doesn’t often hear either in church teach-
ings or in common sense. St. Thomas says
that a certain thing can be sin for one person
and yet not for another. In essence,
something can be a sin for someone who
is big-hearted, even as it is not a sin for someone who
is petty and small of heart. Here’s an example: In
a wonderfully challenging comment, St. Thomas once
wrote that “it is a sin to withhold a compliment from
someone who genuinely deserves it because in doing
so we are withholding from that person some of the
food upon which he or she needs to live.” But in teach-
ing this, St. Thomas is clear that this is a sin only for
someone who is big-hearted, magnanimous, and at a
certain level of maturity. Someone who is immature,
self-centered and petty of heart is not held to the same
moral and spiritual standard.

How is this possible, isn’t a sin a sin, irrespective
of person? Not always. Whether or not something is a
sin or not and the seriousness of a sin depends upon
the depth and maturity within a relationship. Imagine
this: A man and his wife have such a deep, sensitive,
caring, respectful and intimate relationship so that the
tiniest expressions of affection or neglect speak loudly
to each other. For example, as they part to go their
separate ways each morning they always exchange
an expression of affection, as a parting ritual. Now,
should either of them neglect that expression of affec-
tion on an ordinary morning where there’s no special
circumstance, it would be no small, incidental matter.
Something large would be being said. Conversely,
consider another couple whose relationship is not close,
where there is little care, little affection, little respect
and no habit of expressing affection upon parting.
Such neglect would mean nothing. No slight, no intent,
no harm, no sin, just lack of care as usual. Yes, some
things can be a sin for one person and not for another.

We’re invited both by Jesus and by what’s best
inside us to become big enough of heart and mind
to know that it’s a sin not to give a compliment, to know
that even though biblically we may do capital punish-
ment we still shouldn’t do it, and to know that we’re
better women and men when we are bigger than any
slight we experience within a given moment.

VIEWPOINT

Father Ron Rolheiser

Traditional Lenten practices
be ashes one day.
Work of mercy and alms-
giving reflect generosity but should also reflect
humility — “there but for the grace
of God go I.” So much of who we
are, how we are ... a mere accident of
birth that we can make gods out of.
Jesus says, “But as
to what is within,
give alms, and be-
hold, everything
will be clean for
you” (Lk 11:41).
Self-denial/ fasting encour-
geases humility as
we come face to

face with our mortality and ac-
knowledge not only the reality
of physical hunger but also so
many emotional and spiritual
huners that we fill up with
substances that fail to satisfy
(often our sins). God is creator,
we are not. We are creatures
who must accept our creature-
hood so as to not impede upon
the creator. Thank you ashes.
Lenten practices help us to
encounter Jesus Christ who
accepted his creaturehood (and
gave away himself as love to
the father’s love). Lenten practices
can assist our contemplation
on what changes in our con-
sciousness need some serious
adjustments (REPENT). Sins
are often symptoms of disor-
dered consciousness. Interest-
that “consciousness” and
“consciences,” which sound so
similar, are so necessary for
Lent and every day in our spiri-
tual journey.

Father Philip F. Spano

is pastor of Most
Blessed Sacrament Church in
Baton Rouge.

Encounter Christ through Lenten practices

Ash Wednesday is not a
holy day of obligation. In
my experience, Mass atten-
dance by the people of God
is greater than at official holy
days. Not getting into any mo-
rality issues and allowing for
the fact that some may think it’s
obligatory to begin Lent, I won-
der what’s the dynamic driving
Ash Wednesday’s popularity.

Some observations: Maybe
there’s something about those
ashes ... so many choosing to
feel that irritating burnt grit on
our foreheads and to hear those
irritating, haunting words,
“Remember you are dust, and
to dust you will return!” (Or at
least, “Repent and believe in
the Gospel” which can irritate
and haunt and still be good
news).

Even though we often and
strangely “numb” ourselves
with so much “stimulation,” an
inner wisdom, voice and grace
breaks through. “You are but
dust! Accept your mortality!”

The popular Lenten, every-
day word, REPENT, means
change your mind, change
the direction of our own emotional
programs for happiness which
often contradict God, love,
relationship. So much of us
can be destructive, or at least
empty, unnecessarily. So let’s
encounter our mortality with
what really matters when ashes
and words, meet heads.

It is also my opinion that
Ash Wednesday is a holy
day for so many Catholics who
grieve and feel alienated be-
cause they can’t approach the
table of the Lord who ate and
drank with sinners and tax
collectors when his human/his-
torical body was on this earth.
Regardless, they can humbly
approach the ashes and receive
the Christ who goes wherever
there is hunger for Christ.

Father Philip F. Spano

Guest
Columnist

OBLATE FATHER RON ROLHEISER, theologian, teacher and
award-winning author, is president of the Oblate
School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can
be contacted through his website romrolheiser.com and
facebook.com/rorolheiser.

Father Ron Rolheiser

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be contacted through his website romrolheiser.com and
facebook.com/rorolheiser.
Blood Drive – A blood drive sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #3298 will be held Sunday, Feb. 23, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., at the parish hall of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 2250 Main St., Baton Rouge. Register at bloodhero.com and enter sponsor code “sacred heart.” For more information, call David Hotard at 225-315-2579.

Secular Franciscan Meeting – The monthly meeting of the Secular Franciscan Order will be held Sunday, Feb. 23, in the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi at Maryville Convent, 4200 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, beginning at 1 p.m. with the recitation of the Franciscan Crown. For further information, email Ruth Powers, OFS at rpowers_1@bellsouth.net or call 601-807-4153.

