



Worship Schedule

Saturday, 29 November

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ✠Kay Houston by Margaret-Ann Moran

Sunday, 30 November

First Sunday of Advent

7:30 am ... ✠Suzanne Tremblay by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

9:30 am ... ✠Luke Dambach (5th Anniv.) by Chris, Joe and Jack Dambach

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Monday, 1 December

12 pm ... ✠Robert J. Hughes by Estella Hughes & Family

Tuesday, 2 December

12 pm ... ✠Katherine (Day) Corriveau by P. Jerome

Wednesday, 3 December

Saint Francis Xavier

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ✠Virginia (Armstrong) Knight by Virginia Murphy

Thursday, 4 December

Saint John Damascene

8:30 am ... ✠Sr. Anita Blier, HRSJ, by P. Jerome

Friday, 5 December

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ✠William & ✠Phyllis Wisneski by Teresa Greene

Saturday, 6 December

Saint Nicholas

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ✠Thomas M. Welch (2nd Anniv.) by Maryann & Kent Ericson

Sunday, 7 December

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 am ... ✠Mikola Sroda by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

9:30 am ... ✠Irene Narkey by Teresa Greene

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Louis & ✠Margaret DiGiovani by Dave & Nancy Bregar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 30 November

9:20 am ... Children's Religious Ed—Parish Hall

10:30 am ... Coffee and Doughnuts—Parish Hall

10:45 am ... Catholic Faith Explained—SBA Library

Monday, 1 December

6—7:30 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 6-8—Library

7—8 pm Food Pantry

Tuesday, 2 December

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 9-12

7 pm ... Advent Evening of Reflection—Church

Saturday, 6 December

9—11 am ... Children's Adoration—Chapel

9 am—3:30 pm ... Women's Retreat, Joseph House, 279 Cartier St., Manchester



Sharing the Feast Thanksgiving Basket Project

Nearly 50 **Thanksgiving baskets, complete with a turkey**, were delivered to families last Tuesday night, thanks to the Saint Raphael High School Youth Ministry and their parents who kindly helped drive. Other baskets were picked up at the rectory. We greatly appreciate the work of the high school students in putting the baskets together. We also extend heartfelt appreciation to the **Comeau Family** of Bedford again for their generous contribution, as well as to other parishioners, whose monetary and food donations made the Thanksgiving basket project possible. You are all truly a blessing to us!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠Sarto & ✠Flora Myre by their daughter and family.



Thank you! We appreciate the help of everyone who stepped up last weekend to carry a flag in our 'Procession of the Nations' at the 9:30 am Mass, as well as the assistance of the Dambach and Gillooly families for the delicious brunch that followed.

SUNDAY'S WORD YEAR B

Lectors, Year B lectionaries are available for you to pick up in the sacristy. Thank you for all you do!

Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas Booklets are available in the nook for \$2.



Nursing Home and Homebound greetings

Please remember our SRP parishioners and friends in nursing homes or homebound by **sending them a holiday greeting card**. Pamphlets with names and addresses are in the Information Nook at the main entrance. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!



Our thanks, once again, to Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home, Manchester, for our **2015 calendars**. Please help yourself to a calendar from the box in the Information Nook.

Advent offers us a chance to go on a personal pilgrimage with, to and for Christ



Welcome to the First Sunday of Advent 2014, the opening of a **new liturgical year** and the beginning of our

preparation for the great celebration of the birth of Christ! This is one of my favorite times of the year, partly because of the many beautiful customs associated with this season, partly because Advent calls for a “beginning anew” frame of mind and partly because Advent invites us to begin a kind of **pilgrimage**. It is this

sense of “pilgrimage” that I will consider for the next few weeks.

In our society, many of us must travel frequently. We **commute**,

sometimes a fair distance, for work. Our **families and friends are scattered** in various parts of the U.S. and even abroad. My nieces and their families are to be found on both sides of Massachusetts, southern and central Vermont and southern Maine, so I count myself lucky that we are all still relatively proximate in New England. Even getting our families through the week involves a fair bit of **travel to school, sports and social engagements**.

Few, if any, of our journeys have a **spiritual purpose**, however, and that, of course, is what a pilgrimage is all about. It is travel in which both **the destination** and, even more, **the journey** itself is meant to have an impact on the pilgrim’s mind and heart. The pilgrim is summoned to **experience a conversion**, or a “turning away from” and a “turning toward” for the sake of increased faith, hope and love.

