



Catholic Calendar



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PASSION • DEATH • RESURRECTION

Bishop Provost to celebrate Holy Week services in Cathedral

LAKE CHARLES — The Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate Holy Week liturgies beginning with Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 935 Bilbo Street. The Chrism Mass will follow later in the week on Wednesday, April 1, followed by the Sacred Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil — April 2-4.

On Palm Sunday, Bishop Provost will bless the palms before the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral. Other Mass times are 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass (Saturday, March 28), 7:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., both on Sunday, and 12:45 p.m. (Sunday) in the Latin Rite.

On Wednesday, April 1, the Bishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 10:00 a.m. with the priests of the Diocese as concelebrants. This annual Mass has been celebrated in the Catholic Church for more than 1,000 years and is marked by the ceremonial blessing of the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the consecration of the Oil of Chrism, which are all used throughout the year.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on Holy Thursday,

April 2. It is at this Mass that the commemoration of Christ's washing the feet of His Apostles occurs. Following the Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be available for Eucharistic Adoration in St. Bernadette Oratory until midnight.

The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Good Friday, April 3. The service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, followed by Veneration of the Cross with the faithful recognizing the Cross of Christ as our only hope of salvation. The service concludes with Holy Communion and the congregation leaves the Cathedral in silence.

Earlier on Good Friday, Stations of the Cross will be prayed at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4, begins at 8:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with the Service of Light outside the church. Cathedral Mass times for Easter Sunday, April 5, are 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with the Latin Mass at 12:45 p.m. Bishop Provost is scheduled to celebrate the 9:30 a.m. Solemn Mass on Easter.

Holy Week 2026

- + Palm Sunday – March 29
- + Chrism Mass – April 1
- + Holy Thursday – April 2
- + Good Friday – April 3
- + Holy Saturday – April 4
- + Easter Sunday – April 5

This sacred time of the year calls us to remember Christ's love and sacrifice, preparing our hearts for the hope of the Resurrection.

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

RITE OF ELECTION AND CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION



RITE OF ELECTION: On February 22, 2026, the First Sunday of Lent, Bishop Glen John Provost celebrated the Rite of Election welcoming 111 Catechumens from 26 church parishes who will celebrate the three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4. Their names were recorded in the Book of the Elect, a designation which reflects that the bishop, in the name of the Lord and the local Church, is choosing or electing them to share in the Easter sacraments. The Rite of Election closes the period of the Catechumenate and begins the preparation for Baptism at Easter. Catechumens who undergo this rite are called the "Elect" during the period of purification and enlightenment. **TOP LEFT:** Felicia Borel, Director of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, presents the Book of Elect for Bishop Provost to sign. **TOP RIGHT:** Marvea Young, a Catechumen going through the OCIA process at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Charles, greets Bishop Provost.



(Photography Credit: Pedro Carlucci)

RITE OF CALL TO CONTINUING CONVERSION:

On March 1, 2026, the Second Sunday of Lent, Bishop Provost welcomed 149 Candidates from 24 church parishes — those preparing for full reception into the Catholic Church at Easter, at which time they will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Following the Rite of Continuing Conversion, Bishop Provost answered questions from the Candidates, who were present with their sponsors during the liturgy. Please keep all of the Catechumens and Candidates in your prayers as they continue their journey during this season of Lent toward the glory of Easter. For more information on the process of the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Diocese of Lake Charles, contact Sister Mary Kathleen Ronan, R.S.M., Director of Religious Education, at smarykathleen.ronan@lcdiocese.org.



(Photography Credit: Morris LeBleu)

Penance Nights planned March 23-26

Penance Nights have been scheduled throughout each of the four Deaneries Monday-Thursday, March 23-26, in the Diocese of Lake Charles. The following church parishes will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on each designated day:

Monday, March 23

West Deanery — Immaculate Conception, Maplewood; Our Lady of LaSalette, DeQuincy; Our Lady of LaSalette, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, and St. Francis de Sales Oratory, all in Sulphur; St. John Bosco, Westlake; St. Joseph, DeRidder; St. Joseph, Vinton; St. Peter the Apostle, Hackberry; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Carlyss; and St. Pius X, Ragley.

