

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

626 4th Street • Alexandria, Louisiana 71301 • Phone: (318) 445-1451 • www.sfxcathedral.org

Volume XXXVII, No. 8

February 22, 2026

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Monsignor James Ferguson, JCL, Rector

Deacon Richard Mitchell • Deacon Jason Lavergne • www.sfxcathedral.org

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 23:

12:05 p.m. Edgar J. Rachal

Tuesday, February 24:

12:05 p.m. Linda Cazes

Wednesday, February 25:

12:05 p.m. Rev. Msgr. James A. Ferguson
(special intentions)

Thursday, February 26:

12:05 p.m. Dale Hebert

Friday, February 27:

12:05 p.m. Lucille Cezar Artis

Saturday, February 28:

4:00 p.m. Hope Farrar Kramer, Leila Kramer, Dixie Durastanti, George & Betty Battalora, Anglo & Nina Carter D'Angelo, John Christian Upton, Wallace & Normand Families (living & Deceased), Felix LaCaze, Esther Hernandez, Edgar & Connie Campo, Mable Titmus, Egidio John DiStefano, Sam & Maggie DiStefano, Mr. & Mrs. Audrie Metoyer, Sr., Paul & Elizabeth Ceasar, Ellis & Hop LaHood, Fred Brouillette, Rachael Brouillette, Sam Johnson, Robert Eberle, Richard "Dick" Ducote, Sr., Eric Ducote

Sunday, February 29: Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Gilchrist & White Families (living & deceased), R.J. Ducote, Lennie Humphreys, John Christian Upton, Deceased Members of the Cathedral Altar Society, Selma & Richard Sayer, Dufour & Wasmer Families, Todd Mizell, Jonathan Scalfano (living), Sophia Van Horn (living), Joe Betty Sterkx, James E. Radkay, Bob McBride, Dr. Alfred Mansour, Allison Ann Tillie, Daphine Fullford Shotton, Fredrick Leonardo Green, Grass & Ferguson Family

11:00 a.m. People of SFX Cathedral Parish

5:30 p.m. Hazel Neal

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light will burn in memory of Madeline Jeansonne, please remember her in your prayers.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

Weekly Budget	\$ 9,500.00
Last Weekend Collection	\$ 8,192.10
Over or (Short)	\$ (1,307.90)

Thank you for your generosity!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL - 2026



As a Catholic community we are called to be one body in Christ and to live as His disciples. The Annual Diocesan Appeal offers each of us the opportunity to become one in His body by supporting the ministries of the local Church and contributing to the ADA. **The goal for St. Francis Xavier Cathedral this year is \$38,234.00.**

2025 RITE OF ELECTION - SUNDAY – FEBRUARY 22



The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion for Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church will be celebrated by the parishes of the Diocese of Alexandria on **Sunday, February 22, at 2:30 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral**. Parishes from throughout the diocese will send those who will celebrate the sacraments of initiation this Easter, as well as their sponsors, family, and friends.

The celebration is one part of a year-long process that is called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA). It also includes adaptations for those who were baptized in another Christian denomination and seek to become members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY – WHY WE BELIEVE: ANSWERING COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH – BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25

How Did We Get the Bible? From where did the Bible come? Who decided which books got in and which didn't? Why Confess to a Priest? Did Jesus arrange for us to confess our sins to a priest of the new covenant? Do Catholics Worship Mary? What does the Bible teach about her? Purgatory and Prayers for the Dead? Where is Purgatory in the Bible? Why do Catholics pray for the dead?

If you've ever been asked any of these questions but weren't quite sure how to answer, or if you know someone who has left the Church and no longer believes, then this Bible Study is for you. In it, you will discover how just reasonable, biblical, and beautiful the Catholic faith really is. Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he takes up the most commonly asked questions about the Catholic faith and provides clear and compelling answers.

This Bible Study will begin Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30 PM in Xavier Hall. There will be four one-hour weekly sessions which include a video presentation along with discussions based on questions in the accompanying handout. We invite everyone to stay for a light meal after our Bible Study.

If you plan to attend, please contact the church secretary at aryder@parish.diocesealex.org or by

phone # 318-445-1451 by Monday, February 23, so we can get an accurate count.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS – FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 27

Please join us for the Way of the Cross at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral **Friday, February 27 at 5:30 p.m. and each Friday during this Lenten season.**

KCs FISH FRY – ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18 & FRIDAYS DURING LENT THROUGH MARCH 27

Our local Knights of Columbus council # 3200 will have their annual Lenten Fish Fry in Xavier Hall **from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27 and each Friday through March 27.** Menu includes fried catfish, french fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw and is dine in or take-out. Price is \$12.00 a plate. For take-out delivery call 729-6280 with a minimum of two orders. **(Please note that the Fish Fry will not be served on Good Friday)**

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

•**Fasting** is to be observed Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age until the beginning of their 60th year. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

•**Abstinence from meat** is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years or older on **Good Friday** and on **all Fridays of Lent.** And let us remember, it's a day of penance and a time to reflect on Christ's sacrifice. (It is obvious that abstaining from meat is meaningless for vegetarians, who must choose some other form of abstinence. It is equally obvious that replacing meat with a gourmet seafood dinner is not keeping with the spirit of Lent).

