

II Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule

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

Monday, 19 January

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—Church Office Closed

8:30 am ... †Frank Kenney, Jr. (4th Anniv.) by Anne Kenney

Tuesday, 20 January

Saints Fabian and Sebastian

12 pm ... Mass

Wednesday, 21 January

Saint Agnes

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... Mass

Thursday, 22 January

Saint Vincent

Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:30 am ... †Ed & †Peggy Moran by Margaret-Ann Moran

Friday, 23 January

Saints Vincent and Marianne Cope

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... †Phil Beland by Linda Beland

Saturday, 24 January

Saint Francis de Sales

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... †Jeannette & †Thomas Pitman by Maureen Houle

Sunday, 25 January

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am ... †David Foley by Connie Raymond

9:30 am ... †Deceased members of the Clement and Lively families by Ray & Pat Clement

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... †Scott Joubert by Jack & Colleen Byrne

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 18 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

Tuesday, 20 January

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

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

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.

Saint Patrick's Planning Meeting



Save the date! Our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner will be Saturday, March 7 at 5pm. We had our first meeting Jan. 10. Our next planning meeting will be Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 am in the Parish Hall Classroom. We welcome new committee members, so please

feel free to join us. If you would like to donate any items or money towards the event for the raffle prizes, please drop them off at the rectory M-F between 9 am and 4 pm.



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for †Mary Dupere by Bill and Judy Dupere.



Monday, Jan. 19, is the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. **Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 am in the chapel.** Please note the change in the usual holiday hour. Rectory will be closed, as will the Food Pantry Monday evening.

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

Parish Council



Parish Pastoral Council openings...

We have two positions open on the Parish Council. If you are interested in running for a two-year term, please call the rectory at 623.2604 or email secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com. We will include your brief biographical information in an upcoming bulletin and parishioners will vote during the Jan. 31-Feb. 1 weekend Masses.

Charlie Hebdo tragedy underlines the importance of freedom of expression

Each semester at Saint Anselm College, the student newspaper **The Saint Anselm Crier** publishes between six and eight issues. I serve as faculty adviser and to organize the paper, we have **two general staff meetings**, one to plan the upcoming issue and one to pull everything together with final editing and proof-reading, when we often see the wee hours of the morning.

When news emerged of the brutal attack in Paris, on the offices of the leftist French satirical magazine **Charlie Hebdo** earlier this month, I couldn't help but think of our Crier meetings. Twelve Charlie Hebdo editors and contributors were **slain at the magazine** in the midst of an editorial meeting when two masked radical Islamist gunmen burst into the offices.

Our Crier staff often has been satirical and critical of various policies and decisions at the college. Sometimes I agree with them, sometimes I think they are way off base, though I don't think in my time the student paper has ever been blasphemous. In fact, most of our reporters, editors and photographers are among the finest students at Saint Anselm. They have the record to prove it, and they tend to be intelligent, ambitious and compassionate, with a social conscience.

Of course, that would be a pretty good description of the editors, journalists and cartoonists at *Charlie Hebdo* – only they frequently relished **attacking, mocking, lampooning and ridiculing** anything they saw in contemporary life, including organized religion as unjust, hypocritical or inane. Defending *Charlie Hebdo's* **right to freedom of expression** does not mean defending the appropriateness of their remarks or the prudence of their behavior. Some of their criticisms have been outrageous, and they have **offended Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims** with equal



relish. And each group has protested and sought redress, sometimes, in the courts.

If freedom of expression in a **democratic society** – French, American, British, Canadian, Irish or anywhere – is to mean anything, however, it must mean **freedom to express ideas others may not like and the corresponding acceptance of hearing and seeing things we may do not much appreciate.**

As Americans, and as Catholics, we should understand this freedom, recognizing the difficulties and awkwardness it can sometimes cause. Likewise, we should think and act prudently and respectfully in what we say, print and broadcast. In that sense, it is no surprise that *Charlie Hebdo* made itself a target. But **covering before threats** only gives the men and women of violence victory. Freedom of expression inevitably leads individuals and groups to give voice to ideas that others find offensive, regressive, harmful and counterproductive. In contemporary society, after all, more than a few of our Christian ideas are regarded by some as negative.



The idea that we are all sinners, that the activity of one man saved everyone, the idea that a Supreme Being exists and is interested in human events, the claim that the Roman Catholic Church has the fullness of truth, the notion that certain lifestyle behaviors are morally wrong, the standards of chastity and fidelity, the conviction in the sanctity of life from conception to natural death – all of these positions are regarded by some people as unacceptable. We choose to uphold these views and speak of them in the public square, yet we are seen by some as pernicious threats to the advancement of society. Yet we hold such beliefs dear as Catholics and we ought to be cou-

rageous in expressing and defending them.

Those who disagree with us, in a democratic society that upholds freedom of expression, are free to argue, debate, even ridicule our ideas – and, Lord knows, many have. In turn, however, we are **free to contend with them** – but we do so **in print, on the airwaves and in public forums.** Only calls for violence, mayhem, destruction of property and the like justify censorship. Although Christianity itself has been intolerant and violent on occasion in the past, for many years, the Church has recognized the importance of free expression and the dignity of the individual, denouncing violence, threat or intimidation; they have no place in civilized public dispute.

Back in 1664, **John Milton (1608-1674)**, the great English poet and political essayist, argued in *Areopagitica* that **we must tolerate ideas we find offensive if we wish to maintain the freedom to express our own views.** The way to fight foolish or dangerous views is with the vigorous expression of wise and helpful ones. Milton, whose epic *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained* stand as the greatest of poems in our language, laid the foundation for what we Americans know as the First Amendment.

The tragic events in Paris earlier this month underline how precious the right to freedom of expression is and how it **requires constant vigilance and protection.** Likewise, we are reminded how necessary it is to teach young people in our societies why and how such rights matter to us all and why respect of rights and traditions matters but also why respect of freedom is necessary. Finally, the *Charlie Hebdo* case teaches us that we must all stand for the elimination of violence and defend freedom of expression — even when the views being printed, broadcast or displayed are ones we find troubling.

Are you Charlie? Hmmm. Not in many of my views, maybe not in the prudential judgments I might like to make. But in defense of freedom of expression? Yes! ***Mais oui, je suis Charlie aussi!***

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Readings for the week of January 18, 2015

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12, or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer
Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20



Saint Raphael Food Pantry
Food Pantry
 This past

Monday, January 12, the Food Pantry served 18 families, and gave out 30 bags of groceries.

We need peanut butter and PAPER shopping bags. Thank you!

Weekly Collection

January 11, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 2,845.00
Offertory Make-Up	367.00
Offertory Loose	816.00
Offertory Online Giving	200.00
Total:	\$ 5,231.25
Stewardship	\$ 1,767.00
Stewardship Loose	431.00
Total Stewardship:	\$ 2,198.00
Christmas	\$ 1,000.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 70.00
Food Pantry	\$ 315.00