

Voice of the Sanctuary of Rigaud

The Sanctuary's Team

Each year carries its own mystery, and this one is no exception. We have been deeply affected by the illness of our rector, Father Claude Auger, who had to undergo four bypasses at the Montreal Heart Institute. Such an operation requires a long recovery; his absence will weigh on us for several more months. On the eve of the Sanctuary's opening, this reality touches us profoundly. And yet... at the very heart of this fragility, a quiet peace remains. Trusting in the Virgin of tenderness, Our Lady of Lourdes, we move forward. One step at a time, certain that She watches over us and will give us the strength to serve our pilgrims with a willing and generous heart.



An Unexpected Departure



We all know Peter Krushelnyski and his wife, Linda Rose — two steady, faithful, almost indispensable presences in the life of our Sanctuary in Rigaud. It is with deep sorrow that I share with you that Peter left us on March 10, called into a better world. After several days in the hospital, it was a heart attack that brought his struggle to an end.

I had the privilege that still moves me deeply of offering him the Sacrament of the Sick just moments before his passing. In that quiet hospital room, I felt something both tear and settle within me: a fragile grace, a breath of God taking him gently by the hand. That moment remains in me like a luminous wound.

His death has touched me profoundly. It has left a void in our great Sanctuary family, a silence that still echoes. Linda, his wife, asked me to preside at his funeral. I accepted with a mixture of sorrow and gratitude — as a final gesture of fidelity toward a man who gave so much, always in the background, always with a generous heart.

A word from Scripture captures his life beautifully: **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”** Peter lived in that trust, in that quiet certainty. His commitment to the Sanctuary is its purest testimony.

Today, we keep his memory, and we also think of Linda, who now lives with a heavy and silent absence. Let us pray for him. Let us pray for her. And may the tenderness of God continue to gather us around those who leave us and those who remain.

Mary, Tenderness in Our Lives

Our Pope, Leo XIV, has placed his ministry under the sign of Our Lady of Good Counsel. He went to visit her in Genazzano, near Rome, recalling that he had gone there when he became Prior General of the Order of Saint Augustine, at the moment when he chose “to offer his life to the Church.” He entrusted his path to Mary, companion of light and wisdom, echoing the words she spoke to the servants at the wedding feast of Cana: “Do whatever He tells you.”

This simple and transparent word could become our own. It could inhabit our days, guide our choices, calm our hesitations. How could we refuse what God or Mary inspires within us? By coming to this Sanctuary, nestled in a nature that speaks of beauty and peace, we are invited to lift our eyes toward Mary and whisper to her, from the depths of our hearts: “Here I am... may your gentleness lead me.”



For me, Mary is a mother of tenderness. A discreet yet faithful presence. A soft light that consoles, advises, supports, and surrounds with goodness. Throughout my priestly life, how many times have I felt her soothing hand, her breath of peace, her gaze that lifts me up! I hope that each of you, in coming here, may taste something of this sweetness. May the Virgin of Lourdes welcome you, warm you, and guide you. And if She allows it, may you leave with a heart made lighter, more open, more joyful.

As for me, it will be a deep joy to meet you on this path where Mary goes before us.

The Belvedere

Thanks to your generosity, our belvedere has been able to open far beyond what we first imagined. It now stretches out like an invitation to peace. Soon, the statue of Saint Bernadette will stand facing Our Lady of Lourdes, two presences gently responding to one another in silence and prayer.

I invite you to let your gaze rest on the flat stone pathway that now leads softly to the entrance of the grotto. The new columns, protected and lightened, allow more light to flow through. And the retaining



wall, built with stones from the potato field serves as a constant reminder of that special place at the Sanctuary.



Many of you wished to touch the stone we received from the Sanctuary of Lourdes in Massabielle, France. This desire has been heard. The stone now rests in a small niche where everyone may approach it, touch it, and perhaps leave a prayer, a word of gratitude, or a quiet hope.

Only the final touches of cleaning remain, and everything will soon be ready for the opening of the new season.

As this beautiful adventure continues, I warmly invite you to come walk here, to breathe in the spirit of this place, and to discover—or rediscover—our belvedere, which rises as a sign of trust and beauty.