Over the centuries, Catholics have undertaken pilgrimages to the great historical centers of Christian faith: to **Jerusalem** and elsewhere in Israel, as the **Holy Land** where the Lord Jesus was born, lived, taught, suffered and died; to **Rome**, where Saints Peter and Paul established themselves at the center of the Roman Empire, and where Peter’s successors as bishop, built up the ancient Church; and to **Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople**, where ancient sister churches to Rome, grew, all of them producing martyrs and other saints whose holiness and learning illumined and helped shape the emergence of the Christianity we know. Later, Chris-

tian pilgrimage would also look to places such as **Canterbury** in England and **Santiago de Compostela** in Spain, as well as the great Marian shrines of **Lourdes** in France, **Fatima** in Portugal, **Czestochowa** in Poland and elsewhere.

For men and women of faith, pilgrimage provides not only a physical but also a temporal, moral and emotional sense of movement. In other words, the pilgrim goes from one frame of mind to another – and the experience of pilgrimage helps make that passage happen. For example, one leaves the secular world of buying and selling, market competition, one-upmanship and scheduling and enters a world of **peace, tranquility and reflection**. One turns one’s back on excessive self-preoccupation, self-exaltation and self-satisfaction to enter into a time of **concern for others, humility and sacrifice**. In many respects, pilgrimage is always centered on the “other,” and the **greatest Other is God himself!** Our Catholic faith provides us with **Advent and Lent** as two important temporal examples of pilgrimage to prepare us for Christmas and Easter.

Advent actually does not confine itself to preparing for the annual commemoration of the historical Christmas, important as the Nativity of the Lord is. Advent reminds us that just as Christ came once in history with **his historical birth** 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem in Judea in the Roman province of Palestine, once the ancient kingdom of Israel, so too Christ **will come again at the end of the ages** to judge us and subject all things in this world to himself and, then, to present everything to his Eternal Father.

For the faithful Christian, between the **first historical coming** in the Incarnation and Nativity of the Lord and the **Second Coming**, the “eschatological” one “at the end of the ages,” there is a third and deeply personal coming, a kind of “**mystical coming**.” It is the willingness of each believer to welcome the Lord Jesus into his life – just as did the Blessed Virgin Mary – so that the will, the intellect and the emotions are **transformed in his grace**. The process



of conversion draws us ever deeper into the mystery of divine love. We can experience this coming in Sacrament, especially the Eucharist, and Word.

Over the years, I’ve been privileged to make pilgrimages to a number of plac-

es – Jerusalem and Rome, the most prominent sites and among the most affecting places I have visited. Having said that, however, four other pilgrimage sites have been particularly moving for me: Canterbury, places in Ireland, Iona in Scotland, the Benedictine sites of Italy and Montreal. They will be discussed in an upcoming column this Advent, as will the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela by parishioner **Roger Joly**, who will share his reflections.

This Advent, I hope many of our Saint Raphael parishioners and friends will consider **making these four weeks** of preparation a kind of pilgrimage. In many ways, our lives are a journey. We move through the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, opportunities and challenges **from birth to death and return to the Lord**. Just as in a traditional pilgrimage to a specific location, the experiences, the personal insights and the various individuals one meets **along the journey** of life develop meaning. No less important to any pilgrimage is **the destination**, which shapes the preparation and understanding for the journey. This **Advent time of preparation** before Christmas allows us to journey with ancient Israel, as the prophets prepared for the birth of the Messiah, to travel with the gospel writers as the early Church reflected on Christ’s identity and to wait with poets and thinkers of every age pondering **the mystery of divine love**.

I hope each of us makes room each day, every day during these four weeks to consider **where we want to be** spiritually by Christmas, what we might do in terms of quiet, prayer and charity to get there, how we treat the people we encounter in our families, workplaces and communities and who, ultimately, we travel to discover. The secret, of course, of every Christian pilgrimage is that we can find him with every step of the journey!

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.

November 30, 2014

Readings for the week of November 30, 2014

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10, or, (for the memorial of the Dedication) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33

Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 19:41-44

Friday: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48

Thanks to parishioners and friends, who have donated to Catholic Charities, we have raised **\$20,865 of SRP's goal of \$30,000. Thanks to a generous friend contributions in Oct. and Nov. will be matched. We are this close! Help us reach the goal!**

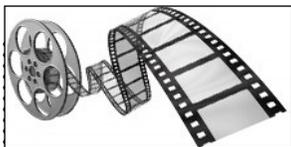


Welcomed into the Catholic church, through the waters of baptism, administered by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, were **James Patrick Arthur Belbin**, son of Kenneth and Alicia (Magee) Belbin, on Nov. 9, and **Audrey Denise Abel**, daughter of Brad and Cheryl (Auger) Abel, on Nov. 23. P. Benedict Guevin, O.S.B., of Saint Anselm Abbey, participated in the Belbin baptism.