Tuesday, March 24

South Central Deanery — Our Lady of Good Counsel, Our Lady Queen of Heaven, St. Martin de Porres, and Christ the King, all in Lake Charles; St. Mary of the Lake, Big Lake; St. John Vianney, Bell City; and Sacred Heart of Jesus, East Cameron.

Wednesday, March 25

North Central Deanery — Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Henry, and St. Margaret of Scotland, all in Lake Charles; St. Raphael, Iowa; and St. Theodore, Moss Bluff.

Thursday, March 26

East Deanery — Our Lady Help of Christians, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Immaculate Conception, all in Jennings; Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Welsh; Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Arthur; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Oakdale; St. Charles Borromeo, Fenton; St. Joan of Arc, Oberlin; St. Joseph and St. Paul, both in Elton; St. Joseph, Welsh; St. Lawrence, Raymond; and St. Philip Neri, Kinder.

For an examination of conscience, visit <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/penance/examinations-of-conscience>

SPECIAL DIOCESAN LENTEN EVENTS

As we enter more fully into the Season of Lent, drawing closer to Holy Week, the Diocese of Lake Charles announces several special events over the next couple of weeks.

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS

MOSS BLUFF — Come spend the morning hours of Our Lord's Passion at Saint Charles Center in Moss Bluff from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Good Friday, April 3. Several short meditations will be given by Deacon Brian Soileau periodically throughout the morning. Participants will be allowed to use the entire grounds for quiet contemplation.

If you have never experienced this event before, it is the perfect preparation before attending the Good Friday Liturgy at your church parish in the afternoon.

There is no charge for the event, however, registration is required by calling 337-855-1232 by March 31. Saint Charles Center is located at 2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway.

VIA CRUCIS 2026

LAKE CHARLES — The Saint Henry Catholic Church Community will present the fifth annual "Via Crucis 2026," a live performance of the Luminous and Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary at 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. Your one chance to watch this powerful play will take place behind the Community Center. Chairs will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. The length of the play is approximately 90 minutes.

Take a trip back in time and experience in the most real way possible a bilingual theatrical

performance (Spanish and English) about Jesus from his Baptism to his Crucifixion.

St. Henry Catholic Church is located at 1021 Eighth Avenue. The live performance is free, however, donations are welcome. For more information, contact Ricardo Ruvalcaba, Spanish Pastoral Assistant, at 337-370-0973.

LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

LAKE CHARLES — A re-enactment of Christ's Walk to Calvary will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29, at Consolata Cemetery. The Live Stations of the Cross is hosted by Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Reflecting on the Passion of Christ is the perfect way to enter into Holy Week. Consolata Cemetery is located at 2300 Country Club Road.

SEVEN CHURCH WALK

LAKE CHARLES — The Religious Sisters of Mercy will host the sixth annual Seven Church Walk on Good Friday beginning at 8:15 a.m. April 3 at their convent, 1414 Martha Street.

The nine-mile walk will include stops at: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, St. Henry Catholic Church, St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church, St. Louis Catholic High School, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

The walk will conclude at approximately 1:00 p.m., with bus transportation available from the Cathedral back to the convent at the conclusion of the pilgrimage.

For more information or to RSVP, contact 337-564-0030 or email lakecharles@almamercy.org



GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

Deacon Reed celebrates 50th ordination anniversary

**By Pamela Seal
Diocese of Lake Charles**

WESTLAKE — Rev. Mr. Fred Reed marked his 50th anniversary as a deacon on February 1, 2026. He was ordained a permanent deacon by Bishop Jerome J. Hastrich on February 1, 1976, at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church in Oberlin.

