

# Nativity of Our Lady Catholic Church

130 N. Richelieu Circle • New Iberia, LA 70560

Phone: (337) 364-8360 • Email: nativity@ni.brcoxmail.com

Website: [www.nativityni.org](http://www.nativityni.org)

## MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays:

5:30 pm (Tuesday and Thursday)

9:00 am (Wednesday) 6:30 am (Friday)

## OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:30 am — 5:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am — 5:00 pm

Friday: 9:00 am — 12:00 pm

(Closed daily from 12:00 pm — 1:00 pm for Lunch)

## PASTOR:

*Rev. Msgr. J. Robert Romero*

## SACRAMENTAL MINISTER:

*Fr. Ed Degeyter*

## SECRETARY:

*Kimberly Richard*

## BOOKKEEPER:

*Polly Camacho*

## RECEPTIONIST:

*Sheryl S. Bourque*

## DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION:

*Janet Viator – 337-365-3759*

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR:

*Amber Salsman*

## PASTORAL COUNCIL

**PRESIDENT:** *Barbara Breaux*

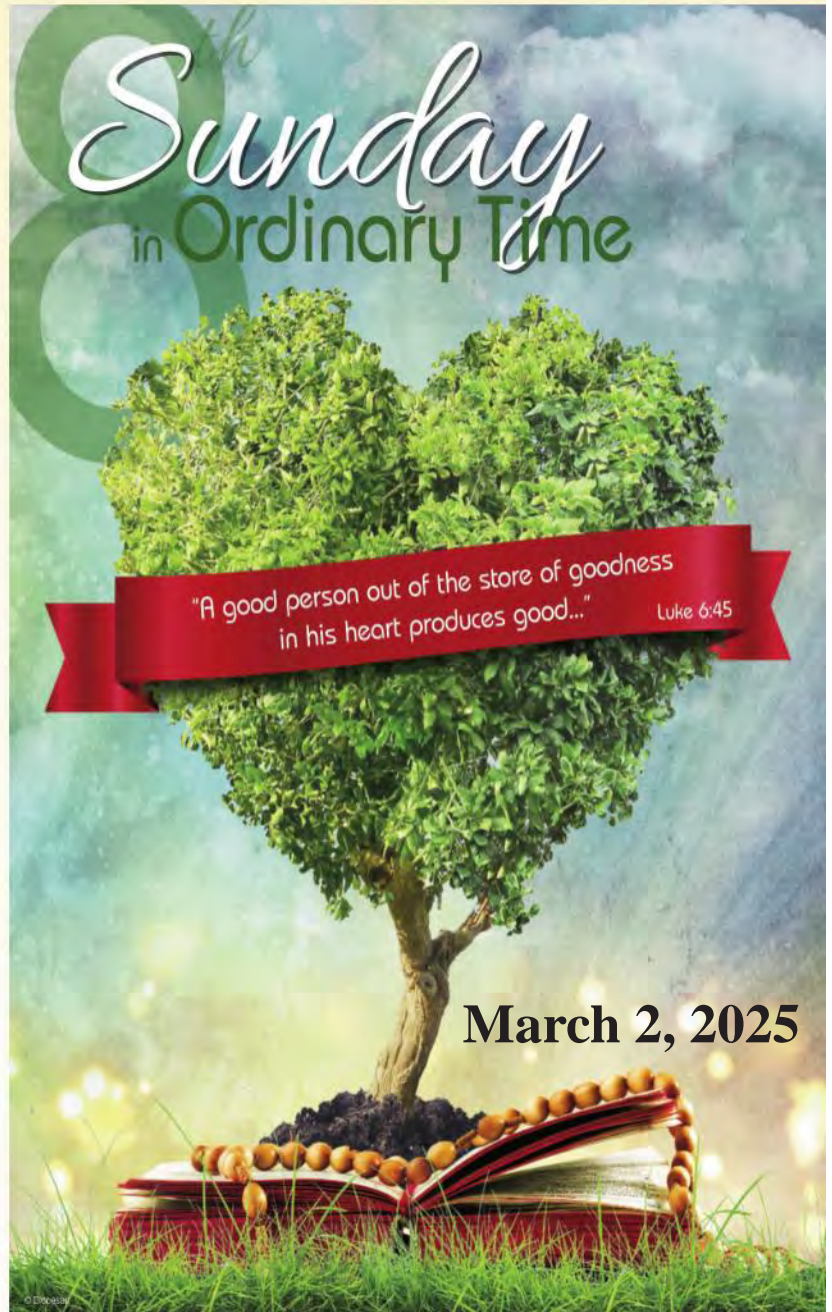
## RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:00 pm — 3:45 pm and  
30 minutes before weekday Masses