New Orleans Retreats – Father Dan Dorsey, of the Glenmary Home Missionaries, will present a retreat, “Living a Life of Faith,” Friday, Feb. 28 – Sunday, March 1, at the Archdiocese of New Orleans Retreat Center, 5500 St. Mary St., Metairie. For further information, including cost, and to register, visit neworleansretreats.com/retreats or call Susan Halligan at 504-257-9604.

Women in Spirit – Janet Simmons, president and CEO of Hope Ministries, will speak at the meeting of Women in Spirit, Thursday, Feb. 20, noon – 1 p.m., at St. Joseph Cathedral, Fourth and Main streets, Baton Rouge. A complementary lunch will be provided. RSVP by emailing wis.stj@gmail.com or calling the cathedral office at 225-387-928.

Taize Service – Rosaryville Spirit Life Center, 39003 Rosaryville Road, Ponchatoula, will host a candlelight Taize prayer service Monday, March 2, 7 p.m. For more information, visit catholicrotrecenter.org or call 225-294-5039.

Marriage Help – A Retreatvaile weekend for couples with a troubled marriage will be held in Baton Rouge Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8. For information or to register, call 985-232-5963, email retrouivre comeo@gmail.com or visit helpourmarriage.com.

Count Your Blessings – The St. Vincent de Paul Society will host the 25th annual Count Your Blessings supper Friday, March 6, 7 p.m., at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center, 445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge. Chef John Folse will cook a Lenten dinner. Tickets are $10 each and can be purchased by visiting svdpbr.org.

Marriage Program – Dr. Allen Hunt of Dynamic Catholic, will present a program, “Passion and Purpose for Marriage,” Sunday, March 8, 1– 5 p.m. at St. George Church, 7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge. Tickets are $25 per person and can be purchased by visiting dynamiccatholic.com/batonrouge.

Day of Prayer – The Marian Servants of the Eucharist are sponsoring a day of prayer, “Be Healed 2022,” Saturday, March 21, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at St. George Church, 7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge. Mass will be celebrated by pastor Paul Yl. Presentations and prayer will be led by Diane Hemsote and Mary Rousseau, leaders of the Marian Servants of the Blessed Sacrament School of Healing Prayer, St. Augustine, Florida. A non-refundable advance donation of $35 per person includes lunch. Register at marianservants.com/donate or by sending a check made out to “Mary Mother of the Eucharist Community” mailed to 7111 Village Maison Court, Unit 2, Baton Rouge, LA, 70809.

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LABAUVE ▼

From page 15

“It was a miracle I got out,” he said.

Not long after, Father LaBauve took a second leave of absence, one that would last six years. He landed a job in the governor’s office and eventually was hired as the human resources director for the Port of New Orleans.

“I was enjoying being out at first, taking care of myself financially, which is pretty scary when you leave the priesthood because you don’t have a lot of money,” Father LaBauve said. “I had no interest in coming back.”

He said those six years were a learning experience that formed the foundation for what would become the second half of his ministry.

“I learned so much during that leave that just freed me in ways I would never would have dreamed I could have been freed,” Father LaBauve said. “I was freed of the anger that built up, freed of an immature idea of priesthood, freed to a much more mature idea that could sustain me as a happy priest the rest of my life. “I found people.”

Father LaBauve spent six years as the full-time chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, which, despite inherent adversity, was also rewarding.

“Being with people that really want to change their lives, and there are many at Angola, that’s a very inspiring and uplifting experience,” he said.

He later served as pastor at St. Isidore the Farmer Church in Baker, St. Mary’s Church in Gonzales and the cluster parishes of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Platteville and St. Anne Church in Napoleonville.

“The way I approached priesthood before that leave was in a very institutional way,” he said. “Now, it is a very people-centered approach, which is entirely different. I’m in the life-giving stage.”

Father LaBauve retired in 2012 at the age of 68 but remains active, unshackled from the demands of administration. He revels in the spiritual fulfillment of celebrating Mass, as well as hearing confessions, experiences he missed while on leave.

Today, he is comfortable in his Denham Springs condo, spending time in his favorite chair reflecting on what has been a rewarding and exciting life. He hopes along the way he has touched a few of the countless parishioners he has served.

“I hope people remember me as somebody who truly cared about them, somebody who really helped them become closer to God,” Father Joel LaBauve

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Lenten regulations for the Diocese of Baton Rouge

As per the Pagella Policies of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, as in the rest of the church in the United States, Catholics aged 18 through 59 are bound by a grave obligation to observe a solemn fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Catholics aged 14 and up are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday as well. These norms have been established by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in accord with the norms of canons 1249-1253 in the revised Code of Canon Law of 1983.

To fast means to consume only one full meal a day at most, although taking of other smaller quantities of food at the other customary mealtimes is permitted. Food and drink “between meals” (excepting only water and medicine) is not permitted on fast days.

To abstain from meat means refraining from eating beef, veal, pork or poultry at least, although not necessarily eggs, milk products or meat broths, or condiments made from animal fat. The consumption of fish, shellfish and reptiles is permitted if desired.

Beyond the mandatory days listed above, abstinence from meat on every Friday throughout the year which is not a solemnity and fasting on all Lenten weekdays (especially Wednesdays and Fridays), and on Holy Saturday, is strongly recommended to all the faithful.

There always remains, of course, the grave obligation to participate at Holy Mass on all Sundays and days of obligation.

Each in his or her own way, every Christian is bound to do penance by virtue of divine law. Only ill health or some similar situation of urgency excuses. During the Lenten season, Christ Jesus’ own challenges to prayer, fasting and almsgiving are paramount.

