CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

News Notes

March 2026

Office of the Chancellor

Regional Gathering of Synodality – ***Friday, March 20, 10am-3pm (Registration begins at 9:30) Keynote Speaker, Bishop John Stowe.***

Parish leaders and others involved in the Synodal process are invited to gather with regional leaders and peers to share strategies and best practices of synodality with discussion on the implementation of the Pathways document in the third phase. Participants will include diocesan staff leaders, parishioners, and young adults engaged in the synodal process from four Dioceses (Cincinnati, Covington, Indianapolis, Lexington), along with participants from the University of Dayton and Xavier University. This is the first regional meeting of this kind in the United States.

A flyer about the event is attached to this email.

Office of the Vicar General

Interview with the Bishop – There is an interview with Bishop John Stowe in the Glenmary Challenge, celebrating the 50th anniversary of *This Land is Home to Me*. It also has been published on the Glenmary website. Please follow either of these links:

Web: https://glenmary.org/this-land-is-home-to-me-an-interview-with-bishop-stowe/

Magazine: https://issuu.com/glenmarychallenge/docs/glenmary_challenge_-_winter_2025

Vocations Office

Looking ahead to Holy Thursday – On April 2, the Church commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and, traditionally, the institution of the ministerial priesthood at the Last Supper. This presents a natural opportunity to briefly highlight in the homily the gift of the priesthood and its role in serving the faithful through the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments, and pastoral charity.

An intercession for an increase in vocations to the priesthood would also be fitting during the Prayer of the Faithful. For example:

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood in the Diocese of Lexington, that young men may generously respond to the Lord's call to serve His Church at the altar and among His people – we pray to the Lord.

Pastoral Life

Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

Theology on Tap: "The Spirituality of Fasting" on March 5 – Theology on Tap is a place where young adults can come together, share a drink, and talk about things that matter. Join us on March 5 at Mirror Twin Brewing Annex (732 National Ave. Lexington KY 40502) as Fr. Thomas Petri, OP talks to us about the Spirituality of Fasting. Admission is free and comes with one drink ticket.

Diocesan High School Retreat: March 13-15 – It's time for our annual Diocesan High School Retreat! Each year we bring together youth from across the diocese to unplug, experience authentic community, and spend time with our Lord. The theme this year is ***"Encountering Christ."*** We'll be hosted again by the Bluegrass Christian Camp (7463 Athens Boonesboro Rd. Lexington KY 40509), and the cost is $75 per youth. Youth can either register through their parish youth ministers or register online here.

Family Life

Sexual Integrity for Individuals and Families: A Series of Conversations for Adults on Love, Lust, and Pornography will take place at the Catholic Center on Tuesday nights this Spring. The sessions will explore the call to chastity, obstacles to the call, and opportunities for grace. This series is co-sponsored by Catholic in Recovery and the Diocesan Family Life Office, and features facilitators from across the Diocese. Please see the attached flyers for dates and topics.

Spring 2026 Journey of Hope Course for Divorced Catholics – *(Sessions starting March 25)* This 8-week course, led by Catholics who have experienced and found healing after divorce, begins **Wed. evening, March 25th**, from 7-9pm at the Catholic Center in Lexington (1310 West Main St). Go to cdlex.org/joh for info and to register. A flyer is attached to this email. If you have any questions, email lexjourneyofhope@cdlex.org, or call Lee at 859-229-1038 or Mike at 859-619-8440.

Calvary Cemetery

SPRING – March 20 will be here soon! Thousands of beautiful red, white, and pink begonias will be planted in May. Contact the office for more information on the Begonia programs.

Calvary allows the placement of live flowers any time. Artificial decorations may be placed November 1st to March 1st only. To keep the Cemetery's appearance uniform and in keeping with guidelines, the Cemetery will begin the process of removing all remaining artificial décor on March 2.

Easter/Spring Flowers – Order now through March 20…Lily, Azalea, Daffodils, Hyacinth, and/or Tulips. We will set the foil-covered potted flowers on or about March 30. Contact the office for more information.

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy – Wednesday March 4 Prayer Service and Burial for Life Lost through Miscarriage, with St. Joseph Hospital, at 1pm at the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum. Please dress weather-aware. All are welcome to attend.

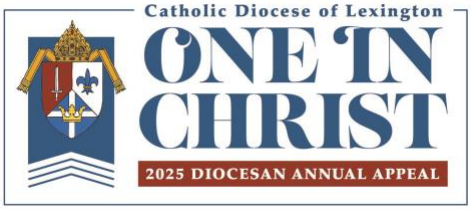
Lenten Spiritual Works of Mercy – You are invited to come and pray The Way of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory with Calvary Cemetery staff on Fridays at 3pm on March 6, 13, 20, and 27. The Stations of the Cross are displayed in the cupola of the Via Dolorosa Mausoleum and prayer books are provided for use during the prayer gatherings. *"Through the communion of saints we experience a solidarity between heaven & earth in our intercessory prayer."* (Pope Francis on October 30, 2013). Please dress weather-aware. All are welcome to attend.

