



Worship Schedule

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
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Monday, 8 December **Immaculate Conception of BVM**
 12 pm ... ✠Edward Doherty by P. Jerome
 6:30 pm ... Mass of Immaculate Conception of BVM

Tuesday, 9 December **Saint Juan Diego**
 12 pm ... ✠Poor Souls of Purgatory by the Pereira family

Wednesday, 10 December
 11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation
 12 pm ... ✠Adelaide "Sis" Hoffman by Frederick & Natalie Dobraowski

Thursday, 11 December **Saint Damasus I**
 8:30 am ... ✠Cecile D. Moore by a dear friend

Friday, 12 December **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
 5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 6 pm ... ✠Sr. Anita Blier, HRSJ by Sr. Nicole Busiere, HRSJ

Saturday, 13 December **Saint Lucy**
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... ✠James Shadan by Connie Raymond

Sunday, 14 December **Third Sunday of Advent**
 7:30 am ... Our Parish Family
 9:30 am ... ✠Phil Beland by Linda Beland
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... ✠Barbara L. Parkhurst by Virginia Kelly

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 7 December
 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, 8 December
 6—7:30 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 6-8—Library
 7—8 pm Food Pantry

Tuesday, 9 December
 6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 9-12
 7 pm ... Advent Penance Service—Church



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠**Patricia Guptill** by her family.



Advent Evening of Music & Reflection Were you able to make it to our concert?

We want to again thank the SRP Choir, the SRP Children's Hand Chime Choir, Lyle Hamel, John Fini, Benjamin O'Brien, The Canterbury Singers, La Voce Appassionata, The Saint Anselm College Chamber Music Ensemble, and members of the Saint Anselm College Choir for performing last week., as well as all of our readers and youth who participated. Photos from the event are posted on our website. We hope you will all join us at next year's event, which will be Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Mark your calendars!



Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate its annual Advent Service of Reconciliation, including the sacrament of Penance, in preparation for Christmas on **Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7pm.** Monks from the Saint Anselm Abbey will be here as confessors.

Poinsettias in memory of loved ones



Donations for poinsettias will be accepted in the names of deceased loved ones and friends. A \$20 donation per poinsettia is recommended. Please write the names to be included along with the donation and send your offering to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket.! Special thanks to those who donate flowers, as we ask you to maintain your generous Christmas giving to maintain parish services during the winter months.



Help us decorate the church! The parish Arts & Environment Committee will decorate the church after the 9:30 am Mass on **Sunday, Dec. 21.** We welcome anybody who would like to stay and help set up!

As we journey through Advent, pilgrimage memories of Iona, Canterbury



This **Advent season**, when so many people are consumed by travel and planning for shopping, reunions, holiday events and family gatherings, I want to consider another kind of movement, the

physical and spiritual travel involved in pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage is an ancient religious practice that many traditions share, and certainly pilgrimage is well established in Christian experience. **Jesus of Nazareth** himself made several pilgrimages to Jerusalem, including the fateful journey that would lead to his passion, death and resurrection.

Since then, Christ's followers have been travelling the globe in an effort to connect with the places that speak of God's presence among us. Physical movement becomes **a means to and a metaphor of a journey of mind, spirit and heart**. I've been privileged to take several pilgrimages as a layman and as a monk and priest.

As a youngster, I remember some of our happiest family outings were little pilgrimages to various **Catholic shrines** in New England and New York. Did I have deep, abiding spiritual insights? Powerful moments of transformation? Truth be told, I probably liked best the opportunity to go swimming in new places or splash the paddles of a rowboat, along with the chance to have grown-up coffee from the two big silver Thermos bottles that always came along and the morning tray of sweet rolls in our motel rooms.

We visited the lovely shrine of **Our Lady of LaSalette** in Enfield, here in New Hampshire; the shrine of **Our Lady of Lourdes** in Litchfield, CT; and the **Shrine of Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, MA. In between picnics and sight-seeing, each shrine managed to impress upon me the significance of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our Catholic way of life. Each shrine essentially told the same story, but there was always **a different nuance**. Mary points us to real sorrow for our sins, and directs us to her divine son's forgiveness. Mary leads us to the healing grace of Christ. Mary, like us, receives the superabundant mercies of God in Christ Jesus.



