



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
 July 4—July 10  
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR  
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE  
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- SATURDAY, JULY 4**  
 4:00 p.m. Cammarata-Guzzardi Family; Sal V. Greco; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush; Capt. Houston E. Walker  
 5:30 p.m. Msgr. John Reynolds
- SUNDAY, JULY 5**  
 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)  
 9:30 a.m. Roberta Wynne Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Alice Mae deMontluzin; Frank Paul Formusa; Sal V. Greco; Peter Grisaro; Carol Mallett; Norma McClellan; Ed Orozco; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Joseph J. Toups; Jerome J. Triche, Sr.  
 11:00 a.m. Melba Hebert Adams; Howard Brodhead; Alice E. deMontluzin; Debi Hamburger; Bruce O. Krepki, Jr.; Connor Montgomery; Dr. & Mrs. Charles Taggart; Capt. Houston E. Walker  
 5:30 p.m. Kevin Breland; Ethelyn P. Navarro; Leona O'Dwyer; Lynn McLeod Thornton
- MONDAY, JULY 6**  
 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
 12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer
- TUESDAY, JULY 7**  
 11:30 a.m. George Markey; Barbara Rush  
 12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Elisabeth Robert
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 8**  
 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Robert D. Innes, Captain, US Coast Guard (Ret.), Stephen Losee
- THURSDAY, JULY 9**  
 11:30 a.m. Barbara Rush  
 12:00 p.m. Loretta Doussan; Elisabeth Robert
- FRIDAY, JULY 10**  
 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List  
 12:00 p.m. Stephen Losee

**GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**  
*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Solemn High Mass**—First Sunday of the month.  
**Benediction**—Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION**—Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS**  
 In Reynolds Hall, after the Sunday morning Masses.

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR**  
 To honor a loved one by donating flowers for the altar please call Jessie at 525-4413.

**SUNDAY OFFERING**—June 28, 2009  
 First Collection \$ 8,152  
 Second Collection\* \$ 1,841  
 \* Maintenance and restoration



**HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send your Holy Spirit to guide our nation. May your Holy Spirit dwell in the hearts and minds of your faithful and all who serve as leaders.

**JULY 2009—MONTH OF PRAYER AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Because of the continued plague of violence in our community, July has been declared a month of prayer imploring God to help us end violence in our streets. Let us work together throughout this month to culture peace. Let us look to the example of the Lord and His Gospel message of love, peace and care for the most vulnerable. Everyone is asked to have a focused time of prayer for peace in our families, our community, and our world.

**EUCCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE—OCTOBER 5-8, 2009**

Father Stanley Klores will lead a Eucharistic pilgrimage to Eternal Word Television Network and the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Culman Alabama, October 5-8, 2009. Space is limited on a *first-come* basis for this pilgrimage that features bus transportation; 3 nights accommodations in Culman; many meals; transfers between lodging, EWTN and Shrine; tickets for taping of a television show at EWTN and much more. For additional information contact Van & Pat Stevens: (225) 928-8335 or Catholic Journeys: (504) 834-4951. Registration deadline: July 31, 2009.

**ACOLYTES FOR ST. PATRICK'S**

Service in the liturgy can be a path to holiness for men sensing a call to support the Parish in a practical, active way. There is a continuing need for men of any age (or responsible older boys if accompanied by their fathers), especially at the 11.00 Sunday Mass. Instruction and training are provided. Please contact Robert Ramirez at (504) 899-3048; e-mail: bramirez@bellsouth.net.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS—MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

Through baptism we are called to continue the mission of the apostles to evangelize. If you know of anyone who is considering joining the Catholic Church, please speak to them about the RCIA process which will start Monday, September 14, 2009. Your interest and support may be all they need to make a decision. Interested parties can obtain information by contacting the director of the RCIA program: Robert Ramirez: (504)899-3048; e-mail: bramirez@bellsouth.net; or the rectory office.

**PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR**  
 Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
 Spare us from all harm during this hurricane season,  
 And protect us and our homes from all disasters of nature.  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Amen.

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL**

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Barbara Brennan; Tony Clesi; Rene Crane; Carol Daigle; Tom Darcy; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Elizabeth DeBuys; Al Duroncelet; Katherine Eagan; Melvin Ferlita, Sr.; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Howard Henriques; Milton J. Hock, Jr.; Joyce Kelly; Joan Kimball; Belinda Lazaro; Joseph; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Mary A. McKay; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J.Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Eleanor Smith; Joseph M. Sonne; Stephanie Summers; Alyssa Vingan

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### IMAGINE

Imagine, if you will, just as a thought experiment, a nation that for two generations has been forming almost all its children in state-run schools. Imagine, further, that these schools started, at the beginning of that period, to become uncomfortable with expressions of religion in the classroom, which had seemed normal and unproblematic in the past. And that gradually the merest mention of religion – or at least of the historic faiths of that society – was all but prohibited in educational institutions. And not only there. Imagine, just to be thorough, that those historic faiths received only glancing and nervous treatment in history and literature classes, and running through the textbooks was a not-so-subtle tendency to portray the history of religion as mostly a matter of bigotry, conflict, war, repression, and ignorance. The morals once taught by those faiths, when examined at all, tend to be looked upon as, at best, controversial and, at worst, just plain wrong.

