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

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: *Andreé Schlicher*

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
5:30pm Peggy & Francis Meyers (liv)
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
9:00am Margie & Don Poche (liv), Kevin Elmer
Patty Babineaux Fontenot, Don Corson
Kathy Foret Gurney, Carrol Romero, Sr.
Howard Bourque, Jr., Eve Richard Trahan
Thursday, May 22, 2025
5:30pm Boudreaux & Fontenot Flys
Friday, May 23, 2025
6:30am Sarah Elizabeth Richard (liv bd)
Saturday, May 24, 2025
4:00pm Fr. Tom Finley, Lynward Ransonet
Rachel R. Romero, Roy Flores
Kylee Rose Voorhies (liv bd)
Sunday, May 25, 2025
8:00am Parishioners, Carroll Aucoin
Mrs. Terry Borel
10:00am Msgr. H.J. Barson, Fr. A.J. Boumans
Harvey & Joyce DeCourt
Lloyd J. Landry (ann of death)

DEVOTIONS, *EXPLAINED!*
CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH
Hail Mary – May 18, 2025

Mini Explanation — .The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord's Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

Hail Mary, Explained - The words of the Hail Mary — undoubtedly the most recognizable Catholic prayer after the Lord's Prayer — are deeply rooted in scripture. The opening lines of the prayer are taken from the words of the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation — "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." This line is known as the Angelic Salutation. The following words — "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus" — echo the sentiments expressed by Elizabeth at the Visitation.

The Angelic Salutation is regarded as the earliest devotional prayer to Mary, since it forms the very first words spoken to her as the Mother of God, but Catholics did not begin to utilize the Hail Mary prayer in its current form until around the 11th century.

An in-depth explanation of each line of this prayer is provided in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2676 - 2677. @LPi

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

OUR GIFTS TO GOD May 4, 2025

Loose	$	1,652.75
Envelopes	$	1,965.00
Total (collected)	$	3,617.75
Online Giving offertory	$	1,093.00
Mailed in offertory	$	395.00
Total offertory (week)	$	5,105.75
Nativity Building Fund	$	1,057.00
CRS Rice Bowls	$	351.93

Thank you for your generosity!!!!

Baby Bottle Collection

Please return your filled baby bottles to the collection area of the church. Also, return any unused bottles so that they may be re-used for other campaigns.
We appreciate your prayerful contribution and generosity. Thank you for joining us in Honoring Life and Preserving the Family.

Unexpected Pregnancy Center
117 E. Pershing Street, New Iberia, LA 70560
www.upcfriends.com

Iberia Homeless Shelter

As we celebrate 20 years of service, we encourage you to be a part of this life-changing work. Your prayers and contributions have helped us keep our doors open and provide shelter and support to those in need. Will you help us continue this mission of love and service? Donations can be mailed to: P.O. Box 13364 New Iberia, LA 70562-3364 or dropped off at 307 Robertson St. New Iberia, LA 70560.

Thank you,
Stephen Etienne - Shelter Director

Quo Vadis 2025

Quo Vadis Day's discernment retreat will take place June 10-12 in St. Martinville at the Community of Jesus Crucified. This retreat is open to all male incoming Sophomores in High School and there is no cost. Quo Vadis is a time of recollection to reflect on where you are going in your own life. We will explore that question through prayer, fraternity, recreation, and talks on discernment. For more information: 337-261-5690, or website for registration:

www.lafayettevocations.com/retreats

PARISH VOCATION CROSS

The Vocation Cross is taken by:

(May 18th - May 24th)

Ross & Cindy Landry

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.

WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE UNDERSTANDING THE NICENE CREED

The First Council of Nicene met beginning May 20th until the end of July 325. That is 1,700 years ago. A product of this council is the Nicene Creed we profess on Sundays. However, in Lent and Easter Times we instead may profess the Apostles' Creed. The Apostles' Creed better connects with the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Catholic Church. The Nicene Creed arose from the first two ecumenical councils of the Church. The first ecumenical council is the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. and the second is the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D. This Creed is ancient and it has preserved the faithful from a variety of heresies for 1,700 years. To understand it is to understand what we believe as Catholics. The Council of Constantinople added a brief clarification to the phrase "and the Son" to the paragraph on the procession of the Holy Spirit.

We call the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed the Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed is professed every Sunday at Mass in the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church. In the Eastern Rites of the Catholic Church and in our separated Orthodox brethren, this same Creed is professed in its original formulation.

Bishop Robert Barron has written an explanation of the Creed. He calls the book WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE UNDERSTANDING THE NICENE CREED. We have copies of Bishop Barron's book at the front entrance of Nativity Church. Parishioners are invited to take a copy home to enjoy Bishop Barron's thoughts.

PRACTICING CATHOLIC

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as theirs somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

Resembling Jesus

I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In researching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother's dearest childhood friend.

When I visited this woman to take her photograph, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years. She said: "You resemble her." I wept on the way home.

My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much. Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well — being identified as belonging to her in some way — was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as theirs somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. This is how all will know that you are my disciples.

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good — we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially. As he loves us.

@LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Good and Evil

Question: If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

Answer: The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn't He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He's not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealously, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!

