

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 6:30 a.m.

Weekday

Wis 1:1-7 / Lk 17:1-6

Kevin Theriot, Msgr. Francis Legendre, Ferrel DeHart

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6:30 a.m.

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 / 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 / Jn 2:13-22

Msgr. George Landry, LJL, Haley Daigle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6:30 a.m.

St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Wis 6:1-11 / Lk 17:11-19

Delores Hubbard, JPL, Ronald Ratcliff, Sr.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 6:30 a.m.

St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

Wis 7:22b — 8:1 / Lk 17:20-25

Harry Bergeron fly. (L&D), Agatha & Cleopha Landry

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 12:10 p.m.

St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

Wis 13:1-9 / Lk 17:26-37

Monica Mancuso, Stephanie Baudry, AML, Beulah & Elie Pete

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dn 12:1-3 / Heb 10:11-14, 18 / Mk 13:24-32

4:00 p.m. Elaine M. Grant fly. (L&D), Miles Liner fly. (L&D), Angelique LeLeux, Bobby Monceaux, Calvin LeLeux fly. (L&D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 a.m. Chaille & Ray Raspberry, Calvin LeLeux fly. (L&D)

10:00 a.m. Lynette Meranta

6:30 p.m. Ronald Ratcliff, Sr.

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 Offertory \$3760.00

Quelques paroles de Monsieur le Cure

The theme for the Synod of Bishops to be held in October 2023 is Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission.

It would be difficult for anyone who attends Mass here in our beloved Berwick not to know that the number of Catholics has declined significantly over the past forty years. Some have joined other denominations, others simply stopped attending Mass. This is anecdotal, but an accurate portrayal of the current situation.

Surveys are published regularly with statistics on attendance at Mass and membership in the Catholic Church and other denominations. Some surveys poll people for the reasons for their lack of participation. All of this material is interesting and is of importance.

For my purposes, it suffices to say that membership has declined for a variety of reasons.

In the context of preparation for the synod, the important question is: What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church? This is an allusion to the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation. It is also important to respond to the Holy Spirit together as the Church.

As the Holy Father reminds us, synodality is all of us walking together along the path of time. Change is inevitable, as Pope Francis writes: “This may mean setting out, changing course, leaving behind certain ideas that hold us back and prevent us from setting out and walking together.” (To the Faithful of the Diocese of Rome, 18 September 2021)

In our understanding, influenced by the teaching of St. Paul, the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ. Christ is the Head of the Body, we are members of that Body by baptism. The Church is tasked with being the presence of Christ Jesus in the world. The Church is the presence and a means of Christ’s activity in the world.

Keeping that in mind, it would be beneficial for us to reflect upon these words of Pope Francis:

Christianity should always be human and accessible, reconciling differences and distances, turning them into familiarity and proximity. (To the Faithful of the Diocese of Rome, 18 September 2021)

As we reflect upon our own little corner of the vineyard here in Berwick, is our practice “human and accessible,” creating community and drawing people together?

To be continued...

(Msgr.) Courville

New Announcements

Directives for Parishes: The following is an excerpt of the pertinent passages from the bishop’s directives in response to the most recent protocols for the pandemic from the governor’s office.

1. The wearing of masks in church is optional. Parents are to determine if their child is to wear a mask during catechism sessions.
2. Social distancing will continue to be available here at St. Stephen.
3. Ministers of Holy Communion are required to sanitize their hands prior to and are requested to wear masks during the distribution of Holy Communion.
4. The quarantine procedures of the Louisiana Department of Health are to be followed. Federal guidelines are to be observed.
5. Those with underlying health conditions, frailty due to advanced age, and those caring for the sick are not obliged to attend Mass. People who have covid-19 should not attend Mass.

Repeat Announcements

Prayer for Hurricane Season: Bishop Schexnayder, the beloved second bishop of Lafayette, composed a prayer to be used during the hurricane season in 1957. This prayer has been reproduced on a card and is available in the vestibule of the church and near the side exits.

Pray for the following priest each day: Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. 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.

- November 8, Rev. Hai Ngoc Pham, SVD
- November 9, Rev. Daniel Picard
- November 10, Rev. Benjamin Pitre
- November 11, Rev. Connor Poirrier
- November 12, Rev. Mikel Polson
- November 13, Rev. Bala Rayapati
- November 14, Rev. Francis Renfro, SJ

DATE / TIME	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
November 13, 4:00 p.m.	Linda Thomas	Barbara LeLeux
November 14, 7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Christine Henry Martha Boudreaux Monique Ratcliff	James Stewart