What might come from forty years of such schooling? Suppose, to turn to a different but related question, that over the same period a whole new network of electronic media arose that replaced most people's sense of the public square as a local network of families, neighborhoods, and churches with – what? It's hard to say, but let's call it some sort of virtual reality with occasional resemblance to the world. The more practical products of the new kind of schooling who decide to work in the information network will probably head towards the sterner (and better paid) fields: politics, economics, business, science, where real-world standards provide continuity with the past and a rough reality principle. The less practical will gravitate towards and define what has come to be called popular culture: everything from the attitudes absorbed by young mothers from talk shows and women's magazines, to the manners and morals of children who think pop music, television, and "PG-13" movies are the real world, to the ways that even adults frame the big questions – and gauge success or failure.

What might the culture of such a nation come to be? Of course, to trace that out, you would also have to imagine that – however improbable – churches, universities, courts, businesses, legislatures, and even large numbers of parents with a normal sense of self-preservation would basically acquiesce without saying or doing very much to ward off obvious tendencies. And, in many cases, would actually join the parade. All without the kind of harsh measures that were typical of the totalitarian regimes of the past. It would be, if such a thing were imaginable, a virtual capitulation by adults and public institutions to an extent that few would have earlier believed possible absent widespread social coercion.

But enough imagining. Even before the media fugues this week over the death of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, it was clear that a phenomenon like the twenty-four-hour obsession with that talented and sad figure is not at all unusual now. What other event – in a world beset by multiple crises – has gotten as intense attention in recent memory? We see similar evidence all the time of our culture's basic incapacity to engage or even to identify matters truly deep or mature or abiding. If that assessment is wrong, I will be happy – ecstatic – to be corrected. But from what I see, the cultural matrix now almost entirely comes from very young people, whatever their actual ages, whose only real claim on our attention is that they are somehow part of popular culture.

If you have been to any but a rare few colleges and universities in the past half century, you will, of course, have been taught to laugh at such an idea. It's patriarchal, patronizing, moralistic,

bourgeois, repressive, and cannot be taken seriously in the twenty-first century. And anyway who are you? Your "traditional values" are just another cultural construct. To think like that you would have to have been taught very young something quite different than virtually every one of our cultural institutions has been teaching for the past forty years – and that all of us now believe. Not a few in your Church.

Some Biblical scholars suggest that one reason the Israelites had to wander in the desert for forty years was so that the generation who had known the fleshpots of Egypt would die out and that a fresh start could be made with a people who knew only the discipline of the desert. Presumably, the process also works in the opposite direction. If so, we have a neat explanation for where we find ourselves now.

Despite this once almost unimaginable shift in our culture, America remains surprisingly resilient (see Roger Scruton's Notable in the column at the left). Some of the early Protestant settlers of this land thought of themselves as engaged in a new Exodus. That, of course, very quickly proved to be an illusion. But they gave America an idealism that survived all its trials, even the life-and-death struggles of slavery and civil war, and somehow survives against great odds today. We should, however, not indulge in sentimental illusions of our own. In circumstances like ours, we cannot expect any quick fixes in politics, culture, or even religion, much as we need them. And we should be wary of all those – of whatever party – who tell us such remedies lie near at hand.

The real challenges we face now will require a long period of reflection and reform. Forget four-year election cycles. It's hard to imagine how even forty years of traveling in a very different direction would be enough to restore what we have lost.

*Robert Royal*

*Robert Royal is editor-in-chief of **The Catholic Thing**.*

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### BISHOPS MUST BE LOVING SHEPHERDS

"To watch from God's perspective is to watch with that love that wants to serve the other, to help the other truly become him- or herself," the pope said June 29 during his homily on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul.

During the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, 34 archbishops from 20 countries knelt before Pope Benedict and received a pallium, a woolen band worn around their shoulders as a sign of their authority and their responsibility as shepherds. Among them was **Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond of New Orleans**.

The words "bishop" and "shepherd" are almost interchangeable, he said. "To shepherd the flock means to be careful that the sheep find the right nourishment," which for Christians is the word of God, he said. Shepherds also "must know how to resist enemies, the wolves. He must lead, indicating the path and preserving the unity of the flock," the pope added. Bishops also have a responsibility to help people see the Christian faith not "simply as a tradition, but to recognize it as the answer to our questions," he said...

Pope Benedict told the archbishops that, like Jesus, they are called to carry the lost sheep around their shoulders and bring them back to safety. The lost sheep are not just members of the Catholic Church who may have lost their way, but are all of humanity, he said.

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