THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BERMUDA NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

Our Parish Community

November 8, 2026

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 6:12–16 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 / Matthew 25:1–13

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Keep Your Light Burning Bright

ANN M. GARRIDO



Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her.

WISDOM 6:12

We have entered that time of year when the readings turn our attention toward the "end of time"—that moment we await in which all of God's dreams for us will be realized. The "kingdom of God come." Jesus, like prophets before him, compared this moment to a wedding feast. In Jesus' time, marriage was the most decisive event of one's life, and the wedding feast was the greatest feast families ever celebrated. There was nothing better than a good wedding party—and nothing more embarrassing than a bad one. So much at stake!

In the parable in today's gospel, Jesus focuses on the role of the bridesmaids in making the wedding feast a spectacular event—or not. They are trusted to provide a parade of light to greet the groom as he arrives at his family's home with the bride, but it turns out that not all have prepared adequately.

The parable forces us to consider our own commitment to the Christian life. In baptism, we, too, were given a special role to serve the coming kingdom of God. We, too, were entrusted with a light and told to "keep it burning bright" until that time in which we "come out to greet him." At the beginning of our faith journey, we often embrace this role with much fervor. But we forget that the Christian life takes a good bit of endurance and involves a lot of waiting. We will need oil to keep that light burning bright—the oil of prayer, participation in the sacraments, time spent in study and renewal. No one else can nourish your relationship with God for you. It is something you will need to do yourself. ❊

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

Reflect

What are you doing to keep your light of faith burning bright right now?

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General (c) 705 0236
Parish Administrator: Karen Marsh (c) 799 0842
Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

WEEKEND MASSES
5:00 pm Saturday (English)
7:00 pm Saturday Neocatechumenal Mass
10:15 am Sunday (English)
4:30 pm Sunday Filipino Mass (Tagalog)

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance
Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES . . .

Nov. 7/8th - THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM	**Lector:**	Kathy Anderson	**EM:** Fred Anderson
10:15AM	**Lector:**	Cherry Ramdass	**EM:**Lucy Attride-Stirling
	Collection:	Karen Marsh	

Nov. 14/15th - THE THIRTY- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM	**Lector:**	Karen Marsh	**EM:** Peter Marsh
10:15AM	**Lector:**	Jesse Almeida	**EM:** Willie Forbes
	Collection:	Jesse Almeida	

MASS INTENTIONS . . .

Nov. 7/8th - THE THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++
Adelina & Jose DeFrias ++

10:15AM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

Nov. 14/15th - THE THIRTY- THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners

10:15AM For All Souls in Purgatory

Growing in Faith & Service · Giving Our Time, Talent & Treasure

October 31/November 1st Collection: $1,395.00

Votives: $84.00 **Poor Box (SVdP): $80.00**

THANK YOU for your generosity

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's: **BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.**



A Beautiful *Call to Serve*

ALTAR SERVERS

St Michael's Church will soon be inviting young people to consider serving at the altar.

Bishop's Corner . . .

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In 2025, the world spent a record US$2.9 trillion on military purposes, while development and humanitarian aid continued to decline. According to a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the funding gap between needs and available resources could reach at least US$179 billion by 2028. Researchers warn that these cuts could threaten the security and well-being of millions of people.

sipri
STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL PEACE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SIPRI)

Military expenditure reached 2.5% of global GDP last year. Researchers point out that core funding for official development assistance had already stopped growing in 2021. The decline was less apparent because of increased support for Ukraine and spending on hosting refugees in donor countries. Healthcare and economic infrastructure have been particularly affected.

"We are witnessing a prolonged withdrawal of essential humanitarian and development assistance at precisely the time when the need for it is increasing," warns Nan Tian, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. He points out that closing this funding gap would require only a fraction of the additional resources being allocated to defence.

Xiao Liang, co-author of the report emphasises that, "Military capabilities alone do not guarantee security." In his view, development assistance addresses the underlying, long-term causes of instability and should therefore complement defence spending rather than compete with it.

Have a peaceful weekend and a blessed week of the Remembrance Day!

Bishop Wes +





St. Vincent de Paul Society Donations

Donations can be made by Direct Deposit to: BNTB BD$ 20006060476711100 or US$ 8400784730010.

Memo Field: Identify your name and purpose of donation.Ie. "In memory of...." (IMO and the name of person).
Email (Optional): send to svdp@northrock.bm for confirmation and acknowledgement.

DONATIONS IN CASH: Please use the Poor Boxes in your parish churches or the envelopes provided and place these in the collection baskets.



If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PREPARATION · JANUARY 2027

Is your child ready to begin preparing for First Holy Communion?

Interested? Contact St. Michael's Parish
stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com



WHY IS IT SO HARD TO BE STILL WITH GOD?

We can relate to the story of Mary and Martha because it is our story. We want to pray. We know we should pray. But our minds are crowded with responsibilities, worries, and the endless list of things that need our attention.

Most of us know the story of Martha and Mary. When Jesus visited their home, Martha busied herself with preparing and serving, while Mary sat at His feet, listening.

Eventually, Martha became frustrated and asked Jesus to tell Mary to help her.

But Jesus responded:

> "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." *(Luke 10:41–42, RSV-CE)*

We hear a lot about Mary and Martha, and most of us have the one with whom our hearts somehow sympathize. And yet what struck me recently is that the story is in Scripture at all. We know everything in Scripture is meaningful for us in some way. So we seek understanding from this story. But have you ever wondered why it is told at all?

