



## A Lenten Pastoral Letter from Bishop Provost

Pastoral Letter Lent 2012

My Dear People of God,

*"Beloved, we are God's children now"* (1 John 3:2).

Returning home is something we do. We do so for the holidays. We want to taste mother or grandma's cooking once again. We reconnect with relatives we seldom see. Perhaps our father or a wise aunt gives us a little advice. Home is where the roots are, and this is true because home is where the family is. The same is true of the Church.

Jesus Christ consistently used the analogy of a child to describe our relationship with God, our Father. "Amen, I say to you," Jesus taught, "unless you turn and become like children you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). A child in the ancient world had no rights. The child depended upon his parents for absolutely everything until he reached his majority. Therefore, everything was pure gift from the parents. The child earned nothing. In an essential way, this is what Jesus is teaching us. The Father provides us with everything. Our Christian life is based on our ability to receive humbly. "Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:4). This attitude is best learned within the family, and that family is the Church.

Jesus again pointed this out in the Gospel of St. Matthew. "And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother'" (Matthew 12:49-50). Just as in a family we meet people who look alike and share a similar outlook on life, in the Church we encounter others, made our brothers and sisters through Baptism in a common faith, who should share our beliefs and a common goal—"the kingdom of heaven." At the same time, we acknowledge that even in a family there can be disagreements and tension causing disunity. Certainly this is not the ideal. When we encounter unpleasant moments in family life, we seek peace and reconciliation because we know a higher purpose—the preservation of family life. There is a better way. We know it, we seek it, and we must achieve it.

In my opinion, the heart and center of that passage from St. Matthew is "whoever does the will of my heavenly Father." What does it mean to do the will of God?

To do the will of God we must begin with what we know, and what we know are the commandments.

The Ten Commandments tell us basically what the will of God is. They are divinely revealed. We find them in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 20), but they reappear throughout the Bible and especially in the teachings of Jesus Christ (cf. The Sermon on the Mount). I would like to concentrate on one particular commandment, the third, "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day" (Exodus 20:8).

Keeping the Sabbath day holy lies at the center of our Christian lives. When I was a child, I recall being taught by catechism teachers and parents alike that in "keeping the

Sabbath day holy" we were imitating God. How was this possible? I remember they taught that just as God had rested on the seventh day, having completed His work of creation, so we did as He had done. Our week had been a participation in His creation, and now it was time to rest. "In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested" (Exodus 20:11). The Lord's Day, which for us as Christians is Sunday, the day of Resurrection, is also a day of worship.

On Sunday we return to the Lord something of what He has given us. Worship involves after all a gift, a sacrifice, and a return. We give God our thanks, praise, and adoration. We celebrate our Eucharist, a word in English taken directly from the Greek word for "thanksgiving." In the Eucharist, we imitate our Lord in the most perfect way possible. As He took bread and wine and transformed them into His Body and Blood, so we imitate Him and do as He instructed us, by the power of His priesthood. "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24, cf. Luke 22:19). This is exactly what we do at every Eucharistic celebration, especially at our Sunday celebration. "The Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life" (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2177). Nothing is as important. Nothing should be as important. Just as at holiday time we return home to the source of what made us who we are, so too on Sunday we return to our Creator in a way not like any other in our week. We drink from the well. We eat from "the table of the Lord." Therefore, we must ask ourselves, "How seriously do we take this obligation?"

"Beloved, we are God's children now." To ignore our obligation by missing Mass deliberately on Sunday is not only a serious sin but also a denial of the call to be childlike. I would go so far as to say that to miss Mass on Sundays and days of obligation is to deny an essential relationship—that of child to parent. It would be like being invited to grandmother's for Christmas and refusing the invitation, because we would rather stay home and look at her photograph! That is how serious the refusal is.

God awaits us. He has something to say to us in His Word. He has prepared a feast for us—nothing less than the Body and Blood of His Son Jesus Christ. As I said earlier, the question is and remains always, "How seriously do I take this obligation?" It is an obligation only because it is so tremendous a gift. Who could think of ignoring it? It is a gift that begs for gratitude.

In his message for Lent, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, quotes the Letter to the Hebrews: "Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24). The Holy Father goes on to comment, "The author states that to sustain this life shaped by the Gospel it is important to participate in the liturgy and community prayer, mindful of the eschatological goal of full communion in God." The next verse in the Letter to the Hebrews reads as follows: "We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25).

