

# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Saturday, 28 March

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... Our Parish Family

### Sunday, 29 March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 am ... Suzanne Webb & family (living) by Anne Clark

9:30 am ... ☩Cleone Wright by Anne Clark

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... James Fay by Col. Andrew & Elizabeth Breuder

### Monday, 30 March

12 pm ... ☩Edward Bolton by Diane Bolton

### Tuesday, 31 March

12 pm ... ☩Maurice Doucet (60th Anniv.) by Eileen Audet

### Wednesday, 1 April

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... Deceased and living members of the Pictrowski family by Diane Pictrowski

### Thursday, 2 April

7 pm ... Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Friday, 3 April

3 pm ... Stations of the Cross

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

7 pm ... Mass of Communion & Veneration

### Saturday, 4 April

7 pm ... Easter Vigil

### Sunday, 5 April Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord

8 am ... Our Parish Family

10 am ... Easter Mass

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

### Sunday, 29 March

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

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

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

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

### Monday, 30 March

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

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tuesday, 31 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

### Saturday, 4 April

9—11:30 am ... Children's Way of the Cross—Chapel



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩**Mary & Tom Kilrain Sr.** by Peggy Kilrain.



**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? Flyers are located on our website and at the back of the church. Sign-ups are coming in, so please don't delay!



The Rectory will be **CLOSED** Monday, April 6 and will reopen Tuesday, April 7. There will be **NO NOON Mass Monday.** You are welcome to attend the 8:30 am Mass at Saint Anselm Ab-



Congratulations to **Saint Benedict Academy's principal, Michael McLaughlin**, on his newest endeavor. He will be joining the administration and faculty of **Austin Preparatory School** in Reading, MA as the Division Head for the Lower School in the fall. Austin Prep is a 6-12 independent Catholic

school in the tradition of Saint Augustine. We thank Michael for his fine service to SBA for the past two years and wish much success in the years to come.



**Got talent? If so, we need you and your talents! Saint Raphael is working on the first revival of its celebrated minstrel and musical**

**shows. The date for the New Saint Raphael Follies is THURSDAY, JUNE 25 AND FRIDAY, JUNE 26. Right now, please consider call the office with your act to be considered. Singers, dancers, jugglers, comics or whatever, please consider joining the show! This event can help Saint Raphael raise "fun" AND "funds." See what you and your friends can do! Watch for additional information to come.**

## Lent 2015: Granting forgiveness frees us for life beyond all measurement

For some years, the monastic community at **Saint Anselm** has given me the honor and opportunity to serve as a **trustee of our college**. As that work evolves, I find that, more and more, we talk about “**metrics**.”

If that’s a strange word to you, you’re not alone. Many of us in the academic world find it a little unusual. “Metrics” means **evaluating and measuring things** – money, performance, resources. The term comes from the business world, and particularly the business world’s encounter with information technology. Computerized data bases yield tremendous opportunities to **calculate, weigh, measure and compare**. “What are the metrics for this project?” “Can we get some comparative metrics before we initiate the program?” “Do the cost-benefit metrics justify the initial capital expenditure?”

When you think about it, we measure, calibrate, calculate and mark off a great deal of our lives – and that’s fine in many areas. If you’re making a cake, baking some bread, pouring out medication, building a house, engineering a bridge or investing in a firm, you need to know the metrics. But when it comes to **people and personal relationships**, an attitude that is always measuring, comparing, weighing or calculating is troubling. It makes us uncomfortable at best and can infuriate or dishearten if it expands or persists. Somehow, we recoil from metrics in a friendship or personal relationship.

When we’re pouring out our heart, and somebody checks his watch it’s insulting and hurtful. When we’re trying to show that we can do a job or take on the responsibility, we stand a good chance of loosing out if we compare ourselves. People who remind us **how many times we’ve already told a story or joke** are, well, irritating. Everybody repeats. And if we think that those who “friend” or “like” us on Facebook are any real indication of actual friendships, we’re in Neverneverland.

