



News Notes

September 2025

Office of the Chancellor

Student Safe Environment Training: Circle of Grace – Circle of Grace materials have been updated. We are scheduled to receive access to these new materials in the coming days and will share this new information with you as soon as we can. Please contact Greta Hernandez at gghernandez@cdlex.org with your questions.

Catholic Schools and Religious Formation share a common link. The student training report forms are now combined for school and CCD reporting. Please be sure to include ‘Parish’ or ‘School’ when you list the location

As always, please plan to teach the program in the first semester of the school year and submit audit recap forms to Greta’s attention at the Catholic Center.

Due to copyright restrictions, Circle of Grace lessons are not available for download. You will need to contact Greta Hernandez directly at gghernandez@cdlex.org to obtain electronic lesson files.

Annual Mass Counts – The yearly September Mass Counts are due Friday, October 12, 2025.

Please list each Mass time, language, and total in attendance. The counts will cover the Vigil Mass on Saturday, **September 6 through Sunday, September 28**. Please see the attached form (in both pdf and word formats). You may use the back of the form if necessary.

The Official Catholic Directory – 2026 Special Papal Succession Edition

The OCD Online Update System is scheduled to open on or about **September 17**, allowing updates to be submitted for the upcoming edition.

Each location will receive a notice and link to update its entry in the Official Catholic Directory. So, please check your spam folders. Locations may also go directly to <http://ocdedits.com/login>. Contact Deacon John Brannen (jbrannen@cdlex.org) or Greta Hernandez (gghernandez@cdlex.org) with questions.

Pastoral Life

Family Life and Evangelization

Save the Dates for these Diocesan Masses this Fall:

- *Red Mass for Legal and Political Community*: Tuesday, September 30, 9am at St. Peter/Lexington
- *Wedding Anniversary Mass*: Saturday, October 18, 5pm at the Cathedral of Christ the King
- *White Mass for Healthcare Professionals*: Saturday, October 25, 9am at Pax Christi

Red Mass for Legal and Political Professions – *September 30, 2025, at 9am St. Peter Catholic Church, 145 Barr St. in Lexington*

Bishop John invites all members of the legal profession of all faiths and traditions, judges, lawyers, law school professors and students, all government officials and other interested persons to the annual Red Mass. Dating back to the Middle Ages, the Red Mass is an annual dedication of prayers for all who serve others through the legal profession or a governmental office and for those interested in the rule of law. Red signifies the Holy Spirit. The Mass will be followed by a reception and optional one-hour CLE event: *'The Ethics of Impairment and Well-being: Hope-Inspired Justice.'* To register, see cdlex.org/red-mass.

Grace Marriage to be Offered at Four Diocesan Parishes in 2025-26:

Beginning this September, four parishes (Mary Queen/Lexington, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton/Lexington, Ss. Francis and John/Georgetown, and Our Lady of the Mountains/Stanton) will be offering the marriage enrichment ministry called "Grace Marriage," a ministry originating in Owensboro and based on a simple idea: Four focused (and fun!) half-day Saturday mini-retreats over the school year, in which married couples gather together to deepen their marriages. Anyone from any parish is welcome to attend. To learn more, see cdlex.org/grace-marriage.



Próxima Experiencia de Encuentro Matrimonial Mundial

Fecha: Del 29 al 31 de Agosto

Lugar: Catholic Center

Dirección: 1310 West Main St, Lexington KY 40508

Experiencia NO RESIDENCIAL (Las parejas se van a dormir a sus casas)

Costo por pareja es de \$220

Más información acerca de la experiencia e inscripciones:

Alfredo Lupita Barajas (513) 827-0536

Omar y Nallely Corral (513) 802-1209

Francisco y Lissette Nieto (801) 706-3025

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Theology on Tap (September 4) – Theology on Tap is a place where young adults can come together, share a drink, and talk about things that matter. Admission is free and comes with one drink ticket.