In other words, there is in our Christian worship, the Holy Mass, the "assembly" as the early Christians called it, something of the here-and-now and the not-yet. The worship is filled with God's gift to us now but also with a promise of a gift to come, "the day drawing near." That "day" will be a day of fulfillment. However, here-and-now we experience a foretaste, a preview as it were, of the heavenly banquet of eternity. It is a supreme gift that cannot be ignored, one we dare not refuse.

On our part the "response of love and good works" must be the best we have to offer God. Our worship cannot be secondhand and commonplace. Our charitable offering must be real and generous. Our "assembly" must reflect—in the words of Blessed John Paul II—the "heaven on earth" that it is and that we believe it to be.

I would wish to conclude with a short word on "spiritual communion." There are those who are able to attend Mass but cannot receive Holy Communion. Perhaps they need the Sacrament of Penance or they are prevented from receiving the sacraments by certain circumstances in their lives. They may also be in need of cooperating with the grace of conversion more fully. For whatever reason, they should make a "spiritual communion." This involves an opening of heart to God, an admission of fault and the need for forgiveness, and above all a deep desire to receive our Lord. Remember always that God loves the sinner and desires the sinner's conversion. "[T]here will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Luke 15:7).

God's grace is an amazing thing. Throughout my life I have seen Grace work in truly marvelous and astounding ways, at times unexpected, often in answer to prayer. Our Lord stands at the door and knocks. He promised this, when He said, "If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). He comes to us at many times and in many ways but most especially in every Eucharistic celebration. There we catch a glimpse of something extraordinary. We open the door and He enters. "After this I had a vision of an open door to heaven" (Revelation 4:1).

To those who attend Mass faithfully, realize what a gift you have. To those who do not attend Mass, come home. And to all of you, I extend my blessings for a holy Lent and remain with prayers for your intentions,

Devotedly yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

+Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

## Church of St. Martin de Porres dedicated

LAKE CHARLES – The new St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church, located on Elliott Road in South Lake Charles, was dedicated on Monday night during the celebration of Mass by the Most Reverend Glen John Provost, Bishop of Lake Charles.

Principal con-celebrants were Rev. Keith Pellerin, Founding Pastor of St. Martin de Porres, Rev. Msgr. Daniel Torres, Vicar General, and Very Rev. Marcus Johnson, Dean of the Central Deanery. Among many other priests were Very Rev. Anthony Fontenot, Dean of the Eastern Deanery; Very Rev. Aubrey Guilbeau, Dean of the Western Deanery and Secretary for the Ministry of Clergy and Religious; Rev. Nathan Long, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation; Rev. Msgr. Harry D. Greig, Secretary for the Ministry of Administration; Rev. Wayne LeBleu, Secretary for the Ministry of Pastoral Services; and Rev. Whitney Miller, Director of Saint Charles Center.

Deacons serving included Edward Lavine, George Stearns, and Bryan Thompson.

Rev. Ruben Buller supervised all liturgical preparations for the ceremony and served as Master of Ceremonies for the occasion. Rev. Msgr. Jace Eskind assisted in the ceremony.

To begin the dedication, Bishop Provost accepted documents describing the work that took place in constructing the building and recorded in the parish archives from the architects, John Clements and Bridget Evans.

Following the procession of the priests, deacons and Bishop Provost into the new church, the Bishop blessed water with which he sprinkled the people to purify the walls and altar. A vessel of water was brought to him as well as four urns of water carried by parishioners Alexis Trahan, Becky Monceaux, Mary Ann Romero, and Mary Ann Brame.

Then, using the sprinkling branch, the Bishop, accompanied by the deacon passed through the main body of the church, sprinkling the people and walls with the holy water. Returning to the sanctuary, he sprinkled the altar. Finally the four urns of water were carried to the baptismal font and poured into the font.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Provost provided his insight into the readings in his homily.

"The Dedication of St. Martin de Porres Church, as a 'house of God,' recalls all the occasions in sacred history when the Chosen People built and rebuilt their sacred Temple," Bishop Provost said.

Later in his homily, the Bishop noted that he had just returned from his visit ad limina apostolorum to Rome, where he prayed

at the tombs of the Apostles, met with Pope Benedict XVI, and "absorbed so much of what makes the Church a living presence in the world today."

While there he spoke with a Benedictine liturgist who talked about church architecture. "He said, the architecture of a church could either 'distract us into the mystery or distract us from the mystery,'" Bishop Provost noted. "For too long, at least several decades, we have allowed so much to 'distract us from the mystery and we have not profited from the experience."