The Bedford Youth Performing Company, at The Derryfield School Theatre, 2108 River Road, Manchester, presents **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**, based on the book written by Barbara Robinson.

Reserved seats (group seating available) - \$12.50 for adults, \$10.50 for students and seniors. Please call 603.472.3894 to reserve your tickets. Shows are **Friday, Dec. 5 at 7pm and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1pm**. More info can be found at www.bypc.org.



SAINT RAPHAEL

FILM FESTIVAL—Thank you to those who attended our first two movies in 'The Poppies Still Bloom: Remembering World War I.' The remaining films will be shown at a later date due to conflicting holiday commitments for many attendees.



Weekly Collection

November 23, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,710.00
Offertory Make-Up	\$ 661.00
Offertory Loose	\$ 616.65
Offertory Online Giving	\$ 195.00
Total:	\$ 5,182.65

Stewardship	\$ 150.00
All Saints Day	\$ 35.00
Food Pantry	\$ 640.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, November 24, the Food Pantry served **52 families**, and gave out **82 bags** of groceries. We need cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and brown paper and plastic shopping bags. Also, gently used blankets, any size, would be appreciated! Thank you!



Every year, **Trinity High School** puts on a Breakfast with Santa for children in the area. Along with breakfast and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, students provide arts and crafts and Christmas cookie decorating for the youngsters. This year Breakfast with Santa will be **Saturday, Dec. 13 from 8-11 am** in the cafeteria at Trinity, 581 Bridge St., Manchester. The event is free of charge; donations to student council are gladly accepted.



Remembering a SRP vet We extend our thanks to Trinity High School, Manchester, and its Campus Ministry program for remembering **Raymond Charles Mroczynski Jr.**, a parishioner of Saint Raphael, in their breakfast for veterans Nov. 11. Raymond served once in Berlin in 1961 and in the Vietnam War. While in Vietnam,, he developed a blood clot on his brain and died Feb. 26, 1969. His funeral was Mar. 12, 1969, at Saint Raphael and he is buried at Saint Joseph Cemetery, Bedford. Ray's name is on Panel 31W, Row 75 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington. May his soul rest in peace. Trinity also presented SRP with an encased U.S. flag.



... *O Night Divine*

*An Advent Evening
of Music & Meditation*

Tuesday, December 2, 2014—7PM

Join us for our annual Service of Lessons & Carols tradition.

All are welcome! Prepare for Christmas!

Bring your family and friends!

Reception immediately following event downstairs.

Admission by free will offering. Wheelchair accessible!

COME AND ENJOY!

Saint Raphael Parish

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Advent Evening of Music & Reflection

Saint Raphael Parish will host its annual Advent Evening of Reflection on **Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 7 pm**. We will have a variety of musical selections from various groups and individuals, interspersed with reflective readings related to the Advent season. You won't want to miss out. Parishioners and members of the wider

community are invited to enjoy a candlelight evening of prayer and beauty. The musical program will be accompanied by Advent readings on the model of the traditional English Service of Lessons & Carols. Come and bring your friends to this beautiful tradition of Saint Raphael! **All are welcome!**



Treasures of Our Hearts

Please join us as we prepare for the Advent season through reflection, prayer and fellowship. Our annual Women's Advent Retreat will be **Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 am to 3:30 pm** at Joseph House (279 Cartier Street). Just as Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord, treasured things in her heart, so too do we treasure things in our hearts. God meets us

through the old and the new as we look forward to the time when Christ was born into our world. A donation of \$15 is requested to cover the cost of hospitality and lunch. Please call the parish office at 623.2604 or email Kerri at secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com if you plan to attend. All are welcome—bring a friend!

Mary of the Nazareth the Movie

Are you looking for a way to celebrate the advent season that will bring you peace and joy, then come to a viewing of the movie "Mary of Nazareth". We are happy to announce that this wonderful movie will be shown two times in the St. Joseph school auditorium, 40 Main Street, Salem NH on **Sunday Dec. 7th at 6:30 pm and again on Sunday Dec. 14th at 12:30 pm**. Tickets- sold at the door- will be \$10 per person, \$25 max per family. You won't be sorry you did. For more info or call 603.893.8661.