Our next event will be on September 4th and will feature Fr. David Wheeler, who will talk to us about All things marriage and family. As usual, we anticipate this being a packed house this time around (we've already been standing room only since we've restarted the program), so I do request that if you aren't a young adult, please sit this one out to leave room for the 20- and 30-somethings in our community. Registration is not required, but greatly appreciated. You can register by visiting our website here: <https://cdlex.org/young-adult-ministry>

Diocese of Lexington Middle School Youth Rally: September 27

Middle school is a crucial time in the life of a young person as they begin to struggle with their sense of identity and who they are. Which is why we're throwing a big, all-day event for youth in grades 6-8, focusing on what it truly means to be Catholic. The day will be centered around community, formation, and prayer, all of which will find their greatest fulfillment in the mass. The cost will be \$20 per youth (scholarships are available) and will be hosted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Lexington. To register, contact your parish youth minister or visit cdlex.org/youth.

Calvary Cemetery

Wednesday September 3, 1pm – *Spiritual and Corporal Work of Mercy* 'Prayer Service & Burial of Miscarried Babies' at the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. All are welcome to attend!

Wednesday September 10 – *Feast Day of St. Nicholas of Tolentino*, Patron Saint of the Holy Souls in Purgatory...pray for us!

Saturday September 20, 10am- 2pm – *Annual Autumn Open House*. Come learn more about your Diocesan Cemetery and pre-plan with us!

Saturday September 27, 10am – *Season of Creation Walking Tour* Come hear Coolmore America-Ashford Stud Farm Arborist Barry Duncil talk about Calvary's diverse landscape. All are welcome to attend!

Tuesday September 30 – *Happy 35th Anniversary of The Via Dolorosa* (Way of Suffering) *Mausoleum*. Donated by Mr. Robert Lehmann's family, it is made of 12" Barre Granite from Vermont. The Mausoleum doors, purchased by Mr. Lehmann in the late 1960s, came from the New York Metropolitan Opera House when it was razed. The Lehmann family owned Golden Chance Farm, near Paris. Their horse, Dust Commander, was winner of the 1970 Kentucky Derby. Robert Lehmann died in January 1974. Bishop Emeritus J. Kendrick Williams blessed the Mausoleum.

Sunday October 5, 3pm – ***Third Annual Walk to Remember***, rain or shine, by CHI St. Joseph Health Women's Hospital St. Joseph. October is Respect Life Month and National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Calvary has hosted SJH's bi-monthly burials of 0-12 week fetuses since February 2015; partnering for the respectful disposition of over 1,000 little ones. All are welcome to attend!

Calvary, established in 1874, is the Cemetery of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington located @ 874 West Main Street, ccemetery@cdlex.org, 859-252-5415

Vicar General

Peace and Justice

Parish Laudato Sí Plan Evaluation – As we approach the Season of Creation and the one-year mark since we put our parish Laudato Si' plans into motion, it is time to celebrate our progress and look to the future. Pastors, Parish Life Directors, and Laudato Sí Coordinators are asked to complete the parish Laudato Sí Plan evaluation and email it to Josh van Cleef at jvancleef@cdlex.org by **September 20th**. If you have not received the evaluation form, please email Josh.

Pope Leo XIV Letter – In celebration of the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Sí*, Pope Leo XIV is convening leaders in faith, society, and science from Oct 1-3 to discuss our call to care for God's creation as we face the future with courage and hope.

While attending this event in Rome, Josh van Cleef plans to present Pope Leo with the Diocese of Lexington's ***Laudato Sí Action Plan***, as well as a binder of letters from parishes describing their commitment to living Laudato Sí. Each parish is invited to write a letter directly to Pope Leo as part of this. Instructions were sent to Pastors, Parish Life Directors, and Laudato Sí Coordinators. Email letter to jvancleef@cdlex.org by **September 20th**. Learn more about the gathering in Rome and participate in the Laudato Si' conference online (<https://raisinghope.earth/conference/>).