On the surface, nothing of monumental importance happens in this story. It is really a simple situation. Jesus is invited to dinner. He comes, and Martha works hard to serve Him while Mary sits at His feet. Frustrated, Martha asks Jesus to talk to Mary, who, in Martha's mind, hasn't been helpful.

Yet if we reflect on the Incarnation of Christ, I believe we can gain a better understanding of why this story is told and even why it is an essential one for us to hear.

Jesus became man. He dwelt with us. He experienced life on earth, from infancy to adulthood. He showed us how to live. Even in the small, mundane things of life, we can look to Jesus for help.

Fr. Paul Dumais, a priest in Farmington, Maine, once said in a homily that Jesus wasn't condemning Martha for her work. He was pointing out something Martha had momentarily forgotten, and that we all forget from time to time. Even good and necessary things can distract us from the One for whom we are doing them. But most of all, we can easily become anxious or worried when we don't pause to rest with God; when we don't prioritize time with Him.

Continued on Page 4

Dear Padre,

What happens to the sacred treasures in a deconsecrated Catholic church?

When a diocesan bishop deconsecrates a church, he issues a decree that removes a church's dedication and relegates it to "profane but not sordid use" when it "cannot be used in any way for divine worship and there is no possibility of repairing it" (*Code of Canon Law*, 1222). The impossibility of repairing a badly damaged church doesn't mean only an architectural impossibility. Inadequate finances to maintain the church properly, an insufficient number of parishioners to foster ecclesiastical vitality, and a shortage of priests are also grave causes for a church's closure. Decorative appointments and sacred treasures in these relegated churches often find new homes in other churches and religious institutions.

This traditional custom of dissemination is a sign of solidarity with the broader Church and in continuity with its rich heritage. It honors the faith and sacrifices of the charter members when the church was built and the generations that followed. Remaining religious items in a relegated church, such as an unmovable altar, "lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part, or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact" (*CCL* 1238). Stained glass windows, mosaics, and other sacred art that remain in a repurposed church don't lose their aesthetic beauty and evocative power, however. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," wrote the poet John Keats. ❊

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



LUIS SANTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK



FABRIZIO MAFFEI

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship; they do not turn their back on those who are in need; and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust, and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus himself gives to us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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RCIA Programme . . .

Please be informed that the schedule for our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme has now been finalized.

The programme will begin on Tuesday, 24 November, at either 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. Once we have a complete list of those wishing to participate, we will determine which starting time is most convenient for the majority.

The sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings and will last 90 minutes. The first part of the programme will be based on the Catholicism series by Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire.

The programme is also open to those who are already Catholic but would like to deepen their faith or refresh their knowledge of the Catholic Church.

To register, please contact the Chancery: 232-4414 or orcc.bermuda@gmail.com **before 7 November 2026.**

Reminder: Liturgical Retreat/Workshop . . .

The Workshop title is "Our Sacrifice of Praise – celebrating the mystery of our redemption."...takes place on November 17th, 18th, 19th, (Tuesday to Thursday), at St. Theresa's Hall. Each day, there will be two identical sessions: one from 2:00-4:00pm and another from 6:00-8:00pm.

The facilitator will be Ms. Christina Ronzio, M.A., Director of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Liturgy and the Sacraments.

The purpose is to help us deepen our spirituality by gaining a better understanding of the liturgy of the Holy Mass. Bishop Wes encourages our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Song Leaders, Organists, to attend.

GET FED *Continued*

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO BE STILL WITH GOD?

While this can be difficult for us, it is necessary.

Whether pausing in the middle of a busy day, sitting with Jesus in Adoration, or simply carving out a few moments away from our obligations, making time to rest with God is essential to our spiritual lives.

We can relate to the story of Mary and Martha because it is our story. We want to pray. We know we should pray. But our minds are crowded with responsibilities, worries, and the endless list of things that need our attention. Even when we finally sit down to pray, it is not easy to quiet our thoughts.

The Catechism offers a beautiful insight into this struggle. Describing contemplative prayer, it teaches:

"Contemplative prayer is a gaze of faith, fixed on Jesus." *(CCC 2715)*

Prayer isn't measured by how many words we say, how much we accomplish, or even how peaceful we feel afterward. Simply turning our attention toward God and remaining in His presence is sufficient.

Of course, this doesn't mean that silence automatically produces an experience of God or that distractions indicate failure. The Catechism also reminds us that prayer requires perseverance, even when it feels difficult or dry. It requires some vigilance:

"When Jesus insists on vigilance, he always relates it to himself, to his coming on the last day and every day: today the bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; the light that must not be extinguished is that of faith: 'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face!'" *(CCC 2730)*

In the midst of whatever we have going on, do we think of Jesus? *Do we prioritize Him in our daily routine? Do we seek His face?*

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- **The EMMAUS Bible Study** each Tuesday, 3:00pm.
- **Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist -** Saturdays at 7:00pm
- **The Holy Rosary -** each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm. Everyone is welcome, please join us.
- ***A Mass in Tagalog is celebrated each Sunday at 4:30pm.***

St. THERESA'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Saturday Portuguese Mass is at 9:00am
- The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration and the Rosary on each Thursday at 7:00pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- *Opening hours* - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- **Volunteers Always Needed** who can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in. Call: 292-0416.

Diocesan Event . . .

Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Dinner and a Movie
Saturday, 14th November 2026

Dinner - 7:30pm
Movie - 8:15pm - 10:15pm

ZOOM Discussion Session
Tuesday, 17th November - 8:30pm - 10:00pm

3 Events - $20.00

Proceeds from this event will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society

To register please email - peaceandsocialjusticeorcc@logic.bm