

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 6:30 a.m.

*Advent Weekday
Is 2:1-5 / Mt 8:5-11*

Ronald Ratcliff, Sr.

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

*St. Andrew, Apostle
Rom 10:9-18 / Mt 4:18-22*

Craig Sehon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6:30 a.m.

*Advent Weekday
Is 25:6-10a / Mt 15:29-37*

Clarence Hebert, Jr., Grant Hebert

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 6:30 a.m.

*Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6 / Mt 7:21, 24-27*

Roland Prestenbach fly. (L&D), William Theriot fly. (L&D)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 12:10 p.m.

*St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Is 29:17-24 / Mt 9:27-31*

AML

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

*Second Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1-9 / Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 / Lk 3:1-6*

4:00 p.m. Tommy Naquin, Bobby Naquin, Anatole & Marcelite Naquin, Mercedes & Leroy Naquin, Miles Liner fly. (L&D), Susanna Scarbrough, Don Lasseigne

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

10:00 a.m. John Pecoraro, M/M Jerry A. Landry fly. (L&D), Lee Nini, Jr., Lynette B. Meranta, Beverly Breaux

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

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Offertory \$3698.00

Quelques paroles de Monsieur le Cure

I am writing this on Wednesday morning, the day before Thanksgiving Day. It seems to be a quiet day, but perhaps that is because I have only left the house long enough to walk over to church. Perhaps this day is different for you, especially if you are busy with the final preparations for tomorrow. I was in Lafayette yesterday, taking care of a few things. The traffic was much heavier than usual. Busy time of the year, is it not?

Sunday marks the beginning of the Advent Season. By custom, the Gospel passage will proclaim the Second Coming of the Lord. We will be invited anew to prepare for that Coming. This will be another opportunity to make some good changes in our lives.

As the Church Year ends, as we will have had a moment to recall that for which we are grateful, I bring to an end my reflections on the Synod to be held in October 2023.

Referring to the Council described in Acts 15, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis wrote:

In this Synod, we want to get to the point where we can say, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," for, guided by the Holy Spirit, you will be in constant dialogue among yourselves, but also in dialogue with the Holy Spirit. Remember those words: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to place on you any burden..." "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." That is how you should try to discuss things at every stage of this synodal process. Without the Holy Spirit, this will be a kind of diocesan parliament, but not a Synod. We are not holding a diocesan parliament, examining this or that question, but making a journey of listening to one another and to the Holy Spirit, discussing yes, but discussing with the Holy Spirit, which is a way of praying. (To the Faithful of the Diocese of Rome, 18 September 2021)

Listening is a challenge in our society at this time. This seems to be true in every dimension of our society, including our Church. It is a challenge, but is it impossible?

Dialogue is always possible if those who are to be engaged make an effort to close their mouths and open their ears. How complicated is that?

It can only be complicated when we are egotistical or stupid. Both attributes are not in rare supply these days.

The remedy for the former is self-honesty or self-knowledge. The great spiritual masters- of both genders- refer to this as humility: seeing yourself as you are in the eyes of God.

The remedy for the latter is the pursuit of knowledge. This needs to be done with a willingness to seek the truth. It presumes an ability to judge the accuracy of one's sources.

Dialogue is possible, but not easy.

Bishop Deshotel will write a letter to the faithful of the diocese on his plans to participate as a diocese in the synodal process.

If we, as a people of faith, engage in this process, in dialogue with each other and the Holy Spirit, this could lead to an authentic renewal of our Church. It could also lead to a healing of the division in our country. This could be a sign of hope in a world that desperately needs hope.

(Msgr.) Courville

New Announcements

Expression of Gratitude: In a letter addressed to Msgr. Courville and dated 15 November 2021, Sr. Stella Mary, the representative of the Superior General of the Catechetical Sisters of Arogyamatha in the United States, expressed her gratitude on behalf of her community to our parishioners for the financial contribution to her community's apostolate.

Repeat 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.

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.

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 29, Rev. Gregory Simien
- November 30, Rev. Brent Smith
- December 1, Pope Francis
- December 2, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
- December 3, Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel
- December 4, Bishop Emeritus Michael Jarrell
- December 5, Rev. William Snyders, SJ

DATE / TIME	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
December 4, 4:00 p.m.	Linda Thomas	
December 5, 7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Susan Blanchard Laura Dozar Anne Theriot	Briant Dozar Brian Theriot