Years later, first as a **graduate student**, then as **pastor** here at Saint Raphael, I had the opportunity to study in Ireland and return with pilgrims. The **Emerald Isle, Scotland and England**, are rife with great places for pilgrimages of all kinds, historical, literary, athletic and



artistic, with maybe a spots for a good pint of Guinness now and again. In visiting, the **Rock of Cashel and Armagh**, I stood in places where Saint Patrick converted the Irish. I listened to the wind whistle while praying at one of the many **wells of Saint Bridget**. At **Clonmacnois**, one of the great monastic centers of Ireland, I watched the Shannon roll lazily along among meadow and hill, and celebrated Mass at the altar where Pope John Paul II, now a saint himself, presided. At **Glendalough**, I marveled at the beauty of the site and the ancient round stone towers where Saints Kevin and Laurence O'Toole once taught. It's not heaven, but it could almost trick you into thinking it was!

Probably my favorite pilgrimage of all time was my one-hour visit to the **famous isle of Iona** (photo, below left) off the coast of Scotland, a place where Irish monks, led by Saint Columba, established one of the great centers of worship and learning. Columba was exiled from Ireland for his fiery disposition and violent ways — before he became a monk, of course! Exile and monastic life were expected to calm him down.

Why was the pilgrimage visit an hour? A long story. Suffice to say **my old friend Hugh Carr** and I missed the ferry that was to begin the journey and we ended up in a madcap drive to catch the second ferry many miles away on its final trip out to and back from Iona. That left us only an hour on the "holy island," but it was the most well-spent time I could imagine.

We prayed at the ruins of what is believed to be Columba's original foundation, saw the burial sites of the ancient kings of Scotland and sang the "Salve Regina" in the chancel of the **old medieval Benedictine abbey**, now used by the Presbyterians. We waited 'til all the visitors had left before we sang a note, however.

Anyone who thinks that pilgrimage is all "woe-is-me, it's dark and I'm depressed" should hear our stories about Iona. What a **wondrously holy and joyful place**, where depth and courage of faith, the power of religious imagination and the immensity of God's love seem close enough to touch.

In England, the object of my pilgrimage in the **Great Jubilee Year of 2000**, was **Canterbury**. My visits to Westminster Abbey, originally one of our Benedictine foundations; Westminster Cathedral, the Catholic cathedral for the British capital; and Saint Paul's, the magnificent Baroque Age Anglican cathedral that faced down the Nazi blitz, were all done more as a tourist, but visiting Canterbury was really a pilgrimage. As I bounced along in the bus from London, we came over a hill to see the valley opened before us, with the great towers of the cathedral (photo, top center), the model for **Washington National Cathedral**, looming up over the town. The cathedral virtually floats over the city, with Canterbury nestled around it.

The object of Chaucer's group of medieval pilgrims in *The Canterbury Tales*, the cathedral is now the seat of the archbishop of Canterbury, spiritual head of the 80 million-member Anglican Communion worldwide. But until the Reformation, Canterbury was a Catholic cathedral with a Benedictine abbey and was the **center of pilgrimage** in the British Isles. For me, two features in the cathedral's history were especially meaningful.

First, Canterbury Cathedral was the seat of **Saint Anselm** (1033-1109) during his years as archbishop, and he was buried there. Unfortunately, some of the fanaticism associated with the Reformation led to the disinterment of his bones and their scattering, but the chapel for his tomb still exists and a beautiful 1959 stained glass window in his honor illumines the space. I remember finding a seat in the corner to **pray vespers and do some lectio divina**, or spiritual reading. After imagining so many of the wild and historical moments the cathedral has witnessed, this provided a beautifully peaceful interlude as the summer sun began to slide down in the west.

Even more famous than Saint Anselm's shrine at Canterbury was the shrine of **Saint Thomas à Becket** (1118-1170), the archbishop slain upon the orders of King Henry II, who complained that his erstwhile friend was usurping the king's freedom to rule by insisting on the Church's rights and privileges.

Tens of thousands of medieval pilgrims, much like those depicted by Chaucer, would make their way to Canterbury to pray at the tomb of the slain archbishop and ask his intercession before God on their behalf. What the king actually meant when he uttered, "Will no one rid me of this troublesome cleric?" we may never know, but enough knights in his entourage took him literally, and they arranged history so that **T.S. Eliot** could write a play called *Murder in the Cathedral*. Although the shrine is long gone, a victim of Henry VIII, an inscription near the altar of Saint Benedict, where the archbishop was slain, notes his martyrdom.

