

IV Sunday in Ordinary Time

Worship Schedule

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

Sunday, 1 February **IV 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

Monday, 2 February **Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas**
World Day for Consecrated Life 12
 pm ... ☩ Alice-Marie Cleary Murphy by P. Jerome

Tuesday, 3 February **Saints Blaise and Ansgar**
 12 pm ... ☩ Irene Goudreault by her family

Wednesday, 4 February
 11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation
 12 pm ... ☩ Robert Hughes by Estella Hughes

Thursday, 5 February **Saints Agatha**
 8:30 am ... ☩ Dorothy Parlatore by Margaret-Ann Moran

Friday, 6 February **Saints Paul Miki and Companions**
 5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 6 pm ... ☩ Phil Beland by Linda Beland
 6:35 pm ... Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, 7 February
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... ☩ Bernard & ☩ Theresa Young by Elaine Young

Sunday, 8 February **V Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 7:30 am ... Our Parish Family
 9:30 am ... ☩ Bob Murphy by Bill & Mary Ellen Biser
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... ☩ Bobby Annan by Jack & Colleen Byrne



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for **Our Parish Family**.



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.



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!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 1 February
 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, 2 February
 6—7:30 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 6-8
 7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tuesday, 3 February
 12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Room
 6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Grades 9-12

Saturday, 7 February



Saint Patrick's Planning Meeting Our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner will be Saturday, March 7 at 5 pm. Our next planning meeting will be Saturday, **Feb. 7 at 10 am** in The Pastor's Classroom in the Parish Hall. New committee members welcome! Just come to the meeting or call the office. If you would like to donate, items or funds, towards the event for the raffle prizes, please drop them off at the rectory M-F between 9 am and 4 pm.



Parish Pastoral Council openings...

We have two positions open on the Parish Council. We have included biographical information in this week's bulletin. Parishioners are invited to vote for **two candidates** during the Feb. 7-8 weekend Masses.

Join us for Children's Adoration



Visit with Jesus, experience His peace and love



Saturday, Feb. 7th
 4:00-11:00am
 St. Raphael Church Chapel
 103 Walker St. Manchester NH

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



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!

A day, a year for 'consecrated life' ... and its value as a sign of the Kingdom!

Throughout 2015, the Church invites us to celebrate “the **Year of Consecrated Life**” as way to focus our attention, prayer and activities on the importance of **religious** life in the midst of the People of God. Pope Francis has observed that “wherever there are religious, there is joy”! Who could ask for a more beautiful compliment or a more succinct summation of the nature and purpose of our lives.

Genuine joy occurs when we have feelings of well-being, fulfillment, anticipation, satisfaction and happiness because things either are as they ought be or they are moving in that direction. For the Catholic, our joy is **possible only because we are in union with Christ**, we are endeavoring to live as he taught, we are conscious of **his burning love and dynamic presence** in our heart and world and we are responding, according to the best of our human nature, to that love and presence.

Such joy is, of course, possible for all Christians, but for the vowed religious, that joy, rooted in the gospel, takes **firm expression in the vows, the prayers and liturgy, the community and the apostolate.**

Having been educated by the **Sisters of Saint Joseph** and their lay colleagues through high school, having experienced college studies with the **Benedictine monks and sisters at Saint Anselm**, and having observed the prayer and work of the **Sisters of Saint Joan of Arc** at the college and abbey, it always comes as something of a shock to me to discover that young people often have little or no idea of who or what a “religious” is.

When many of us grew up, religious sisters, such as the **Sisters of Mercy** who served for so long here at Saint Raphael, seemed to be everywhere. They taught in the parish school, they administered the office, they cleaned and decorated the church, they often operated social service programs for those in need, and, if someone found himself in need of care, there were sisters at the hospital down the road.

The continuing drought in vocations to religious life in the Church in the U.S., Canada and western Europe, however, has left many Catholics without exposure to,



knowledge of, or appreciation of the life that religious lead. This is a significant problem, because the man or woman who lives a vowed life is meant to be **a sign of the coming Kingdom of God** in real, pal-

pable ways. *Perfectae Caritatis*, the Vatican II document that addresses renewal of religious life, identifies nuns and monks, sisters and brothers as signs of the future joy that all the saved will experience in heaven.

Through the **vow of obedience** one learns to listen for the voice of God in the commands of the superior and in the needs of the community. In a time when so many are bombarded by messages of nonsense, indul-

gence, pride and narcissism, how valuable is the generosity and cooperation that obedience proclaims?

Through the **vow of chastity** one learns to prefer nothing

to Christ alone, recognizing the good of marriage and family life, but privileging the opportunity to seek and serve the Lord before any other person or task. In a world where so many are confused and disordered

in their priorities, how important is the clarity and charity that chastity upholds?

Through the **vow of poverty** one discovers the value of simplicity and the radical nature of dependence on God for support and security. In a society where so many confront the seductive lure of selfishness and consumerism, where technological ability and economic prosperity generate pride and self-satisfaction, how necessary is a sign of the need for an all-provident God?

In short, the man or woman in religious vows seeks to live as Christ did, poor, chaste

and obedient — ever joyful in the Lord!

When I first entered the abbey at Saint Anselm, part of me expected that my stay would be relatively short. It wouldn't work out. I wouldn't fit in, some of the monks would drive me crazy. I'd want to return to my old life, which was blessed in many ways, and I'd be on my way home. What God does, however, is work on us slowly and resolutely. In time, I began to find joy in one feature of monastic life and then another. Eventually, I found myself **saying – and meaning – that I was grateful** to God, the abbot and the community for welcoming me. Although I have never lost my love for my family and my hometown, in time, I found it hard to imagine living as someone other than as a Benedictine of Saint Anselm! True, I've never had a winning ticket to Powerball, but even that probably wouldn't change my mind!