Clergy (priests and deacons) who have legitimate residence and active ministry within the Diocese of Baton Rouge have been delegated the power to dispense the faithful of the diocese, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the obligation to observe a particular day of penance, or to commute some or all of its obligations to other pious works. Included in this is the faculty to dispense from the Lenten obligations to fast and abstain from meat. Yet the obligation to do some kind of penance remains a serious one, and will not be taken lightly by a good Catholic.

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Ash Wednesday schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ascension of Our Lord Church</th>
<th>716 Mississippi Street Donaldsonville 12:05 &amp; 6 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family Church</td>
<td>319 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen 8 a.m., 6 p.m. Mass with ashes Noon ashes only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary Church</td>
<td>44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant 6 a.m., noon, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception Church</td>
<td>865 Hatchell Ln. Denham Springs 8:30 a.m., noon, 5 &amp; 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mater Dolorosa Church</td>
<td>609 Third St., Independence 8:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy Church</td>
<td>445 Marquette Ave. Baton Rouge 6:30 &amp; 8:00 a.m., noon, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church</td>
<td>11485 Ferdinand Street St. Francisville 5:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Peace Church</td>
<td>13281 Hwy. 44, Vacherie 8 a.m., 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel</td>
<td>3147 Church Street, Jackson Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Pompeii Church</td>
<td>14450 Hwy. 442 W, Tickfaw 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus Church</td>
<td>2250 Main Street Baton Rouge 6:30 &amp; 8:00 a.m., noon, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Alphonsus Church</td>
<td>14040 Greenwell Springs Rd. Greenwell Springs 6 &amp; 8:30 a.m., noon, 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis of Assisi Church</td>
<td>818 West 10th Street Donaldsonville 7 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. George Church</td>
<td>7808 St. George Dr. Baton Rouge 6:30 &amp; 8 a.m., 6 p.m. Noon Liturgy of the Word and ashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. James Church</td>
<td>6613 Hwy. 18, St. James 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Cathedral</td>
<td>401 Main Street, Baton Rouge 7:30 a.m., noon, 5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Church</td>
<td>15730 Hwy. 16 French Settlement 8:10 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Communion service with ashes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church</td>
<td>30300 Catholic Hall Road Hammond (Albany) 6 a.m., 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mark Church</td>
<td>42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales 8:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. Noon ashes only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary of False River Church</td>
<td>348 W. Main St., New Roads 7 a.m., noon, 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul the Apostle Church</td>
<td>3912 Gus Young Ave. Baton Rouge 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Philip Church</td>
<td>1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie Noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Stephen the Martyr Church</td>
<td>22494 Hwy. 22, Maurepas 7 a.m. Communion service with ashes 7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas Chapel</td>
<td>32191 Hwy. 22, Springfield Noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Spiritual renewal opportunities of the Lenten season**

- **FEBRUARY 16, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, APRIL 5, 19**
  One Day at a Time for Catholic Teens
  St. Joseph Church
  St. Catherine Room
  355 W. Pine St., Ponchatoula
  9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  Reflections, crafts and games; RSVP
  Mary Hanks 985-397-4868

- **FEBRUARY 17, 24, MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, APRIL 6, 13**
  Divine Novena
  St. Jules Church
  7165 Hwy. 1, Belle Rose
  6 p.m. Mass, exposition of Blessed Sacrament, singing of the chaplet and benediction
  Rectory 225-473-8569

- **Divine Mercy Novena Chaplet**
  St. George Church
  7808 St. George Dr.
  Baton Rouge
  5 p.m. confessions
  6 p.m. Mass
  6:30 p.m. singing Chaplet of Divine Mercy
  Church office 225-293-2212

- **Divine Mercy Novena**
  Immaculate Conception Church
  12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
  6 p.m. Mass followed by Divine Mercy Novena
  Parish office 225-627-5124

- **Divine Mercy Novena**
  Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
  2250 Main Street
  Baton Rouge
  8 a.m. Mass followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; novena prayers, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
  Office 225-387-6671

- **Divine Mercy Novena**
  St. Alphonsus Church
  14440 Greenwell Springs Rd.
  Greenwell Springs
  6 p.m.
  Feb. 26 will be after 6 p.m. Mass
  Donna Speeg 225-261-6635

- **Divine Mercy Chaplet**
  Most Blessed Sacrament Church
  1565 Jefferson Hwy.
  Baton Rouge
  6:30 p.m. exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and benediction
  Kathy Duplesissi 225-752-6230

- **FEBRUARY 25, MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, APRIL 7, 14**
  Divine Mercy Chaplet
  Most Blessed Sacrament Church
  1565 Jefferson Hwy.
  Baton Rouge
  6:30 p.m.
  Free, donations appreciated
  Rev. Tat Hoang CSsR will lead:
  Feb. 27 “3 Temptations”
  March 5 “The Beloved”
  March 12 “The Living Water”
  March 19 “The Light”
  March 26 “The Resurrection”
  April 2 “Jesus, The Son of God”
  Refreshments and fellowship follow
  225-355-2553, stgerard@diobr.org

- **FEBRUARY 26**
  Stations of the Cross
  St. John the Baptist Church
  402 S. Kirkland, Brusly
  6:30 p.m.