A heartfelt thank-you to our contractor, Jack Ireland, and to his worker for their patient and generous work. May Our Lady of Lourdes continue to watch over us and fill us with her blessings.

A Beautiful Surprise

Every year, preparing for the opening of our Sanctuary requires a great deal of time, energy, and patience. For several years now, a group of “Spyder” motorcyclists come at the beginning of the season to receive a blessing. This gathering always takes place the Saturday before the opening, and their presence has become an eagerly awaited tradition.

This year, we learned that approximately 400 will be coming — a number never reached before, as we never exceeded 300 participants.

But the real surprise arrived on April 25. Nearly thirty of them showed up... not for a blessing, but with tools to help clean the site, and with trailers to assist in setting up the benches. It was a colossal task, since the benches are heavy and there are nearly 400 of them.



Imagine our astonishment — and our gratitude — when we realized that by the end of the day, they had transported and installed more than half of them.

We are now looking forward to seeing them again for the blessing on Saturday, May 16.

I would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Mr. Claude Leblanc and all his volunteers for this wonderful collaboration. Thanks to you, this year, all the benches will be in place for the opening.

Thank you for this beautiful initiative. May Our Lady of Lourdes bless you and fill you with her grace.

On pilgrimage to the Sanctuary



Your parish, prayer group or circle of friends is warmly invited to make a pilgrimage to the Sanctuary. Your priest is welcome to celebrate Mass in the chapel especially for your group. If, however, no priest can accompany you, to nourish and complete your spiritual journey to the Sanctuary, a priest from the Sanctuary team will be happy to celebrate the Eucharist for you in honour of the Virgin Mary.

To reserve a pilgrimage, call Linda Rose, our pilgrimage coordinator at 450-451-0043 or send her an email reservation@lourdesrigaud.ca. She will be happy to help.

Supporting Our Beautiful Sanctuary

The upkeep and maintenance of this sanctuary dedicated to Mary — a place where nature surrounds us with peace and opens our hearts to the presence of the beyond — rely on your generosity.

To help preserve the beauty and serenity of this space of prayer, you may offer a donation through the *CanadaHelps* platform or simply by scanning the QR code below.

Your support, whatever the amount, helps keep alive this place where so many hearts come to rest and be renewed.

Gaëtan Labadie c.s.v.

www.lourdesrigaud.ca



OPENING: Sunday, May 24, 2026

CLOSING: Sunday, October 4, 2026

Rosary Monday to Saturday at 4 p.m.

Eucharistic Celebrations :

✚ **Before June 24 :** No weekday Mass, only Sunday Masses on Saturdays (4:30 p.m. in French) and Sundays (9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in French)

✚ **From June 24th to September 7th :** Mass every day during the week at 4:30 pm. Sunday Masses on Saturdays (4:30 p.m. in French) and Sundays (9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in French)

✚ **From September 8th until the end of the season :** No weekday Mass, only Sunday Masses on Saturdays (4:30 p.m. in French) and Sundays (9 a.m. in English and 11 a.m. in French)

✚ **Mass in Spanish at 2 p.m.** the third Sunday of the month (June 21, July 19, August 16 and September 20); the Rosary is prayed in Spanish after Mass



Sacrament of Reconciliation before every Mass and upon request (either at the confessionals or the priest's office in the boutique)



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 12:30 p.m. the first Sunday of each month (June to September)

Anointing of the Sick at 1:30 p.m. on July 26 and August 30

Feast of the Assumption – Saturday, August 15
Mass at 11 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Diocesan Pilgrimage – Saturday, August 15
Mass at 7:30 p.m. presided by Mgr Alain Faubert, Bishop of Valleyfield, and candlelight procession



Prayer and Healing Ministry
see the leaflet for details

Prayer Offerings by Fire and incense
Masses on October 3 and 4, 2026

Welcome to the Gift and Local Products Boutique

Hours of the Boutique

The Boutique will open for the first time during the weekend of May 16 and 17. May 16 we will open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. May 17 opening at 10 a.m. and closing at 4:30 p.m.

Please note that, depending on the weather, these two schedules may be reversed.

The Boutique will be open May 23 and 24 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Beginning May 25, the Boutique will be open every day until the end of the season from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

These hours will be adjusted as needed, depending on pilgrimage requests or other special activities.