"From the beginning, the building of St. Martin de Porres has been an opportunity to 'distract us into the mystery,'" Bishop Provost continued. "It has been built to last. In this way, it is like the Temple of old. It reflects a community that truly believes. It is distinguishable as a house of God. No one will mistake it for something else. Its very height, embellishment and decoration challenge the profane to remain outside its doors. This is as it should be, for it is intended for a chosen people, a priestly people, a holy people."

The first class relic of St. Martin de Porres, which had been removed from the altar in the old church the night before and brought in solemn procession to the new church, was carried by Father Pellerin to Bishop Provost and they both approached the altar. Bishop Provost placed in the drawer in the altar that was altered sealed.

The Bishop then prayed the Prayer of Dedication followed by the anointing of the altar with the Sacred Oil of Chrism and the walls of the church along with six crosses, two in the sanctuary, two along the columns, and two at the rear of the church. The Bishop also placed incense in a thurible and incensed the altar followed by the deacons going through the church incensing the people and the walls.

The altar was properly dressed by four parishioners, Diane Dionne, Diane Bono, Ruby Ned and Shirley Pendleton. After a blessing of a lighted candle by the Bishop, the candles on the altar are lighted as well as the Paschal Candle and those in places where the anointing was made.

The Mass then continued through to its conclusion, where both the Bishop and Father Pellerin made closing comments, and Bishop Provost intoned a solemn final blessing.

Music was provided by the St. Martin de Porres Choir led by Pam Fontenot, Director of Music and Liturgy; Carie Barnes, Choir Director; and Joycelyn Bahnsen, Cantor Coordinator.



This view of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church at night shows mission flavor of the architecture. Photo by Donald Verrette.

## Doug Ashy receives Pro Deo et Pontifice Award

(Read more at <http://live.lcdiocese.org/news/1029--doug-ashy-receives-pro-deo-et-pontifice-award.html>)

LAKE CHARLES – Doug E. Ashy, Sr., of Lafayette, is the 2011 recipient of the Pro Deo et Pontifice Award given the Bishop Jude Speyer Chapter of Pontifical Knights and Dames. The award, which was announced at the Chapter's Christmas banquet in December, was awarded on Monday, Feb. 13, at a luncheon in the recipient's honor.

Ashy, the founder of Doug Ashy Building Materials in Lafayette, has been an active member of many business/professional and service organizations, civic groups and religious groups.

He and his wife Claire

were married in 1951 and have three children, eight grandchildren, and six (soon to be eight) great-grandchildren. He began his building materials business in 1960 with four employees in a small location and today has more than 300 employees and eight locations. As a real estate developer and made possible numerous subdivisions in the Lafayette area was a founder of Southwest National Bank.

Ashy has served on various local, state and national boards dealing with his lumber business and helped found the Acadian Home Builders Association, serving on its board for 48 years.

He has been a member of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce since 1963.



Doug E. Ashy, Sr.

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# Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

March 2, 2012

## Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops



MOST REV. GREGORY M. AYMOND  
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February 15, 2012

A Letter to Catholics Statewide:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently ruled that Catholic institutions must provide health insurance that offers sterilizations, abortion inducing drugs, and contraceptives. This is a direct attack on the religious liberty of Catholic institutions which serve ALL people, not just Catholics.

As we have read, on Friday, February 10th President Obama offered some changes to the original HHS ruling. Instead of Catholic institutions having to provide the objectionable coverage the insurance companies would do it. There are three major problems with that supposed compromise. First, Catholic institutions would still have to pay for this objectionable coverage. Second, in many cases Catholic dioceses are self insured. Third, individuals would be forced to pay premiums for this coverage.

So nothing has been fixed by the President's recent action.

If the Administration will not rescind this violation of the First Amendment, then Congress should.

Please send a message to respectfully request your U.S. Senators and Congressman to co-sponsor the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) that has been introduced by Representative Fortenberry and Senator Blunt. This measure ensures that the rights of conscience of Catholic institutions will be respected.

