

XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sat., July 23 **Saint Bridget of Sweden**

Jer 7:1-11; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Mt 13:24-30

4 pm ... ☩ Don Vandenberghe (63rd Anniv.) by Al Heidenreich

Sun., July 24 **XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-3, 6-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

7:30 am ... ☩ Donald J. Leclerc by Esther & Don Leclerc

9:30 am ... ☩ Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Mon., July 25 **Saint James**

2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28

12 pm ... ☩ Bette Lloyd by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Tue., July 26 **Saints Joaquim and Anne**

Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43

12 pm ... ☩ Joan Foley (3rd Anniv.) by Connie Raymond

Wed., July 27

Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46

12 pm ... ☩ Dot, ☩ Ray, & ☩ Roger LaRoche by Lil LaRoche

Thur., July 28

Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

8:30 am ... ☩ Kathleen McNamara Cunningham by the Norton and Nealon families

Fri., July 29 **Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus**

~ OFFICE CLOSED ~

Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

6 pm ... ☩ Joan Wisner by Teresa Greene

Sat., July 30 **Saint Peter Chrysologus**

Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12

4 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sun., July 31 **XVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

7:30 am ... ☩ Jack Healy by Denis & Eileen Smith

9:30 am ... ☩ Lorraine M. Lavoie by Rita Montpelier

5 pm ... ☩ Pauline Nadeau (6th Anniv.) by Jaye Soderberg and Dottie DeCotis

Weekly Collection

Weekend of July 17, 2016

Regular Offertory \$3,056.20
Make-Up Offertory 505.00
Loose Offertory 629.80
Online Parish Giving 345.00
Total \$4,536.00

Stewardship \$ 362.00
Stewardship Online Giving 50.00
Total Stewardship Online \$ 412.00



Catholic Charities

2016 Annual Campaign

Our goal this year is \$26,000. Thank

you to those who have supported Catholic Charities. To date, your gift has helped us raise **\$12,350** towards our goal. **We are almost halfway there!** Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting Catholic Charities New Hampshire. Please help us reach our goal!



Holy Year Pilgrimage Bishop Libasci is pleased to announce that as part of the observance of the Year of Mercy, he will lead a diocesan-wide pilgrimage to Washington D.C. Central to this pilgrimage will be a visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, America's Catholic Church. There we will have the opportunity to go through the National Holy Year Door! The pilgrimage is scheduled Sept. 26-28, 2016. For further information, contact Canterbury Pilgrimages at [800-653-0017](tel:800-653-0017) or go to www.canterburypilgrimages.com.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health

screenings at Saint Raphael Parish on **Sept. 14, 2016**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to blocked arteries, a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **To register and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call [1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441) or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Joan Foley** by Connie Raymond.



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, July 18, the food pantry served **30** families and gave out **46** bags of groceries. We need Mac 'n Cheese and can always use brown paper bags!



Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael Parish!



ORGANIST WANTED: We are seeking an organist for our 4pm Saturday Vigil Masses beginning in September. If interested, please contact Kerri at [603-623-2604](tel:603-623-2604) or kerri.stanley@saint-raphael-parish.com Thank you.



Altar Servers Needed! The Altar Server's Ministry is a unique one in the Catholic Church. Other than priests and deacons, no one else is allowed to play so closely a part in the preparation of the Eucharist. Your participation as an Altar Server is special. When you serve the priests and deacons, you serve the people of God, and above all, you serve Christ. Servers should have received their First Eucharist before they start serving. If you are interested, please call Kerri in the office at 623.2604. Thank you!



Tabernacle repair—Due to a door mechanism problem, the tabernacle on the altar of reposition is being repaired. The red tabernacle will be used until the repairs are completed.



A cheeky question prompts consideration of the strength of faith

When **Father Stephen Brian Lawson, O.S.B.**, our transitional deacon at Saint Anselm Abbey, began delivering the homily on Saint Benedict's feast day July 11, most of us in the community and congregation perked up to listen. Father Stephen usually has something **amusing** and **wise** to share. However, he began by relating a question he himself had heard in another homily, one at a funeral Mass.

"So how big is your 'but'?" he asked.

Almost instantly, you could see **the collective monastic eyebrow** arch! What? What was this young fellow doing? And why on earth was he being edgy on a solemn feast day? Of course, when the offending word is pronounced we do not hear its spelling. As he quickly explained, he was not asking about anyone's **posterior dorsality**, which in some cases can indeed be rather capacious, but rather about the "but" we all use for our excuses and limitations.

