



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

P. O. Box 365 117 South Main St.

Loreauville, Louisiana 70552

(337) 229-4254

FAX (337) 229-4255

Rev. Barry F. Crochet, Pastor

Rev. Godwin Nzeh CMF, Associate Pastor

Deacon Roland Jeanlouis, Pastoral Associate

pastor@stjosephparishonline.org

stjosephparishonline.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass — 4:00 p.m.; Sunday — 7:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Monday and Friday — 6:45 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

Tuesday and Thursday — 5:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph

Wednesday — 6:45 a.m. at Saint Joseph

First Saturday — 8:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Every Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. and one-half hour before all weekday Masses, or by appointment during office hours.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday — 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

If possible please conduct parish business by phone or email.

RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER/CEMETERIAN

Mrs. Gail Borel — gail.borel@stjosephparishonline.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. Sherry Hebert — sherry.hebert@stjosephparishonline.org

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Adoration Chapel is open. The Main Church is also accessible from this entrance for your convenience.

FUNERALS

Please contact the Church Office to make Funeral Service arrangements prior to your appointment with the Funeral Home.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

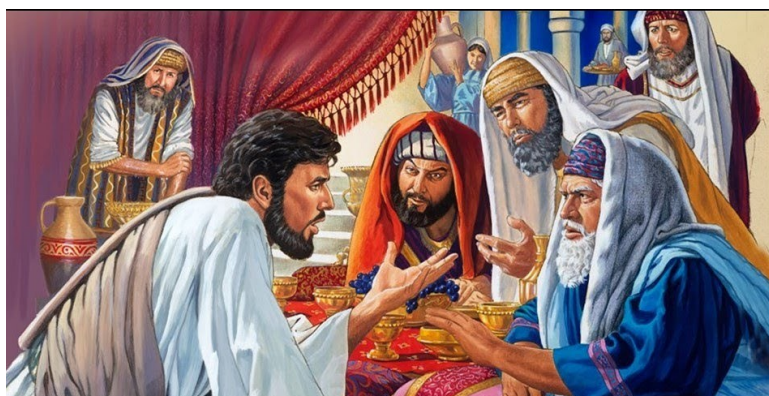
Please contact the Church Office to make arrangements for your child's Baptism.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact the Church Office six months prior to the desired date of marriage. No dates for marriage are reserved until after the first marriage interview with clergy.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Church Office to set up an appointment.



God of might, Giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of Your Name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, You may nurture in us what is good and, by Your watchful care, keep safe what You have nurtured.

MINISTERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
September 6 4:00 p.m.	Brad Clifton	Julie Clifton	Volunteers
September 7 7:00 a.m.	Kipp Brown	Russell Steiner	Volunteers
10:30 a.m.	Betty Guidry	Raymond Bergeron	Volunteers



Please pray for our Priests, Seminarians and Deacons

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these special men. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

August 31	Rev. Mikel Polson/Christopher Lee Deacon Richard Picard
September 1	Pope Leo XIV/Fr. Blake Dubroc, Dir. of Vocations and Seminarians Dcn. William Pollingue
September 2	Bishop Douglas Deshotel/Seminary Faculty, Parents and Benefactors Dcn. Kyle Polozola
September 3	Bishop Emeritus Michael Jarrell/Isaac Lejeune Dcn. Jake Prejean
September 4	Rev. Anand Raju/Tyler Listi Dcn. Charles Richard
September 5	Rev. Louis Richard/Roman Mayard Dcn. Steve Rogers
September 6	Rev. Michael Richard, JCL/Ian McElwee Dcn. Samuel Russo

Please pray for our parish family members who are sick:

Stuart Sandoz, Brett Hebert, Eric Clements, Trevor Louviere, Austin Willett, Willey Poirrier, Butch White, Patricia Freyou, Lecia Broussard, Ashley Hebert, Stephen Dugas, Jade Delcambre, Pat Villermin, Brennan Wingfield, Betty Suire, Joe Judice, Mike Habetz, Betty Champagne, Leroy and Gloria Courville, Wayne LeBlanc, Melvin Broussard, Max Borres, Vivian LeBlanc, Beckie

LeBaron, Patricia Sorrell, David Dupuy, Ava Rose and Olivia James Dworaczky, Ray Broussard, Shyla Romero, Bart Doucet, Ellenor Hebert, Jory L. Bernard, Annette Dugas, Kayla Barras Veronie, Jamie Ransonet, Randy Dugas, Rudy Delcambre, Ted Habetz, Clarence Theriot, Fred Thibodeaux, Lucy Bernard, Leif Melancon, Charlie Berard, Brad and James Clifton, Holly LeBlanc, Judy

Theriot, Carl LeBlanc, Nelda Breaux, Bernard Hebert, Jillian Faye Boudreaux, Marty LeBlanc, Bill Gonsoulin, Mark Ruly, Robert, Sr. and Julie LeBlanc, Michael Theriot, Hayes Enlund, Steve Thibeaux, Davi Clifton, Jimmy Wilson, Bobbie Boutte, Bernard Lissard, Jr., Chase Richard, Jean Bergeron, Chris Wisdom, Edie Boudreaux, Ricky Champagne, Hubert Landry, Cody Thibodeaux.

August 24, 2025	
Regular Sunday Offering Envelopes	\$ 4,144.00
Regular Sunday Offering Loose	\$ 3,276.00
Regular Collection Total	\$ 7,420.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,385.00
Difference	+\$ 35.00
Present Loan Balance	\$ 70,101.61
Donation Against Loan Balance	\$ 135.00
Insurance Balance 2025-2026	\$ 55,541.06
Insurance Collection	\$ 165.00

Flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of
Brenda Wilson

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning for
Wade and Lou Dupre

Blessed Virgin Mary Altar Candle is burning for
Cody Thibodeaux, Claude and Nola Dugas, Albert
Lydia and Bob Thibodeaux, Clarissa Thibodeaux

Saint Joseph Altar Candle is burning for
Steve J. Miguez Family and J. O. and Marie Neuville

Other Candles are burning for: Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Vance Breaux, Sr., Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, and Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priest, Religious, Domingue Family. Curtis Toffier, Lynn Delcambre, Collins and Doris Louviere, Kerney and Gene Louviere, Brooke Burch, Will and Lily Roberts, Glenn Romero, Ned Dugas, Otto Girouard, Jr. Clarence and Hilda Landry, Leo Frederick.

