

# VII Sunday of Easter



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Saturday, May 16

**3:30 pm** ... Confession & Reconciliation  
**3:35 pm** ... Rosary  
**4 pm** ... Maureen Harlow (32nd Anniv.) by the Biser & Harlow Families

### Sunday, May 17

### VII Sunday of Easter

**7:30 am** ... ☩Anne Foley by Connie Raymond  
**9:30 am** ... Our Parish Family  
**4:30 pm** ... Confession & Reconciliation  
**5 pm** ... ☩Christian de Bellerive (4th Anniv.) by the Chalifour and Hunter families

### Monday, 18 May

### Saint John I

**12 pm** ... Carlotta Robbins (living) by a friend

### Tuesday, 19 May

**12 pm** ... ☩Eileen Audet by Alice & Jacques Raymond

### Wednesday, 20 May

### Saint Bernadine of Siena

**11:30 am** ... CONFESSIONS CANCELED  
**12 pm** ... ☩Jean E. Finn by Margaret-Ann Moran  
**12:35 pm** ... Rosary

### Thursday, 21 May

### Saint Christopher Magallanes

**8:30 am** ... ☩Leo & ☩Doris Moreau by her family

### Friday, May 22

### Saint Rita of Cascia

**5:30 pm** ... Confession & Reconciliation  
**6 pm** ... ☩Phil Beland by Linda Beland

### Saturday, May 23

**3:30 pm** ... Confession & Reconciliation  
**3:35 pm** ... Rosary  
**4 pm** ... ☩Betty, ☩Ernie, ☩Ernest and ☩Anna Heidenreich by Al & Barbara Heidenreich

### Sunday, May 24

### Pentecost Sunday

**7:30 am** ... Our Parish Family  
**9:30 am** ... ☩Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family  
**4:30 pm** ... Confession & Reconciliation  
**5 pm** ... ☩Romain & ☩Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

### Sunday, 17 May

**10:30 am** ... Coffee and Doughnuts—Parish Hall  
**10:45 am** ... Children's Choir

### Monday, 18 May

**7—8 pm** ... Food Pantry

### Tuesday, 19 May

**12:30 pm** ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf. Room  
**2:30—4 pm** ... Grief & Loss Group—Church Conf. Room

### Sunday, 24 May

**10:30 am** ... Coffee and Doughnuts—Parish Hall  
**10:45 am** ... Children's Choir



Congratulations to our parishioners who were Confirmed in faith by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit by Bishop Peter A. Libasci, with P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor of Saint Raphael, concelebrating, last Saturday, May 9 at Parish of the Transfiguration:

Courtney Lynn Cashin, Elizabeth Chelsea Ducharme, Paul Jacob Piana, and Abigail Hanora Smith.



### The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue

We want you to be a part of our revival of Saint Raphael's Follies Show  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 25 AND FRIDAY, JUNE 26. We need volunteers**

in several areas, so if you don't want to do an act, please consider helping out somewhere else. Volunteers are needed in the following capacities: **TICKETS**—printing, distribution, sales, prizes; **RECEPTION**—intermission, Chinese auction; **PROGRAM**—retail ads, tribute ads, printing, etc. Call Kerri at the rectory at 623.2604 for more information and see where your best talents can be applied for the success of our show! For those who are performing, you should begin to practice on your own. Susan Papinsick, our director, will following up with you regarding more structured practices.



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩Mary & ☩Frank Kenney by Anne Kenney.

## In Sympathy

Please pray for ☩Denise M. Soucy, who died Jan. 26 and ☩Ruth Jennings, called home to the Lord May 9. Their funerals were celebrated last week by

P. Jerome. Please also keep in your prayers ☩Charlie Young, who passed away May 14 and whose funeral will be celebrated next week.

**Cardinal Lacroix Scholarship** — Congrats to parishioner **Bill Sheehan**, Trinity High math teacher, who was a featured speaker at the benefit dinner May 14 initiating a Trinity scholarship program in honor of THS '75 alumnus Gerald Cyprien Cardinal Lacroix, cardinal archbishop of Quebec, Canada. Saint Raphael contributed \$500 to the fund from our Stewardship Fund. The dinner raised about \$43,500.

## Iraqi Dominican sister says to Congress, 'Help us go home'

*The following is testimony presented before the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, which conducted hearings on "Ancient Communities under Attack: ISIS's War on Religious Minorities." Sister Diana Momeka, O.P., of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Mosul, Iraq, (photo below) spoke to the committee this past Wednesday, May 13, 2015.*



Thank you Chairman Royce and distinguished Members of the Committee, for inviting me today to

share my views on Ancient Communities Under Attack: ISIS's War on Religious Minorities. I am Sister Diana Momeka of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, Mosul, Iraq. I'd like to request that my complete testimony be entered in to the record.

