

The Baptism of the Lord

Worship Schedule

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

Monday, 12 January

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

12 pm ... Poor souls in purgatory by the Pereira family

Tuesday, 13 January

Saint Hilary

12 pm ... †Fernande Demers by Diane Bolton

Wednesday, 14 January

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... †Bob Murphy by Kevin & Chris Powers

Thursday, 15 January

8:30 am ... †John Narkey by Teresa Greene

Friday, 16 January

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... †Matthew Bowlin by Lisa Boucher

Saturday, 17 January

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... †Jodi Cloney Courtney (1st Anniv.) by Simone Maloney

Sunday, 18 January

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... †Theresa Johnson by her family

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... †Russell Grady by Sylvia & Gerry Grady



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for †**Bob Murphy**.



The Pastor's Reception Despite the finicky weather, we enjoyed seeing everybody who came out to the reception last weekend. Photos are displayed on our website. Many, many thanks to all those who helped with the

preparation behind the scenes, especially **Linda Beland, Diane Bolton, Ann-Maria Contarino, Jane Daly, Theresa Perry, Don Provencher, Connie Richard, Dorene Turner**, and to all those who helped to clean up. Once again, many thanks to **Bob** and **Marea Kerrigan** for being the best bartenders!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 11 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

10:45 am ... Children's Choir—Parish Hall Classroom

Monday, 12 January

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

7—8 pm Food Pantry

Tuesday, 13 January

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

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

Thursday, 15 January

7 pm ... Book Group Discussion—Church Conf Room



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.



Please help support our seminarians. There will be a Seminarian Fund Collection flyer in next weekend's bulletin, with envelopes available at the back of the church.

Thank you for your support!

Baptism isn't something we do for God, it's something he does for us!

One of the blessings of **witnessing a baptism** is being present at the moment a person's life is committed to Christ. I find it profoundly joyful to know that another human being has joined this enormous community of people, past, present and future, whose desire is to know Jesus Christ our Lord and to serve him throughout their lives. This weekend, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord; we celebrate how the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus and the Father said, **"This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."** (Mt. 3:17)

Ritual cleansing with water is a facet of many religions, both ancient and modern. For almost five thousand years in the Hindu faith, bathing in holy water such as the Ganges River has been a way to purify oneself before major festivals and life events. In the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, Moses teaches the people when and how to cleanse themselves, making themselves pure before encountering the presence of God. In Islam, believers purify themselves with water before prayer and after a variety of activities that are believed to reduce the purity of the heart before God. Believers in the Shinto faith and Buddhism also cleanse themselves before prayer. These cleansing rituals are performed multiple times of the day, of the week, of the months, of the years.

As with many things, Christian baptism turns the meaning and purpose of ritual cleansing with water on its head: **instead of the ritual cleansing being something we do for God, it's something that God does for us.** God purifies our spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism, allowing us to receive grace and mercy through God's love. The sacrament unleashes all sorts of possibilities for our lives. And since God's action is perfect, unlike ours, this cleansing action needs to take place only once during our lifetimes. That's one of the reasons why the Catholic Church and most major Protestant denominations



recognize each other's baptisms as valid.

From the earliest days of Christianity, it was clear that the apostles understood baptism in Christ to be fundamentally different from anything that had come before

it. While John the Baptizer had called people to repent and be saved (Mk. 1:4), it was only after and through Jesus that believers received the Holy Spirit through their baptism.

Jesus reveals baptism to be both unitive and service-oriented when he answers James and John, who have asked Jesus to let them be the most special of the disciples. **"You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?"** When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, **"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."** (Mk. 10:39-45)

Saint Paul puts it this way, when writing to new Christians he had converted in Ephesus: **"I, the prisoner in the Lord, therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the**

Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Eph. 4:1-6)

The blessing of baptism comes from uniting ourselves with Christ through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and this unity enables us to serve God in more loving and heartfelt ways.



Neither Jesus nor Saint Paul ever said that membership in the Body of Christ was easy; each spoke repeatedly about the difficult choices and the antagonisms believers would encounter, but the power of the Holy Spirit would give the believer the power to bring God's love into those situa-

tions.

Saint John writes to members of one of the churches he has founded: **"And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us..... Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 3:23, 4:7)**

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, we know that God proclaimed his love for the Son in that moment. And we know that when we are baptized or reaffirm our baptismal vows, we are assured of God's profound love for us. Cleansed of sin, united to the Church, Christ's Mystical Body, and endowed with the Holy Spirit, we live out our baptism by participating in God's world through the power of divine love, sharing the love we have with each other to the best of our ability.

January 11, 2015

Readings for the week of January 11, 2015

Monday: Heb 1:1-6; Ps 97:1, 2b, 6, 7c, 9; Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-9; Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14; Ps 95:6-11; Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11; Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8; Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 2:13-17
Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

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.**



Please pray for †**Robert Emmet Murphy**, and †**Andre J. Vincent**, both of whom were called home to the Lord Jan. 4, the Epiphany, and whose funeral Masses were celebrated last week by P. Jerome.

In Sympathy



Roots/Routes of Faith! Following in the Footsteps of Saint Paul—Saint Raphael is planning a **2015 pilgrimage to**

Greece and, we hope, Turkey. Additional info regarding this year's trip will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The pilgrimage would take place in October and likely will be a 10-day, eight-night stay. Interested? Keep your calendar open and watch for more details to come.

Weekly Collection

January 4, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,803.00
Offertory Make-Up	411.00
Offertory Loose	782.25
Offertory Online Giving	235.00
Total:	\$ 5,231.25
Stewardship	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 17.00
Christmas	\$ 1,020.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,610.00
Solemnity of Mary Loose	245.00
Total Solemnity of Mary	\$ 1,855.00
Food Pantry	\$ 545.00



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, January 5, the Food Pantry served **20** families, and gave out **30** bags of groceries.

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



New Hampshire March for Life January 17, 2015

9 am—Memorial Service at Concord Landfill
 10 am—Catholic Mass at St. John the Evangelist
 11:15 am—Rally at Gold Domed State House steps
 11:45 am—March for Life
 1 pm—Refreshments and featured speaker, Catherine Adair, at St. John the Evangelist.
 More information can be found at nhrtl.org or call 603.626.7950.

Our Respect Life Committee members will be handing out "Life is Precious" magnets during all of the January 17-18 weekend Masses. All our families are invited to take one magnet per family, please. Thank you!

The Baptism of the Lord



Saint Anthony of Padua Parish, 172 Belmont St. will have its 18th annual Pie Night Fund-raiser, on **Saturday Jan. 31, 2015**. The dinner will be at Saint 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.



Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael!

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!

We had our first meeting on Saturday, Jan. 10. Our next planning meeting will be on a Saturday in February (date to be posted next week) at 10 am in the Parish Hall Classroom. We welcome new committee members so please feel free to join us.



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.

January 18-25, 2015 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2015 is Jesus said to her, "Give Me A Drink." (John 4: 7). Throughout 2015, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one" joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. For more information go to: www.geii.org