The Vocation Chalice is at the Home of
Cliff and Judy Schexnayder

*Please pray for vocations. If you would like to have the vocation chalice
in your home please call the rectory office at 229-4254*

Mass Intentions

Saturday 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. StJo — Otto Girouard, Jr. Clarence and Hilda Landry, C. L. Romero, Judice and Walet Families, Ned and Elaine Dugas, Bruce Guidry, Dolores Hebert, Anna Mae Soprano Foti, In Thanksgiving, Steve J. Miguez Family, J. O. and Marie Neuville, Special Intention, Sam and Glo Delcambre, John Delcambre, Anita Berard, Sully Berard, Jr., Juliette Berard, Melvin Dugas, Roy, Sr. and Gladys Berard, Donald “Don” Crochet, Earline Crochet, Steven Crochet, John Vedia Perez Family, Barbara Ann Ozenne Perez Family, Robin Neuville, Sidney Breaux Family, Pauline and Craig, Adam “Coo” and Jeanette Crochet, Robert Judice, Sr., Judice and Laviolette Families, Elton “Red” Boutte, Brandon Boutte, Antoine “Boy” LeBlanc Family, Johnny and Rose Albert, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Billy Degeyter, Chester “Butch” Gonsoulin, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Nola Champagne, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Landry and Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Trey Romero, Chad Romero, Deyna Champagne, Harold Champagne, Audrey Crochet, Paul Crochet Family, Jordan Prince and Special Intention, Vance Breaux Sr., Duffy Domingue, Cabrol and Domingue Families, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Lloyd and Anne Broussard, Simon and Felicie Granger, Forbus and Myrtle Mestayer, Kay Dooley and William and Dolores Dooley, Kim Decuir, Carl Wayne Judice, Leed and Mabel Gondron, Enola Vital, Jimmy Clifton, Julius and Jenny Ransonet, Larry Crochet, Sandi and Glenn Angelle, Betty Romero, Romero and Babin Families, Shanie Edler Decuir, Tim Edler, Edler Family, Arceneaux and Mestayer Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Lovell Romero, Henry and Renella and Josh Pelafigue, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Jay Gonsoulin Family, Paul Sonnier Family and Clyde Warfel Family, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry, Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Maude Granger and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley

Ransonet, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Granger, Shelton Joseph Freyou, Ella Desormeaux Freyou, Rickie Oubre, Loto Louviere, Jr., Gam Gondron Family, Matthew Thibeaux, Edmond Lancon Family, Louis Thibeaux Family, Keri Bonin Boutte, Bonin and Boutte Family, Clyde Dressel, Judy Judice, Beauregard Judice, Gondron and Deville Family Ancestors and Descendants, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Anthony Deville, (Recovery), Mathilde Romero, Our Catholic Priest, Louto and Anite Gondron Family, Horace and Sylvia Thibodeaux, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, Patricia Fakier, David Guidry, Warren Sevin, Charles Sevin, Cherie LeCompte, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Martha Thibodeaux, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Brenda Wilson, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Jerry Villarrubia, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.

Sunday 7:00 a.m. StJo — *Pro Populo* Saint Joseph & Our Lady of Victory

Monday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

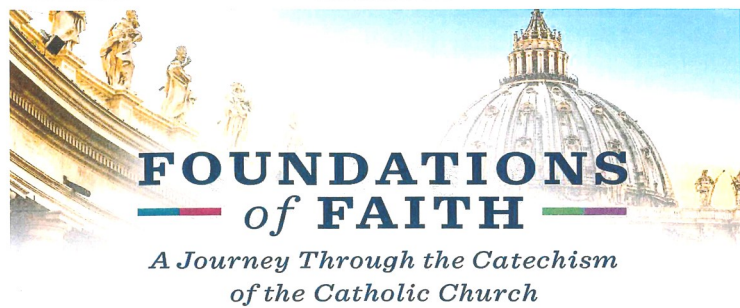
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

Wednesday 6:45 a.m. StJo — Roy and Michael Thibodeaux, Martha Escagne Rodriguez, Albert Rodriguez, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family, Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Andrew “Toupee” Bonin, Bonin and Crochet Families, Lindsay Davidson.

Thursday 5:30 p.m. StJo — Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

First Friday 6:45 a.m. OLV — Rhule, Mabel and Wayne Gondron, Gam and Velma Gondron, Donna and Steve Berard, Ancestors and, Judice and Walet Families, Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants.

First Saturday 8:00 a.m. OLV — Donna and Steve Berard, Ancestors and Descendants Lloyd and Maudrey Landry, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families Ancestors and Descendants, Mark and Penny Landry Ancestors and Descendants, Souls in Purgatory, Pope, Priests, Religious, Clarence and Nola Champagne Families, Ancestors and Descendants, Huey Olivier Family Ancestors and Descendants, Michael and Christine Arceneaux, Ancestors and Descendants, Wade & Lou Dupre, Gus Dupre, Patricia Fakier, David Guidry, Warren Sevin, Charles Sevin, Cherie LeCompte, Steve Michel, Aline Smith, Dannette Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Sara Escamilla, Trenace Songe, Martha Thibodeaux, Myra Starr, Brian Robichaux, Jane Watkins, Claire Landry, Lee Villarrubia, Milton Martinez, Brenda Wilson, Bishop Warren Boudreaux, Bishop Joseph Latino, Msgr. John Newfield, Msgr. Francis Amedee, Msgr. Andrew Frey, Rev. Jerry Villarrubia, Rev. Albert Richardson, Msgr. Richard Soseman, Fr. Varin Slacke OFM, Rev. Kurian Kanat, Rev. Greg Downs, Deacon Mel Marts, Ruben Rogers, Elizabeth Capps Rogers, Wayne Rogers, Clotilde Rogers, Alfred Crochet, Claude Hebert, Cecile Hebert, Deacon Jay Bergeron, Archbishop Harry Flynn, Sue Crochet, Francis Crochet.



