

III Sunday of Easter



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, 18 April

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ✠Ralph Simone (7th Anniv.) by Kerri Stanley

Sunday, 19 April

III Sunday of Easter

7:30 am ... ✠Rita DeCotis by Dottie DeCotis

9:30 am ... Our Parish Family

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Dorothy Evelyn O'Brien by Virginia Kelly

Monday, 20 April

12 pm ... ✠John Daly & ✠Ron Huot (3rd Anniv.) by Jane Daly

Tuesday, 21 April Solemnity of Saint Anselm of Canterbury

12 pm ... ✠John & ✠Theresa Grady by the Pereira family

Wednesday, 22 April

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ✠Marjorie Luti by Lucille Laflamme

Thursday, 23 April

Saint George and Saint Adalbert

8:30 am ... ✠Eileen Audet by Diane & Raymond Francoeur

Friday, 24 April

Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ✠Phil Beland by Linda Beland

Saturday, 25 April

Saint Mark, Evangelist

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ✠Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sunday, 26 April

IV Sunday of Easter

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... Catholic War Veterans, living and deceased

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Nelson R. Kelly by Virginia Kelly

Sunday, 19 April

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

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

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

Monday, 20 April

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

6:30 pm ... St. Patrick Committee Meeting

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tuesday, 21 April

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

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

Wednesday, 22 April

7:30 pm ... Choir Rehearsal



Prayers for Life invites you to participate in the Quilt of Prayer. The New Hampshire quilt, blessed by Pope John Paul II, will be at Saint Raphael Parish **April 6 through April 27**. It contains the names of individuals who have prayed fifty 5-decade Rosaries (in addition to their usual rosary commitments) exclusively for pro-life intentions. Yellow forms with information on having your name adorned to the New Hampshire quilt are located at the back of the church. You are invited to pray the Rosary and to bear witness to our Faith, which cherishes the sanctity of all human life.



Grief and Loss Group

Saint Raphael Parish is hoping to start a support group for those who have lost a loved one in the past few years and want support in their journey of grief. This six-week structured support group would meet on Tuesday afternoons, from 2:30-4 pm, **May 5 through June 9**, and would be facilitated by Therese Dame and Anna Wallich. Please call Therese at 647.2283 or Anna at 623.2604 if you would be interested in participating in this group.

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠Linda Paris by Bill Paris.



Roots/Routes of Faith! Following in the Footsteps of Saint Paul— Saint Raphael is planning a **2015 pilgrimage to**

Greece and Turkey. The trip **Oct. 7-18** will include **three nights at sea** as we **cruise key Greek isles in the Aegean!** Interested? Flyers are on website and at back of church. Sign-ups are coming in, so please don't delay!



Easter 2015 Many thanks to those who assisted in our Easter celebrations or sent cards and remembrances to me or the parish staff. May the Risen Christ bless you all! Alleluia! P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor.

Weekly Collection

April 12, 2015

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,376.00
Offertory Make-Up	270.00
Offertory Loose	425.65
Offertory Online Giving	210.00
Total:	\$ 4,281.65
Stewardship	\$ 2,097.00
Stewardship Loose	243.00
Total Stewardship:	\$ 2,340.00
Easter	\$ 85.00
Food Pantry	\$ 615.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Readings for the week of April 19, 2015

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29; **Tuesday:** Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35; **Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40; **Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51; **Friday:** Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59; **Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20; **Sunday:** Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

Paschal Mystery per-

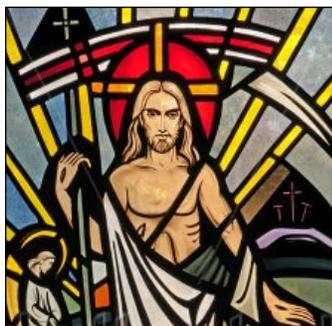
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When Americans woke up 150 years ago this past Wednesday, they were shocked to discover that their president had been shot and was dying. In fact, by 7.30 a.m. on April 15, 1865, **President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)**, 16th chief executive of the U.S., was already dead, having been shot at point blank range by Confederate sympathizer **John Wilkes Booth**, one of the nation's most well-known actors. The president, left unguarded momentarily while he watched the play "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre in Washington.



