



St. Augustine Historical Society
PO BOX 335
Natchez, LA 71456

FACEBOOK: [StAugustineHistoricalSociety](#)
m.guidry@verizon.net; 409-656-4651

PRESERVING THE LEGACY
of
CATHOLIC FAITH



HOSPICE OF NATCHITOCHES

336 Second Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
318.214.0944
Fax 318.214.0567
[hospiceofnatchitoches.com](#)



Lagniappe Homecare
5770 Hwy 1 Bypass
Natchitoches, La 71457
Office Number: 318-357-1990
Fax Number: 318-357-8941

NICK G. GOVERNALE, D.D.S.
125 East 5th Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457

(318)352-3830
Fax: (318) 352-5744
[GOVERNALEFAMILYDENTISTRY@GMAIL.COM](#)

Blanchard St. Denis Funeral Home

848 Keyser Avenue Home (318) 352-7936
P. O. Box 2184 Fax (318) 357-8287
Natchitoches, LA 71457-2184

[www.blanchardstdenisfuneralhome.com](#)

Email: [blanchardstdenis@gmail.com](#)



Brian Jones
Operating Manager

Dirt • Rock • Sand • Ash • And More ...
Excavation • Site Pads • Tree & Stump Removal
Demolition • Clearing & Grubbing • Dirt & Dozer Work

12486 Hwy 1 office 318-581-3960
Natchitoches LA 71457 fax 318-379-0457
email [Brian@skyplextrucking.com](#) cell 318-581-1269

License and Bonded



KEEP SAFE SELF STORAGE

356-5500

5841 Hwy 1 Bypass
AND 116 Reba Street



ARCHIE'S TOWING SERVICE, LLC

24 HOUR TOWING

105 Daniel Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457

Office: (318) 354-4141
Archie's by Request
Don Metoyer, Owner



CROSS Financial Group LLC

305 Church Street Phone (318)238-7700
Natchitoches, LA 71457

W. Dustin Cross—Certified Financial Planner
William H. Cross—Financial Advisor
Tracy W. Maxey—Reg. Financial Associate



GUIDROZ PHYSICAL THERAPY

“Over 40 Years of Service to Our Community”
Jason Parker, P.T. /Owner
318.352.9643 for Appointment

132 East Fifth Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457



BOM

a face you know, a bank you can trust

[www.bofm.com](#)
Natchitoches | Montgomery | Cloutierville
Shreveport | Haughton | Benton | Many
Alexandria | Ringgold | Castor

   [@bomest1903](#) 



CHILDREN'S BOUTIQUE

302 Front Street
Natchitoches, LA 71457
381-238-3076

 [www.eastenco.com](#)
 [@eastencoandcompanyboutique](#)
 Easton & Co



RIVERBEND BED & BREAKFAST

“Warm Hospitality with Southern Charm”

RESERVE TODAY
(318) 581-6226
CALL FOR PRICING

3141 LA - 494
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457



Cane River Waterslides LLC

Call or Text
Tina Monette
(318) 471-1548
Follow us on Facebook



Bayou Healthcare Consulting, LLC.

Tina Monette
Holley Irvin

318-471-1548 or
318-308-0925
[bayouhealthcareconsulting@yahoo.com](#)



2262 HWY 484, Natchez, LA 71456



Pastor: **Rev. William 'Bill' Gearheard**
Office Email: [staugustine1803@gmail.com](#)
Office Phone Number: 318.379.2521
Father's Email: [frwgearheard@diocesealex.org](#)
Deacon: Dr. Harlan Mark Guidry 409.656.4651
Deacon's Email: [dcnmguidry@diocesealex.org](#)
Website: [staugustinecanriver.com](#)
Office Hours: Wed–Fri 8:00 am–1 pm
Parish Manager: Elizabeth Metoyer

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
St. Augustine.....Saturday, 5:00 pm
.....Sunday, 10:30 am
Mission: St. Anne:.....Sunday, 8:30 am
3659 Old River Road, Natchitoches, LA 71457

*Holy Day's of Obligations & All Special Celebrations will be at 6:00 pm
Weekday Masses: 1st Saturday 9:00 am
Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00 pm
Thursday and Friday 8:00 am

Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
1st Friday, Holy Hour after Mass
For an Emergency Call: 318.581.1612

Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023

If the first half of the first reading sounds familiar, it may be because this is the passage that Jesus reads in the synagogue at the beginning of his ministry. If you recall, after reading it Jesus proclaims that this scripture passage has been fulfilled in their hearing. Because Jesus is with us as we are gathered here today, Isaiah's words are fulfilled now as well. Jesus continues to bring glad tidings, healing, justice, favor, and vindication. So we prepare ourselves this Advent as a bride prepares for her wedding, wearing the promise of justice and the hope of salvation and shining with the jewels of generosity and praise.

In darkness, the first need is for light. At any given time the world can be full of darkness, but lately it seems like the darkness threatens to overwhelm us. War abroad. Strife at home. COVID-19. Mass shootings. Natural disasters. And on and on. But into all this darkness comes a light. Not just a light, but the light, the light John testified to. The kingdom of God has drawn near to us in Christ and we respond with joy when we realize that he comes to us, for us, and remains with us, even when we're not conscious of his abiding presence. May we recognize the light of the Lord that is within us and our neighbor as well.

May we be as bold as John the Baptist, who testified to the light but declared that he himself was not the light. Even if we have the light within us, we did not create that light, we did not produce that light. That light comes above and we merely direct it in the way that we live. May we bear witness to the light by directing it upon the darkness in our world, producing glimmers of goodness.

How can I recognize and then bear witness to the light that comes from God?