Discover Your Faith Like Never Before!

Thursday Evenings- beginning August 7, 2025
6:00-7:30 pm

- From *Ascension Press*: A 20-session video series filmed worldwide
- Explore the Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer
 - Perfect for OCIA, Adult Formation & Post Confirmation students
 - **All are invited!**

Presented by Ryan Berard

JOIN US! CONTACT SHERRY HEBERT
AT
shebert@diolaf.org

Religious Rambler Pilgrimage to Portugal, France and Spain March 9 – 21, 2026

Excellent amenities at great rates and almost all costs are included in the trip price, so your additional costs will be limited. Travel is scheduled from Kansas City, rather than New York (so you don't have the added expense of travel to/from the east on your own). Arrangements can be made for travel from other airports, if needed. There's an incentive of \$100 per person for those who reserve space and pay the deposit by October 31, 2025.

I hope that you will consider joining us on this trip if you are able. Whether you can join us or not, please share this information and invitation with anyone who might be interested.

If you have questions, want more details, or would like to register, contact Mark Wyble at:

816-233-8427 or religiousramblers@gmail.com



YOUTH MINISTRY JUBILEE KICKOFF

September 7, 2025

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Lafayette

HOMILY BY



Bishop Douglas Deshotel
Diocese of Lafayette

5:00 PM Mass
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Guest Speaker

REGISTER NOW



\$25.00 Per Student or \$40 For Family

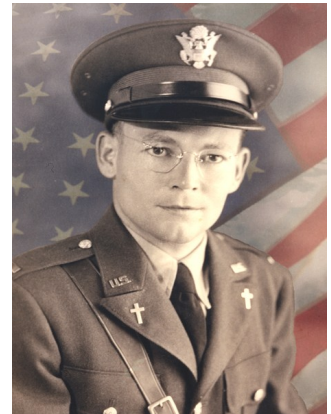
Hosted by the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry
Supported by donations to the Bishop's Services Appeal

Memorial Mass
Servant of God
Lt. Father Joseph Verbis
Lafleur
Chaplain - United States
Army Air Corps.

Monday, September 8
6:30pm

Rosary — 6:00pm

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Ville Platte



Commemorating the 81st
Anniversary of Death

Celebrant & Homilist
Very Reverend Joshua J. Rodrigue, S.T.L.
Rector/President and
Professor of Sacramental Theology
Notre Dame Seminary, New Orleans

Judge Again Attempts to Compel Little Sisters of the Poor to Provide Birth Control

by Charles J. Russo

To put it bluntly, the decision in *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and State of New Jersey v. Trump, Kennedy, et al.*, filed on August 13, 2025, is a travesty.

Blatantly ignoring two Supreme Court cases to the contrary — in 2016 and 2020 — upholding the rights of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a federal trial court judge, as she did previously, invalidated the religious and moral exemptions the Trump administration put in place in 2017 by the inaptly named Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate.

Trampling the First Amendment rights of the Little Sisters to the free exercise of religion, the judge ordered them to provide for contraceptives, including abortifacients, in their healthcare plans or face significant fines.

In light of the serious threat to religious freedom this order poses, this column summarizes the dispute's history before reflecting on its impact and why it is likely to be struck down on appeal.

The original so-called *Affordable Care Act* required employers, including nonprofit organizations such as the Little Sisters, whose ministry has been caring for the elderly poor since their founding in 1839, to pay for contraceptives, including abortifacients, in their employees' health insurance plans. The Act deceptively described this requirement as an "essential health benefit" using the euphemism "preventative and wellness services." Remarkably, abortion proponents refer to these medications as healthcare. They clearly disregard the well-being of innocent lives in the womb in killing the most innocent and defenseless among us.

The Act's original mandate granted many exemptions, but not for religious organizations and orders such as the Little Sisters. As controversy emerged in 2016, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Sisters and other organizations, exempting them from the disputed provision. Solidifying this judgment, in 2017, the Trump administration promulgated a regulation granting religious and moral exemptions from the contraception mandate that was challenged almost immediately.

Subsequently, in 2020, in *Little Sisters of the Poor Saints Peter and Paul Home v. Pennsylvania*, in a 7-2 judgment in which Justices Kagan and Breyer, ordinarily pro-abortion advocates, concurred, upheld the 2017 regulation. The 2017 trial court opinion in the original round of litigation in Pennsylvania striking down the Trump exemption, in which the Little Sisters were not named, was written by Judge Wendy Beetlestone.

Appointed by President Obama, Beetlestone is the author of the opinion in *Trump et al.* She argued that she could not imagine an exception that "intrude[d]" more in the lives of women." Too bad the judge did not demonstrate such concern for the rights of the (young) women who were not allowed to be born, whether because the mothers used birth control medications or had abortions.

Officials in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, joined by California, Massachusetts, New York, and other pro-abortion jurisdictions, continued to challenge the process by which the 2017 regulation was adopted. Without so much as conducting a hearing at which the Little Sisters' attorneys could speak, Beetlestone, now chief judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, invalidated the rules as "arbitrary and capricious" in violation of the federal APA or *Administrative Procedures Act's* notice-and-comment requirement.

The judge grounded her opinion in the procedural rather than substantive argument that the APA was exempted from the recent Supreme Court ban on nationwide injunctions. Judge Beetlestone argued that the 2017 regulation "greatly expanded that exemption and accommodation framework," adding it would "allow more entities to stop providing contraceptive coverage, which will result in more women residents seeking contraceptive care through State-funded programs," vacating them "in their entirety."

In disagreeing with a federal regulation and Supreme Court precedent, Judge Beetlestone disregarded the fact that the regulation was designed to ensure the religious freedom rights of the Little Sisters and other organizations dedicated to preserving the sanctity of life of the unborn in the safety of their mothers' wombs. As such, it is important to place the judicial activism revealed in her universal injunction in context.

This Obama-appointed jurist's order stands in stark contrast to Chief Justice Roberts' 2018 statement that "[w]e do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them."

