

The Epiphany of the Lord

Worship Schedule

Saturday, 3 January

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sunday, 4 January

The Epiphany of the Lord

7:30 am ... ✠Agnes Smet (38th Anniv.) by Cynthia Hobbs

9:30 am ... ✠Irene Goudreault by George & Linda D'Orazio

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Romain & ✠Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

Monday, 5 January

Saint John Neumann

12 pm ... ✠Joan DeGuglielmo by Elizabeth Breuder

Tuesday, 6 January

Saint Andre Bessette

12 pm ... ✠Irene Goudreault by her family

Wednesday, 7 January

Saint Raymond of Penyafort

12 pm ... Sisters of Precious Blood by Diane Pictrowski

Thursday, 8 January

8:30 am ... Mass

Friday, 9 January

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ✠Barbara Judkins by Esther Leclerc

Saturday, 10 January

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ✠Fr. Bob Couto by Kerri Stanley

Sunday, 11 January

The Baptism of the Lord

7:30 am ... ✠Leonard Foley (10th Anniv.) by Connie Raymond

9:30 am ... Our Parish Family

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Lorraine de Bellerive by Denise Hunter

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 4 January

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

1—4 pm ... The Pastor's Reception—Rectory

Monday, 5 January

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

7—8 pm Food Pantry

Tuesday, 6 January

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Room

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

Mass times clarification—**Daily Masses on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week will be at their regularly scheduled times of 12 noon.** A previous announcement from P.

Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, was based on faulty communication from the abbey. We apologize for any confusion! Note that confessions will be CANCELED on Wednesday, Jan. 7.



SAINT BENEDICT
ACADEMY

Saint Benedict Academy will have an open house for

prospective students and their families on **Wednesday, Jan. 14 from 4 to 5:30 PM.**

Housed at Saint Raphael Parish at 85 Third St., Manchester, Saint Benedict Academy is rooted in 126 years of tradition of Catholic education on the West Side. Students grades pre-K to six are provided a rigorous academic program that attends to the spiritual growth of each child. The school experience is enriched with a 1:1 laptop program, Spanish and music, collegiate partners and extra-curricular activities such as robotics, performing arts and basketball. Financial assistance is available. No reservation is necessary for the open house, but parents are welcome to call the principal Mr. Michael McLaughlin at 669.3932 or visit them on their Facebook page or website at www.StBenedictAcademy.org.

If a family cannot make the open house, they are encouraged to contact the office to arrange for a private tour at another time.



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠Fr. Robert Couto, late pastor of Saint Jude Parish, Londonderry, by Kerri Stanley.



Poinsettias in memory of loved ones

Thank you to everyone who donated a poinsettia in memory of loved ones.

In memory of Heather Cashin and Jacqueline Venne by Joseph & Marilyn Cashin



The Pastor's Reception for volunteers and those serving in ministry or in a volunteer role at Saint Raphael Parish will be **Sunday, Jan. 4, 2015 from 1—4 pm at the rectory.** If you volunteer or are in a ministry and have not received

an invitation, it was just a clerical error and should feel welcome to come!

World Day of Peace message for 2015: Not slaves, but brothers and sisters!



... The growing scourge of man's **exploitation** by man gravely damages the life of communion and our calling to forge interpersonal relations marked by respect, justice and love. This

abominable phenomenon, which leads to contempt for the fundamental rights of others and to the suppression of their freedom and dignity, takes many forms. I would like briefly to consider these, so that, in the light of God's word, we can consider all men and women *"no longer slaves, but brothers and sisters."*

The theme I have chosen for this year's message is drawn from Saint Paul's letter to Philemon, in which the Apostle asks his co-worker to welcome **Onesimus**, formerly Philemon's slave, now a Christian and, therefore, according to Paul, worthy of being considered *a brother*. The Apostle of the Gentiles writes: "Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother" (vv. 15-16). Onesimus became Philemon's *brother* when he became a Christian. **Conversion to Christ**, the beginning of a life lived *Christian discipleship*, thus constitutes a *new birth* (cf. *2 Cor 5:17; 1 Pet 1:3*) which **generates fraternity** as the fundamental bond of family life and the basis of life in society.