The Calvary Cemetery Walking Tour is on Saturday, September 27, at 10 a.m. In celebration of the Season of Creation, Calvary Cemetery invites you to participate in a Walking Tour of Calvary Cemetery, 874 W. Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky. Certified arborist Barry Duncil will conduct the tour and point out the distinguishing trees and plants, some of which predate the establishment of Lexington as a city. No reservation is required, but for more information, contact Fran Borders, fborders@cdlex.org or Peggy Gabriel, laudatosi@cdlex.org

The Season of Creation is right around the corner (September 1- Oct 4). We invite each parish to plan an event to celebrate the Season of Creation and to share with the wider parish the progress made in implementing your Laudato Sí Plan in 2025 and what commitments you will be taking on in 2026. Some ideas for celebrating the Season of Creation include: celebrating a Mass for Care for Creation, hosting a viewing of [The Letter](#), planning an outdoor prayer service, offering a [Creation Care Meal](#) after Mass, leading a parish-wide service project, or facilitating a faith sharing or faith formation group on Laudato Sí.

Laudato Si Art Retreat: Falling in Love with God. **September 13, 2025**, from 10:00 am-2:00pm at Pax Christi Church Hall, 4001 Victoria Way Lexington, Ky. See flyer for details.

Season of Creation: Diocesan Mass on the Mountain: Saturday, October 4, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Hemphill Community Center, 2514 KY 317, Jackhorn, KY. See flyer for details.

Appalachian Immersion Pilgrimage: October 19-22. See Flyer for Details.

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025 – The Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025 will officially kick off on September 1st as individual promotional packages begin arriving at parishioner homes. The weekend of **September 20–21** is *In-Pew Weekend* (unless you have prearranged a makeup date for your parish) with *Announcement Weekend* on **September 14**.

Parishes should receive their kits by the last week of August. If you have not received yours, please contact Emma Jones at ejones@cdlex.org or ext. **1050**. Inside each kit, you will find:

- Resources to introduce the Appeal
- A supply of commitment cards and envelopes for in-pew commitments
- A small sweet-treat to enjoy while reviewing the materials

Please reserve the in-pew weekend exclusively for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, with no other collections or presentations scheduled.

In early September, DAA materials will be mailed to all households on record, highlighting the ministries and programs the Appeal makes possible.

The DAA is a priority for all parishes and us as one diocesan family, and so we greatly appreciate your full support in helping us reach our goal by the end of the active phase of the campaign which is **November 30**. Thank you in advance for your prayers and dedication!

Mission & Ministry Awards

The first quarterly checks for Mission & Ministry awards for fiscal year 2024-2025 will be mailed in September to all locations that have completed their M&M Follow Up reports. If you did not return your year-end report that was due July 30th, you will not be receiving a payment and you should contact Sara Spellman ext. 1051, sspellman@cdlex.org immediately.

iGiveCatholic

Registration for #iGiveCatholic 2025 is NOW OPEN! Any organization who registers prior to the Diocesan Early Registration Deadline of September 12th will be entered into our Early Registration Prize Drawing!

#iGiveCatholic data migration from GiveGab to MightyCause has been completed as of September 1st. If your organization has participated in #iGiveCatholic in the past, you are now able to register for #iGiveCatholic 2025 and access your previously saved data.

For any participants joining #iGiveCatholic 2025, Sara Spellman will be available to do an onsite registration and onboarding session at your parish or school this month. Contact Sara by email sspellman@cdlex.org or by phone (859) 253-1993 ext. 1051 to schedule your session.

Second Collection – Formation of Ordained and Lay Ministers

English

We will take up the Second Collection for Formation of Ordained and Lay Ministers on September 13-14. Funds from this collection will support formation opportunities for diaconate program as well as continuing education programs for our priests, deacons and lay ministers. Thank you for your support and prayers for their efforts.

Spanish

Tomaremos la Segunda Colecta para la Formación de Ministros Ordenados y Laicos del 13 al 14 el Septiembre. Los fondos de esta recaudación apoyarán las iniciativas de formación para aquellos en el programa del Diaconado, como también para los programas de formación continua de nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos y ministros laicos. Gracias por su apoyo y recemos por los esfuerzos de aquellos en formación.