Deacon Reed, who has served as a deacon for 42 years at St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake, celebrated this milestone of his ministry with his wife Judy and their family on Saturday, January 3, at the 4:00 p.m. Mass.

Rev. Rojo Koonathan, Pastor of St. John Bosco, served as celebrant with special guest priests, Rev. Trey Ange, whose home parish is St. John Bosco; Rev. Whitney Miller; and Rev. Randall Moreau, from the Diocese of Lafayette.

Deacon Reed completed his four-year course in the diaconate formation program in the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, beginning his ministry as Director of the Southwest Volunteers, a group of lay missionaries for the Diocese of Gallup. He also assisted the pastor of St. William Catholic Church in Williams Acres, N.M.

Mrs. Reed worked closely with her husband as a missionary among the Navajo people in New Mexico.

Father Koonathan commended the entire Reed family for the sacrifices they all made for the Church.



Deacon Fred Reed, who serves at St. John Bosco Catholic Church in Westlake, recently celebrated 50 years as a permanent deacon. He is pictured with the monstrance during Eucharistic Adoration before his Mass of Thanksgiving in January. He was ordained on February 1, 1976, at St. Joan of Arc in Oberlin. Deacon Reed and his wife, Judy, have served at St. John Bosco Parish for 42 years. (Photography Credit: Donna Gary)

“Without Ms. Judy’s ‘yes’ it would not have been possible for Deacon Reed to be ordained. For married deacons to be ordained, the wife has to say ‘yes,’” he noted.

“In the short time I have been at St. John Bosco, I have experienced who Deacon Reed is, the dedication of his sacrifice that has been a great thing for the Church,”

Father Koonathan continued. “And he is still going. He is not stopping. When he said ‘yes’ to the Lord, he knew it is until his death. That is the way it should be for whatever call we accept, whether it is a priest or deacon or married life.”

A native of Oberlin, Deacon Reed and his wife of 60 years have two daughters, Ashley Moore (Kevin) and Theresa Reed, and one son, Stephen Reed (Emily), and two grandchildren, McKenzie and Judith Reed.

Over the past 50 years, Deacon Reed has served 10 pastors and 5 bishops. In addition to the Diocese of Gallup, he has also served in the Diocese of Lafayette at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Eunice from 1978 to 1984, and presently in the Diocese of Lake Charles at St. John Bosco Parish in Westlake since 1984.

“My greatest joy has been in serving the people of God,” Deacon Reed shared. “For this I am eternally grateful.”

To commemorate the longtime dedication of Deacon Reed’s Permanent Diaconate Ordination, he was presented with an Apostolic Blessing imparted by the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.

A reception was held for parishioners of St. John Bosco, family, and friends following the Mass on January 3, during which time Westlake Mayor Hal McMillin proclaimed January 3, 2026, “Deacon Fred Reed Day.”

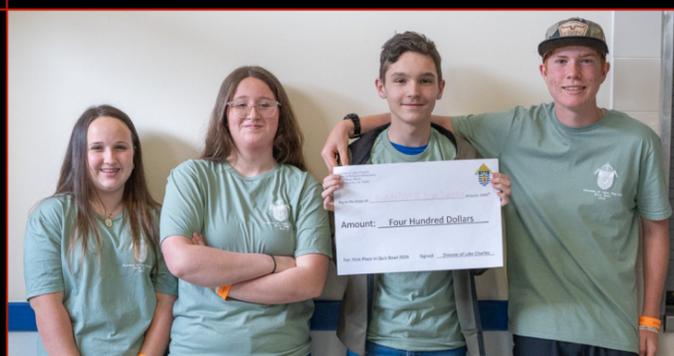
2026 Quiz Bowl Champs



Immaculate Conception Cathedral School CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DIVISION

A team of students from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School — Thompson Abendroth, Daniel Spencer, Drew Pham, and Grady Bryd (not pictured) — won the Quiz Bowl championship in the Catholic Schools Division on February 28, 2026. (Photography Credit: Victoria Watson)

2026 Quiz Bowl Champs



Our Lady of LaSalette Parish PREP DIVISION

A team of students from Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in DeQuincy — Lily Chiasson, Kinley Thompson, Conner Hoffman, and Jonah Hagen — won the Quiz Bowl championship in the PREP Division on February 28, 2026. (Photography Credit: Victoria Watson)

20 teams compete in annual diocesan Quiz Bowl

The 2026 Quiz Bowl was a morning full of all things Catholic for 20 teams of students from around the Diocese of Lake Charles on Saturday, February 28, at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School.