As edifying as Roberts' words might sound, they are belied by the fact that a very different picture to the contrary emerges in a 2024 article in *Harvard Law Review*. According to this study of "the 64 nationwide injunctions issued against Trump policies, only 5 were issued by judges appointed by a Republican, leaving 92.2% of injunctions issued by a judge appointed by a Democrat." A March 2025 report from the Congressional Research Service confirmed and added to these numbers.

Moreover, as reflected in the lawfare against the second Trump administration, through early August 2025, federal trial court judges issued at least 110 nationwide injunctions. During Trump's first administration, courts handed down 64 such orders out of the total of 127 nationwide injunctions issued since 1963. The 127 total consists of six against George W. Bush, twelve against Obama, sixty-four against the first Trump Administration, and fourteen from the first three years of the Biden administration.

Because of this, the United States is at risk of becoming subject to an "imperial Judiciary" seeking to dominate the other coequal branches of government that Justice Barrett decried in her majority opinion in *Trump v. CASA*, largely banning this practice.

Regardless of the issue at hand, federal trial court judges must do two things. First, jurists must restrict their orders to their districts within their jurisdictions. Second, echoing Chief Justice Roberts' notion that judges must be umpires, not rule makers, unelected federal jurists must put the law and religious freedom ahead of ideology, especially when disputes involve the left's most sacred "sacrament": abortion.

The important underlying principle in *Trump et al.* is the significance of defending a fundamental American right: religious freedom. Yet abortion supporters go to great lengths to force their will on believers by working to coerce faith-based organizations to violate their sincerely held beliefs in the need to protect the lives of the unborn. It is also troubling that Americans have to seek a governmental exemption from an Act that substantially burdens their right to religious freedom by requiring them to violate their deeply held pro-life beliefs by dispensing birth control pills, including abortifacients.

When *Trump et al.* is appealed, it is imperative for the judiciary to safeguard the religious freedom rights of the Little Sisters and other

such organizations. If the Third Circuit fails to reverse in favor of the Little Sisters, the Supreme Court, under the direction of Chief Justice John Roberts (who has not always been willing to rein in lower courts), must set limits. Should it get that far, the Supreme Court should build on its earlier precedent in litigation involving the Little Sisters by emphasizing that these unconstitutional universal injunctions, especially those attacking religious freedom, are unacceptable.

In sum, universal injunctions, as in *Trump et al.*, are inappropriate because they have the impermissible effect of trammeling believers' First Amendment religious freedoms. But also, even more

importantly, they seek to compel them to violate their God-given rights to live in accord with their faiths by protecting the unborn.

Charles J. Russo, M.Div., J.D., Ed.D., Joseph Panzer Chair of Education in the School of Education and Health Sciences (SEHS), Director of SEHS's Ph.D. Program in Educational Leadership, and Research Professor of Law in the School of Law at the University of Dayton, Ohio, specializes in issues involving education and the law with a special focus on religious freedom. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Notre Dame University of Australia School of Law, Sydney Campus. He can be reached at crusso1@udayton.edu. All views expressed herein are exclusively his own.

Astronomy for the Soul by Regis Martin

If you shut your eyes so that you never have to see the stars, refusing ever to stand enraptured beneath the heavens, you might as well be dead. In fact, you may already be dead, only the coroner hasn't come round yet to confirm it.

"There was a time when I gazed upon the stars with great wonder and amazement," declared Aldous Huxley, author of **Brave New World**, a dystopian novel that has never gone out of print. "Now, late in life, I look up at the heavens in the same way in which I gaze upon the faded wall-paper in a railway station waiting room."

Now there's an icebreaker. And, of course, for people who have never even seen a railway station, nearly all the passenger trains having disappeared, that, too, may be a source of wonder. More and more, it seems, we live in an age in which everything has become flat as a map. Nobody is looking up at the stars, either because they are indifferent to them or, owing to light pollution, they simply can't see them. The modern world has a way of doing that to people. Almost as if, to recall Nietzsche's prediction, someone had taken a sponge and wiped clean away the entire horizon. Or, as Marx would have it, everything solid melts into thin air.

No sense of awe or mystery can survive so sweeping a reductionism. Chesterton was spot-on when he said about the world that while it will not starve for want of wonders, it will most certainly starve for want of wonder. It is, alas, an impoverishment in which increasingly we now find ourselves. We have lost all sense of the hieratic, the sacred, what a wise old philosopher friend was wont to call "the poetry of the transcendent." In short, we are witnessing the wholesale disenchantment of the world, a place where not only is the numinous not welcome, it is scarcely even recognizable.

How far we have fallen away from our ancestors, for whom the world was suffused with a sense of the sacred, positively drenched in the divine. It would never have occurred to the Greeks, for example, to ask

about the place of the gods in the polis. "The gods are everywhere," exclaimed Thales, the earliest of their philosophers, who, such was his fascination for the heavens, actually fell into a well while gazing upon them. We should all be so lucky. "The universe," as Saint Bonaventure was not the first to remind us, "is a ladder by which we ascend to God." If that is so, then secularism is what happens when a society decides to dismantle the ladder.

How on earth would the Magi have managed to find their way to Bethlehem without a star to guide them? It was certainly no ordinary light in the sky which drew them from a distant land to a place where the very Messiah of God was waiting to be born. "It was as though they had always been waiting for that star," writes Pope Benedict XVI in a commentary on the nature of the desire which prompted the Magi to leave everything behind. "It was as if the journey had always been a part of their destiny, and was finally about to begin."

For what other reason did God give us desire if not to follow the star that finally leads us to Him? Isn't that why the etymology of the two words is the same, i.e., *sidera*, which is Latin for the heavens? Or that sailors lost at sea will often chart their safe return by simply observing those same heavens?

"The stars speak to secularized man," Pope Saint John Paul II noted in a homily on the feast of the Epiphany in 2002, "awakening in him the nostalgia of his condition as pilgrim in search of the Truth with a deep desire for the Absolute."

But do they still speak to us in that way? Are we not nowadays adrift on a sea where there are no stars, only the darkness above and beyond? And if there are hints of heavenly light, glints of glory breaking through the clouds to remind us of a world beyond the one we measure out like so many coffee spoons, how many of us are there on the lookout for them?