I don’t think Jesus much likes the metrics of personal relationship, either. When he answers Peter’s question in Matthew 18:21-35, Jesus reveals that **life in his Kingdom** is not about the number of good deeds or the number of bad actions we’ve committed. He’s not interested in a running tally of our swear words, nasty comments, lustful desires, greedy feelings or contemptuous looks. The Lord knows all about this distressing record, but he looks beyond it. He looks into our eyes, hearts, and souls to see who we really are, who we desire to be and



what we will do about it in his grace.

The ancient Law of Israel, as evolved from the Ten Commandments, focused on **the metrics of salvation**. It made a difference to the Pharisees, for example, how many times one washed hands ritually, or how many sheep, doves or even oxen the priests might slaughter in sacrifice. How much work one could do on the Sabbath or how many candles could one light on a gloomy night occupied a large part of the concerns of the elders of Israel. Somehow, they forgot that God is love – and **love does not count the price or tally the mistakes**. So when Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive a brother who has harmed him, Jesus teaches a lesson on forgiveness! And, strangely enough, he uses metrics!

“Peter came up and asked Jesus, ‘Lord, when my brother wrongs me, how often must I forgive him? **Seven times?**’ ‘No,’ Jesus replied, ‘not seven times; I say, 70 times seven times.’”

That works out to be 490 times. That’s a lot of forgiveness. Jesus is saying the number of times we forgive is limitless if the offender is truly sorry. But then when we look a little closer at what Jesus says and does, we discover that he is turning metrics, forgiveness based on the numbers, forgiveness that has a limit completely on its head.

If we inspect the number “seven” in Jewish thinking, we discover that the number has a **sacred quality**. One rabbi has listed at least 49 reasons why “seven” is sacred, and that’s seven times seven! The central reason for this sacred character lies in the opening of the Bible itself. God created the world in six days, then rested on the seventh – the formation of a week. That unit of time is invented by God himself. It suggests completion and wholeness – the world, and all that is in it, plus a spiritual time in which we

reflect on God and his love.

Over and over again, we find “**seven**” in **Israel’s experience**: seven times around the walls of Jericho; seven levels of heaven; seven blessings in many ceremonies; seven enemy nations; seven days of mourning; seven cycles then a jubilee year; seven years for a slave to gain freedom; and so it goes. Clearly, seven matters. But the metric mentality has been around for a long time; the Pharisees wanted to limit mercy and forgiveness, so seven became the upward limit of their willingness to reconcile.

Jesus has a much more expansive and compassionate view of forgiveness. He **explodes the number to 490 – an unlimited number of times**. Who could keep track that he was on, say, his 367th act of forgiveness?! When forgiveness is needed, the disciple of Jesus just grants it – otherwise, we have no claim on God’s forgiveness. We have no right to expect his mercy if we are unwilling to grant it to another. So often, we nurse our anger, hurt and resentment, all the baggage we collect from the past, when, in fact, Jesus calls us to newness of life! That’s the point of **the parable about the king’s wicked servant**, who gets his master to erase a debt he owes, but then discovers one of his fellow servants, who owes him a sum of money, and beats and throttles him, then has him hauled off to prison because the poor fellow cannot repay the funds. When the king discovers the man’s hypocrisy and treachery, he punishes him severely.

Indeed, Jesus goes beyond even his own teaching when he **forgives all mankind from the Cross**. “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do!” Here, men and women of every time and place receive divine absolution. They – we – receive the benefit of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice, and as a result, we have the possibility of escaping the permanent effects of sin and death if we believe, love and are faithful.

Poor old Saint Peter! Jesus uses his faulty thought to make **God’s love and the beauty of his plan of salvation crystal clear**. Metrics – the art of measuring, weighing and limiting – has its place, but when we are speaking about human beings, our brothers and sisters, when we are considering ourselves, there is a metric for metrics – and that is **the calculus of love**. Love overwhelms our limited categories and it defeats our resentment and revenge. And forgiveness frees us to enter the wonder of God’s endless and boundless love.