- **FEBRUARY 26, MARCH 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 27, APRIL 1, 3**
  Ash Wednesday “Wood & Nails” Retreat
  St. Alphonsus Church
  14440 Greenwell Springs Rd.
  Greenwell Springs
  8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
  $35 per person, Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by a day of prayer and reflection. Must register and pay in advance.
  Theresa Henderson 225-241-1319

- **FEBRUARY 26, APRIL 1, 8**
  Divine Mercy Mass and Novena
  Ascension of Our Lord Church
  716 Mississippi Street,
  Donaldsonville
  After 6 p.m. Mass followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet
  Dana Schexnayder 225-473-3176

- **FEBRUARY 19, 26, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 8, 15**
  Divine Mercy Novena
  Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
  2250 Main Street
  Baton Rouge
  8 a.m. Mass followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy; novena prayers, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
  Office 225-387-6671

- **FEBRUARY 27, MARCH 5, 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2**
  Stations of the Cross
  St. Philip Church
  1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
  Following 6 p.m. Mass

- **Eucharistic Adoration**
  Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
  2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
  Feb. 26, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.
  All other dates noon – 6:00 p.m
  Clare Conlon 225-387-6671

- **Eucharistic Adoration**
  Mater Dolorosa Church
  609 Third St., Independence
  1 – 7 p.m.
  Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

- **6 Mini Retreats**
  St. Gerard Majella Church
  445 Marquette Ave.
  Baton Rouge
  3 p.m.
  All other Wednesdays 7:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
  Fridays 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
  Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

- **Eucharistic Adoration**
  Our Lady of Mercy Church
  445 Marquette Ave.
  Baton Rouge
  6 p.m.
  Parish office 225-647-5321

- **Mass and Stations of the Cross**
  St. Mary of False River Church
  348 W. Main St., New Roads
  Noon Mass, 12:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
  JoNell Doucet 225-638-9665

- **Stations of the Cross**
  St. Alphonsus Church
  14440 Greenwell Springs Rd.
  Greenwell Springs
  6:30 p.m.
  Mary Bridges 225-831-4744

- **Stations of the Cross**
  Our Lady of Mercy Church
  445 Marquette Ave.
  Baton Rouge
  6 p.m.
  Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

- **Stations of the Cross**
  Immaculate Conception Church
  14450 Hwy. 442
  442 W., Tickfaw
  6 p.m.
  Loretta Bergeron 985-345-8957

- **Stations of the Cross**
  Holy Family Church
  310 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
  5 p.m.
  Church 225-383-1838

- **All Day Adoration**
  St. Ann Church
  182 Church St., Morganza
  7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
  Retta Ramagos 225-694-3781

- **Benediction and Stations of the Cross**
  St. Ann Church
  182 Church St., Morganza
  6 – 7 p.m.
  Retta Ramagos 225-694-3781

- **Stations of the Cross**
  St. Jean Vianney Church
  410 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
  5 p.m.
  Church 225-383-1838

- **Stations of the Cross**
  Mater Dolorosa Church
  609 Third St., Independence
  5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
  SEE SPIRITUALITY PAGE 3B

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**SHRIMP!**

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Italian-Style Marinated Shrimp PoBoys

**Special Order Only:** Shrimp Pesto Lasagna

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**Spirituality Page 3B**

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SPIRITUALITY ▼

From page 28

Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

 Stations of the Cross
St. Dominic Chapel
55240 LA Hwy. 445, Husser
5:30 – 6 p.m.
Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

 Stations of the Cross
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
6 p.m.
Parish office 225-383-2537

 Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
11:30 a.m.
Lorie Watson 225-387-5928

 Stations of the Cross
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
5:30 p.m.
Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Office 225-698-3110

 MARCH 1 – 3
Lenten Parish Mission
St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road
Hammond (Albany)
March 1 – 6:45 p.m.
March 2 and 3 – 6 p.m.
Presented by Sister Martha Ann Abshire FMIOL
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573

 MARCH 2 – 3
Parish Mission
Immaculate Conception Church
865 Hatell Lane
Denham Springs
7 p.m.
Presented by Rev. Albert Haase
Office 225-665-5359

 MARCH 2 – 4
Parish Lenten Mission
St. Alphonsus Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Mary Bickel will speak on
Refreshments afterwards.
Childcare available upon request.
Olga Johnson 225-261-4644

 MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, APRIL 6
Lenten Bible Study
St. James Church
6013 Hwy. 18, St. James
6:30 p.m.

 MARCH 3
Healing Mass
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
10 a.m.

 MARCH 4
Lenten Taize Prayer Service
Holy Family Church
310 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
6:30 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

 MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1
Ecumenical Lenten Luncheons
St. Joseph Church
15710 Hwy. 16, French Settlement
6 p.m.
Office 225-698-3110

 MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25, APRIL 1, 8
Adoremus! The Eucharist: Source of our Christine Life
St. Agnes Church
749 East Blvd., Baton Rouge
5 p.m. confession
5:30 Mass
6 p.m. Divine Mercy Chapel
followed by presentation
March 4 Dr. Geoffrey Bains
professor of sacred Scripture
"The Eucharist Foreshadowed in the Old Testament"
March 11 Rev. Ryan Hallford
"The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass: The Cross, Sacrifice, the Priesthood and His Real Presence"
March 18 Rev. Todd Lloyd
"Holy Communion: Food For Our Journey and Pledge of God's Love"
March 25 Rev. Brent Maher
"Mary, Our Model of Eucharistic Devotion"
April 1 Rev. Miles Walsh
"The Eucharist: Our Food for Eternal Life; Living Our Catholic Mission as Eucharistic Instruments of the Lord"
April 8 Rev. Michael H. Champagne
"The Eucharist Revealed in the New Testament"
Visit StAgnesbr.org

 MARCH 5
Healing Mass
Our Lady of Peace Church
13281 Hwy. 44, Vacherie
10 a.m.