CONFIRMATION RETREAT – FEBRUARY 28

The Confirmation Retreat has been scheduled for February 28 at the St. Rita Church Holy Family Center in Alexandria. Presenter for the day will be Dustin Bertrand. Dustin is a dynamic speaker, youth minister, and evangelist from south Louisiana. He has a degree in psychology and criminal justice and a Master's degree in Theology and Christian Ministry from Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio and has been evangelizing for the past 12 years through his ministry called God Made Self Driven.

To register your group, contact Dcn. Jason Lavergne at email dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org or at 318-445-6424, ext. 207.

FIRST FRIDAY – MARCH 6

11:00 a.m. Holy Hour
11:00 a.m. First Friday Devotions
11:15 a.m. Confessions
12:05 p.m. Holy Mass

FIRST SATURDAY – MARCH 7

8:00 a.m. Exposition, First Saturday devotions
8:30 a.m. Rosary for Life and Confessions
9:00 a.m. Holy Mass

SPECIAL COLLECTION – BLACK & INDIAN MISSIONS FEBRUARY 22

The week of February 22, we will be taking up a collection for Black and Indian Missions. This collection exists to help diocesan communities to build the Church and preach the Gospel of Jesus among the African American, Native American, and Alaska Native people of God. It supports parish life and catechesis, evangelization, Catholic education, and vocations in Black and Indian Missions across the United States. Please give generously.

SPECIAL COLLECTION – RESTORATION FUND MARCH 6 & MARCH 7

The monthly collection for the Restoration Fund will be taken up **Saturday, March 6 and Sunday, March 7.** Your continued support and generosity is deeply appreciated.

BIRTHDAYS – FEBRUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 28

Thomas Brothers, Paul Ceasar, Nannette Chenevert, Alison Dasco, Nancy Ferguson, Seth Guillotte, Susan Lofton, Nell Martinez, Hadassah Morgan, Havilah Morgan, Allison Paige, Rylee Parker, Terry Thibodeaux

NECROLOGY – FEBRUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 28

Rev. Leopold P. Van Lint +Feb. 22, 1926
Rev. Armand Chorin +Feb. 23, 1894
Msgr. D. Bruce Miller +Feb. 25, 2025
Bishop Anthony Durier +Feb. 28, 1904
Rev. Emile Peufier +Feb. 28, 1910

FOR OUR MILITARY

If members of your family have been called to active military duty, or are already on active duty, please let us know, and we will place their names for prayer in the church bulletin. Please call the church secretary at telephone 445-1451, ext. 14, or you may email her at aryder@parish.diocesealex.org.

Known military are: Gerard A. Abair, Jr., Brent Marcus Barbour, Byron P. Barbour, Quincy Bordelon, Ashton Brouillette, Kevin Burnett, Delaney Byard, Evan Cree, James Domzalski, II, Christopher Fraser, Brick Hazel, Joe Herrera, Andrew Hill, Kenneth Jeansonne, Jeffrey Kelso, Chance Ryland Lavergne, Chad McCann, Co. G-2-238, William Purdion, Jr., Kaneon Rachal, Daniel Raines, Kevin Raines, Matthew Raines

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Bob Alden, Chella Alden, Johnnie Alston, Brandon Ashley, Raymond Battalora, Bobby & Carol Brossett, Theresa Catteruccia, Alice Chambers, Brenda Ducote, Christopher Ducote, Joy Gauthier, Sandra Gooden, Carolyn Harger, Kay Harville, Tish Hull, Logan & Mary Jock, Cody Lachney, Scott Lachney, Chris Littleton, Catherine Medica, Melanie McManara, Michele Pogue, Robert Southren, Joseph Veillon, Vergie Walker, Katina Watson, Maria White, Marilyn Wilbert

Before someone's name is placed in prayer, be sure to have permission from that person to publicize his or her name in the bulletin.

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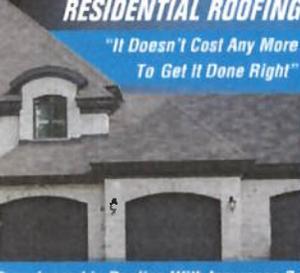

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