Patron Saint of Widows – March 9, Feast Day of St. Frances of Rome…pray for us! *"Bright jewel of the Order of Saint Benedict, illustrious Saint Frances of Rome, thou who wast led by divine Providence through various stations in life, that thou mightest be a pattern of every virtue, to maidens, to matrons and to widows, pray for us to our divine Savior that we may be detached from the vanities of the world and may be able, under the guiding hand of our Guardian Angel to grow daily in the love of God, of His Church and of our neighbor, and finally to be made partakers in heaven of the Felicity. Amen."* St. Frances of Rome, Widow (catholicharboroffaithandmorals.com)

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

Development

Diocesan Annual Appeal 2025/26



Parishes who have not met their goal should use these last 4 weeks of the campaign season (ends on March 31st) to do so. Continue messaging about how the funds are used to impact the lives of our neighbors in need and invite those in your parish who have not yet accepted the invitation to participate to consider doing so. Many parishes need less than ten additional donors to reach their goal and earn a shareback rebate.

Congratulations to those parishes who have reached their pledged and family participation goals. For parishes that reach and then exceed their PAID goal, the Appeal shares 50% of all funds above the paid goal. For parishes that reach the family participation goal they get paid back 5%. This year the family participation goal is 65%. If the parish reach 75% participation, the parish will receive either $500 or $750 depending on the size of the parish. The third shareback is, if a parishioner did not give to the DAA in 2024, the parish will receive 50% back for their donation received for 2025. These share backs will be distributed in later in 2026 after our final audit is complete.

Second Collections

Rice Bowl Lenten Program is from February 18 through April 5. 75% goes to Catholic Relief Services and 25% stays at the diocese.

The Annual Collection for Catholic Relief Services will be taken up March 14-15. The USCCB has extensive resources, including clip art and bulletin announcements, available at: https://www.usccb.org/national-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection/catholic-relief-services-collection-resources

The calendar for Second Collections for 2027 is now up on the cdlex.org website.

Mission and Ministry Applications – Thanks to the parishes, schools and outreach organizations who submitted Mission and Ministry applications. The Mission Advisory Panel, which consists of representatives from each deanery, will meet in person on March 19 to evaluate the applications.

Catholic Charities

Welcome new staff! – We are pleased to welcome Mackenzie Burke to the Catholic Charities of Lexington team as our new Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. In this newly created role, Mackenzie will help keep our records organized, track finances, support staff across all programs, and ensure our daily operations run smoothly. Mackenzie brings a strong background in organization and technology. She is excited to be part of this dynamic team and to support our mission of serving our neighbors in need. Please join us in giving Mackenzie a warm welcome!

Volunteers Needed! – Catholic Charities will be having a workday in our Community Garden on Saturday, March 21, 10 am - 5 pm at the Catholic Center at 1310 W. Main Street, Lexington. Volunteers are welcome to come for all or part of the day. If possible, please contact us to let us know you are available at 859-475-5522 or email crbanta@cdlex.org. Please come dressed and prepared to work outside. If you have pickaxes or tools that can be used to cut very hard, dense weeds, please bring those as well.

Gardeners Wanted! – We are tremendously grateful to CHI-St. Joseph Health for a recent $25,000 grant in support of our Community Agriculture program. This generous funding will help us continue bringing fresh, nutritious food, promoting healthy living, and encouraging

sustainable gardening in response to the call of *Laudato Sí* throughout several communities across the Diocese. If you are interested in starting a community garden in your area, please contact crbanta@cdlex.org for more information. Together, we're cultivating stronger communities – one garden at a time!

Miscellaneous Notes

Lenten Reflection Series – Ignatian Encounter Ministry offers free weekly, one-hour reflections during Lent. For more information, and to publicize the series, please see the attached flyers in both English and Spanish.

Notes from the Saint Junipero Serra Club of the Diocese of Lexington:
Recommended for parish bulletins starting in March:

Honoring Our Altar Servers: 2026 Altar Server Recognition Day – The Serra Club and the Diocese of Lexington invite all altar servers and their families to a special **Altar Server Diocesan Recognition Mass** on **Sunday, May 17, 2026**.

This celebration honors the dedication of the young men and women who assist in the Sacrifice and Celebration of the Mass. Bishop John Stowe will preside over the liturgy as we gather as a Diocesan family to say thank you.

When: Sunday, May 17, 2026, during 5:00 Mass
Where: Cathedral of Christ the King
Reception: to follow in Hehman Hall. A kid-friendly meal will be provided
Awards: Certificates of Recognition will be presented for service.
How to Participate: Altar servers are encouraged to wear their Sunday best. A group photo with Bishop John will be taken following the Mass.
Registration: Contact your parish priest or Altar Server Coordinator for details on registration**.**

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Are You Called to Support Vocations? Want to become a "Friend of Priests"? – The Serra Club of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington invites you to join a community of Catholic lay men and women dedicated to promoting and fostering vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. By joining Serra, you help ensure the future of our Church through prayer, fellowship, and active support of our seminarians and clergy.

Join Us for a Special Informational Meeting
When: Monday, April 13, 2026
Where: Cathedral of Christ the King Parish Life Center Room D/E
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30pm

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." — Matthew 9:37-38
For more information or to RSVP, please contact: Dwayne Edwards at (859) 797-2913 *Visit our website at https://cdlex.org/serra-club*