 MARCH 6
Healing Mass
St. James Church
6013 Hwy. 18, St. James
10 a.m.

 Stay Awake and Pray with Me
St. Ann Church
Church hall
182 Church St., Morganza
7 p.m.
Janice Newton 225-936-3361

 MARCH 7 & APRIL 4
Family Adoration & Benediction
St. Alphonsus Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
8:30 – 9 a.m.
Donuts in the St. Francis Room
follow to
Olga Johnson 225-261-4644

 MARCH 8
Passion and Purpose for Marriage
St. George Church
7808 St. George Dr.
Baton Rouge
1 – 5 p.m.
$25 ticket per person/st.george.
org or DynamicCatholic.com
Discover key ingredients to a healthy and happy marriage.
Take your relationship to a new level; given by Dr. Allen Hunt
Elizabeth Schroeder 225-293-2212

 Lenten Mission
St. Aloysius Church
2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free and open to everyone
Marcellino D’Ambrosio PhD
("Dr. Italy") is a best-selling
author, speaker and founder of
the Crossroads Initiative.
He will address the importance of
the Mass and personal prayer in
the Catholic Life.
Mark Christian 225-343-6657
Ext. 28

 Parish Mission
St. George Church
7808 St. George Dr.
Baton Rouge
7 – 8:30 p.m.
“Seasons, Cycles and Spiritual Lessons Learned, So What Really Matters” presented by
Rev. Whitney Miller
Church Office 225-293-2212

 Lenten Mission "How To Grow in Holiness!"
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
7 p.m.
Cecile Haley 225-450-9469 or
225-647-8461

 FEBRUARY 28, MAR. 6, 13, 27, APRIL 3
FEBRUARY 28, MAR. 6, 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3
Stations of the Cross
St. Joseph Church
15710 Hwy. 16, French Settlement
6 p.m.
Office 225-698-3110

Stations of the Cross
St. Stephen the Martyr Church
22494 Hwy. 22, Maurepas
5:30 p.m. adoration
6 p.m. Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
Office 225-695-6310, 225-698-3110

Stations of the Cross
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
Spiritual Fridays
225-647-8461
Cecile Haley 225-450-9469 or
6 p.m.
Presented by Sister Martha Ann Abshire FMIOL
March 2 and 3 – 6 p.m.
Mary Bickel will speak on
Refreshments afterwards.
Childcare available upon request.
Olga Johnson 225-261-4644

MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, APRIL 6
Stations of the Cross
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
10 a.m.

MARCH 4
Lenten Taize Prayer Service
Holy Family Church
310 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
6:30 p.m.
Church office 225-383-1838

MARCH 6
Healing Mass
St. James Church
6013 Hwy. 18, St. James
10 a.m.

MARCH 9 – 10
Lenten Mission
St. Aloysius Church
2025 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free and open to everyone
Marcellino D’Ambrosio PhD
("Dr. Italy") is a best-selling
author, speaker and founder of
the Crossroads Initiative.
He will address the importance of
the Mass and personal prayer in
the Catholic Life.
Mark Christian 225-343-6657
Ext. 28

MARCH 9 – 11
Parish Mission
St. George Church
7808 St. George Dr.
Baton Rouge
7 – 8:30 p.m.
“Seasons, Cycles and Spiritual Lessons Learned, So What Really Matters” presented by
Rev. Whitney Miller
Church Office 225-293-2212

MARCH 9 – 11
Lenten Mission "How To Grow in Holiness!"
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
7 p.m.
Cecile Haley 225-450-9469 or
225-647-8461

Heads & Tails Seafood
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HeadsAndTailsSeafood.com
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SPIRITUALITY ▼
From page 3B

Lenten Revival
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
6:30 – 8 p.m.
“God Is” presented by revivalist Deacon Lawrence Houston, St. Peter Claver Church, Archdiocese of New Orleans Jerilyn Williams 985-513-2528

MARCH 10
Lenten Evening of Reflection
Women of the Well
St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road
Hammond (Albany)
6:30 p.m. social
7 – 8:30 p.m. program
Free but RSVP requested
womenofthewellbr.com/events

MARCH 12
Lenten Mission
Holy Rosary Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
7 p.m.
Parish office 225-647-5321

MARCH 15
Bilingual Mass
St. Philip Church
1757 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
4 p.m.

MARCH 16
Jacob Benda Organ Concert
St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
7 – 9 p.m.
Lorie Watson 225-387-5928

MARCH 17
Lenten Evening Prayer with Adoration
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrell’s Rd.
Baton Rouge
7 – 8 p.m.
Rev. Tom Ranzino and choir will lead in prayer through music and scripture while we are in the presence of our Lord.
Parish office 225-753-7950

MARCH 20 & 22
Youth Lenten Play
St. Francis Cabrini Church
3511 Church St., Livonia
7 p.m. – March 20
1 p.m. – March 22
Donations accepted
The youth will perform “The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus.” There will be a potluck following Sunday performance.
Peggy Champagne 225-625-2438 or 225-456-0595

MARCH 22 – 24
Parish Mission
St. Patrick Church
12424 Brogdon Lane
Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Come, revive your spirit and soul with Vallimar Jansen
Pamela Folse 225-753-5750

MARCH 20
Living Way of the Cross
St. Elizabeth School at St. Elizabeth Church
119 Hwy. 403, Paincourtville
8 – 8:45 a.m.
Presented by the eighth grade class
Lisa Traigle 985-369-7402

MARCH 27
Baton Rouge High School, Catholic High School and St. Joseph’s Academy Concert
St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Memorial concert for Robbie Giroir
Lorie Watson 225-387-5928

MARCH 29
Living Way of the Cross
St. James Church
6613 Hwy. 18, St. James
7 p.m.