One does not become a Christian, a child of the Father and a brother or sister in Christ, as the result of an authoritative divine decree, without the exercise of personal freedom: in a word, without being *freely* converted to Christ. Becoming a child of God is necessarily linked to conversion: "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (*Acts 2:38*). All those who responded in faith and with their lives to Peter's preaching entered into the *fraternity* of the first Christian community (cf. *1 Pet 2:17; Acts 1:15-16, 6:3, 15:23*); Jews and Greeks, slaves and free (cf. *1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:28*). **Differing origins and social status** did not diminish anyone's dignity or exclude anyone from belonging to the People of God. The Christian community is thus a place of communion lived in the love shared among brothers and sisters (cf. *Rom 12:10; 1 Thess 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1 Pet 1:22; 2 Pet 1:7*).

All of this shows how the Good News of Jesus Christ, in whom God makes "all things new" (Rev 21:5), is also capable of **redeeming human relationships**, including those between slaves and masters, by shedding light on what both have in common: adoptive sonship and the bond of brotherhood in Christ. Jesus himself said to his disciples: "No longer



He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. —Psalm 147:3

do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (Jn 15:15). ...

Today, as the result of a growth in our awareness, slavery, seen as a crime against humanity, has been **formally abolished** throughout the world. The right of each person not to be kept in a state of slavery or servitude has been recognized in international law as inviolable. Yet, even though the international community has adopted numerous



agreements aimed at ending slavery in all its forms, and has launched various strategies to combat this phenomenon, millions of people today – children, women and men of all ages – are **deprived of freedom and are forced to live in conditions akin to slavery**. [Here the Holy Father mentions several situations that create a kind of slavery: **oppression of workers and migrants, prostitution, drug and human organ trafficking, crime, extreme poverty, unemployment, corruption and terrorism**.]

In her "proclamation of the truth of Christ's love in society," the Church constantly engages in charitable activities inspired by the **truth of the human person**. She is charged with showing to all the path to conversion, which enables us to change the way we see our neighbors, to recognize in every other person a brother or sister in our human family, and to acknowledge his or her intrinsic dignity in truth and freedom. This can be clearly seen from the story of **Josephine Bakhita** (1868-1947), the saint originally from the Darfur region in Sudan who was kidnapped by slave-traffickers and sold to brutal masters when she was nine years old. Subsequently – as a result of painful experiences – she became a "free daughter of God" thanks to her faith, lived in religious consecration and in service to others, especially the most lowly and helpless.

This saint, who lived at the turn of the 20th century, is even today **an exemplary witness of hope for the many victims of slavery**; she can support the efforts of all those committed

to fighting against this **"open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."**

In the light of all this, I invite everyone, in accordance with his or her specific role and responsibilities, to practice acts of fraternity towards those kept in a state of enslavement. Let us ask ourselves, as individuals and as communities, whether we feel challenged when, in our daily lives, we meet or deal with persons who could be victims of human trafficking, or when we are tempted to select items which may well have been produced by exploiting others.

Some of us, out of indifference, or financial reasons, or because we are **caught up in our daily concerns, close our eyes** to this. Others, however, decide to do something about it, to join civic associations or to practice small, everyday gestures – which have so much merit! – such as offering a kind word, a greeting or a smile. These cost us nothing but they can offer hope, open doors, and change the life of another person who lives clandestinely; they can also change our own lives with respect to this reality.

We ought to recognize that we are facing a global phenomenon which exceeds the competence of any one community or country. In order to eliminate it, **we need a mobilization comparable in size to that of the phenomenon itself**. For this reason I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far, including the highest levels of civil institutions, who witness the scourge of contemporary slavery, not to become accomplices to this evil, not to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity. Instead, may we have the courage to **touch the suffering flesh of Christ**, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls "the least of these my brethren" (*Mt 25:40, 45*).

We know that God will ask each of us: What did you do for your brother? (cf. *Gen 4:9-10*). The **globalization of indifference**, which today burdens the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters, requires all of us to forge a new worldwide solidarity and fraternity capable of giving them new hope and helping them to advance with courage amid the problems of our time and the **new horizons** which they disclose and which God places in our hands.

Pope Paul VI initiated the World Day of Peace with a message in 1968.

