

First Sunday of Lent

Worship Schedule

Saturday, 21 February **Saint Peter Damian**
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sunday, 22 February **I Sunday of Lent**
 7:30 am ... ☩ Richard Foley by Connie Raymond
 9:30 am ... Our Parish Family
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... ☩ Elmer Soderberg by Jaye Soderberg

Monday, 23 February **Saint Polycarp**
 12:00 pm ... ☩ Romain & ☩ Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

Tuesday, 24 February
 12 pm ... Mass

Wednesday, 25 February
 11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation
 12 pm ... Maurice Daneau (living) by a friend

Thursday, 26 February
 8:30 am ... Edith "Dibby" Clark (living) by Anne Clark

Friday, 27 February
 5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 6 pm ... Kristin Foster (living) by Anne Clark

Saturday, 28 February
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... ☩ Ronald Robichaud by Mary Robichaud and family

Sunday, 1 March **II Sunday of Lent**
 7:30 am ... ☩ Ronald Hebert by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
 9:30 am ... ☩ Bob Murphy by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... Our Parish Family



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Ronald Robichaud** by Mary Robichaud.



Roots/Routes of Faith! Following in the Footsteps of Saint Paul—Saint Raphael is planning a **2015 pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey**. The trip looks likely to run **Oct. 7-18**, and will likely include **three nights at sea** as we

cruise key Greek isles in the Aegean! Interested? Mark your calendar, and watch for a full itinerary later this month.

In Sympathy

Please pray for ☩ **Edward E. Heroux**, who was called home to the Lord on Feb. 18 and whose funeral Mass will be celebrated by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, Monday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 22 February
 10:30 am ... Coffee and Doughnuts—Parish Hall

Monday, 23 February
 7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tuesday, 24 February
 12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Room
 1 pm ... Lenten Bible Study—Parish Hall Clrm
 7 pm ... The Pastor's Class—Parish Hall Classroom

Friday, 27 February
 6:30 pm ... Lenten Soup Supper—Parish Hall



Saint Patrick's Dinner Our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner will be **Saturday, March 7 at 5 pm**. To purchase tickets (\$15 each), please call Joan Bissonnette at 603.494.3941. We'd love to receive your

donations, items or funds towards the event for the raffle prizes. Please drop contributions off at the rectory M-F between 9 am-4 pm. Always an exciting event. Bring the whole family for an evening of fun!

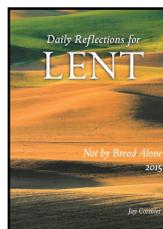


Parish Pastoral Council update...

The Parish Council met last Monday and elected **Diane Bolton** as chairperson, and **Karen Robichaud** as vice-chair. Therese Dame will serve as secretary. **GaetanMarie Lacourse** submitted her resignation. Because **Ronnie Schlender** had the most number of votes after **Patrick Smith** and **Anne Kenney**, she will join the Pastoral Parish Council for a 3-year term. We extend our thanks and appreciation to GaMarie for her time serving on the council in the last two years. Congratulations again to the new members.



Please join us on **Friday, Feb. 27** following the 6pm Mass for a Lenten Soup & Bread Supper in the parish hall. A RSVP (623.2604 / secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com) will help us prepare. We will have a guest speaker talk about a Lenten themed topic.



The season of Lent has begun. Daily Reflections for Lent booklets are available in the Information Nook or in the rectory for \$2.



Lent 2015: Do we share in global indifference to need, suffering?

Today, [a] ... selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, ... a globalization of indifference. It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront. When the people of God are converted to his love, they find answers to the questions that history continually raises. One of the most urgent challenges which I would like to address in this message is precisely **the globalization of indifference**.

Indifference to our neighbor and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the **voice of the prophets** who cry out and trouble our conscience. God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. In the Incarnation, in the earthly life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, the gate between God and man, between heaven and earth, opens once for all. The Church is **like the hand holding open this gate**, thanks to her proclamation of God's word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love (cf. *Gal 5:6*). But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which God comes into the world and the world comes to him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded.