# March 29, 2015

## Readings for the week of March 29, 2015

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
**Thursday:** Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21  
**Lord's Supper:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
**Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42  
**Saturday:** a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13 -14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22;  
 b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;  
 c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;  
 d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;  
 e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;  
 f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;  
 g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;  
 h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7  
**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35



### Easter flower remembrance

Donations for Easter flowers will be accepted in the name of deceased loved ones and friends, as well as the living.

While all contributions are welcome, a \$20 donation per lily per name is recommended.

Include name along with the donation and send in your offerings to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket. Look for the Easter Flower envelope in your packet or use your own. A list of the donors will be published during the Easter season. Your generosity is appreciated as the gift is above and beyond your Easter offering. Thank you!



Please join the book discussion group in honoring the Year for Consecrated Life by reading *In This House of Brede*. Rumer Godden's novel follows the spiritual journey of a successful professional as she leaves her worldly comforts to become a cloistered Benedictine nun. Her transition to life as a vowed religious encompasses a full range of joys and challenges, and can offer us a poignant model as we transition from Lent into the Easter season. The group will meet at **7 pm on Thursday, April 16**, in the church classroom. Books are available at the parish office for \$14.

## Weekly Collection

March 22, 2014

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,231.00
Offertory Make-Up	157.00
Offertory Loose	787.00
Offertory Online Giving	150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,325.00</b>
Stewardship	\$ 5.00
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 150.00</b>

*Thank you for your generosity!*

### Offering Envelopes



**PLEASE NOTE** our envelope company accidentally omitted your April 5 offertory envelope. Parishioners received an Easter offertory envelope, but there will be TWO collections next weekend, one regular and one for Easter. We thank you for your understanding — and your generosity at Easter. It is of major assistance.



### Food Pantry

### Saint Raphael Food Pantry

This past Monday, March 23, the Food Pantry served 25 families and gave out 35 bags of groceries. We are in need of baked beans 28 oz, beef stew and Spaghettios. Be sure to LIKE us on our new Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food Pantry / Hope Chest** to get news and updates!

### In Sympathy

Please pray for †Eileen (Grandmaison) Doucet Audet, called home to the Lord March 21, and whose funeral was celebrated last week by P. Jerome, O.S.B.



The Saint Raphael Parish Respect Life Committee is offering Novena Prayer cards, which will be available at the entrances of the main church and chapel. **The Novena for the Protection of all pre-born children will take place beginning on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25 and last through April 2.**

**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)).

# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Join us for

## Children's Way of the Cross



*Visit with Jesus,  
experience His peace and love*

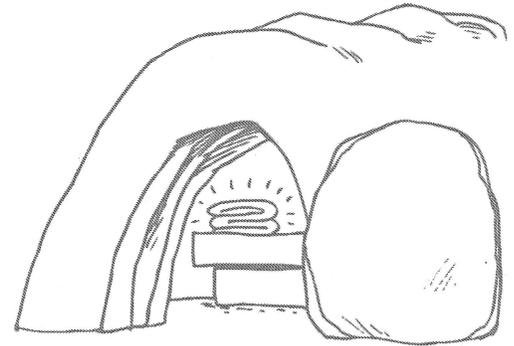
Bring your children the first Saturday of the month to pray, sing, listen to a story, do a seasonal craft, share snacks, and visit with Our Lord. This coming month we'll walk with Jesus through the **Way of the Cross**, and we'll learn how Jesus is with us through our own trials and offers us the joy of Easter.

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00-11:30am**

**St. Raphael Church Chapel**

**103 Walker St. Manchester NH**



Please use the chapel entrance. For questions contact us at 603 623-2604 or [secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com](mailto:secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com).