## ROSARY:

Wednesday: 8:20 am (*Pro-Life*)

First Saturday: 8:20 am



**March 2, 2025**

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - Mardi Gras**

**8:00am** Sheryl Bourque (liv)

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday**

**6:30am** Parishioners

**5:30pm** Ernest "Topper" Breaux, Warren Barras  
Victor Bernard, Carrol Romero, Sr.  
Sheryl Bourque (liv bd)

**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

**5:30pm** Landon Burton (liv), Amy M. Allen (liv bd)

**Friday, March 7, 2025 - First Friday**

**6:30am** Fr. Tom Finley (2<sup>nd</sup> ann of death)  
Don Taylor, Janell Broussard  
Lee Broussard, Carlyle Hebert Fly  
Elmer & Corinne Wencker, U.S. Military

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

**4:00pm** Fr. Tom Finley, M/M Allen Dupre  
Rachel R. Romero, Eunice McDaniel  
Lynward Ransonet, Roy Flores  
Mona Simon, Winton Dupre

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

**8:00am** Parishioners, Carroll Aucoin  
Donna M. Snoddy, Quang Nguyen  
**10:00am** Msgr. H.J. Barsen, Fr. A.J. Boumans  
Harvey & Joyce DeCourt, Donna M. Lanza



### PARISH VOCATION CROSS

*The Vocation Cross is taken by:*

*(March 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 8<sup>th</sup>)*

***Karl & Sarah Boudreaux***

Each week, a family or an individual from our parish receives the vocation cross. If you or your family would like to receive the vocation cross, please sign-up on the sign-up sheet near the tabernacle in church. We appreciate the prayers. Thank you.

### St. Katharine Drexel ACTS Coalition



Men's ACTS Retreat  
March 20-23, 2025

Register online:  
<https://tinyurl.com/>

### Note of Thanks from Father Ed. . .

It was a great joy to see so many Nativity Parishioners and guests, attending my 55th Anniversary of Ordination Mass and Reception. My sincere thanks to all who took part in any way in the celebration. Despite it being such a cold day, your love and support made it feel like a sunny day, because you warmed my heart. Please know how special all of you are to me, and be assured of my continued prayers. May God's choicest blessings be with you.

*Fr. Ed*



We are a sacrificial giving Parish,  
giving of our Time, Talent and Treasure:

OUR GIFTS TO GOD	February 16, 2025
Loose .....	\$ 1,065.00
Envelopes .....	\$ 1,993.00
Total (collected) .....	\$ 3,058.00
Online Giving offertory .....	\$ 898.00
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## Lafayette's Great Novena

February 14, 2025 by Fr. Alexander Albert

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

### The Same Old Sin

"I just keep falling into the same old sins, Father." I've heard this so many times, usually with a large dose of despondency in their voice. And I get it, it can be very discouraging, humiliating, or even simply boring to find yourself admitting to the same old fault for the millionth time. There's a correct instinct underneath all of that: we *should* want to get past that sin once and for all. We should want to stop *all* sin; our perfectly Holy God sent his Son who told us to "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." The truth is that the souls in heaven (saints both canonized and unknown) *are* completely free of sin and that our aspiration is to join them one day. Our journey through this broken, sinful world does in fact have a destination. So, we are rightly displeased with anything in our lives that runs counter to that goal. Put simply, if your goal is to go to heaven, you *should* want to avoid *all* sin.

The problem, however, is when we translate this into succeeding *right now*. Even worse, we somehow fall into the trap of "I will stop all sin," into self-reliance in this effort of holiness. So, when we find ourselves failing in this endeavor of perfection, we are disappointed in part because it is a sign that *we* are not as good as we thought. Sure, in our heads, in the way we talk, in saying the Act of Contrition, we *say* we depend on God's grace to avoid sin, but in our hearts and habits, this isn't always completely true. Part of the issue is that we think of God's grace like a resource we *direct and use*. Some of our analogies contribute to this misunderstanding. Some people talk about grace as gas in a car or energy in a battery; we have to fill it up through prayer and the sacraments so that we then have the power to go out in the world and do good things or avoid bad things. The problem with that analogy is that, once you have a full tank or battery, *you can drive wherever you choose*. It's as if we'll go through life, run into temptation and then say "oh, let me use some of that grace I got to say no."