Healing Service and Mass
St. Joseph Church
255 N. Eighth Street
Ponchatoula
2 p.m.
Father Anthony Ddiong presiding
Angela Perrin 985-386-3749

APRIL 4
Family Adoration & Benediction
St. Alphonsus Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.
Afterwards donuts in the St. Francis Room
Olga Johnson 225-261-4644

APRIL 5
The Last Supper Dramatization
Our Lady of Pompeii Church
14450 Hwy. 442W., Tickfaw
7 p.m.
Followed with reception in Pompeii Hall
Loretta Bergeron 985-345-8957

Tenebrae Service on Palm Sunday
St. Patrick Church
12424 Brogdon Lane
Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Pamela Folse 225-753-5750

APRIL 9
Living Stations of the Cross
St. Elizabeth School at St. Elizabeth Church
119 Hwy. 403, Paincourtville
8 – 8:45 a.m.
Presented by the eighth grade class
Lisa Traigle 985-369-7402

APRIL 10 – 19
Divine Mercy
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
2 p.m. April 10 & 11
8 a.m. April 13 – 17
3:30 p.m. April 18
7:30 a.m. April 12 & 19
Cecile Haley 225-450-9469 or 225-647-8461

SPIRITUALITY ▼
From page 3B

Lent is an ideal time to find your focus. Studies show the little things, such as being mindful, journaling and prayer can make a big difference in our health. At Our Lady of the Lake, we’re here to spark new ideas about what it means to be healthy, and help you raise your Health Esteem.

Another way to raise your Health Esteem.

Health Esteem.org
OUR LADY OF THE LAKE
Lenten fundraisers throughout the Diocese of Baton Rouge

FEBRUARY 16
Asian Noodle Bowl Dinner
St. Thomas More Church
1441 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge
9 a.m. – noon
$10 includes bowls of rice noodles with grilled pork, egg roll
Greg Brandao 225-266-9702

FEBRUARY 26, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27
Lenten Fish Fry
St. Francis Xavier Church
1120 Myrtle Street, Baton Rouge
Cafeteria, dine in or take out
8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call in orders to go
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Dine-in and walk-in order
Delivery available for 10 or more
$9 per plate, includes fried fish, potato salad, mac & cheese, sweet peas, bread, dessert
Mary Williams 225-333-1866
Charles Fair 225-326-5287

Lenten Fish Fry
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave.
Baton Rouge
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
$8 per plate includes fried fish or fried shrimp, potato salad, sweet peas, bread, dessert
To place orders 225-387-9506
To fax orders 225-383-3702

Lenten Dinner
St. Jean Vianney Church
16166 S. Harrel's Ferry Rd.
Baton Rouge
5 – 7 p.m.
$8, different meals each Friday
Office 225-733-7950

Knights of Columbus 969
Fish Fry
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave.
Baton Rouge
5 – 7 p.m. Dine-in or take out
$8 plate includes fish, coleslaw, french fries, bread
Church office 225-926-1883

Men’s Club Fried Fish Dinners
St. Alphonsus Church
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
4 – 6 p.m. (or until sold out)
Cash or check
Pick up in front parking lot.
Billy Harris 225-261-3738

Knights of Columbus Suppers
Holy Family Church
479 N. Jefferson Ave., Port Allen
5:30 – 7 p.m.
$10 includes fish, stewed shrimp, rice, potato salad, sweet peas
Cash or check
Pick up in front parking lot.
Marcia Skidmore 225-326-5287

Knights of Columbus Men’s Club
Fish Fry
St. Mary Magdalen Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road
Hammond (Albany)
4 – 6 p.m.
$9 includes fried fish, garlic potatoes, coleslaw, bread, dessert
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573

Lenten Meatless Meal
St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road
Hammond (Albany)
4 – 6 p.m.
$9
Feb. 28 Seafood gumbo, rice, potato salad, coleslaw, crackers, dessert
March 6 & 27 Fried fish, garlic potatoes, coleslaw, bread, dessert
March 20 Shrimp stew, rice, potato salad, sweet peas, coleslaw, crackers, dessert
April 3 Crab and corn bisque, Caesar salad, crackers, dessert
Mary E. Herbert 225-567-3573

Immaculate Conception Church
865 Hatchell Lane
Denham Springs
Main hall (enter administration building near flag pole)
5 – 7:30 p.m. Dine in or take out
$10 each/tickets available at church office and at the door
Feb. 28 KC’s fried catfish, potato salad, dessert, bread
March 6 Religious Education:
Fried shrimp, french fries, salad, dessert
March 20 RCIA shrimp alfredo, salad, bread, dessert
March 27 Catholic Daughters
crawfish etouffee, salad, dessert, bread
April 3 Sponsored by The Men’s Club: TBA

Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry
St. Patrick Church
Family Center
12424 Brogdon Lane
Baton Rouge
5:30 – 7 p.m.
Fried fish $8, baked tilapia $9,
cup of seafood gumbo $4
Marty Murphy 225-439-3219

FEBRUARY 28 AND MARCH 20
KC Court #23 Fish and Shrimp Dinner
St. Benedict the Moor Church
5479 Hwy. 1, Napoleonville
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
$10 includes fish, stewed shrimp, rice, potato salad, sweet peas
María Skidmore 225-323-7197