We live in a closed world, a world untethered to the transcendent, in which "the buffered self" shapes all that we see and do. That is an apt phrase, coined by the philosopher Charles Taylor, who meant by

the term an identity totally closed in upon itself, allowing no shaft of light beyond the borders of the self-centered self. Until the modern age, argues Taylor, there were no buffered souls, no horizons bound only by immediate sensory experience. People lived in a larger world, a world visited by angels and demons, a world into which God Himself might, at any moment, suddenly descend.

The late Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete, who dedicated his first book, **God at the Ritz**, to the founder of Communion and Liberation, Luigi Giussani, "who helped me see the Milky Way," describes an encounter the latter had with a young couple making out in a car. "Hello," he said, suddenly appearing in his cassock. "I hate to interrupt; I just have one question to ask you: What you're doing now, what has it to do with the stars?"

At what moment, in other words, do we allow the stars, which aim to lure us on to God, permission to do their job — and thus draw us more easily into the ways of eternity? Can there ever be an *I* without a *Thou*, a finite self not in relation to an *Infinite Other*?

In order, therefore, for commerce between the two to happen, to ease the exchange between the two realms, the unreal world of secularism — which has largely succeeded in driving a wedge between eternity and time, God and the self — will have to go. All those structures that conspire to keep God at bay, that impede our even having to think about Him, much less make provision for Him in our lives, will simply have to be dismantled.

A genuine astronomy of the soul requires no less.

Regis Martin is Professor of Theology and Faculty Associate with the Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. He earned a licentiate and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Martin is the author of a number of books, including *Still Point: Loss, Longing, and Our Search for God* (2012) and *The Beggar's Banquet* (Emmaus Road). His most recent book, published by Sophia Institute Press, is *March to Martyrdom: Seven Letters on Sanctity from St. Ignatius of Antioch*.

September 1
 1886 Eugene Lafont
 1890 Odile Mulbert
 1898 Marie Jean Louis
 1903 James Ambroise
 1912 Austin Provost
 1927 Joseph Prosper
 1955 Anthony Tauzin
 1976 Wilson Guidry
 1981 Leon Champeaux
 1987 Sylvia Guidry
 1992 John Broussard
 2013 Susan Patin

September 2
 1888 Louis Pompier
 1891 Pauline Mestayer
 1896 Simon Jean Louis
 1900 Celeste Jony
 1906 Charles Bourda
 1910 Otto Hebert
 1918 Corinne Simon
 1918 Junius Simon
 1922 Mrs. Maxille Louis
 1923 Numa Broussard
 1927 Allen Dominique
 1930 Leonel Dugas
 1947 Clelie Segura
 1951 Robin Segura
 1957 George Oubre
 2003 Camille Broussard
 2007 Agnes Hymel

September 3
 1892 Celine Landry
 1895 John Wallet
 1933 Antoine Courville
 1936 Luto Jones
 1940 Elizabeth Doucet
 1954 Sidney Breaux Jr.
 1984 Roland Kern
 1991 William Ste. Marie
 1997 Millard Eldridge
 2015 Cecile Frederick
 2016 Lee Fontenette, Sr.
 2021 Reginald Simon, Jr.

September 4
 1899 Clementine Jones
 1914 Joseph John
 1915 Odilon Provost
 1928 Louise Verret
 1936 Marie Louviere
 1958 Aduis Gonsoulin
 1959 Joseph Romero
 1961 George Landry
 1996 Susan Thibodeaux
 2020 Lovell Romero

September 5
 1891 Aimee Francis
 (Mrs. Anore Joseph)
 1893 Ulisse Borel
 1908 Godefried Vincent
 1915 Louis Bourgeois
 1932 Infant Guillot
 1976 Laurence Verret
 2012 Justin Boudreaux
 2015 Eddie Francis
 2020 Mary Mitchell
 2021 Ophe Viator, Jr.
 2023 Paul Knatt, Sr.

September 6
 1873 Michel Federle
 1889 Alice Boatet
 1895 Mrs. Louis Broussard
 1909 Noelle Leblanc
 1910 Antoinette Judice
 1916 Mrs. Octavie Audoin Blanchard
 1916 O'Neil Broussard
 1954 Aymar Vincent
 1965 Felicie Borel
 1968 Ackley Lecamus
 1978 Myrtle Bonin
 1994 Martha Vaughn
 2003 Jade Standridge
 2007 Wallace Landry
 2008 Mabel Broussard
 2019 Charles Chataignier

September 7
 1873 P. Laurance
 1880 Amanda Ransonet
 1890 Claude Broussard
 1891 Leo Breaux
 1893 Aucoin (Infant)
 1896 Elmire Dugas
 1909 Jules Julien
 1911 Pierre Jean-Louis
 1917 Edouard Dugas
 1979 Adam Crochet
 1980 Olympe Dressel
 1982 Meidie Berard
 1988 Marie Prados

September 8
 1886 Alc   Dugas
 1890 Armand Lissard
 1891 Adlie Giroard
 1900 Octave Traun
 1913 Joseph Breaux
 1942 Josephine Johnson
 1946 Noelle Giroard
 1960 Lorraine Dugas
 1960 Emma Broussard
 1971 Hazel Dugas
 1979 Genesta Dugas
 1985 Anna Judice
 1993 Amy Latiolais

September 9
 1885 Hypolite Sarazin
 1897 Antoni Dugas
 1912 Mrs. Filias Borel
 1917 Mabel Borel
 1929 Maurice Mitchell
 1931 Emma Vincent
 1935 Edward Celestin
 1949 Sherwood Oubre
 1955 Russell Prince
 1966 Julius Chatagnier
 1975 Sidney Gondron
 1978 Sandra Braquet
 1978 Verna Braquet
 2014 George Etie
 2021 Theresa Viator

September 10
 1877 Gamotis Prospere
 1881 Cecilia Honore
 1881 Lecamus
 1902 Nina Green
 1907 Filias Breaux
 1913 Paul Broussard
 1939 Baby Crochet
 1942 O'Neil Mestayer
 1974 Roland Judice

1977 Alice LaGrange
 1987 Ray Vincent
 1989 Jeanne Broussard
 2001 Martha Angeloz
 2006 Angelle Broussard
 2008 Loicey Pommier
 2015 Lee Paul Castille
 2021 Danny Chatagnier, Sr.
 2021 Bertha Guillotte