You can do this by following the link to **VoterVoice** on the homepage of our website at [www.laccb.org](http://www.laccb.org).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+

Most Rev. Gregory M. Aymond  
Archbishop of New Orleans

+

Most Rev. Robert W. Muench  
Bishop of Baton Rouge

+

Most Rev. Sam J. Jacobs  
Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux

+

Most Rev. Michael Jarrell  
Bishop of Lafayette

+

Most Rev. Ronald P. Herzog  
Bishop of Alexandria

+

Most Rev. Glen John Provost  
Bishop of Lake Charles

+

Most Rev. Michael G. Duca  
Bishop of Shreveport

+

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre  
Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans



Bishop Glen John Provost presents the award for Community Service to David Capdeville at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Jennings. The Bishop presented various other awards to parishioners of the church, including the award as Oldest Active Member to Ms. Nolia Matthews. Other awards given at the luncheon which followed the anniversary liturgy went to Marva Ward and Maggie Riggs, Mass Attendance; Joyce Mathieu, Edna Charles and Jovita Taylor, Voluntary Church Service; Dominic Charles, Youth Ministry; Lorena Pete, Oldest Member; and Mildred Randolph, Faithful and Committed Pianist.

## First Bishop's Gala set Saturday, Dec. 8

LAKE CHARLES – The inaugural Bishop's Gala, a Black Tie Formal Social and Dance will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, December 8, in the Exhibition Room of the Lake Charles Civic Center.

Proceeds from this event, which is seen as the beginning of a yearly tradition, will benefit the efforts of the Office of Communications in evangelizing the Catholic faith in the Diocese through its print, electronic and television ministries.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served as well as an assortment of refreshments.

The 12-member Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, headquartered in Florida, will provide the evening's musical entertainment. In addition, there

will be local entertainers performing.

Tickets will be available for \$125 per person or a table of eight can be purchased for \$900. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. A number of special tables - Platinum, Gold, Silver, Crystal, and Evangelizer - will also be available at special prices.

Plans for a silent auction are being finalized.

Tickets, which can be purchased by cash or check (made payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles), will be available on and after Monday, June 18, 2012 at the offices of the Diocese, 414 Iris Street; Crossroads Bookstore, 601 W. Prien Lake Road; and in the church parishes of the Diocese, according to Msgr. Daniel Torres, Vicar General.

## Lenten Regulations

(Read more at <http://live.lcdiocese.org/news/1026-lenten-regulations.html>)

Every Catholic, even children and older adults, should participate in some way in the spiritual disciplines and penitential practices of Lent in order to go up to Jerusalem with Jesus. These are the regulations of the Church in United States.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. This means that we do not eat meat and that we have only one full meal. Concerning the Good Friday fast, the Second Vatican Council teaches: "Let the Easter fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday, so that the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrec-

tion may be attained with a clear and uplifted mind."

- The other Fridays of the season of Lent are also days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older are encouraged to participate and may freely embrace these disciplines. However, these disciplines should never endanger your health.
- The Fridays of the year outside of Lent are also days of penance. Abstaining from meat is the traditional way of observing these days of penance.

## Diocesan Briefs.....

### Applicants for Vianney House being accepted

LAKE CHARLES -- The Vianney House of Discernment is currently accepting resident applications for the 2012-2013 school year.

Vianney House is a residence for college-age men discerning the possibility of entering the seminary. Residents utilize a daily schedule of prayer and study while they seek to know the Lord's will. Applicants should be at least 18 years old, a high school graduate or intending to graduate high school this spring, and preparing to enroll in McNeese University for the fall semester.

Those interested should contact Fr. Nathan Long, the Director of Vianney House at 439-7400, or [nathan.long@lcdiocese.org](mailto:nathan.long@lcdiocese.org) no later than April 1, 2012.

### Forty Hours Devotion schedule

LAKE CHARLES – Forty Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, praying for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be in the Day Chapel of St. Henry Catholic Church Tuesday, April 10 through Friday, April 13 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The next site is St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church on Tuesday, April 17, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 19, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Jazz Brunch set June 10

LAKE CHARLES -- The 2012 Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana Jazz Brunch will be held at the Lake Charles Country Club on Sunday, June 10. Doors open at 12:30 pm.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Food, entertainment, and the opportunity to bid on auction items are included with the price of admission. In addition, the 2012 recipients of the "Caritas" and "St. Peter Claver" awards will be announced.

For ticket information, call Catholic Charities of SWLA at 337-439-7436.

### "Run with the Nuns" Saturday March 17

LAKE CHARLES – The Second Annual Run with the Nuns Motorcycle Ride and Charity Event benefitting Wellness Services at CHRISTUS St. Patrick Hospital is Saturday, March 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Touloulou's of LAuberge Casino Resort.

The event, sponsored by LAuberge and the St. Patrick Hospital Foundation, is a 65-mile motorcyle ride through Southwest Louisiana and a rice and gravy cookoff competition.

