

# Second Sunday of Lent

## Worship Schedule

### 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

### Monday, 2 March

12 pm ... †Catherine Larrivee by Elizabeth Breuder

### Tuesday, 3 March

### **Saint Katherine Drexel**

12 pm ... †Irene Goudreault by her family

### Wednesday, 4 March

### **Saint Casimir**

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... Poor souls in purgatory by Teresa Greene

### Thursday, 5 March

8:30 am ... †Joan McGorry Dimick by Mary Ellen McGorry

### Friday, 6 March

### **World Day of Prayer**

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... †Phil Beland by Linda Beland

6:30 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### Saturday, 7 March

### **Saints Perpetua and Felicity**

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... †Charles Richard by Simone Richard

### Sunday, 8 March

### **III Sunday of Lent**

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... †Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Mass

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, 1 March

9:20 am ... Children's Religious Ed—Parish Hall

10:30 am ... Coffee and Doughnuts—Parish Hall

10:30 am ... St. Patrick's Committee Mtg—Parish Hall

10:45 am ... Catholic Faith Explained—Parish Hall Classroom

10:45 am ... Children's Choir—SBA Library

### Monday, 2 March

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

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tuesday, 3 March

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

1 pm ... Lenten Bible Study—Parish Hall Classroom

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

7 pm ... The Pastor's Class—Parish Hall Classroom

### Thursday, 5 March

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

### Saturday, 7 March

**Satur-**  
**day, 7 March**  
5 pm



**Saint Patrick's Dinner** Our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner is a week away! We hope you will join us on **Saturday, March 7 at 5 pm**. To purchase tickets (\$15 each), please call the rectory at 603.623.2604. We are

still seeking donations (gift cards prize 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!



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for †Peter O'Donnell by Bill and Judy Dupere.



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

**isles in the Aegean!** Interested? Mark your calendar, and watch for a full itinerary in March.

## *In Sympathy*

Please pray for †Helen P. Wickey, who was called home to the Lord on Feb. 19 and whose funeral Mass was celebrated last week by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

## WANTED!

Creative writers, poets, journalists, photographers and artists of all kinds hidden in the midst of Saint Raphael Parish. Though still "classified and confidential" at this time, information about an exciting parish project will appear in the bulletin in coming weeks. It's time to shed new light on the singular abilities God has bestowed within our church community. Keep your eyes open!

## Lent 2015: Christ is the 'end' of religious life is actually a good thing

Sometimes when you teach, you discover something – a previously unknown fact, a new theory or a **surprising insight or connection** – and whenever that happens, even the teacher can be as excited about the material as he hopes his class is. That kind of discovery occurred for me this past Tuesday, as I was preparing material for the first session in the winter series of **The Pastor's Class**. Because the Church has designated 2015-2016 as the **Year of Consecrated Life**, our adult education program begins with a series called **"Following Him More Nearly."**

These various special years have enabled the Church to focus, in the midst of her yearly cycle of activities, on particularly important mysteries or aspects of life in Christ: faith, the Eucharist, the priesthood, the family, Mary, Saint Paul and the new evangelization, etc. Consecrated life is important because it gives meaning and purpose to individuals who seek to live out a way of life shaped by the gospel, it gives witness to the Kingdom of God, it serves the Church and the broader human community and, as Pope Francis has emphasized, it is **meant to radiate joy** in the world.

The Church's emphasis on religious life is timely. In Europe, North America and Australia, the decline in vocations has been serious. **Many young people hardly know a sister, brother, nun or monk.** Yet religious life is a permanent mark of Christ's grace in the Church.

The title for our Saint Raphael program comes from the "Godspell" musical tune, "Day by Day." The singer, addressing the Lord, desires **"to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly [and] follow thee more nearly."** That is a challenge and an opportunity for all of us as baptized Christians, but it is a

particular focus for the vowed religious man or woman, those who profess publicly their commitment to follow the poor, chaste and obedient Christ in a community.

As a Benedictine monk for a quarter century – yes, I know, it makes me gulp too – I've had the opportunity to study religious life as Scripture presents, as various saints have described and lived it, as the Church teaches it. I spent a year in **novitiate**, which is rather like a year-long retreat when the novice spends time studying the nature of vocation, the purpose of religious life, the psychology and spirituality of membership in a religious community, the purpose and nature of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the particular history of the founder of the order and the rule of life he or she adopted, the relationship between the

religious community and the Church, the role of prayer and liturgy and the practical nature of life in a Benedictine, Franciscan, Dominican, Jesuit, Mercy, Holy Cross, Presentation, Saint Joseph or some other order and community.

By no means would I say that I "know it all" with regard to religious life and formation. Anybody who knows me could easily spot more than a few areas where I could **grow and develop in observance and understanding**. Nonetheless, at this stage, there is not a lot that surprises me. Until this past Tuesday!

Now, lest any reader think that I am about to unveil some deep, dark mystery, I must admit this is a **little discovery** – and one that others probably have made long before I discovered it. After all, bumping into America was a big deal for Columbus and his European friends and patrons, but for the native American Indians, it was, well, "Yeah, so what!"

One of the central Scriptural texts that supports the idea of religious life in Christian experience is to be found in **Matthew 19**, when the evangelist describes the encounter of the rich, young man with Jesus. Jesus has been preaching about the Kingdom of God, and a young fellow approaches him and asks what he must

do to be perfect. Jesus, Matthew writes, looks at the lad with love – something about his zeal and desire must have touched the Lord – and Jesus tells him that he must "go, sell your possessions, give to the poor and follow me."