Mass Schedule

Dec 16 Saturday 5:00 pm +Enalia Narcisse, +Annie Dell Severin, +Justin Picou, Joshua Picou & Family, +Anesia E. Delphin Cheeks, Edna Johnson, Agnes Lucas, Travis Williams and Willie Metoyer

Dec 17 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin

Dec 17 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Dec 18 Monday No Mass
Readings: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Dec 19 Tuesday 6:00 pm +Ryan Rickett
Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Dec 20 Wednesday 6:00 pm +Anniversary of Phillip Brossett, Jr.
Readings: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Dec 21 Thursday 8:00 am +James Felton Moran
Readings: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Dec 22 Friday 8:00 am +Justin Picou, Josh Picou & Family and Emily & Ryan Bullock & Family
Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Dec 23 Saturday 5:00 pm +Lester & +Faye Sarpy, Steph & +Mike Landreneaux & Family, +Isabel & +Joseph Delphin, Sr., Michael R. Velasques, +Phillip Brossett Sr., +Dennis J. Velasquez, +Benedict LaCour, Jr. and +M/M Benedict LaCour, Sr.
Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Dec 24 Sunday 8:15 am +Amy Tobin & +Armstrong & Roland Families (Living & Deceased)

Dec 24 Sunday 10:30 am The People of the Parish

Week's Offering:

December 10, 2023

St. Augustine

St. Anne

Weekly	\$ 4,384.00	\$ 704.00
Building	\$ 120.00	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 172.00	\$ 5.00
Retirement Fund	\$ 862.00	\$ 280.00
Online 12/3-10	\$ 560.75	Building \$5.00 St. Anne \$50.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Parish Service Schedule:

	LECTORS	USHERS	MO Holy Eucharist
Sat Dec 16 5:00 pm	Agnes Ashby	Donald Balthazar Farrell Christophe	TBA
Sun Dec 17 10:30 am	Rebecca Jones	Jerry Campo Norah Sers	TBA
Sat Dec 23 5:00 pm	Anita Evans	James Conant Keith Sarpy	TBA
Sun Dec 24 10:30 am	April Matt	Patrick Jones John Scott	Jackie Kimbrell Minnie Metoyer

On-Line Giving

To give online through our new platform, visit our giving page on our website <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/staugustinecaneriver> You can also give through text message by sending "Give" to 318-217-8833 or just scan the QR code. Please register with the Parish by calling 318.379.2521 during office hours.



This Week at a Glance

Tues 6 pm
Wed 6 pm Mass followed by CCD
(AA Meeting Wed, 7:00 pm at St. Anne's)
Thurs Mass 8 am
Fri 8 am Mass

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Men's Prayer Group meets every Sunday @ 9:30 am

Men's ACTS Reunion, Monday, December 11 @ 6 pm in Parish Hall

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Children's Mass & Christmas Program, December 17 @ 4:30 pm

St. Augustine, December 24, 5 pm & 10:30 PM

St. Anne, December 24, 8 pm

St. Augustine, December 25, 9 am

New Year Day, January 1, 9 am



PARISH CARE MINISTRY - We ask for your prayers for: Nick Jackson, Andrew Balthazar, Carroll Poche, Donald Gallion, Henry Llorence, Jr., Cynthia LaCour, Lizzie Metoyer, Vanue Lacour, Sister Stephanie Langston and Theresa Roque. To add others to the list, contact Dcn. Mark @ 409.656.4651 or anyone in the ministry group (Henry Rachal, Catherine Rachal, Dianne Moran, Sylvia Lacour, Deloris Jones, Roosevelt Washington, Pat Jones, Angela Jones, PJ Jones, Dominick Metoyer, Joy McGraw and Tiffany Roque).

Church Vocations Collection: Traditionally, at all Christmas Masses, a second collection is taken throughout our diocese for the education and formation of our priests. Through the Church Vocations collections, your generosity and prayers allow the church to continue to provide priests, religious sisters and brothers to serve our spiritual and physical needs. Please be generous.

Christmas Flower envelopes are available on the table near the entrance of church. Funds will be used to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. You may contribute in honor/memory of someone living or deceased. Your intentions will be remembered at all masses celebrated from Christmas Eve through Epiphany.

December 21 and December 24 Catholic Charities Homeless outreach events

This time of the year is Catholic Charities season for increased community giving. Part of our strength in serving people in Central Louisiana is working with the large number of partners doing similar work. One of those entities is the thriving Rapides Parish Healthy Initiatives Coalition. **On Thursday, Dec. 21**, coalition members will support the Volunteer of America's Homeless Outreach program by providing gumbo to attendees in the parking lot of Emmanuel Baptist Church on Jackson Street. Brown bag lunches will also be prepared to cover a small meal later in the day. Catholic Charities will be providing tarps and socks. And **On Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24**, *Lunch on the Levee* volunteers will gather to serve red beans and rice to anyone who would like to attend. This event takes place from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the City of Alexandria Amphitheater on the river. Many groups participate and provide socks, hats, hand warmers and other giveaway items. If you would like to volunteer to participate in these events, we would be glad to have you with us! Please email info@cccenla.org to let us know which event. *Lunch on the Levee* can be found on Facebook. Check their page for updates and changes due to weather. May God bless you and your families this Christmas season!

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

It is a tragedy that the Body of Christ remains divided by indifference. Jesus reveals that He and the Father are One and invites us to be One in Him through the Most Holy Eucharist. Reception of Holy Communion is reserved for those who are actively practicing the fullness of the Catholic Faith. If you are not currently striving to be available, vulnerable, and obedient to the teachings of His bride, the Catholic Church, I humbly exhort you to refrain from receiving Holy Communion and invite you to recite the following prayer:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You. Amen.