

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

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

Volume XXXVII, No. 20

May 17, 2026

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Monsignor James Ferguson, JCL, Rector

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

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, May 18:

12:05 p.m. Peggy Trotter

Tuesday, May 19:

12:05 p.m. Linda Cazes

Wednesday, May 20:

12:05 p.m. Victoria Young (living)

Thursday, May 21:

12:05 p.m. Judge B. Dexter Ryland

Friday, May 22:

12:05 p.m. Lucille Ducote

Saturday, May 23:

4:00 p.m. Hope Farrar Kramer, Leila Kramer, Julia Mickel, Dixie Durastanti, Wallace & Normand Families (living & Deceased), George & Betty Battalora, Mr. & Mrs. David Mock, Jr., Edgar & Connie Campo, Galardo & LaCroix Families, Robert Eberly, Paul Am Mai, Fred Brouillette, Rachael Brouillette, Sam Johnson, Emily Ann Swift, Msgr. Joseph Susi, Mable Titmus

Sunday, May 24: Pentecost Sunday

9:00 a.m. Gilchrist & White Families (living & deceased), R.J. Ducote, Joe Betty Sterkx, Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus Council #3200, Todd Mizell, Poor Souls in Purgatory, Grass & Ferguson Family, William Earl Hilton, Katherine Gonia Kutch, Emily Ann Swift

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

5:30 p.m. Racey Bailey

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light will burn in memory of Mary Jo Reed, please remember her in your prayers.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

Weekly Budget	\$ 9,500.00
Last Weekend Collection	\$ 12,705.00
Over or (Short)	\$ 3,205.00
Online Giving for April	\$ 6,264.74

Thank you for your generosity!

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND THE CONSOLATION OF THEIR FAMILIES

Emily Ann Swift

BLESSING FOR ALL GRADUATES – MAY 17

A blessing of all graduates will be offered at the 11:00 a.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on May 17th. Please have your recent or upcoming graduate join us for this special blessing.

TRANSITIONAL DEACON ORDINATION – MAY 23



Seminarians Blaine Phillips and Gabe

Dowden will be ordained Transitional Deacons

for the Diocese of Alexandria on **Saturday, May 23 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Alexandria.** All are welcome to attend.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – MAY 24



We want to congratulate all our CCD

students: **Sladen Baker, Kaylee Ferguson,**

Elijah Gootee, Austin Griffith, Justin

Griffith, Leah Sadler, and Timzen Singleton who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the **11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 24, 2026 with Bishop Marshall officiating.**

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY – MAY 25

The Parish office will be closed on **Monday, May 25,** for the Memorial Day holiday. **Mass will be celebrated at 12:05 p.m. as usual.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES RAFFLE THROUGHOUT MAY

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana is having a raffle during the month of May. The proceeds go to our Basic Needs Ministry. We help people in financial need by helping with utility bills, rent, or groceries for those at risk of eviction or disconnect of utilities. We will be selling raffle tickets after weekend Masses at various churches during this month. **The Cathedral will be selling tickets on the weekend of May 31st.** The three prizes include LSU football tickets, a \$250 Visa gift card, and a restaurant gift card basket. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. To buy online, click this direct link: <https://giving.myparishsoft.io/App/Form/b0e248c2-ce8d-4e62-b99a-1da5709fcb7>. Drawing will be held on June 1, 2026. Thank you for your support!

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL – 2026 UPDATE



The goal for St. Francis Xavier Cathedral this

year is \$38,234.00. The updated pledges to date are \$58,159.80. Thank you for helping us exceed

our goal.

PRE-CANA MARRIAGE PREP WORKSHOP – MAY 30

These one-day workshops will be at the **St. Joseph Catholic Center located at 4400 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, LA.** Beginning at 8:00 a.m., the day will include presentations on various topics that are vital to a couple's lifelong marriage. The workshop will end at approximately 3:00 p.m. and lunch will be included. Space will be limited, so please register for a workshop as soon as possible.

Registration for the May 30, 2026 workshop is now open. There is a fee of \$60 per couple. Click this link to register: You may pay online after submitting the registration form. You can also pay the day of the workshop via check, money order or cash. Or you can prepay by mailing your check or money order (payable to Diocese of Alexandria) and mail to: Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation, P.O. Box 7417, Alexandria, LA 71306-0417. Other future workshop dates: Sept. 12, 2026. **If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Jason Lavergne in the Office of Religious Education and Faith Formation at (318) 445-6424 ext. 207**

SECOND BLESSINGS THRIFT STORE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Catholic Charities of Central Louisiana has opened Second Blessings Thrift Store, 4409 Coliseum Blvd, Alexandria, a project that allows us to funnel discretionary income into Catholic Charities services. We are actively taking donations, encourage everyone to shop with us, and need volunteers to help out with operations of the store Tuesdays - Fridays, between the hours of 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Please visit our website (<https://cccenla.org/second-blessings-thrift-store>) for donation information, the sign-up form to schedule large item pick-ups, and how to volunteer or make a monetary donation. If you have any questions, you may contact hwampler@cccenla.org or ijilchrist@cccenla.org.

SPECIAL COLLECTION – MAY 17 CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

Today we take up the collection for the **Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC)**. Your support helps CCC fulfill its mission of love to share the gospel message of hope with people in the United States using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Diocese of Alexandria to support local efforts such as the Church Today and the diocesan website. The other half support the communication activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and other projects across the U.S. and abroad. Be part of this campaign to spread the gospel message. Support the collection today! Learn more at www.usccb.org/cc.

NECROLOGY – MAY 17 – MAY 23

Rev. Thomas Hayes +May 17, 1853
Rev. J. Hardie Lacour +May 17, 1981
Rev. Joseph Robert Knapp +May 19, 1983

BIRTHDAYS – MAY 17 – MAY 23

Marilyn Ducote, Ashton Hebert, Cullen Pearce, Nathaniel Thomasco, Abigail Travis, Greg Wasson, Joseph Wiederholt

FLOCKNOTES AND LIVE-STREAMING

Flocknotes is an email and text message application that allows you to receive news and information from the Cathedral. It is free. You can sign up to receive the weekly bulletin and the Sunday Mass Liturgy Guide, plus receive other notifications from the church.

If you are interested in receiving information via this platform, please go to flocknote.com and search either by City (Alexandria) or the Zip Code (71301) and sign up there. You can unsubscribe anytime. If you any questions or need assistance with getting set up, please send an email to Deacon Richard Mitchell at dcnmitchell@diocesealex.org. Try it out! Stay connected! Also, we are now live-streaming the 9AM Sunday Masses via Facebook, Youtube and at sfxcathedral.org.

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, Sharon Andrew, Monique Auzenne, Johnnie Alston, Brandon Ashley, Raymond Battalora, Wilber Bertrand, Bobby & Carol Brossett, Joyce Broussard, Roy Carver, Theresa Catteruccia, Alice Chambers, Brenda Ducote, Christopher Ducote, Joy Gauthier, Carolyn Harger, Kortni Hensen, Jim Hickman, Tish Hull, Logan & Mary Jock, Cody Lachney, Scott Lachney, Chris Littleton, Catherine Medica, Julie Sober, 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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