The young man's face fell upon this news. He was saddened, the gospel tells us, because he had many possessions – and presumably he was either unwilling or unable to give them up. **And so he went away from Jesus.**

I've always found that encounter to be one of the saddest in the biblical narrative. Sometimes, I hope that the young man met Jesus again later in life and responded positively to his call, then after the Lord's death and resurrection went off to spread the Good News somewhere beyond Matthew's sources, and so his change of heart is known only to God. But,



of course, the alternative is possible too.

In any event, the Greek word for what the rich young man asks – **to be perfect** – is **"teleios."** I approach Greek pretty much the way a cat tip toes across a cold floor – carefully, gently and with a strong desire to beat

it. And yet Greek, the language in which the New Testament was first written, has fascinated me ever since my seminary days. But even I knew, as I looked at some of the biblical notes I was using, that **"teleios" offers more than the English term "perfect."**

"Perfect" is nice, of course. Who wouldn't want a perfect score, or a perfect photo, or a perfectly cold beer? And, of course, God is perfect – and pretty much everything else isn't. But "teleios," although it means complete in all parts, full or fully matured, or morally whole, also has a **dynamic quality** to it, because it is **related to "telos."** As the Greek word for "end" or "purpose" or "fully realized goal," "telos" and "teleios" remind us that religious life might be understood as a **vehicle, a roadway, a journey or a pilgrimage designed to bring us to our goal by a deliberate, intentional following of Christ.**

When a man or woman puts on a habit, signs a profession document or pronounces vows, he or she does **not** become **Brother or Sister Perfection**. But consecrated life puts us squarely on an intentional journey with Christ to the Father. Every Christian is on that same journey, but the man or woman in consecrated life has said publicly, and I hope gratefully, "I'm doing this because I believe God has called me to it. I trust in his grace and mercy. Pray for me. Encourage me. And every once in a while, please give me a nudge forward. My life is meant to be a **witness to the end, the 'teleios' we all seek** – the fullness of union with God in Christ."

Saint Benedict, as he so often does, focuses on the essential issue. In **Chapter 49 of the Holy Rule**, he tells the monk that he is to live his life as if every day were Lent. It may seem strange, but just as Lent looks forward to its end, Easter, so too our lives should look forward to their ultimate end, not simply death but death as the door to eternal happiness with the Risen Christ!

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



Benedictine nuns, Holy Trinity Monastery, Howton Grove, Herefordshire, England

# March 1, 2015

## Readings for the week of February 22, 2015

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12  
**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28  
**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31  
**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
**Sunday:** Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

## COME JOIN OUR BIBLE 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, Mar. 3 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.



The book group will meet on **Thursday, March 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 join us!

**INTERFAITH WOMEN OF NH** invites all women to join us for an exceptional faith-based art event with Fr. Iain MacLellan, O.S.B., Curator, and Margaret Dimock, Assistant Curator, hosted by **Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Arts Center at Saint Anselm College**, 100 St. Anselm Drive, in Manchester, on **Thursday, March 26**. The Chapel Arts Center is celebrating Saint Anselm's 125th anniversary with a special exhibition of Benedictine art. Leisurely explore the Gallery beginning at 5 pm. Program begins at 6 pm, consisting of an overview of the history and significance of the Chapel building and the mural decorations by the late **Fr. Raphael Pfisterer, O.S.B.**, pastor at Saint Raphael and professor of Art at Saint Anselm College. A reception will follow until 7:00 PM. Space is quite limited so we encourage you to RSVP early to [interfaithwomennh@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithwomennh@gmail.com) or call 669-5076.



**Homeschoolers...** On **Wednesday, March 11**, homeschooling families from the area will be hosting a lunch in the Saint Raphael Parish hall following the noon Mass. Parishioners and others attending the Mass are cordially invited to join us! All are welcome to attend the noon Mass in the chapel, followed by lunch in the parish hall.

## Weekly Collection

February 22, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,428.00
Offertory Make-Up	1,563.00
Offertory Loose	645.85
Offertory Online Giving	150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 5,786.85</b>
Stewardship	\$ 222.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 483.20
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 175.00</b>



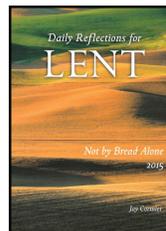
### Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, February 23, the Food Pantry served 16 families and gave out 24 bags of groceries. Be sure to **LIKE** us on our new Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food**

**Pantry / Hope Chest** to get news and updates!

### BELLE VOCEI presents Pergolesi's

**"Stabat Mater"** – performance with a chamber orchestra. Mezzo soprano **Karol Carroll** will be joined by soprano **Susan Papinsick** in this beautiful duet composition. The 13th century hymn was composed as a commemoration of the sorrows of the Virgin Mary at the Crucifixion and was traditionally performed on the Friday before Palm Sunday. The duo also will perform varied compositions of "Ave Maria" to complement the evening. The concert will be **Friday, March 27 at 7:30 pm** at the Chapel of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, 145 Lowell Street, Manchester, NH. Ticket donations are \$15 at the door, \$8 for children under 12. For additional information call [603-848-7986](tel:603-848-7986).



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



### 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.

# Second 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, 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](http://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 12, 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](http://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 celebrated 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.**