

III Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule

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

Monday, 26 January **Saints Timothy & Titus**
 12 pm ... Our Parish Family

Tuesday, 27 January **Saint Angela Merici**
 12 pm ... †Dorothy Parlatore by Margaret-Ann Moran

Wednesday, 28 January **Saint Thomas Aquinas**
 11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation
 12 pm ... †Romain Marcoux (5th Anniv.) by Diane Gallant

Thursday, 29 January
 8:30 am ... †Claire Dumoulin by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Friday, 30 January
 5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 6 pm ... †Prof. William C. Martel by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Saturday, 31 January **Saint John Bosco**
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... †Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sunday, 1 February **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 7:30 am ... †Sylvia Hobbs by Cynthia Hobbs
 9:30 am ... †John Kilroy by Diane Bolton
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... Our Parish Family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 25 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, 26 January
 6—7:30 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 6-8
 7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tuesday, 26 January
 12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Room
 6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 9-12

Saint Patrick's Planning Meeting Save the date! Our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner will be Saturday, March 7 at 5 pm. 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.



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 next week's bulletin and parishioners will vote during the Feb. 7-8 weekend Masses.



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for †**Michael Puglisi** by Don Provencher.



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.

Catholic Schools Week this coming week

National Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. It starts the last Sunday in January and runs all week, which in 2015 is Jan. 25 - 31. Families of students who attend Saint Benedict Academy will speak at this weekend's Masses. Anybody interested in more information about Saint Benedict is encouraged to contact the SBA office at 603.669.3932.



Liturgical Police Please remember during what has become flu season to refrain from receiving the Precious Blood from the chalice during Communion if you are sick. Thank you!

Farewell to my first grade teacher shows power of stories, humor and faith

When the Christmas card came back undelivered, I was worried. I took it to be a bad sign, but I ascribed it to the recent changes in address. My card to **Sister William Agnes Gillet, S.S.J.**, something I had been sending to her at her various assignments around western Massachusetts for **the past 50 years or so**, came back, so I reasoned, because of the foolishness of bureaucracy. But a few days later, my fears were realized, I received a call to tell me the sad news that my first grade teacher had died **just shy of age 95**.

The call, from **Sister Maxyne Schneider, S.S.J.**, president of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and, like me, a graduate of Saint Joseph's grammar and high school, where Sister William Agnes taught, came with a request that I celebrate sister's funeral Mass. I was honored, of course, and perfectly willing to oblige the sisters, but I was worried. A couple of years ago, Sister William Agnes had **asked me precisely the same question**, and I told her how honored I would be – but let's not worry about those details any time soon. She was in good health, her mind was sharp and her spirits high. In reality, however, I was afraid that whenever the call came, it would leave me wrecked.

Saying good-bye to someone we love, whether in our families, among our friends or within our community, is never easy. We feel pain and emptiness in the loss of a smile, the dimming of a twinkle in the eye, the silencing of a voice and the absence of a touch. Yes, we have **faith in the power of the Risen Christ**, but at the moment of loss there is, alas, **a bit of distance** between what we believe in the head and what we feel in the heart.

Moreover, I knew that at some point, as I celebrated the Liturgy of Christian Burial for sister, everything I had ever treasured over the years would come flooding back. The Mass and the burial would be an emotional roller coaster. It didn't help that only a few weeks ago, the Sisters of Saint Joseph completed the sale of their **beloved motherhouse, Mont Marie** (photo below), overlooking the Connecticut River in Holyoke, MA, to a national nursing



home care provider. Costs of maintaining the complex had become prohibitive, and they faced huge

financial demands in caring for many of their aging and infirm sisters. Although some sisters will live at the Mont under new management, **the order will downsize**, retaining only their chapel and cemetery, and relocating the central offices. No, the funeral would be an ordeal.

I should have known better. The Sisters of Saint Joseph are **as fine a group of women as one could hope to meet**: intelligent but never stuffy, witty but not unkind, devout not strained. They are women of the Church with a remarkable ability for **good humor, resilience, loyalty and hope**. Sister William Agnes (1920-2015) certainly was – and everything she modeled for her younger sisters in community, they manifested beautifully. There were tears, naturally, but there were robust laughs and great memories. And there was great faith that the promises of the Risen Christ are indeed real – and **extend to each one of us!**

Prior to the Mass, the sisters celebrated a wake and vigil service that provided us an opportunity to hear some wonderful stories, one of which included me! I had forgotten all about it until **Sister Kathleen Kirley, S.S.J.**, unfolded the details. It was, apparently, a story Sister William Agnes had told many times, one she must have heard from my mom. Apparently, one day I had gone upstairs at home in North Adams, MA, to my mom's closet. I was still a first grader, so this must have been **sometime in 1959-1960**. I reached up to take one of my mom's summer dresses, and I bet it was what I used to call her "butterfly dress" because of the big, colorful butterflies printed all over it.