Why anniversaries on the "zeroes" and the "fives" capture our attention the way other annual commemorations do not has always been a minor mystery to me, but so it goes. I was surprised, however, that the **sesquicentennial** of President Lincoln's assassination did not capture more attention. Maybe the country is so busy amusing itself with technology or distressed over difficult news at home and abroad that nobody had the opportunity to attend properly to the moment.

Here at Saint Raphael – not yet the epicenter of American life – we did remember at the noon Mass on Wednesday. We had a little display featuring a picture of the seated Lincoln



by sculptor **Daniel Chester French** in the **Lincoln Memorial**, an American flag amid the Easter flowers and a short homily on the connection between President Lincoln and the Paschal Mystery.

Lincoln and the Civil War. Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln and the preservation of the Union. Those all make fair topics for consideration, though probably not in a homily. But **Lincoln and the Paschal Mystery?** That seems a little strange. But old Abe and every single man or woman who ever lived or ever will live is, in fact, a proper subject for discussion of the Paschal Mystery that we celebrate in every Mass and that we mark during the **Great 50 Days of the Easter season**.

Abraham Lincoln was not a Catholic, and he probably shared some suspicions about "Romanism" that were common in mid-19th century America as wave after wave of **European immigrants**, many Catholic, came to our shores. But Lincoln was a Christian,

though not closely associated with any particular Protestant denomination. But he certainly understood the importance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – and to a large extent, I believe, we can see **a connection** between that **central mystery of faith and the public values he upheld** during the most dangerous of times and the truths that are at the heart of Easter.

The **first value** we associate with Lincoln is the defense of **freedom**. Although reluctant to overturn a settled national system that allowed slavery, Lincoln believed in human dignity. When the South went into rebellion, his Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves in the secessionist states, but became the basis for the eventual elimination of slavery through the 14th Amendment. The chains of forced servitude that held millions of African-Americans in bondage were shattered, although the manacles of social and legal injustice managed to cling to their wrists for another century or more. The freedom that comes to us in Christ, a freedom from the permanent effects of sin and death, carries even deeper meaning than legal freedom. Christ's liberating power reconciles us with God, open a conduit of divine grace for us and gives us hope for eternal happiness with God and reunion with those we love.

Unity is the second value President Lincoln upheld. He understood that the South had many legitimate grievances with the North, but he believed that each state upon entering into the Union had ratified a covenant of solidarity and united effort with every other state. He could see that together we are stronger, more prosperous and freer than being separate and at odds. Lincoln saw that

the nation is not just a business deal or a political arrangement in which we try to get the upper hand, but it embodies a vision of freedom and dignity for us as individual citizens and as a society. Secession, for all the truths of that "state's rights" arguments made, introduces a principle of division and decay, denying in the bargain the principles of democratic change. If states take their marbles and go home, everyone loses the game. In Christ, we see **an even more sublime understanding of unity**, for Christ gives up his life for our freedom and union with him in the waters of Baptism. Our life in Christ draws us into the life of the Trinity, as we are reconciled to the Father and empowered by the Spirit. Christ's power to unify likewise extends to unite us to believers of every time and place.

The third and final value President Lincoln upheld was **justice tempered by mercy**. Murdered before he was able to implement his plans for Reconstruction after the war, Lincoln's approach of fair and equitable rebuilding was succeeded by an approach that belittled, exploited and oppressed the South. We see an example of Lincoln's approach in the way **Gen. Ulysses S. Grant** accepted the surrender of Confederate **Gen. Robert E. Lee**, assuring him and his men of dignity even in defeat. That approach, alas, did not emerge in the years of Reconstruction, thus squandering any opportunity to knit the nation together harmoniously. In turn, it promoted more than a century of Jim Crow laws in voting, employment and housing that exploited and suppressed African-Americans. For us, as Christians, the very act of our redemption in the blood of Christ is justice tempered by mercy. In justice, **a man of infinite value**, a God-Man, pays the price of human sin of all time. But Jesus, though **fully human**, is also **fully divine** – a merciful gift to mankind from God, his own presence among us.

We cannot know the spiritual heart of Lincoln, but there is little doubt that Christianity shaped his self-understanding and his public life. At the center of Christian faith is the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising to new life of Christ, who extends his mercy and grace to each of us. As we mark the 150 years since President Lincoln's death, that same Paschal Mystery gives us hope for him and ourselves. © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.