September 11
 1911 Emile Gondron
 1924 Charlotte Simon
 1928 Alice Ransonet
 1932 Charles Mestayer
 1978 Robert Gonsoulin
 2004 Harry LeBlanc
 2017 Janice Mestayer
 2022 Ann Grayson

September 12
 1902 Adolphe Berard
 1915 Wilfred Prince
 1927 Eunice Fr  d  ric
 1937 Joseph Bonin
 1956 Joseph Molbert
 1965 Noelle Dugas
 1976 Laurence Crochet
 2013 Theresa Polk
 2017 Kenneth Pelous

September 13
 1906 Mrs. Charles Bourda
 1916 Eunice Guidry
 1920 Hermogene Landry
 1985 Pierre Vaughn
 2013 Hazel Frioux

September 14
 1898 Mrs. Anatole Dugas
 1909 Fanelon Dugas
 1910 Joseph Dugas
 1923 Adrien Louis
 1925 Luc Dresselle
 1929 Louise Simon
 1935 William Ransonet
 1937 Peter Jean Louis
 1941 Charles Anthony
 1957 Hazard Vaughn
 2008 Lillian Dugas
 2015 Joyce Landry
 2018 Raymond Doucet

September 15
 1905 Mrs. Tom Jennings
 (Aurelia Tompline)
 1906 Pierre Vuillemot
 1907 Catherine Norbert
 1944 Amais Giroard
 1944 Joseph Julien
 1951 Paul Bonin
 1968 George Crochet
 1998 Jeffery Viator
 2014 Louise Horton
 2024 Durphy Domingue

September 16
 1895 Joseph De Jean
 Granger (Infant)
 1908 Alfred Bonin
 1909 Alice Provost
 1921 Baby Montondon
 1930 Amelie Parlou
 1934 Joachim Honore
 1946 Lutitia Dugas

1948 Eidonia Ransonet
 1975 Sidney Plessela
 1975 Dennis Mestayer
 2012 Willis Dugas Sr.
 2014 Hayden Louviere
 2017 Sandra Angelle
 2018 Eugenie Castille

September 17
 1886 Joseph Judice (Infant)
 1889 Louis Guillotte
 1893 Gonsoulin (Infant)
 1911 Marie Pierre
 1917 Leonard Crochet
 1926 Joseph Gilbert
 1948 Anna John
 1991 Noe Broussard
 2009 Earline Crochet

September 18
 1875 Henri Broussard
 1891 Betsie
 1902 Anthony Gardner
 1902 Mrs. Filias Gach
 1905 Lelamie Emonet
 1928 Joseph Collins
 1951 Willie Gonsoulin
 1957 Sidney Giroard
 1965 Pauline George
 1979 Leonard Gonsoulin
 1992 Kaisten Deslatte
 1996 Cora Judice
 1997 Francis Young
 2004 Georgina Millman
 2007 Lennet Berard

September 19
 1874 Eleonide Breaux
 1877 Emma Broussard
 1897 Bernard Dauterive
 1899 Infant Charles
 1902 Alvin Declouet
 1905 Rosalie Granger
 1909 Cora Anthony
 1969 Mitchell Seneca
 1974 Bella Bonin
 1974 Sidney Boutte
 1997 Maria Decuir
 2013 Nita Berard

September 20
 1875 Louis Moise Bonin
 1887 Pauline Verret
 1888 Celestine Mang  
 1890 Scolartique Giroard
 1893 Olphida Oubre
 1916 Joacin Braquet
 1919 Albert Dominique
 1924 Valcourt F. Bonin
 1933 Cecile Breaux
 1940 Manuel Olivier
 1945 Louis Fontenette
 1946 Anna Dugas
 1951 Baby Barras
 1965 Eunice Burke
 1969 Mathilde Prados
 1997 Carrie Darby
 2002 Robert Dugas
 2005 Mabel Derouen
 2006 Edmond Broussard
 2013 Mary Ann Prados
 2018 John Murphy
 2018 Leroy Bonin
 2023 Ovey LeBlanc, Jr.
 2023 Gerard Gondron

September 21
 1894 Marie-Jeanne Mitchell
 1898 Paul Delarge
 1904 Camelia Crochet
 1914 Aurelia Doucet
 1933 Rosa Henry
 1951 Lola Pierre
 1962 Antoine Broussard
 1969 Louise Decuir
 1990 Adele Eldridge
 1994 Marie Judice
 1999 Yola Boudreaux
 2000 Andrew Dupuis
 2007 Shawn Berard

September 22
 1904 Ernestine Leblanc
 1916 Louis Broussard
 1923 Gaston Lafontaine
 1938 Feolora Granger
 1959 Mrs. Sully Dugas
 1963 Alvin Bonin
 1965 Rhea Breaux
 1989 Dudley Thibodeaux
 2000 Placide Emonet
 2008 Moise Louviere
 2020 Doris Prados
 2023 Kathleen Guillot

September 23
 1888 Oscr Prince
 1894 Laurence Vilmot
 1927 Philomene Vaughn
 1927 Eve Gonsoulin
 1943 Polyeorfre Bourda
 1978 Stanley Moulig
 1978 Clarence Louviere
 1979 Edurge Broussard
 1998 Sady Ransonet
 2003 Johnny Albert Sr.
 2016 Bernard Bourque

September 24
 1877 Unknown Mang  
 1885 Alexandre Gondien
 1886 Marie Adele Mulbert
 1899 Valerie Pierre
 1907 Robert Vincent
 1915 Bertha Gonsoulin
 1928 Infant Gonsoulin
 1955 Louis Dugas
 1994 Jerry LaGrange
 1997 Maude Granger
 2003 Juey Darby
 2005 Nadge Broussard
 2014 Odette Blanchard

September 25
 1899 Auguste B. Oubre
 1906 Mathilde Broussard
 1937 Olivier Courtville
 1938 Alden Verret
 1939 Wilfred Anthony
 1945 Infant Landry
 1947 Donald Louviere
 1963 Nancy Goellner
 1968 Leonard Ronsonet
 1980 Stanley Barrilleaux
 1996 Elmo Boutte
 2006 Vernice Louviere