MARCH 6
Cristo Clays – Sporting Clay Shoot
Cristo Rey Franciscan High School
1365 Northwest Drive
Port Allen
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Registration and lunch
1 p.m. – Clays Fy
$500 per team of 4
Registration includes lunch. An awards ceremony and reception will immediately follow the shoot.
Amy Tyrrell 225-788-8893 or 225-361-0883

KC Shrimp Stew Dinner
Immaculate Conception Church
Parish Hall
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
$8 per plate

MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27, APRIL 3
KC Fish Fry
St. Joseph Church
15710 Hwy. 16, Franklin
3:30 – 7 p.m.
$8 per plate includes fried fish and fries
Office 225-688-3110

Men’s Club Lenten Fish Fry
St. George Church
St. Luke’s Cafeteria
7808 St. George Dr.
Baton Rouge
4 – 7 p.m.
$9 – $10 includes fried or baked fish or fried shrimp, potato salad, coleslaw, french fries, roll Church office 225-293-2212

MARCH 6, 20, APRIL 3
Lenten Fish Fry
St. Thomas More Church
1441 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge
5 – 7 p.m. Drive up service
5:30 – 8 p.m. Dine-in
$8 per plate includes fried fish, french fries, coleslaw, bread
$5 per plate, children’s menu, grilled cheese with fries
Tickets available at the STM

SEE FUNDRAISER PAGE 6B
Looking for Daily Mass Schedules?


Don’t have one? Call 225-387-0983.
Holy Week services

APRIL 9, HOLY THURSDAY
Holy Thursday Mass/Adoration
Holy Rosary Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
7 p.m. followed by adoration
Parish office 225-647-5321

St. Margaret Queen of Scotland Church
30300 Catholic Hall Road, Hammond
(Albany)
7 p.m. followed by adoration until
midnight
Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

St. James Church
6615 Hwy. 18, St. James
6:30 p.m.

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Immaculate Conception Church
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
7 p.m.
Parish office 225-627-5124

St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
7 p.m.

Holy Rosary Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-647-5321

Good Friday Pilgrimage
Holy Rosary Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
5 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Donations accepted
Tim Lessard 225-715-5103 or
timlessard@eatel.net

Stations of the Cross
St. Margaret Queen of Scotland
30300 Catholic Hall Road, Hammond
(Albany)
Noon
Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

St. Margaret Queen of Scotland
30300 Catholic Hall Road, Hammond
(Albany)
3 p.m.
Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

St. Alphonsus Church
14040 Greenwell Springs, Greenwell
Springs
7 – 8 p.m.
Mary Bridges 225-831-4744

Our Lady of Pompeii Church
14450 Hwy. 442W, Tickfaw
7 p.m.
Loretta Bergeron 985-345-8957

St. George Church
7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Church office 225-293-2212

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St. Mary of False River Church
348 W. Main St., New Roads
7 p.m.
JoNell Doucet 225-638-9665

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
7 p.m. followed by eucharistic adoration
until 9 p.m.

APRIL 10, GOOD FRIDAY
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion with Veneration of the Cross
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
3 p.m.

Good Friday Pilgrimage
Holy Rosary Church
44450 Hwy. 429, St. Amant
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-647-5321

Good Friday Service with Veneration of the Cross
St. Thomas Chapel
3291 Hwy. 22, Springfield
3 p.m.
Lanie Borum 225-567-3573

Mary’s Stations of the Cross
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
Noon

St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
3 p.m.

A Passionate Walk With Jesus
7 a.m. Walk begins at St. Mary Church,
New Roads, ends at Immaculate
Conception Church, Lakeland for 3 p.m. – Service
Please visit apassionatewalkwithjesus.com to register online

Stations of the Cross and Confession
Immaculate Conception Church
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
Noon
Parish office 225-627-5124

Good Friday Passion of the Lord Service
Immaculate Conception Church
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-627-5124

St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
9 a.m. outdoor Stations of the Cross
Noon Stations of the Cross
3 p.m. church services and adoration
Lorie Watson 225-387-5928

The Passion of Jesus and Veneration
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-383-2537

Youth Stations of the Cross
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
2 p.m.
The stations will be on the church grounds
Parish office 225-383-2537

Stations of the Cross
Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
6:30 p.m. Mass, adoration until 9 p.m.
Parish office 225-383-2537

Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
7 p.m.
Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

Holy Thursday “The Lord’s Supper”
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
7 p.m.
Adoration in church following service
Cecile Haley 225-450-9469 or
225-647-8461

Mass of the Lord’s Supper
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
6:30 p.m. Mass, adoration until 9 p.m.
Parish office 225-383-2537

St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
Noon

Mary’s Stations of the Cross
St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy. 18, Vacherie
3 p.m.

A Passionate Walk With Jesus
7 a.m. Walk begins at St. Mary Church,
New Roads, ends at Immaculate
Conception Church, Lakeland for 3 p.m. – Service
Please visit apassionatewalkwithjesus.com to register online

Stations of the Cross and Confession
Immaculate Conception Church
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
Noon
Parish office 225-627-5124

Good Friday Passion of the Lord Service
Immaculate Conception Church
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-627-5124

St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
9 a.m. outdoor Stations of the Cross
Noon Stations of the Cross
3 p.m. church services and adoration
Lorie Watson 225-387-5928

The Passion of Jesus and Veneration
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
3 p.m.
Parish office 225-383-2537

Youth Stations of the Cross
St. Paul the Apostle Church
3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge
2 p.m.
The stations will be on the church grounds
Parish office 225-383-2537

Stations of the Cross
Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
Noon
Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

Good Friday Service
Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
3 p.m.
Rev. Reuben Dykes 985-878-9639

Good Friday “Passion of the Lord”
St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
3 p.m.
Stations of the Cross following service
Cecile Haley
225-450-9469 or 225-647-8461

Stations of the Cross
Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
Noon
Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
3 p.m.
Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

SEE HOLY WEEK PAGE 88

St. Joseph Hospice brings comfort and supportive care to patients and caregivers, wherever they call home.