January 4, 2015

Readings for the week of January 4, 2015

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22 — 4:6; Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8; Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18; Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13; Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 — 5:4; Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17; Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Ps 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Ps 29:1-4, 3, 9-10 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

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.*



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.**



Giving Hands

The parish knitting and crocheting group will meet on Thursday, January 8 at 7 pm in the conference room at the back of the Sanctuary, entering through the side door.

If you would like to learn to knit or crochet and help us make projects that are donated to the community, or if you're an experienced knitter/crocheter who would like join a group of warm-hearted crafters for an evening of fellowship, please come and join us!

Weekly Collection

December 28, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,345.00
Offertory Make-Up	458.00
Offertory Loose	586.75
Offertory Online Giving	210.00
Total:	\$ 4,599.75

Stewardship \$ 184.00

Immaculate Conception \$ 27.00

Christmas \$ 9,345.00

Christmas Loose 1,532.95

Total Christmas \$10,877.95

Food Pantry \$ 1,030.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, December 29, the Food Pantry served **23** families, and gave out **33** bags of groceries.

We need peanut butter and **PA-PER** shopping bags. Thank you!

Did you know? The food pantry served over 18,800 meals during the 2014 year. Thank you for your generous donations of food and funds to support us!

*3 things you can't recover in life:
The word after it's said, the moment after it's missed, and the time after it's gone.*



Don't let your Christmas Season end without seeing the moving 2005 film, "Joyeux Noel," which deals with the Christmas truce along the Western Front in 1914, a century ago, and discussed by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, in his Christmas homily. Although the film's title is French ("Joyous Christmas"), the film is in English. The film will be screened **Thursday, Jan. 8, at 7 pm** in the parish hall classroom.

The Epiphany of the Lord



St. Anthony of Padua, 172 Belmont St. will be having their 18th annual Pie Night Fund-raiser, on **Saturday January 31st, 2015**. The dinner will be held at St. Anthony Community Center. Doors open at 5pm with dinner served at **5:30pm**. Tickets are \$10 per person. Tickets will be sold after all weekend

Masses on January 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18, and can be purchased at St. Anthony rectory office (625.6409). Monday-Thursday 9-5pm. Any questions, call Priscilla 232-1413 or Gin 627.4443.

Complete meal includes: your choice of Chicken Pie, Tourtiere (pork pie) or Salmon Pie, with mashed potatoes, veggies, beverage and a slice of assorted dessert pies. All pies are made by our Christian Service Committee Ladies! Whole Chicken, Tourtiere, and Salmon Pies, can be purchased, for \$15 per pie. Please pick up your PRE-PAID pie(s), on pie night January 31st, 2015.



Write on the Heart

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 entries and submissions at saint-raphaelsblog.com.



Winter Weather Policy If the Manchester Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions, all parish facilities and parish events are canceled. Check WMUR-TV for daily Mass cancelations.



Planning Meeting While we are wrapping up Christmas, we are already preparing for our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner which will be Saturday, March 7 at 5pm. Save the date! There will be a planning meeting on Saturday, **Jan. 10 at 10 am** in the Parish Hall Classroom. We welcome new committee members so if you want to join the committee, we welcome you to attend our first meeting.



First time visitor? Welcome! There are cards on the table at the entry 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 or left on the table.

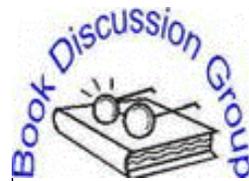
Women at the Well is a faith group for women of all ages and stages in their spiritual journey. The goal of the group is to meet every other month to support and encourage one another to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. Our aim is to provide a welcoming, friendly, faith filled environment where women are free to share and care for one another, and grow in their love for Christ and their community. Join us to hear from a dynamic speaker and engage in lively discussion and fun fellowship on **Thursday, Jan. 22 from 6:30—9 pm** at Saint Elizabeth Seton, 190 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford.



Liturgical Police Please remember during what has become flu season to refrain from receiving the precious blood from the cup during Communion if you are sick. Thank you!



If you would like to get a statement for your 2014 contributions, please call the rectory at 623.2604 or email secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com and we will be happy to send you a statement.



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 **Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015**, at 7 pm in the church classroom. Books are available at the parish office for \$16.