

St. Bernadette Catholic Church

Bayou Vista
May 17, 2026



Farewell Open House

for Father Thainese

THIS SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

AT THE RECTORY/OFFICE

* DROP IN ANY TIME FROM 3:00 - 5:00 PM

THANK YOU "LITTLE FLOCK"

My Dear Parishioners — Little Flock,

While I was at St. Peter's Church in Carencro on May 29, 2019, Bishop Deshotel called me to inform me that he was appointing me Pastor of St. Bernadette Church in Bayou Vista. Since I was not even sure where Bayou Vista was located within the Diocese, I asked him where it was. He explained that it was in the southern region, near Morgan City. Surprised by the distance, I asked, "Why are you sending me so far away?" With a smile in his voice, he replied, "You will like the place because you have a nice rectory there!"

Indeed, for the past seven years—less than a month—I have enjoyed a comfortable and peaceful life in this beautiful rectory. I must especially thank Fr. Rogalla, who did an excellent job maintaining and improving the rectory.

I lovingly call you my "Little Flock" because, though small in number, you have witnessed your faith in a truly marvelous way.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, some parishioners stopped coming to church, while others moved to different parishes. Honestly, that period tested my pastoral spirit deeply. We upgraded the speakers and microphones, and I even began distributing printed copies of my sermons. Yet attendance at our three Sunday Masses never rose beyond 220 people, whereas it had been over 300 when I first arrived.

(Continued on page 3)



Pastor

Rev. Thainese Alphonse

Email: talphonse@diolaf.org

Parish Staff

Bookkeeper: Lois Bosworth

Mon. 8:30am - 3:30pm, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:30am - 12pm

Secretary/DRE: Becky W. Meranta
Wed./Thurs. 8:30am - 3:30pm

Church & Rectory House Keeper: Melinda Frederick

Tuesday - Friday 8:30am - 12pm

Sacraments

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat. 3:15 - 3:50pm; Sundays & weekdays 20 min. before Mass.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Contact the office to schedule a meeting with the pastor, at the parents' convenience, one month prior to the desired Baptism date. Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday after 10:30am Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Couples wishing to get married should call the office at least six months prior to the anticipated date of the wedding to begin the marriage preparation.

Marriage annulment:

Contact the pastor for easy guidance.

Anointing the Sick:

Call the office to schedule an appointment.

Youth Faith Formation:

*TBD

Schedule of Holy Masses

Weekends:

Saturday - 4:00 pm

Sunday - 7:30 am & 10:30 am

Weekdays:

Tuesday - Friday—12:10 pm

MASS Intentions

Tuesday, May 19th 12:10 pm

†Lena Quebedeaux
†John Ourso †Danny Peterson.

Wednesday, May 20th 12:10 pm

†Souls in Purgatory.

Thursday, May 21st 12:10 pm

†John Ourso †Danny Peterson.

Friday, May 22nd 12:10 pm

†Souls in Purgatory.



Melinda Frederick, Jude Duval, Gerald Hotard, James Bergeron, Daisy Roberts & Family, Don Campos, Alice Waguespack, Susan Legendre, Darryl Dimaggio, Alice Boudreaux, Michael Silva, Ryan Arcemont, Karen Duhon, Maddi Duhon, Mynette Zimmer, Jane Mayo, Dalton Dupree, Lisa Morel, Mary Ann Lambert Adams, Elma Braus, Cherie Schlatve, Matt Braus, Nelwyn LaHoste, Jamie Huffman, Maria McGinnis, Sonya Meranta, Wilson Acosta, Sr., Steve Meranta, Kenny Meranta, JY & Elaine Mula, Audie Pete, Blaine St. Romain, Robert David, Jr, Robert Paul David, Gert Simoneaux, Kristi Wisdom, Juanita Prestenbach, Barbara Rivet, Bill Vincent, Judy Cornwell, Ella Ryker, Brenda Dawson, Mike Reed, Rhodes Family, Jaret Matte, Carl Written, Mary Liles, Barry Clark, Ross Mire, Ina Miller, Doug Pillsbury, Aubry "Poochie" Sutton, Paul Wooten, Merian Rock, Carolina Rodrigue, Dwayne Meranta, Ernie Meranta, Darlene Aucoin, David Rossen, Wybra Duay, Stuart Aucoin, Andy Robichaux, Robin Bailey Jeansonne, Crue Hotard, Vanessa Solet, Dawn Spinella, Laila Claire Gardemal, Cynthia Athinson, Logan Gros, Ella Ryker, Belinda Fabre Lee, Rosa Rosado, Armando Rosado, Glen Cormier, SJ Sampey, Ruby Breaux, Barbara D. Aucoin, Sarah Ford, Carlo Streva, Jr, Danny Barras, Lynn Rose Pete Allen, Lanny Theriot, Jim Turner, Kevin Cothron, Bill Ford, Sr., Lynette Rink, Sheila Touns, Priscilla Hebert Sampey, EJ Landry, Dr Keith Comeaux, Brent Driskill, Sharon Rulf Guidry, Wiley Magee, Barbara Cothron, Rhonda Cothron Cook, Cory Spinella Meranta, Layne Aucoin, Steve Bounds, Kate Louviere, V. J. Justilian, Ruth Stanley, Shelia Mayon, Myrna Richie, Susan Ashton, V.J. Justilian, Ridge Paul Pennison, and a dear friend.