• Founded in 2002, St. Joseph Hospice is named for the Patron Saint of a Peaceful Death, St. Joseph, and provides peace, comfort, support, and dignity to those facing life-limiting illness.

• Our expert care team offers a full range of hospice and palliative care services in the patient’s or caregiver’s home, senior living communities, assisted living and skilled nursing care facilities, and our own hospice care homes.

• Hospice care is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurance plans. No patient will ever be turned away from St. Joseph Hospice based on their ability to pay.

St. Joseph Hospice
225-769-4810
225-769-4810

Proudly Serving the Diocese of Baton Rouge since 2002
**HOLY WEEK▼**

From page 78

**Our Lady of Pompeii Church**
14450 Hwy. 442 W., Tickfaw
Noon
Loretta Bergeron 985-345-8957

**St. Alphonsus Church**
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
Noon Stations of the Cross
3 p.m. service
Mary Bridges 225-831-4744

**St. George Church**
7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge
7 p.m.
Church office 225-293-2212

**St. Mary of False River Church**
348 W. Main St., New Roads
3 p.m.
JoNell Doucet 225-638-9665

**Walk with the Cross**
St. Stephen the Martyr Church
22404 Hwy. 22, Maurepas
7 – 11:30 a.m.
Meet at St. Stephen. Walk from St. Mary, Bear Island, to St. Stephen, recite stations and rosary along the way (6.5 miles)
Office 225-695-6310, 225-698-3110

**APRIL 11, EASTER VIGIL**

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
8 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church
13281 Hwy. 44, Vacherie
8 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Church
12564 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
8 p.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
8 p.m.

St. Paul the Apostle Church
3922 Gysun Ave., Baton Rouge
8 p.m.

Mater Dolorosa Church
609 Third St., Independence
8 p.m.

St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
8 p.m.

Our Lady of Mercy Church
445 Marquette Ave., Baton Rouge
8 p.m.

Deacon Richard Grant 225-926-1883

**APRIL 12, EASTER SUNDAY MASS**

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2250 Main Street, Baton Rouge
9 & 11 a.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church
13281 Hwy. 44, Vacherie
6 & 10 a.m.

St. Mark Church
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
8 p.m.

St. Philip Church
1175 Hwy., Vacherie
8 a.m.

St. James Church
6613 Hwy. 18, St. James
8 a.m.

**Immaculate Conception Church**
12364 Hwy. 416, Lakeland
7, 9 & 11 a.m.

**St. Joseph Cathedral**
401 Main Street, Baton Rouge
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**St. Paul the Apostle Church**
3912 Gysun Ave., Baton Rouge
9:30 a.m.

**St. Mark Church**
42021 Hwy. 621, Gonzales
8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

**Our Lady of Pompeii Church**
14450 Hwy. 442 W., Tickfaw
9 a.m.

**St. Alphonsus Church**
14040 Greenwell Springs Rd.
Greenwell Springs
8 & 10 a.m., noon

**St. George Church**
7808 St. George Dr., Baton Rouge
7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m., 6 p.m.

**St. Mary of False River Church**
348 W. Main St., New Roads
7, 9 & 11 a.m.

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**Come Count Your Blessings With Us**

3 Great Ways You Can Help the Needy this Lenten Season!

**Join Bishop Michael Duca and Chef John Folse at the**

**25th Annual Count Your Blessings Supper**
Friday, March 6, 2020 at 7:00 PM - Our Lady of Mercy Parish Activity Center

As we begin preparing for the Lenten season, many of us will start to think about what we’ll give up for the next 40 days, but Lent isn’t just about sacrifice; it’s also an opportunity to reflect on the blessings in our lives. That’s what we’ve celebrated for 25 years at Count Your Blessings Supper. **Come and Count Your Blessings with Bishop Michael Duca and Chef John Folse and John Pastorek.**

Join us for a simple Lenten supper, a meal that will nourish you physically and spiritually. This year’s Count Your Blessings Supper is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6th, at Our Lady of Mercy’s Parish Activity Center. Order your tickets today using the order form below or order online at svdpbr.org or give us a call at (225) 383-7837, extension O. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to Count Your Blessings, P.O. Box 127, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-0127, or visit us at www.svdpbr.org.

**You Can Answer a Prayer and Save a Life Today!**

Join WBRZ-Channel 2, Pat Shingleton, the Baton Rouge Clinic and St. Vincent de Paul in filling prescriptions for the needy. Our Community Pharmacy provides a solution for low-income individuals who can’t afford their life-sustaining prescription medicine. We are seeing more people who are breaking tablets in half and skipping doses of medicines in a desperate attempt to make ends meet. **You can save someone’s life by filling a prescription, visit our website at www.svdpbr.org.**

**Build A Basket For Needy Kids**

When families are struggling to exist on minimum-wage incomes, just paying the rent and putting food on the table is difficult. Needy children learn at an early age that there’s nothing in the budget for extras. Things like Easter baskets are luxuries their families simply cannot afford. **Join St. Vincent de Paul in providing Easter baskets for needy children.** To find out how you can help with this year’s effort, call us at (225) 383-7837, ext. O, or visit us at svdpbr.org.