God's people, then, need this **interior renewal**, lest we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1. **"If one member suffers, all suffer together"** (*1 Cor 12:26*) – The Church
The love of God breaks through that fatal withdrawal into ourselves which is indifference. The Church offers us this love of God by **her teaching** and especially by **her witness**. But we can only bear witness to what we ourselves have experienced. Christians are those who **let God clothe them with goodness and mercy**, with Christ, so as to become, like Christ, servants of God and others.

This is clearly seen in the liturgy of Holy Thursday, with its rite of **the washing of feet**. Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet, but he came to realize that Jesus does not wish to be just an example of how we should wash one another's feet. Only those who have first allowed Jesus to wash their



own feet can then offer this service to others. Only they have "a part" with him (*Jn 13:8*) and thus can serve others. ...

2. **"Where is your brother?"** (*Gen 4:9*) – Parishes and Communities

All that we have been saying about the universal Church must now be **applied to the life of our parishes and communities**. Do these ecclesial structures enable us to experience being part of one body? A body which receives and shares what God wishes to give? A body which acknowledges and cares for its weakest, poorest and most insignificant members? Or do we take refuge in a universal love that would embrace the whole world, while **failing to see the Lazarus sitting before our closed doors** (*Lk 16:19-31*)?

In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to **press beyond the boundaries** of the visible Church in two ways.

In the first place, [we expand those boundaries] by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a **communion of mutual service and goodness** which reaches up into the sight of God. Together with the saints who have found their fulfillment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. ...

We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart.

In the second place, every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be **engaged in the life of the greater society** of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away. The **Church is**

missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people.

Her mission is to bear patient witness to the One who desires to draw all creation and every man and woman to the Father. Her mission is to bring to all a love which cannot

remain silent. The Church follows Jesus Christ along the paths that lead to every man and woman, to the very ends of the earth (cf. *Acts 1:8*). ...

3. **"Make your hearts firm!"** (*James 5:8*) – Individual Christians

As individuals too, we are tempted by indifference. Flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering, we often feel our complete inability to help. What can we do to avoid being caught up in this **spiral of distress and powerlessness**? First, we can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. ... Second, we can help by acts of charity, reaching out to both those near and far through the Church's many charitable organizations. Lent is a favorable time for showing this concern for others by small yet concrete signs of our belonging to the one human family. ... Third, the suffering of others is a call to conversion, since their need reminds me of the uncertainty of my own life and my dependence on God and my brothers and sisters. ...

As a way of overcoming indifference and our pretensions to self-sufficiency, I would invite everyone to live this Lent as an opportunity for engaging in what Benedict XVI called a formation of the heart (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 31). A merciful heart does not mean a weak heart. Anyone who wishes to be merciful must have a strong and steadfast heart, closed to the tempter but open to God. A heart which lets itself be pierced by the Spirit so as to bring love along the roads that lead to our brothers and sisters. And, ultimately, a poor heart, one which realizes its own poverty and gives itself freely for others.

Extracted from Lenten Message 2015

February 22, 2015

Readings for the week of February 22, 2015

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom



The Pastor's Class - Winter Session - 'Following Him More Nearly'

Join us for a series of presentations and discussions on following the Lord Jesus in religious life during this special Year of Consecrated Life in the Church. We will meet on **Tuesdays, Feb. 24, March 3, 10 and 24 at 7 pm** in the Pastor's Classroom in the parish hall. We will discuss the biblical roots of religious life, the Church's teaching from Vatican II on religious life, *Perfectae Caritatis*, the various contribution of religious people to life of the Church and society, as well as what members receive, and we hope to have a special presentation by **Abbot Mark A. Cooper, O.S.B.** from Saint Anselm on the life, teachings and miracles of Saint Benedict.



The book group has been postponed to **Thursday, Mar. 5, at 7 pm** in the church conference room 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. Please



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 and our Facebook Page if in question.

Weekly Collection

February 15, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 2,299.00
Offertory Make-Up	560.00
Offertory Loose	506.60
Offertory Online Giving	210.00
Total:	\$ 3,575.60
Stewardship	\$ 230.00
Stewardship Online Giving	\$ 60.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, February 16, the Food Pantry served 10 families and gave out 15 bags of groceries. Be sure to **LIKE** us on our new Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food**

Pantry / Hope Chest to get news and updates!