The top teams in the ninth annual event are from Immaculate Conception Cathedral School in Lake Charles (North Central Deanery) and Our Lady of LaSalette Catholic Church in

DeQuincy (West Deanery).

There were two divisions in the ninth annual event — PREP (for students who receive religious education weekly through their parish religious education program) and CATHOLIC SCHOOLS (for students who receive religious education daily).

The winning PREP teams are:

- 1st place — Our Lady of LaSalette Parish, \$400 cash prize
- 2nd place — St. Joseph Parish

in Vinton (Team #1), \$200 cash prize

- 3rd place — St. Martin de Porres Parish (Team #1), \$100 cash prize

- 4th place — St. Joseph Parish in Vinton (Team #2), \$60 cash prize

The winning CATHOLIC SCHOOL teams are:

- 1st place — Immaculate Conception Cathedral School (Team #1), \$400 cash prize

- 2nd place — Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School, \$200 cash prize

- 3rd place — St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School (Team #2), \$100 cash prize

- 4th place — St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic School (Team #1), \$60 cash prize

Also participating this year were teams from St. Joseph Catholic Church in DeRidder, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

in Lake Charles, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur, and Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic School in Lake Charles.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated and to Sister Mary Kathleen Ronan, R.S.M., Director of Religious Education; and Hannah Beard, Administrative Assistant, for all their hard work for the annual event.

Legatus Lake Charles Chapter observes 10th anniversary

**By Ashley Kramer
Legatus Lake Charles Chapter**

The Lake Charles Chapter of Legatus marked a significant milestone on February 26, 2026, as members gathered to celebrate the chapter’s 10th anniversary. The evening was a joyful reflection on a decade of faith, fellowship, and commitment to living out Catholic values in the marketplace.

The celebration featured Legatus International President, Stephen Henley, who delivered an inspiring message centered on leadership, integrity, and the importance of boldly living one’s faith in both business and daily life. His remarks encouraged attendees to remain steadfast in their mission to study, live, and spread the Catholic faith within their professional and personal spheres. Legatus is also the host of the new Legatus podcast, “Eleven Talents.”

A highlight of the evening was the

beautiful musical performance by Bishop Glen John Provost, who shared his talents at the piano, accompanied by Audra Melton on violin and Danley Romero on cello. The performance showcased not only the Bishop’s pastoral leadership but also his artistry.

As the chapter looks ahead to the future, the 10th anniversary stands as a testament to the dedication of its members and the continued growth of Catholic leadership within the Lake Charles community.

Legatus strives to provide business leaders and entrepreneurs with faith formation and a community where they can build meaningful relationships with other Catholics running similarly sized organizations. Legatus is unique in offering events and membership to couples — spouses receive all the benefits of membership, and couples attend monthly events together with opportunities for confession, praying



Members of the Lake Charles Chapter of Legatus gather for a milestone photograph with the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, February 26, 2026. (Special to the Diocese of Lake Charles)

the rosary and attending Mass followed by dinner and presentation from speaker.

One of more than 95 chapters in the United States, the Lake Charles chapter currently has 24 members. Membership is open to those who are Catholics in good standing with the church, hold a top posi-

tion in a qualifying organization that meets certain criteria for size and payroll volume. Membership is also open to those who may be retired but previously held a qualifying role. Those interested in membership can visit the website, www.legatus.org or contact Ashley Kramer at lakecharles@legatus.org.