

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

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

Volume XXXVII, No. 13

March 29, 2026

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Monsignor James Ferguson, JCL, Rector

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday of Holy Week, March 30

12:05 p.m. Richard and Patricia LaHood (living)

Tuesday of Holy Week, Mar. 31: Mass of the Holy Chrism

11:00 a.m. (there is no 12:05 pm Mass today)

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1:

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

Holy Thursday Mass, April 2:

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. and will be live streamed. Following Mass, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 p.m. in the Cathedral. (There is no 12:05 pm Mass today.)

Good Friday Service, April 3:

Friday of the Passion of the Lord; the reading of the Passion, veneration of the cross and distribution of Holy Communion, will be held at 3 p.m. and will be live streamed (There is no First Friday 12:05 pm Mass today.)

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass, April 4:

The only Mass on Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil Mass, which will be celebrated at 8 p.m. and will be live streamed. (There is no First Saturday 9 am Mass or 4 pm Vigil Mass.)

Easter Sunday, April 5:

9:00 a.m. Gilchrist & White Families (living & deceased), R.J. Ducote, Selma & Richard Sayer, Seminarian David Rubio (living), Deceased Members of the Cathedral Altar Society, Dufour & Wasmer Families, Joe Betty Sterkx, Dr. Robert Antoon, John Reynolds, Grass & Ferguson Family, Todd Mizell, John Swart, Brenda Brocato, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Dorothy S. Johnson, Ronnie Wilkins, Sarah & Alex Clement Family (living), Jeannie & Sal Chavez Family, Angela & Jeff Price Family (living), Victoria Young (living), Lou Ann Monceaux, Mathew John Ducote, Msgr. Ronald Hoppe, Lucille M. Ducote

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

5:30 p.m. Eddie Atwell

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light will burn in memory of Margo Trueblood, please remember her in your prayers.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

Weekly Budget	\$ 9,500.00
Last Weekend Collection	\$ 9,661.00
Over or (Short)	\$ 161.00

Thank you for your generosity!


TODAY IS CALLED PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

The first name comes from the fact that it commemorates Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, when the crowd had palm branches (John 12:13). The second name comes from the fact that the narrative of the Passion is read today. The blessed palm is known as a sacramental. Palms are kept in the home as a witness to faith in Jesus Christ, messianic king, and in his Paschal Victory.

CHRISM MASS – TUESDAY, MARCH 31 - 11 AM

We invite you to celebrate this year's Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier. On Tuesday, March 31, 2026, Bishop Marshall, joined by the clergy of the diocese, will gather at the Cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass will be livestreamed starting at 11:00 AM. The Chrism Mass is one of the most solemn and important liturgies of the Church year. Bishop Marshall will consecrate the sacred oils used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL - 2026

 All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepares for us in advance."

Today is our parish's 2026 Annual Diocesan Appeal in-pew weekend. In the past weeks you might have received a letter from Bishop Marshall asking for your support of the annual appeal. After the homily parishioners who have not yet pledged to the ADA will have an opportunity to join with Catholics throughout the Diocese of Alexandria to support the diocesan church.

The goal for St. Francis Xavier Cathedral this year is \$38,234.00. Pledges to date \$29,542.20

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 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).

REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THROUGH A MEMORIAL GIFT OF EASTER LILIES



Provide the name of the person to be remembered and place it with \$13.00 in an envelope marked "Easter Flower Offering." Envelopes are located on the tables at the entrances of the Church. You can drop the envelope in the Mass collection basket or bring it to the parish office.

ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING – APRIL 8

The Altar Society will have their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.** in Xavier Hall. Anyone interested in becoming a member is invited to come to the meeting.

DISCALCED CARMELITE MEETING – APRIL 11

The Order of the Discalced Carmelites holds its monthly meeting at 9:00 a.m. every second Saturday, at **Maryhill Renewal Center**. Anyone is invited to attend morning prayer followed by Mass and then the meeting. If you are interested in Carmelite spiritual studies, please contact Mary Jo McCoy at 318-346-6860 or 318-481-9638. *If you plan to attend.....Please call Mary Jo McCoy at the numbers listed above OR Deacon Bill Travis at 318 640-2827 or 318 664-7069 and someone will meet you at the Maryhill gate.

OCIA/OCIC CLASSES – APRIL 12

Out of an extraordinary response of those seeking to join the Catholic Church, **St. Francis Xavier Cathedral will host formation for OCIA/OCIC beginning later this Spring**. If you, or if you know someone, who is interested in joining the Catholic faith and would like to participate in the OCIA/OCIC process before its normal start in September, please reach out to Dcn Jason Lavergne at atdcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org for more information. Classes will begin on April 12.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION WORKSHOP – APRIL 14

The workshop is on Tuesday, April 14, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Center, 4400 Coliseum Blvd., Alexandria. It lasts about three hours so please plan accordingly. For more information, contact Dcn. Jason Lavergne at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207 or by email at dcnjlavergne@diocesealex.org. There is no need to register and no charge to attend. When the session is completed, you will receive a certificate. We will be happy to have you!

SPECIAL COLLECTION, GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 3

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the "Living Stones," the Christians living there. It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. To learn more, visit <https://myfranciscan.org/good-friday-2025/>.

SPECIAL COLLECTION, EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 5

Your donation to the Infirm Priests Fund next week on Easter Sunday will help to replenish the fund, which provides assistance for our sick priests when illness exceeds the extent of our group health coverage limits.

This is a wonderful expression of gratitude to the priests who have served you so well over the years. And please also remember them in your prayers, recalling their generosity to you.

BIRTHDAYS – MARCH 29 – APRIL 4

Nicholas Antoon, Robert Antoon, Adrienne Perkins, Kelly Ducote, Elijah Goldey, Elijah Gootee, Elizabeth Gootee, Louis Guidry, Rev. Antony Aelavanthara, Apr. 1, Dcn. LG Deloach, Apr. 1, Rev. Luke Melcher, Apr. 3

NECROLOGY – MARCH 29 – APRIL 4

Msgr. Joseph Francis Xavier Kidd	+Mar. 29, 1963
Rev. John Garvan Cavanagh	+Mar. 29, 1974
Msgr. Allen Mark Chenevert	+Mar. 29, 1987
Rev. Peter Cooney	+Mar. 30, 1893
Rev. Quirinius Vanderburg	+Mar. 30, 1926
Rev. Michael Pfister Kammer	+Mar. 30, 1979
Rev. Dennis Aloysius Curren	+Mar. 31, 1967
Rev. Peter Thomas Norek	+Mar. 31, 1987
Rev. Joseph Frank Kula	+Apr. 1, 1959
Rev. Jean Baptiste Avenard	+Apr. 3, 1883
Rev. William Baskerville Provosty	+Apr. 3, 1997
Rev. Ferreolus D'Cruz	+Apr. 3, 2013

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

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

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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