September 26
 1880 Clemence Prince
 1880 Infant Decoux
 1894 Eliza Fontonet

1900 Felix Dugas
 1900 Rita Friou
 1911 Mrs. Maxille Louis
 1915 Mabel Lapeyrouse
 1944 Infant Bonin
 1947 Robin Judice
 1965 Robert Vaughn
 1966 Leonide Lemerlaud
 1984 Brett Laviolette
 2014 Joyce Benoit
 2019 Gwindl Borel
 2024 Bertha Theriot

September 27
 1893 Ulgere Verret
 1901 Corinne Bonen
 1916 Claiborne Antoine
 1935 Anthony Girouard
 1935 Raymond Daviette
 1936 Anne Bernard
 1938 Marguerite Blanchard
 1939 Corrine Honore
 1946 Baby Antoine
 1952 George Rebert
 1957 Joelle Tauzin
 1964 Marcel Robicheaux
 1975 Denis Bonin
 1979 George Boutte
 2003 Brad Berard
 2013 Sybil Verret
 2023 Curtis Toffier, Jr.

September 28
 1874 Louis Bonin
 1875 Eugene Broussard
 1889 Louise Vital
 1895 Pierre Louvi  r  
 1900 Child Bonin
 1915 Olga Louviere
 1921 Beraud Louis
 1923 Mrs. Elodie Simon
 1924 Sidonia Baily
 1952 Charles Wiltz
 1955 Joseph Provost
 1975 Silvia Louviere
 1992 Rose Dugas
 1997 Pierre Crochet Sr.
 2005 Delma Judice Jr.
 2016 Sidney Prados

September 29
 1919 Joseph Courville
 1922 Elma Gonsoulin
 1940 Baby Simon
 1944 Eliza Eldridge
 1944 Alese Collins
 1979 Valerie Albert
 1982 Louis Moulis
 1997 Richkey Fauchaux
 2006 Wilmer Suire

September 30
 1884 Eliza Leblanc
 1902 Marie Lissare
 1918 Bertha John
 1925 Eusebe Gonsoulin
 1926 Joseph Magloire
 1952 Elise Vincent
 1962 Whitney Segura, Jr.
 1974 Willie Prados
 1978 Moise Courville
 1981 Mickey Champagne Jr.
 2008 Frank Prioux

Necrology

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

May God richly bless you on your special day. It will be our privilege to remember you at the altar during the celebration of Holy Mass as we offer the Victim.

Father Crochet and Father Godwin

September 1

Kenneth Boudreaux
Nataleigh Fields
Sarah Landry
Elaine Louviere
Thadd Meche
Chelsea Stovall

September 2

Kagon Broussard
Ericka Dees
Kaylee Denise
Sheila Granger
Haidyn Marceaux
Emmalyn Richard

September 3

Wesley Bodin
Cain Breaux
Lillian Breaux
Jade Dugas
Issac Gerace
Brody Hebert
John Hewell
Jolie Hymel
Thomas Hymel
Kristen Lasseigne
Caleb Laviolette
Kurstin Robertson
Deja Sohm
Landon Stanfield

September 4

Shalone Foco
Hillary Gaspard

September 5

Leroy Begnaud
Danielle Belaire
Jonathan Broussard
Danielle Gilbile
Raven Labry
Ozzie Latiolais
Andrew Lopez

September 6

Laci Chastant
Theresa Delcambre
Jeneé Jordan
Audrey Judice
Brian Perez
Aaliyah Robin
Taelyn Walet

September 7

Brittany Bonin
Nicholas Bonin
Josh Boutte
Brittlyn Broussard
David Broussard II
Barrett Duplechain
Justin Huval
Dale Sonnier

September 8

Timothy Allen
Jennifer Baudry
Sandy Girouard
Heather Huval
Logan Robin
Lauren Schouest
Meghan Stevens
Quinten Walet

September 9

Jade Cox
Breigh Rodriguez
Britt Sonnier

September 10

Brayton Andrus
Michael Arceneaux
Beth Boggs
Dan Dworaczky
Chris Goudeau
Haley Latiolais
Benny Mora
Jhy Romero
Elia Ronsonet

September 11

Brent Crochet
Bobbi Jo Dionne
Raygen Greaux
Mary Judice
Macie Latiolais
Jamie Salsman

September 12

Andy Breaux
Edward Frederick
Kevin Gondron
Brandi Guidry
Gale Holmes
Noah Judice
Ida Louviere
Madilynn Martin
Sophia Rauschenbach
Thomas Schaubert
Casey Stanfield

September 13

Thomas Barras
Alisa Boudreaux
Brian Breaux
Lauren Broussard
Rebecca Hebert
Benita Horton
Emma Louviere
Brianna Luquette
Earl Price, Sr.
Donald Solar
Brance Viator

September 14

Eva Crochet
Madison Freyou
Michael Hargis
Jayd LeBlanc
Aimee Ledford
Travis Louviere, Jr.
Kristen Norris
Karla Robicheaux
Mason Walet

September 15

Mason Buteaux
Russell Castille
Kristin Cormier
Ross Foco
Joshua Marcantel
Adrienne Thibeaux

September 16

Mike Ackal
Laila Arceneaux
Adam Barrientez
Hannah Gaudet
Kain LeBlanc
Jackson Wazenkewitz

September 17

Deven Breaux
Cole Girouard
Irelynn Kelly
Cody Romero
Nicolas Schouest
Hazeley Smith
Steven Sumrall Jr.
Jeremy White

September 18

Adalee CoCo
Wayne Fails Jr.
Aiden Fontenot
Brielle Landry
Ed Oubre Jr.
McKinley Owens
Belinda Romero

September 19

Aiden Bahwell
Yoseline Boudreaux
Grant Carline
Sydney Cavagnaro
Grace Curtis
Kenedi Darbonne
Chloe Guillot
Bradford Habetz
Fran Lanclos
Gwendolyn LeBlanc
Avery Patout
Jamie Poche
Chadd Richard