Liturgical Ministries

Date	Mass	Sacristan	Lector	Min. of Comm.
Sat. May 23	4:00 pm	Rachel Torres	Linda Russo	Linda Russo
Sun. May 24	7:30 am	John Trevino	Jimmy Lemoine	—
	10:30 am	Renee Garris	Olivia Guillot	Renee Garris

Saturday, May 23rd Anticipated Mass 4:00 pm

†Hebert, Zerangue, & Smith Families - Living & Deceased
†Thomas Rivet, Jr †Thomas Rivet III †Thomas Rivet IV
†Ray LaHoste, Jr †Raymond LaHoste, Sr. †Whalen Kiffe
†Clarence & Ella Walker †Mary Bernard Blanchard
†Peggy & Albert Hebert †Red & Yvonne Anne Adams
†Claire Torres Ingalls †Patricia & Donald Torres, Sr
†Jim Aloisio †Alberta LeBlanc †David Stansbury
†Velma & Eldridge Williams †Holy Souls in Purgatory
†Kevin Theriot †Gene Bosworth & Joseph Mier Families
†Tracey Peterson & John Ourso Families.

Sunday, May 24th 7:30 am

†Albert Solet †Luke Guillot †Maria & Ruben Trevino
†Ruby & Roland Crappell.

10:30 am


†Holy Souls in Purgatory †Rose Lipari †Ruth Wiggins
†Terry Wiggins †Carlo Streva, Sr. †Hannah Casey
†Kevin Theriot †Maddie & Justin Couvillier
†Landry & Justilian Families - Living & Deceased
†Scholler & McGinnis Families - Living & Deceased.

St. Bernadette Church Offerings
May 9-10, 2026

Offering.....\$ 4,552.00

Thank you for your generosity!

St John Vianney
(1786-1859)
Patron of Priests



If I were
to meet
a priest and
an angel,
I should
salute
the priest
before
I saluted
the angel.
The latter is
the friend
of God
but the
priest
holds
His place.

Anastpaul/18

THANK YOU “LITTLE FLOCK” continued

Still, you remained faithful to St. Bernadette Church. Thank you, my Little Flock.

You generously shared from your fixed incomes to support many important projects: repairing the roofs of the church and hall, replacing the church flooring, improving the air-conditioning units, renovating adoration chapel, and meeting many other needs. Over time, many of you encouraged me by saying, “Father, the people who are here week after week—the ones who love you and support this church—are the ones who truly matter. Be assured that they care about you, want you to be happy here, and appreciate all that you do. Please do not worry about those who are no longer here.”

Eventually, I realized how true those words were. Thank you, my Little Flock.

As time passed, some of you became very close to me. You asked about my family and my life, and I too became deeply attached to many of you, especially some of our senior parishioners. It was very difficult for me to celebrate their funerals. I truly felt as though I was burying members of my own family.

That is the beauty of the Catholic Church: wherever a priest serves, the parish community becomes his own people. Thank you, my Little Flock, for this precious emotional bond that I have cherished so deeply.

Out of pastoral zeal, whenever I noticed someone who had stopped coming to church, I would reach out and ask why. Later, I understood that some may have felt I was interfering in their personal worship life. I would like to apologize if I offended anyone in this regard.

Throughout my 41 years of priestly ministry, my mission has always been to encourage active participation in the Church. I have reached out to those who had drifted away from the faith. I have helped couples regularize their marriages in the Church. I have guided people back to Holy Communion. Above all, I have worked to bring souls closer to Christ.

In fact, my doctoral dissertation was on the theme of a “Participatory Church.” To the many of you who cooperated with me in this mission, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

Faith formation is a lifelong journey. During these years, we conducted 55 Bible quizzes, published many faith-centered articles in the bulletin, and occasionally organized classes and spiritual programs. Thank you, my Little Flock, for your support and participation in these efforts.

Thank you also for your many kind compliments regarding my writings, sermons, availability to listen, and visits to the sick in hospitals and to the homebound. I will carry with me all these beautiful memories—both the ones expressed in words and the countless others too deep to put into writing. You shall always remain in my heart.

I would also like to thank all those who, directly or indirectly, supported and assisted in the smooth administration of the parish, the celebration of the Church liturgy, and the many programs and activities we were able to carry out together. Your generosity, dedication, and willingness to serve have been a great blessing to our parish community.

Let us continue to remember one another in prayer and lift each other up before the Lord.

You are always welcome to stay in touch with me through email at thainese1958@gmail.com or through WhatsApp at my India number: **+91 90959 26002**.

You may also read my sermons on my weblog: www.thaisprings.info

With love and prayers,

Fr. Thainese A. Phouse



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (7th Sunday of Easter)



O Lord Jesus Christ,
King of glory,
you have ascended above
the heavens in triumph.
Grant, we beseech you, that,
as you have ascended,
you may also remain in our hearts.
Guide us in all our ways,
and make us partakers of your glory,
who lives and reigns with
the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

—*St. Augustine*



ANGELS
APOSTLES
ASCENSION
BLESSING
CLOUD
DISCIPLES
GALILEE

GAZE
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In recognition of your faithful and dedicated service to St. Bernadette.
Thank you!

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Father Thainese,
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Thank you!

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