For me, **Canterbury was a window into the capacity of faith to change, enlarge and enable our lives.**

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.

December 7, 2014

Readings for the week of December 7, 2014

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13; Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

We did it! Thanks to parishioners and friends, who have donated to Catholic Charities, we have raised **\$21,215**, and thanks to a generous friend who will match contributions from Oct. and Nov., we have reached our goal of **\$30,000**. Thank you!

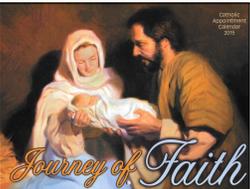


Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas Booklets are available in the Information Nook for \$2.



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!



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.



Please pray for parishioner **†Dolores A. Glennon**, who died Nov. 29, and whose funeral Mass was celebrated last week by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor. Also please pray for parishioner **Richard Bunnens** who passed away on Dec. 3 and whose funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, Dec. 8. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

In Sympathy



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!

Weekly Collection

November 30, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,422.00
Offertory Make-Up	\$ 268.00
Offertory Loose	\$ 656.35
Offertory Online Giving	\$ 95.00
Total:	\$ 4,441.65
Stewardship	\$ 15.00
Food Pantry	\$ 25.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, December 1, the Food Pantry served **20** families, and gave out **27** 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!



The Angels are here! Our Christmas Angel Tree appeal has begun. We have adopted 10 families through Catholic Charities. You will find a variety of clothing items needed such as tops and bottoms, coats and boots, as well as toys for younger children. Tags for older children will have suggested items of interest as well.

Please note each tag is coded so it is important that you attach the angel tag to the new, **unwrapped** item and return it to the church **no later than Sunday, December 21**.

Your gift makes a wonderful difference. Thank you!



Irish Club Christmas Ceilidh—"Holly on the Harp"

Monday, Dec. 8, 2014 from 8—10pm at the Saint Anselm College Coffee Shop. Visit www.anselm.edu for info. and directions.

Second Sunday of Advent



Please join the parish Book Discussion Group in reading *Light Upon Light: A Literary Guide to Prayer for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*. A combination of literary anthology and prayer guide, the book shows us a wide range of beautiful poetry and prose as it encourages us to pray and to read Scripture as we prepare for the miracles of the Christmas season. Each section of the book contains an opening and closing prayer, readings from the Old and New Testaments, and literary selections, as well as an invitation to personal prayer and reflection. The book group will meet on **Thursday, Jan. 12, 2015**, at 7:00pm in the church classroom. Books are available at the parish office for \$16.00.

Breakfast with Santa

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.



Pork Pie Dinner—

Saint Joseph's Cathedral, corner of Pine and Lowell Streets, will be serving their annual Pork Pie Dinner on **Saturday, Dec. 13 from 5—7pm**. \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Sponsored by the Daughters of Isabella. All are

Parish Giving

Saint Raphael has implemented the online giving option for your convenience. You can access the link via our website, www.saint-raphael-parish.com and follow the steps to register for automatic payments or just a one time donation. Have questions? Call the rectory at 623.2604 and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. **Laminated cards are located on the table at the back of the church for you to drop into the collection basket during the offertory collections.**



If you have a family member who is currently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces, please contact the parish office at 623-2604 so that we can include them in our bulletin. Please keep in your prayers:

**Danielle Wells
Kenneth Breuder
Philip Breuder**



A Christmas Tapestry

The Manchester Choral Society will sing Britten's *Festival of Carols* and Paulus' *Christmas Dances* for their annual Christmas concert.. Performances are at the Derryfield School on Saturday, December 13 at 7 pm and Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm. More information and tickets are available at the website mcsnh.org—tickets (\$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors, children free) may also be purchased at the door.

We are still looking to increase our group of altar servers **especially for the 4 pm Saturday Vigil, 7:30 am, and 5 pm Sunday Masses**. Typically, candidates are considered as soon as they reach third grade and have made their First Communion. **If you are interested in training to be a server, please contact Kerri Stanley in the rectory at 623.2604 in order to set up a training session.**



Write on the Heart

As Catholics, we are called to evangelize! Our parish blog provides the opportunity to evangelize through modern technology and opens a forum for dialogue about issues of daily life and faith. You are invited to visit, follow and comment on at saint-raphaelsblog.com.



First time visitor? Welcome! There are cards in the pews for you to fill out with your contact information should you want to register. We'd love to have you! Cards may be placed in the collection basket during Mass.