September 20

Brant Blanchard
Gina Blanchard
Erin Bourque
Easton Dees
Jason Delcambre
Casey Guidry
Veda Langlinais
McKenzie Latiolais
Lani Martin
Preston Plessala
Monique Rebert
Elizabeth Tauzin
Hanna Tucker

September 21

Shea Bourque
Joelle Charpentier
Donald Courville
Stacey Dempsey
Dana Dugas
Karol Dugas
Malaine Eldridge
Coen Green
Ashley Hebert
Olivia Landry
Robertta Landry
Brycen Patout
Tina Suire

September 22

Leyton Arceneaux
Brandi Broussard
Karl Chataignier
Angela Guillot
Sherry Hebert
Kyla Lokitz
Rhyann Norris
Kyle Theriot
Braxton Trosclair

September 23

Carrie Chastant
Fran Dugas
John Gottschalk
Nora Schexnayder
Maci Thomas

September 24

Jillian Angelle
Steve Berard
Preston Boudreaux
Kimberly Foster
Briggs Theriot

September 25

Danielle Defelice
Mary Fraering
Noah Richter

September 26

Caleb Baudry
Renee Bodin
Peggy Borres
Viviana Castillo
Kyle Guilbeaux
Alfred Guillotte
Virginia Landry
Gavin LeBeouf
Daniel Mire
Mason White

September 27

Jennifer Angelle
Gerard Carriere
Noah DuBois
Kevin Gary
Lexi Guidry
Jarad Hunter
Brandt Walker
Liam Warfel

September 28

Johnny Berard
Sidney David
Kynleigh Dugas
Keefe Duhon
Rylin Gaspard
Dylan Hanks
Jackson Hebert
Erica Perez
Evelyn Robicheaux

September 29

Rene Boatright
Jobe Hebert
Jordan Henry
Danielle Laviolette
William Quinlan
Seth Viator, II

September 30

Jamie Ackal
Tommy Champeaux
Kim Douet, II
Thomas Landry, II
Dillon Lasseigne
Sawyer Leleux
Jenny Touns
Scott Vice
Jerome Weber

If your name does not occur in our birthday list, please call the parish office so that we can update our census information.

Survey: 9 of 10 Cradle Catholics

Leaving Church

by Charlie McCarthy

More and more Americans who were raised Catholic are leaving the church, according to a recent survey.

The *General Social Survey* (GSS) found that 62% of Americans raised Catholic said they no longer identified as being a member of the Church.

That percentage fell from 84% in 1973 and 74% in 2002.

Even worse numbers for the Catholic Church concern Americans raised in the faith and still attending Mass every Sunday.

In 1973, roughly 34% of all those raised Catholic were attending Mass weekly. That percentage fell to 20% by 2002 and 11% by 2022.

Basically, 9 out of 10 cradle Catholics are leaving at a time the church is led by American-born Pope Leo XIV, who was elevated to his position in May.

"If these trends continue, then even with ongoing significant levels of Catholic

immigration (which mitigate, or rather mask, our domestic decline), the size of the American Church will shrink dramatically in the decades to come," authors Michael Rota and Stephen Bullivant wrote in the University of Notre Dame's *Church Life Journal*.

"Simply put, no realistic amount of evangelizing new people, or bringing back those 'prodigals' who have left — mission-critical as both those apostolates are — can make up for these kinds of losses."

Rota, philosophy professor at the University of Saint Thomas, and Bullivant, theology and sociology professor at Saint Mary's University, examined the decline in religious practice among Catholic-born Americans using GSS data. They suggested that the Church, in trying to combat the loss of followers, work to create stronger community ties, especially among children.

"Before the 1950s, the average Catholic youth would have looked around in their social circle and seen a lot of consensus about faith [and] about the importance of worshipping God in some religion or

denomination," Rota told EWTN on Aug. 13. "Today, it's not like that.

"[Young Catholics] are much more likely to have many non-Catholic friends, probably non-Catholic family members. In the culture at large, there's many anti-Catholic and anti-religious voices. So that puts pressure on youth as they grow up."

The Catholic Church, though, is not the only religion suffering in the U.S.

In 2013, 72% of Americans considered religion to be the most important thing in their lives, or among many important things. In 2023, only 53% said the same.

"When the internet hit the scene, in the late '90s, we [saw] a huge spike in the percentage of youth who don't identify with any religion," Rota said Catholic News Agency reported.

"Human beings are socialized by their families, their close social network, but also by the culture that they're in. And what the internet and smartphones have done is change the balance of what's doing more work."



Pew Survey: Decline of Christianity in U.S. Has Slowed

by Brian Freeman

The drop in the number of Americans who identify as Christian appears to be slowing down in recent years after a long period of a higher level of decreases, according to a Pew Research Center survey published on Wednesday.

The extensive *Religious Landscape Study* (RLS) study found the number of people in the U.S. who identify as Christian has been stable since 2019 and that the number of those who are unaffiliated with a religion, after years of growing in number, has leveled off.

Other results from the poll include the following:

62% of Americans identified as Christians (40% were Protestant, 19% Catholic, and 3% identified as another Christian group).

The share of Americans who identify as Christians has been between 60% to 64% from 2019 to 2024, compared to 78% in 2007.

Religiously unaffiliated adults (atheists, agnostics, or "nothing in

particular") make up 29% of the population in the latest RLS, a number that has plateaued in recent years after a long period of sustained growth.

A total of some 7% of the U.S. population is non-Christian but religious — including 1.7% Jewish, 1.2% Muslim, 1.1% Buddhist, and 0.9% Hindu.

Researchers of the study wrote that "the long-term decline in the Christian share of the population and growth of religious 'nones' is demographically broad-based. There are fewer Christians and more 'nones' among men and women; people in every racial and ethnic category; college graduates and those with less education; and residents of all major regions of the country."

Researchers also noted that 37% of self-described liberals identified with Christianity, a 25 percentage point drop from 2007 when it was 62%. Meanwhile, 51% of liberals said they have no religion, a 24 percentage point jump from 27% in 2007.

The survey was carried out from July 17, 2023, to March 4, 2024, among 36,908 respondents. The margin of error was 0.8 percentage points.



**You are invited to make an Appointment
for your House Exorcism and Blessing.
Make it happen!
Call the Parish Office at 229-4254**