

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 9:00 a.m.

*St. Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59 / Mt 10:17-22*

Julie Bradberry, Mary Etta Taylor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 5:30 p.m.

*St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
1 Jn 1:1-4 / Jn 20:1a, 2-8*

Julie Bradberry, Liz Judice

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 6:30 a.m.

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2 / Mt 2:13-18*

Julie Bradberry

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 6:30 a.m.

*Fifth Day within the Octave of Christmas
1 Jn 2:3-11 / Lk 2:22-35*

Julie Bradberry, Corinne Villard

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 12:10 p.m.

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 / Mt 2:13-15, 19-23*

Julie Bradberry, Florence LeBoeuf

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

*Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21*

4:00 p.m. M/M Ivan Carline fly. (L&D), Joseph P. Russo fly. (L&D), Gerald Ohmer fly. (L&D), Julie Bradberry, Jamie & Brittani Head, Miles Liner fly. (L&D), Lee Nini, Sr. fly. (L&D), Andrew J. Daigle, Ada Fanguie, Bill Reiners, Cody Cousins, Gary Melancon

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

7:00 a.m. Emile & Ivy Adams, Stephen E. Adams, Andy Robichaux

10:00 a.m. Julie Bradberry, M/M E.J. Lemoine fly. (L&D), Nila Nini, Special Intention, Tommy Naquin, Leroy Naquin, Marcelite & Anatole Naquin, Gloria Landry

6:30 p.m. Sonny Baudry

Offertory \$2995.00
Donation \$ 500.00

Quelques paroles de Monsieur le Cure

By the time you read this, the Christmas Season will have begun. The Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve will proclaim anew the awesome mystery of the Incarnation, God made Man in the Divine Person of the Lord Jesus. Christmas Day will end with the Mass in which the prologue of the Gospel of St. John is proclaimed, reminding us again that the Lord Jesus literally came to "pitch his tent amongst us."

Peculiarly for me, I really am indifferent to the fact that I am, again this year, not really prepared for Christmas. I think it is because I realize this year that that for which I am not prepared is shallow and superficial. Yes, my office has the appearance of a refugee center for paper. No, I have not sent out a single Christmas card. As of now, there is no Christmas décor in the house.

These things simply are not important.

Spiritually, my heart is ready to reflect anew upon this marvelous love of God made Flesh. Last Sunday as I was baptizing a beautiful baby, I thought of Our Lord, born a baby at Bethlehem. As I looked into the eyes of this baby last Sunday, moved by such innocence, I could not help but wonder what it must have been like for the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to look into the eyes of Almighty God.

Spiritually, my heart also turns to you, not only the parishioners here at St. Stephen, but also to the larger community of Berwick. With a heart filled with gratitude for your continued kindness, I will remember you at the Masses during the Christmas Season.

In particular, I pray for the all too many who are adversely affected by the downturn in the economy. Although I do not mention it often, I am aware of those amongst us who are unemployed, those whose income have been cut, and business owners who are barely surviving. I acknowledge your anxiety about providing for the needs of your families.

I pray for the homebound, the sick, those undergoing therapeutic intervention, and those recovering from serious surgery. Part of our reflection on God made Man leads to a deeper understanding of Our Lord's sharing of our sufferings. I remember prayerfully as well those who are taking care of elderly family members.

I pray especially for those who experience loneliness during the holidays, aware of those who are mourning the death of a loved one. The pain can be so intense.

I pray for families who are experiencing stress because of strained relationships: for couples who feel that they can no longer get along, for parents and children who are estranged, for old friends who now feel distant from each other.

I pray for those who are suffering from depression, that debilitating illness. I remember too those who are discouraged, who have lost hope, who are despairing.

Easily do I pray for the children and young people of our community. Hardly angels, they are nonetheless good-hearted with delightful personalities, talented and all too clever, ever so delightful. That which can readily destroy them from within too frequently and intensely tempts our young. Hopefully our prayers and love will assist them.

I really am prepared for Christmas.

(Msgr.) Courville

New Announcements

Mass Schedule for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God: The Mass schedule for New Year's will be the usual weekend schedule: Saturday afternoon at 4, Sunday morning at 7 and 10, and Sunday evening at 6:30.

Daily Mass: Mass on Monday, December 26, will be at 9 a.m. Mass on Tuesday, December 27, will be at 5:30 p.m. The Masses for the rest of the week will be at the regular times.

Holiday Schedule: The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 26, for the holiday.

Newly Baptized

John Eric Thomas Nolting was baptized on December 18, 2016.

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.

December 26, Rev. Emmanuel Awe, SSJ
December 27, Rev. Donald Bahlinger, SJ
December 28, Rev. Matthew Barzare
December 29, Rev. Herbert Bennerfield
December 30, Rev. Lloyd Benoit
December 31, Rev. Paul Bergeron
January 1, Pope Francis

Please pray for the sick of our parish: Diane Bergeron, Reggie Sampey, Gayle Arnould, Floyd & Linda Robicheaux, Roxanne Colbert, Theresa Henry, Michael Keller, Wendell Chauvin, Anthony Rhodes, Sr., Paul Bower, Deborah Hernandez, Ken Macey, Vanessa Clements, Onesime Richard, Johnny Thomas, Rand Nini, Braxton Burch, Kim Beiver, Reese Grace Johnson, Roland Lege, Jr., Brooke Rhodes, Edna Alcina, Brevon & Brinlee Colbert, Shawn McClelland, John Czajka, Jennifer Landry, Harold Adams, Jr., Jeff Brown, Beatrice Talbot, Karen Moore, David Berg, Bren Guillory, John Keenze, Sr., Frank Cavalier, Thomas LeBlanc, Samantha & Sammy Barker, IJL, Diane Bates, Travis Blanco, A. Doiron, Marcelle Campbell, Lenora Ackman, Verdine Laws, Kristi Liner, Ana Rogers, BHL, Mary Geoffroy, Mable LaCoste, Jerry Guillory, Gwen Tillman, Engelle Borden, Kevin Theriot, Bridget Thibodeaux, Donovan LeBlanc, Donna Duplantis, Susan Price, David Gilmore, MIL, Jane Webster, Cheryl Williams, Ian Davis, Boyd Landry, Bobby Monceaux, Adeline Maddix, Cass Oubre, Clay Leonard, Gretchen & Lee Nini, Jr., Alli Keith, Mary Grace Rentrop, Marlene Cole, Brenda Dooley, Marilyn Simmons, Wayne Crappell, CJL, Jeanine Derise, Michelle Billiot Landry, Ginger Berryhill, Daniel Fromenthal, Jeana Francis, Julie Barrilleaux, Jake Billiot, Steve Thorguson, Teresa Allbriton, Shirley Gilfour, BGL, Troy Osburn, Oliver Alfred, Angie Melancon, Dean Carrington, Archer Rogers, Norman Hymel

DATE / TIME	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION	ROSARY
December 31, 4:00 p.m.	Christine Henry	Barbara LeLeux	Linda Thomas
January 1, 7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Blake Orgeron Martha Boudreaux Monique Ratcliff	Debra Parker Anne Theriot	