This **Monday, Feb. 2**, is traditionally known as **Candlemas** for during the Mass on the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** candles that will be used during the coming year are blessed. The lovely feast, understood as the end of the Christmas season in medieval times, has been designated as the Church's annual day of prayer for consecrated life. During this Year of Consecrated Life, we are reminded that just as Jesus was hailed as a “light of revelation to the gentiles and the glory of God's people Israel,” when he was presented for the first time in his Father's house, the great Temple in Jerusalem, so too those men and women who have consecrated their lives to God in religious

vows are summoned to be lights revealing Christ in our Church and world.

This year, Saint Raphael expects to host several programs and activities in light

of this Year of Consecrated Life, including the upcoming spring session of The Pastor's Class. Meanwhile, may I ask you to pray for Abbot Mark and all our Benedictine community this coming Monday? And me too! Pray that we be faithful and joyous ... and that the Spirit brings good and new vocations. Pray that we receive such vocations in this diocese and throughout the Church!

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



Newly professed Sisters of Life: Joy in Christ



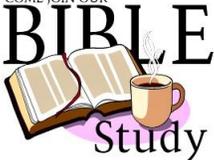
Benedictine college prep grads at VMI: Vocations can come from anywhere!

February 1, 2015

Readings for the week of February 1, 2015

Monday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 (22-32); **Tuesday:** Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32; Mk 5:21-43; **Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6; **Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13; **Friday:** Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29; **Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34; **Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

COME JOIN OUR



The Seven Penitential Psalms

This year's Lenten Bible Study will examine the seven penitential psalms that have been used for devotional practice during Lent since the days of the Early Church. Our class

will meet each Tuesday after the noon Mass from Feb. 17 to March 31, usually around 1 pm. Please bring a bag lunch if you are hungry – drinks will be provided. Facilitated by Anna Wallich, SRP's pastoral assistant.

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.**

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



World Day of the Sick Saint Raphael Parish will have a Mass for healing for the sick on **Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, at 6pm** in the chapel. Parishioners and friends of the parish who desire to receive the Sacrament of the Sick and who are able to attend this Mass are invited to call the office in advance so that materials may be prepared. Call Kerri Stanley at 603.623.2604.

Weekly Collection

January 25, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,703.00
Offertory Make-Up	227.00
Offertory Loose	655.05
Offertory Online Giving	210.00
Total:	\$ 4,795.05
Stewardship	\$ 30.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 20.00
Food Pantry	\$ 570.00

Thank you for your generosity!



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, January 26, the Food Pantry served **41** families and gave out **67** bags of groceries.

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



The Feast of Saint Blaise is Tuesday, Feb. 3. Fr. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, will bless the throats of parishioners during all of this weekend's Masses.



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.



HAPPY GROUNDHOG DAY!
(WE ALREADY KNOW THERE'S 6 MORE WEEKS OF WINTER.)

IV Sunday in Ordinary Time



The following parishioners are running for the two open positions on the Parish Pastoral Council for a 3-year term. Parishioners will be invited to vote for two candidates during Masses Feb. 7-8.

Joanna Block

Joanna has worked in human resources for more than seven years, most recently as a HR Manager for a direct mailing marketing company in southern NH. She is a graduate of Trinity High School and Saint Anselm and is pursuing a graduate degree at Rivier. Joanna grew up in Saint Lawrence, Goffstown, but has been a parishioner of Saint Raphael since 2007 as it is more of her “church home” and it is the first place where she has had the chance to participate in a larger community. Joanna is a lector and is active in our Book Discussion Group and in The Pastor’s Classes. She would like to learn more about how the parish works and meet fellow parishioners.

Anne Kenney

Anne is a retired elementary school teacher and has belonged to Saint Raphael Parish her entire life. She is a graduate of Saint Raphael Grammar School, Saint Joseph High School for Girls, Mount Saint Mary College, where she received her B.A. degree, and Boston University, where she received her master’s in education. Anne is head sacristan, a lector and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, and is active in the Book Discussion Group, Respect Life Committee, Giving Hands (knitting and crocheting), Pastoral Parish Council and Bereavement Committee. She enjoys helping as she can and would like to continue serving the parish on the Pastoral Parish Council.

Susan Lang

Susan is a graduate of the Manchester Public Schools and attended college at the University of Colorado. She has worked in the resort business and lived all over the world. She returned home after about 20 years and currently resides in Bedford. She has two grown children. Susan is a lector and Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist here and often worships with the monastic community at Saint Anselm’s. Susan would like to bring some new and fresh ideas to the church as a member of the Pastoral Parish Council.

Connie Richard

Connie was born and raised at Saint Raphael Parish and graduated from Saint Raphael School and West Manchester High School. She has been a legal secretary for 55 years before retiring in July of 2009. She is a member of the Audubon Society, National Parks Conservation Association, and Ocean Conservatory. Connie is a volunteer for the bereavement luncheons here and would like to be come more involved in other activities within the church.

Veronica (“Ronnie”) Schlender

Ronnie, a resident of Manchester, is a longtime parishioner of Saint Raphael’s and is married to Walter Schlender. They have two grown children and two grandchildren. Ronnie is running for Parish Council because she would like to make more of a contribution to our parish community. She works as an advertising account executive and has been active in the pro-life movement.

Patrick Smith

Patrick has been a lifelong member of Saint Raphael. He attends the Sunday 9:30 am Mass with his wife Kimberly, and children, Finnian (12) and Maeve (10), who are altar servers. Patrick has worked at Trinity High School for 20 years as a teacher, athletic director and currently an assistant principal. He has board experience at Trinity, Manchester North Little League and Sudden Pitch Tennis Club. He is running for a board position to try and make a positive contribution to a church and parish community that has meant so much to him and his family.