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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, 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, Norrie B. Kenner, Josephine Delcambre, Mary Saltzman, Zachary Richard, Sarah Richard, Duppy Duplantis, Joylynn Trosclair, Earline Romero, Jarrod Lege Jay Jacquemoud, Jody Ellen Hudson, Jim & Brenda Prejean, Toni Boudreaux, Rick Boudreaux, Steve Chambers, Mike Degeyter, Gloria Trahan, Dickie Broussard, Bill Lasseigne, Jessica Gary Dubois, Joni Gullotta, Fisher Whitaker, The Babin Fly, Deacon John Sarkies, James & Doreen Norman

Please also pray for those individuals who, although in need of your prayers, have requested that their names not be publicized for privacy reasons.

LIVE THE LITURGY

If you love like me Jesus tells his disciples, they will know you are mine. We shouldn't leave any room for doubt in the minds of each and every person we encounter. Let the whole world know: we love like Christ, and we belong to Christ. @LPi

Every May and October, Nativity parish is asked to take a Mass attendance count for the Diocese of Lafayette. Our count continues this weekend and will continue for every weekend Mass during the month of May.

GOSPEL MEDITATION
May 18, 2025
5th Sunday of Easter - John 13:31-35

I've always found it amazing that Jesus never says to his disciples the straightforward and bumper stickery words "I love you" or "I will always love you" (a la Dolly Parton's song). Why doesn't Jesus say, "I love you"?

Well, actually he does, but in particular ways. He says, "As the Father loves me, so I love you" (John 15:9) thereby rooting his love for us in the space of the Holy Trinity. This week he commands, "Love another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). He presents his love for us as a completed action which continues into the present moment. How has he loved us? By becoming one of us, one with us, and finally giving his life for us in his suffering on the cross. We weren't there when he did that, but neither were his Apostles (except one). Still, that action is his great "I love you" to us.

His love is also hedged in a command: "Love one another." So how can we practically follow it? The great St. John XXIII wrote in his diary that each day he followed this rule: "Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it." The hidden nature of a good deed is a sign that it is truly loving. This week, take on St. John XXIII's practical method of following Jesus' great commandment of love. It's a splendid way to say, "I love you."

Father John Muir @LPi

Our Ladies Altar Society will be selling **Raffle Tickets** the weekend of **Saturday, May 31st** and **Sunday, June 1st**, after all masses. Their annual **"Sweet Sale"** will be held the following weekend of **Saturday, June 7th** and **Sunday, June 8th**.

Save the Date
July 7-11, 2025
8:30-12:00
Nativity of Our Lady
Catholic Church
Vacation Bible School
True North Trusting Jesus In A Wild World
Registration now open
and closes on Monday, June 30th

REFLECTIONS **Fifth Sunday of Easter -** Jesus was very clear about what was required of anyone who would be his disciple: They must love one another. His life was the example of love. Caring for others, forgiving others, encouraging them to be the best they could be. This is how Jesus loves you too. Do you believe he really loves you and forgives you? Does that belief affect how you treat others? How we love others is proof of our discipleship. What kind of disciple are you?

Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. - John 13:34

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TODAY'S READINGS

Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025

Reading I: Acts 14:21-27

Despite facing many hardships, Paul and Barnabas succeeded in preaching the good news of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. How do you work through personal setbacks?

Reading II: Revelation 21:1-5a

At the start of his final vision, John sees the age to come in which God comes to dwell with his people on earth and all tears, pain and even death itself is gone. Who in your life needs to hear this incredible message of hope?

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Jesus modeled for his disciples how to love one another. Do you have friends or co-workers who show you how to love others?

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NATIVITY OF OUR LADY FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, May 25th
After 10AM Mass

Sponsored by: Knights of Columbus Council 12997

Everyone is invited. Hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, soft drinks, fun jump, games for kids and more. Free of charge! All provided by the Knights of Columbus & Nativity Youth Group. So just come and have fun.

CURRENT EVENTS

Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Mass at 5:30pm
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
Pro-Life Rosary - 8:20am
Mass at 9:00am
Women's Praise & Worship
6pm - 8pm - Church
Thursday, May 22, 2025
Mass at 5:30pm
Friday, May 23, 2025
Mass at 6:30am
Saturday, May 24, 2025
Mass at 4pm
Sunday, May 25, 2025
Masses at: **8am** & **10am**
Family Fun Day - after 10am Mass - Parish Hall
Second Collection:
Church in Central & Eastern Europe
Monday, May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

SANCTUARY LIGHT:

Donated By
Our Ladies Altar Society

Women's Praise & Worship

Nativity of Our Lady Church
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Speaker: Father Nathan Comeaux

God Deserves Your Praise

		MASS SERVERS May 20 - May 25, 2025			
DAY DATE	**TIME**	**CELEBRANT**	**READERS**	**LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**	**ALTAR SERVERS**
Tuesday 5/20/25	***5:30pm***	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Kimberly Clay	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Sacristan
Wednesday 5/21/25	***9:00am***	Fr. Ed Degeyter	Ginger Comeaux	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Sacristan
Thursday 5/22/25	***5:30pm***	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Pete Aucoin	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Sacristan
Friday 5/23/25	***6:30am***	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Keith Comeaux	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Sacristan
Saturday 5/24/25	***4:00pm***	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Carmen Nicholson	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Ephraim Trahan Benjamin Trahan
Sunday 5/25/25	***8:00am***	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Nena Suit	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Gunner Moss Autumn Trahan
	10:00am	Msgr. J. Robert Romero	Paul Broussard	***See Signup Sheet Inside Church***	Tai Nguyen Madalynn Salsman

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Nativity of Our Lady's Sunday Bulletin

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Richard Gutknecht

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