Everyone is invited out to sample the examples of rice and

gravy and listen to great music.

### Lenten Mission at St. Peter the Apostle

HACKBERRY – Sister Wendy and Sister Grace of the Sisters of Reparation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus will present the message of Divine Mercy at given by Saint Faustina Kowalska on Sunday, March 25, at 5 p.m. in St. Peter the Apostle Church.

The hour-long Lenten Parish Mission will be followed by veneration of a first relic of St. Faustina and a reception in the parish hall.

### Men's Prayer Breakfast

LAKE CHARLES – Bishop Glen John Provost continues with his presentation on the Gospel of St. Matthew at the Women's Luncheon on Tuesday, March 6, and at the Men's Prayer Breakfast on Friday, March 9. Both are in Ave Maria Hall of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception office complex.

Women should send a check for \$10, payable to the Diocese of Lake Charles, to Ms. Esther Gallardo, 612 Alamo Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601 and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Bishop Provost will celebrate Mass before the breakfast in the Cathedral. Men should call 337-439-7400 to register.

### Book donations being sought

LAKE CHARLES -- The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is seeking book donations for its Fifth Annual Book Sale. The 2012 Book Sale continues the tradition begun by Temple Sinai, which Good Shepherd adopted in 2008.

All proceeds will again go to 13 local charities, including Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana and Abraham's Tent. Over the last four years, proceeds of approximately \$35,000 were donated locally.

Donations of used or new books, DVD movies and audio books on CD are requested. No encyclopedias or textbooks, please. Empty copy paper boxes with lids are also needed for storing books. Drop off boxes, available 24 hours a day, seven days, are located at the side entrance drive-thru of Good Shepherd, 715 Kirkman Street.

### Yom Hashoah observance April 19

LAKE CHARLES – Thursday, April 19, will be the day the community observes Yom Hoshoh, a day to remember the Holocaust and heroism.

Events will include art displays, exhibits, and films from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central School on Kirby Street as well as a civic program there from noon to 1 p.m.

## Did you know...

Three archdioceses in the United States are currently being served by Archbishops who have already reached their 75th birthdays and, under Canon Law, have submitted their letter of resignation to Pope Benedict XVI. Those are Archbishop George Niederauer of San Francisco, Archbishop Francis George of Chicago and Archbishop John Vlazny of Portland, Ore. Six other bishops are also 75 years of age or older. All nine continue to shepherd their local church.

Seven other Bishops in the U.S. will reach the 75th anniversary of their birth this year. Only one Archbishop is in that group. Can you name him? Find out in the next Catholic Calendar.

A candlelight vigil will take place on the Lakefront Promenade from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. followed by a tree-planting ceremony.

The observance is coordinated by the Leadership Team for Community and Race Relations of the City of Lake Charles.

### Immaculée returns to Cajundome

LAFAYETTE – Immaculée Ilibagiza, a survivor of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, returns to the Cajundome Convention Center for a two-day retreat, Monday and Tuesday, March 16-17.

Doors open at 5 p.m. on Friday with presentations from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lunch will be available for purchase during the retreat. For more information or to register go to [www.immaculee.com](http://www.immaculee.com).

### IBCS set at Xavier University

NEW ORLEANS – The Intitute for Black Catholic Studies, a school of ministry for clergy, religious, and laypersons working in the Black Community and the Catholic Church will convene at Xavier University of Louisiana from June 22 through July 14.

The Master's program offers a three-week course of Pastoral Theological Studies while certificate and enrichment courses are held in three one-week modules.

Check the website at [www.xula.edu/ibcs](http://www.xula.edu/ibcs) or call 504-520-7961.

### Cathedral Altar Society spring trip set

LAKE CHARLES – The Altar Society of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will take its spring trip to Houston on Wednesday, April 11.

Stops on the journey will include the Treasures of Tuntankhamen exhibit at the Houston Museum of Fine Art, lunch at Café Express, and a visit to the Museum of Natural Science.

Cost is \$120 per person with a \$50 non-refundable reservation fee, which applies to the total cost of the trip. Call Rita Stutes at 439-2878, Janet Stoma at 436-0330, or Joanna Viccelio at 474-0203 for more information or to register.

### Penance Services slated in March

LAKE CHARLES – Lenten Penance Nights in the Diocese of Lake Charles will be in the churches of the Eastern Deanery on Tuesday, March 27, the Central Deanery on Wednesday, March 28, and the Western Deanery on Thursday, March 29.

Contact individual churches for specific times on those days.