That's not how it works! We *do* still have agency. We do still need to make our own decisions and God will not micromanage your life. But cooperating with God's grace isn't an entirely self-directed endeavor. Grace is not a passive energy resource that we can expend as we see fit. Especially when it comes to overcoming habitual sin, there are several factors involved: temperament, addictions, mental health, etc. So much of overcoming sin is learning to simply avoid the temptation. God's grace might not help you resist a sin if you first chose not to avoid the temptation in the first place. So often, a person unnecessarily puts the himself in a place of temptation and then when they come to the verge of actually falling into sin, they're surprised or disappointed that they lack the strength to say no. An alcoholic can't pour himself a drink, stare at the glass, and then say "I'll use the grace I got from Mass this morning to say no." More often than not, God will let them face the consequence of their foolishness because they've already stopped relying on grace.

This is further complicated by the fact that many Catholics often confuse *weakness* with sin or conflate *imperfection* with sin. "Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" does not mean we *succeed* at everything. It is not an excuse for *perfectionism*. It means perfection in love: doing all for love of God and neighbor. Even if you do it *poorly* or *ineffectively*, it can still be genuine love and, therefore, contribute to being perfect. But if we beat ourselves up for *weakness* and if we blame God for letting us be weak, we'll all too easily lose touch with the grace that helps us to avoid the actual sin. Discouragement can be a nasty self-sustaining cycle.

There's more I can say about sin and grace and culpability but I think you get the point: completely overcoming sin is complicated. It's impossible for any one person to clearly map out and completely understand how and when they will overcome each and every habitual sin. That's why it's not actually up to us. It is God, it is the Holy Spirit who lays out the path of overcoming sin and he often chooses a path we ourselves would not and could not choose. And that's how this reflection ties into the theme of this year of the Great Novena: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

We "know not" how and when this particular fault will be wiped away, but God forgives us anyway. We "know not" if we'll actually be able to come to confession next time without having to bring up this same sin. Yet, as long as we genuinely resolve to *try*, as long as we on some level agree to cooperate with *his* plan for our holiness, he forgives us anyway. God knows perfectly well if you're going to go back to that sin maybe a mere hour after you confess it, even - especially if *you don't*.

Don't misread this. There is *never* a reason to simply "give in" to a sin or to commit the heresy of saying "God wants me to commit this sin." But the simple fact is that the sin God wants you to work on the most may *not* be the one you think needs the most attention. Sometimes, we fall into the sin we're more worried about *because* we aren't responding to God's invitation to address the other sin over there that we pretend isn't as bad or isn't worth worrying about right now. Sometimes, God is more interested in you learning to persevere in the struggle than he is in helping you live up to the vision of yourself that *you think* you should match. If we are constantly running after *our vision* of holiness, we tend to subtly walk away from the help of grace and then get surprised when that grace isn't there to grant us the self-perfection we've envisioned. And sometimes, we just don't know anything other than the fact that we want to stop sinning, that we want to love God, and that He's in charge. That's okay. You don't have to know in order to be forgiven. He doesn't ask you to know, he just asks you to ask and to not give up.

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." They know not how, when, and in what way you will deliver them of this fault, but forgive them anyway. They know not that the excuses they make for themselves aren't reasonable, but they are sorry, so forgive them anyway. They know not that their vision of their own holiness is not your vision of their holiness, but they *do* want holiness, so forgive them anyway.



## PRAYER & SICK LIST

**The names on our prayer list will stay on for 90 days. If you want to add or delete a name, please call the office @ 337-364-8360:**

Lena Lopez, Debbie Johnson & Fly, Cameron Alba, Mel & Stacey Boutte, Betty C. Champagne, Donna Francis, Farina Guidry, Betty Robichaux, Earline Estave, Chad Babineaux, Tammy Dore, Dylan Ducote, Judy Meyers, Garland Reed, Carly Tajmir, Diane & Ronald Broussard, Lance Castille, Grace Armendariz, Hardy Jenkins, Louis Boudreaux, Jr., Gloria Comeaux, Larry Romero, Scotty Champagne, Sirena Rogers, Monica Harrington, Janis & Nathan Dugas, Billy Simon, Edward Simon, Lynette Landry, Janet Viator, Ronnie Landry, Betty B. Leblanc, Barbara Martin, Michael "Tee" Theriot, Elise C. Verret, Phyllis S. Bourque, Doris Scheldon, Ovide Buteaux, David Spelly, Ellen Guidry, Dean Delahoussaye, Patsy & Percy Barrilleaux, Patsy Thibodeaux, Tom Stowe, Tim & Staci Stowe, John & NeCole Babin, Fran Jackson, Reed Michael & Cody Lynn Romero, David & Robin Viator Fly, Sheryl S. Bourque, Michael & Claire Landry Fly, Dustin & Nicole V. Ortego Fly, Linda & Clint Trahan Fly, Ruth Bernard, Bridget Aitken, Norvelle Belaire, Caroline Dubois, Jarrod Lege, Josephine Delcambre, Peter Saltzman, Mary Saltzman, Zachary Richard, Sarah Richard, Duppy Duplantis, Joylynn Trosclair, Earline Romero, Norrie B. Kenner, Jay Jacquemoud. Please also pray for those individuals who, although they are in need of your prayers, have requested that their names not be publicized for privacy reasons.

### WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### Ash Wednesday Ashes

**Question:** Why do we place ashes on our forehead each Ash Wednesday?

**Answer:** Ashes are rich in spiritual symbolism. We recall in the second chapter of Genesis, when the human person is fashioned "*out of the dust of the ground*" and receives the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). In death, a person returns to the ground from which we came. The ancient Hebrews used ashes as a sign of repentance, reminding themselves that God is God and we are not.

As the minister places ashes on our forehead, we hear either "*remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return*" or "*turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.*" When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We're reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can! People are in need of love, care, and compassion. We all need to continually rediscover the love of God. The Gospel invites every person in every stage of life to encounter and imitate Jesus here and now. The forty days of Lent are the perfect time to assess our own awareness of these realities.

@LPi

### GOSPEL MEDITATION

March 2, 2025

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 6:39-45

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "**For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles**" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer *and* service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling. - *Father John Muir*

@LPi

**REFLECTIONS** Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Very often the faults we see in others are so annoying because they reflect back to us the very attitudes and behaviors that we dislike in ourselves. Reflect on the behavior of someone you dislike and try to identify what it is that annoys you. How are you like them? Even if you don't think those faults are a reflection of your own, focus on their opposite virtue. Consider how you can nurture and develop that virtue in yourself rather than focusing on the fault you see in another. What can you do to change your behavior?

"Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the plank in your own?" - Luke 6:41

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## TODAY'S READINGS

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**March 2, 2025**

**Reading I: Sirach 27:4-7**

Sirach teaches us to pay attention to how people speak; it reveals a lot. How often do you find yourself weighing your words before speaking?

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

Paul speaks of Jesus's resurrection as taking away the "sting" and "victory" of death. What words of comfort do you use to those grieving over the death of a loved one?

**Gospel: Luke 6:39-45**

Jesus encourages his followers to be humble in judgment of others and mindful in speech. Have you had good role models in your life for these virtues?

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### SANCTUARY LIGHT:

In Memory of  
**Marnel John Delcambre**



### LENT IS COMING!



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## CURRENT EVENTS

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**

**Church Office Closed - Mardi Gras**

No 5:30pm Mass  
 Mass at 8:00am

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - Ash Wednesday**

No Pro-Life Rosary  
 No Holy Hour  
 No 9:00am Mass  
 Mass at 6:30am & 5:30pm

**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

Mass at 5:30pm  
 O.C.I.A. Meeting - 6pm - Barsen Hall

**Friday, March 7, 2025 - First Friday**

OLAS, K.C. Ladies Auxiliary & K.C. Members to attend 6:30am Mass  
 Stations of the Cross - 5:30pm - Church

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**

Mass at 4pm

**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

Masses at: **8am & 10am**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection - Black & Indian Missions

**1 lb. Boiled Shrimp, Corn & Potato**  
**Knights of Columbus Council #12997 Fundraiser**

**Sunday, April 6, 2025**

**Pickup is under the Carport behind the Church Office (behind Church) - 10AM - 12:30PM**

Tickets are \$15.00 each. Tickets will be sold after each weekend Mass and are available from any KC member. Also, the Ladies K.C. Auxiliary members will be selling brownies at pickup time.

### 2024 Contributions Statement

If you would like to have a copy of your 2024 Statement of Contributions mailed to you, please call the office at (337)364-8360 to request one.

MASS SERVERS March 4 - March 9, 2025					
DAY DATE	TIME	CELEBRANT	READERS	LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
<b>Tuesday</b> 3/4/25	8:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Wednesday</b> 3/5/25	6:30am	Fr. Ed Degeyter	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
	5:30pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Thursday</b> 3/6/25	5:30pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Friday</b> 3/7/25	6:30am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Sacristan
<b>Saturday</b> 3/8/25	4:00pm	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Autum, Ephraim & Benjamin Trahan
<b>Sunday</b> 3/9/25	8:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Serena Bedia
	10:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	<i>See Reader Schedule</i>	<i>See Signup Sheet Inside Church</i>	Morgan Salsman Charlie Salsman

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