Every Envelope

Counts! Please remember to **return your weekly contribution envelopes** for the times when

you have been away from Saint Raphael this winter. The need to fulfill our obligation to support our parish is clear, and regular expenses occur whether we are in the pews here or not. Your help in this effort will be greatly appreciated!

COME JOIN OUR



The Penitential Psalms

This year's Lenten Bible Study will examine the penitential psalms that have been used for devotional practice during Lent since the days of the Early Church. **Our next class will meet Tuesday, Feb. 24 after the noon Mass from around 1 pm.** Please bring a bag lunch if you are hungry – drinks will be provided. Facilitated by Anna Wallich, SRP's pastoral assistant.

Lenten Prayer

Help me be patient on my Lenten journey, and open to the grace that will help me recognize opportunities to reach out to others.

First Sunday of Lent

World Meeting of Families Pilgrimage and Papal Mass The Diocese of Manchester is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families, to be held in Philadelphia, from Sep. 22—27, 2015. Participants from around the U.S. and the world will convene to explore the critical role the family plays in society and to give families, and those who minister to families, opportunities to talk about the challenges and blessings that all families have. Pope Francis will visit Philadelphia and celebrate a public Mass on Sunday, Sep. 27. For information and pilgrimage details go to the diocesan website (www.catholicnh.org/wmof).



Please join us! Have you ever thought of joining the Knights of Columbus? The Knights of Columbus was officially chartered in 1882 through the efforts of Father Michael J. McGivney, assistant pastor of Saint Mary's Church in New Haven,

CT. The order was formed to offer aid and assistance to members and their families who were sick, disabled or otherwise needy. Social and intellectual fellowship continues to be promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. The order is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity. Members of Saint Raphael Parish participate in the Knights of Columbus, Arthur J. O'Neil Council #5112. This council holds its meetings at 7 pm on the second Wednesday of each month, rotating between Saint Raphael Parish (Manchester), Saint Lawrence (Goffstown) and the Grasmere Town Hall (Goffstown). Members of the committee will host Coffee & Donuts following the 9:30 am Mass on **Mar. 15**. Please join us and find out more about them!



Run for the Troops 5K

The Run for the Troops 5K race has been doubling in size each year since its first race in 2010. This year's event will be Sunday, April 15, at 9 am in Andover, MA. Parishioner Carmelle Fair will

be participating and would appreciate your support in this endeavor. The event honors our military, as well as raises funds to address the needs of injured soldiers. Part of the proceeds assist national organizations such as Homes for Our Troops to help build homes designed for the specific injury of soldiers. Proceeds also help soldiers with PTSD issues through the military program at Ironstone Farm in Andover. If you would like to make a donation, please go to www.runforthetroops5k.com and reference Carmelle Fair in your notation. Thank you!



With the appointment of new deans for the nine deaneries in the Diocese of Manchester, Bishop Peter Libasci will preside over each of the installation ceremonies at Masses to be celebrated in the church of each dean. On **Thursday, March 12, at 7pm at Saint Anthony Church, Manchester**, the Very Rev. Richard Dion, V.F., will be installed as dean of the **Amoskeag Deanery** at a Mass celebrated by the bishop. Congratulations, Father Dion! All priests, deacons, religious, parish staff and lay faithful are invited to this special event. Congratulations and thanks to **Msgr. John P. Quinn**, pastor of Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish, Bedford, and a native of SRP, who has been our longtime dean.



Annual Empty Bowl Project The Friends of Quota International will again be hosting its annual Empty Bowl Project at Saint Raphael's on **Saturday, Mar. 14, from 5:15—6:30 pm** in the parish hall. There is no cost, however a good will offering will be gratefully accepted. Donations will be shared between the NH Food Bank, as well as our own Food Pantry/Hope Chest. Checks can be made payable to either Saint Raphael Parish or to the NH Food Bank. Please join us!



Got talent? If so, we need you and your talents! Saint Raphael is working on the first revival of its celebrat-

ed talent shows. The New Saint Raphael Follies will be sometime between April and June. Watch for the announcement! Right now, if you can sing, dance, juggle or whatever, consider joining the show, please. This event has the potential to be a very helpful "fundraiser" AND "fundraiser" for Saint Raphael. See what you and your friends can do! Watch for additional information to come.