"I'd help you move, **but** I've got a doctor's appointment this afternoon." "I'd join the cast of your show, **but** I have to work every night for the next month." "I'd go to Mass each week, **but** I have to take the kids to practice." Once we understood the particular **homonym** – two or more words that are spelled differently and carry different meanings but that sound alike – our usual cardiac and respiratory rate returned. Father Stephen had stepped back from the precipice.

I found the question and the issues it raised pretty funny and rather useful, so I mentioned to the **deacon** that I planned to steal them – and so I did, even before Melania Trump reminded the American public of the temptations of plagiarism. Fact is, priests are **notorious thieves** when it comes to good ideas for homilies; it's a high compliment to a brother priest to filch his sermon. I suppose it's not really larceny when you ask permission, and I always do, and then credit the source. And I do that too. Most of the time, when I remember Father Stephen's idea, I felt, would make **a nice summer series for the coming week, a week of butts**.

On **Monday**, after making clear who my source was, I reviewed the feast day homily. We can let so many interruptions, diversions and needs interfere with living out our Christian life and expressing our Catholic identity. We're too busy to pray. We're too overscheduled to get to Mass each week. We can't reach out to Cousin Eddie because of what he said way back when. We so often let



the trivial trump the profound, and learn to our distress that we have cheated ourselves,

our loved one or those who depend upon us. We take the low road, the easy path and are the poorer for it. Inside, we know we can do better, and so we need to take some moral fat off these particular "buts."

Tuesday's Mass gave me the opportunity to speak about "but" in the sense of mountain goats, who take great delight in **butting heads** against each other. They must require a lot of aspirin! How often, I asked, do we butt heads with the Lord? We ram his plans for us with a resounding "No"! More often, we butt heads through delays. We'll get to what he wishes for us, but not now – then we discover it's too late. Happily, **the Lord is patient** and, in due course, his will becomes clear and acceptable to us. Free will inclines us toward choosing actions and attitudes that perfect our nature, but the residual effects of original sin and our own passions make such choices a struggle. When we butt heads with



the 12th and 13th centuries. As cathedrals, abbeys and churches rose ever taller, and as windows grew ever larger to admit more and more light and color from stained glass, something had to happen. Towers and roofs were just as heavy as in the days of dark and heavy Romanesque design. *Voilà!* Somebody invented the "**flying buttress**," an exterior support that arcs from the ground up to the higher parts of a wall to support the weight that wall must bear. Notre Dame de Paris, Chartres, Reims and many others in France, Canterbury, Westminster, Salisbury and others in England and even the early 20th century **Washington National Cathedral** in this country all exhibit the flying buttress. If

we transfer the term to our lives, we can see that our faith needs to be buttressed. Faith is a gift from God, but we are responsible for its care and well-being. That buttressing should come from prayer, the Eucharist, Sacred Scripture, encounters with the beauty of nature and examples of

faith we see lived all around us.

Finally, on **Friday**, I brought the series to a conclusion. Again, the French bailed me out. One of the **French words for "goal" or "objective" is "le but."** This kind of "but" is vital for the Christian to keep in mind. Given all the distractions, interruptions and impediments we encounter in life – can you say "Pokemon Go"? – it is easy to forget what our ultimate objective is: **eternal happiness in heaven with God**. Winning the White House, Powerball or a World Series pales in significance to that single, overriding goal. As Jesus himself teaches in Mark 8:36 and Matthew 16:26, that is the goal toward which each of us must press on as we live our lives in the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.

Father Stephen's **cheeky little question** at the start of a feast day homily turns out to have had **all manner of implications** for our lives in Christ. Do we make excuses a pervasive feature of the way we live? Do we resist God's will? Do we stand tall in our Catholic faith and life? Do we strengthen our faith through prayer, reflection, study, beauty and quiet? And do we keep our eternal goal in mind? Those are some important questions to consider.

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God by making poor, sinful choices, it never turns out so well, does it?

Planning **Wednesday's** homily at Mass gave me a little trouble. My "but" collection wasn't as big as I had thought. Then I realized a little orthographic adaptation could solve the problem, and alter the

pronunciation slightly. Take an angry mountain goat with a hard head and add an "e," and you get "**butte**." A butte is an outcropping of land usually formed by erosion. Some buttes can be quite tall. They are frequently found out West, where they make spectacular landscapes however desolate. Finding **a man or woman who stands tall in Christ** is not as easy as it seems. Too many of us compromise with what we should be and do. Individuals who have made the commitment and who strive to fulfill it, are a source of encouragement and inspiration. The saints, of course, are these living "buttes," but we find people all around us who deserve our admiration and emulation.

Thursday's Mass yielded an opportunity to speak about a French term that came into English with the rise of Gothic architecture in