Quite rightly, my mom asked me what on earth I was doing. I simply shrugged, and said, "Well, I just wanted to know if you would let me give this to Sister William Agnes?"

My mother, the most generous person I've ever known, was puzzled. "Well, why would you want to give her one of my dresses?"

I was all set with my answer. "Well, mom, sister is a very pretty lady, but she never has anything different to wear! **She just wears this same old black dress all the time**. Wouldn't she like some color? Would you mind much if I gave it to her?"

I didn't remember the story until Sister Kathleen rolled it out, and then it all came back from so many years ago. I imagine my mom told me that sister had several black

dresses and that she liked to wear black and white because it was **a special sign of her dedication to God**. Something along those lines! And at some point, she must have let Sister William Agnes in on my little project – and so the story started rolling along.

There were some raucous stories too – about Sister's prayerfulness when some of the less astute residents of her convents were in the car and behind the wheel, about the **pranksters in veils** who enjoyed upending her. Her dignity and patience, gentleness and tranquility were just too tempting a target! One charming but slightly indelicate story mentioned sister's penchant, as a reading and spelling teacher for little ones, to emphasize a word in the sentence and spell it. "Mary, you need to go out, O-U-T, out. Bobby, please sit down, D-O-W-N." So one time, when Sister William Agnes was **principal at Saint Patrick School, Chicopee Falls, MA**, one of the younger sisters let a little boy named Tommy out to go to the men's room.

Now, **the men's room**, properly speaking, was on the first floor, but the boy's room, which is where the lad should have gone, was upstairs and right around the corner from his classroom. He had posed his question in the hopes of getting his teacher to unknowingly give him permission to roam the building. Sister William, as a good principal, was vigilant and espied the boy out of class, wandering about and on the wrong floor. Of course, his intention all along had been to wander while classmates worked.

"Thomas, what are you doing down here?"

"Well, Sister said I could go to the men's room."

"You go to the boy's room upstairs, Thomas.

That's up, Thomas, 'U-P-up.'"

Little did sister realize that in correcting young Tommy, she had given him a rather **unusual physiological challenge** – and a rollicking good story, at her expense, one her sisters would relish for years to come.

In my homily, I mentioned a number of stories. When Sister William Agnes introduced us to arithmetic and the world of mathematics, I was apprehensive and suspicious. No good would come of it, I was sure. But then she started telling us that numbers represented things and that, really, we could see arithmetic as "telling us stories, **number stories**." With that, I was hooked – not so much on math as on stories. How blessed I was to have my story intersect for so long and in such enriching ways with the story of Sister William Agnes – and how wonderful that all our stories are part of **the marvelous story of God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord!** Thank you, Sister, and God bless! May Mary and Saint Joseph keep you in their care.

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



January 25, 2015

Readings for the week of January 25, 2015

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

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.**

Saint Francis of Assisi Open House

Whether you have school age children or not, please join us!

Sunday, January 25, 2015
11:00 AM

Holy Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Church
12:15 PM

Open House: Tour the School, Meet our Teachers,
View the Education Fair



Please pray for †**Janet Erskine**, and †**Debbie Davis**, both of whom were called home to the Lord Jan. 15,

In Sympathy

and whose funeral Masses were celebrated last week by Fr. Patrick Sullivan, O.S.B., and Fr. Iain MacLellan, OS.B., respectively.

Weekly Collection

January 18, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,511.00
Offertory Make-Up	502.00
Offertory Loose	661.15
Offertory Online Giving	160.00
Total:	\$ 4,834.15

Stewardship	\$ 185.00
Stewardship Online Giving	60.00
Total Stewardship:	\$ 245.00

Solemnity of Mary	\$ 10.00
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Food Pantry	\$ 1,632.00
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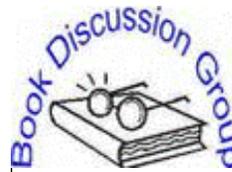
Thank you for your generosity!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, January 19, the Food Pantry was closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

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



The book group will meet on **Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 pm** to discuss Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*. Published in 1900 amid great controversy, the novel offers a gritty portrait of a young woman swept up in and undone by greed and the desire for success. Books and some introductory material are available at the rectory for \$8. Please join us!

When my
heart is faint
lead me to
the rock

PSALM 61:2

III Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 5 pm 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, vegetables, 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 Jan. 31, 2015.



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.



If you would like to obtain 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 the material.



Write on the Heart

Our Saint Raphael 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.



Giving Hands

The parish knitting and crocheting group will meet on Thursday, Jan. 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!

Sometimes God

stirs us out of

comfortable

situations in

order to

stretch us and cause us to
use

our faith.

Join us for **Children's Adoration**

Visit with Jesus, experience His peace and love



Saturday, Feb. 7th

9:00-11:00am

St. Raphael Church Chapel

103 Walker St. Manchester NH

Visit Our Lord, pray, sing, listen to a story, snack, and craft