In November 2009, a bomb was detonated at our convent in **Mosul**. Five sisters were in the building at the time and they were lucky to have escaped unharmed. Our prioress, Sister Maria Hanna, asked for protection from local civilian authorities but the **pleas went unanswered**. As such, she had no choice but to move us to **Qaraqosh**. Then on June 10, 2014, the so-called **Islamic State in Iraq and Syria or ISIS**, invaded the Nineveh Plain, where Qaraqosh is.

Starting with the city of Mosul, ISIS overran one city and town after another, giving the Christians of the region three choices: **1.) convert to Islam; 2.) pay a tribute (Al-Jizya) to ISIS or 3.) leave their cities (like Mosul) with nothing more than the clothes on their back**. As this horror spread throughout the Nineveh Plain, by August 6, 2014, **Nineveh was emptied of Christians**, and sadly, for the first time since the seventh century AD, no church bells rang for Mass in the Plain of Nineveh.

From June 2014 forward, **more than a 120,000 people** found themselves displaced and homeless in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, leaving behind their heritage and all they had worked for over the centuries. This uprooting, this theft of everything that the Christians owned, displaced them body and soul, stripping away their humanity and dignity.

To add insult to injury, the initiatives and actions of both the Iraqi and Kurdish governments were at best modest and slow. Apart from allowing Christians to enter their region, the Kurdish government did not offer any aid either financial or material. I



*Young Christian family flees Mosul*

understand the great strain that these events have placed on Baghdad and Erbil however, it has been almost a year and Christian Iraqi citizens are still in **dire need of help**. Many people spent weeks in the streets before they found shelter in tents, schools and halls.

Thankfully, **the Church in the Kurdistan region** stepped forward and cared for the displaced Christians, doing her very best to handle the disaster. Church buildings were opened to accommodate the people; food and non-food items were provided to meet the immediate needs of the people; and medical health services were also provided.

Moreover, the Church put out a call and many humanitarian organizations answered with aid for the thousands of people in need. Presently, **we are grateful** for what has been done, with most people now sheltered in small prefabricated containers or some homes. Though better than living on the street or in an abandoned building, these small units are few in number and are crowded with three families, each with multiple people, often accommodated in one unit. This of course increases tensions and conflict, even within the same family.

There are many who say "Why don't the Christians just leave Iraq and move to another country and be done with it?" To this question, we would respond, **"Why should we leave our country – what have we done?"**

The Christians of Iraq are **the first people of the land**. You read about us in the Old Testament of the Bible. Christianity came to Iraq from the very earliest days through the preaching and witness of Saint Thomas and others of the Apostles and Church elders.

While our ancestors experienced all kinds of persecution, they stayed in their land, building a culture that has served humanity for the ages. We, as Christians, do not want, or deserve to leave or be forced out of our country any more than you would want to leave or be forced out of yours. But the

current persecution that our community is facing is **the most brutal in our history**. Not only have we been robbed of our homes, property and land, but our heritage is being destroyed as well.

ISIS has and continues to **demolish and bomb our churches, cultural artifacts and sacred places** like Mar Behnam and his Sister Sara, a fourth century monastery and Saint George's Monastery in Mosul. Uprooted and forcefully displaced, we have realized that ISIS' plan is **to evacuate the land of Christians and wipe the earth clean of any evidence that we ever existed**. This is cultural and human genocide.

The only Christians that remain in the Plain of Nineveh are those who are held as hostages. The loss of the Christian community from the **Plain of Nineveh** has placed the whole region on the edge of a terrible catastrophe. Christians have for centuries been **the bridge that connects Eastern and Western cultures**. Destroying this bridge will leave an isolated, inculturated conflict zone emptied of cultural and religious diversity. Through our presence as Christians, we are called to be a force for good, for peace, for connection between cultures.

To restore, repair and rebuild the Christian community in Iraq, the following needs are urgent: 1.) **Liberating our homes** from ISIS and helping us return; 2.) A coordinated effort to rebuild what was destroyed – roads, water and electrical supplies, and buildings, including our churches and monasteries. 3.) Encouraging enterprises that contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq and inter-religious dialogue. This could be through schools, academics and pedagogical projects.

I am but one, small person – a victim myself of ISIS and all of its brutality. Coming here has been difficult for me – as a religious sister I am not comfortable with the media and so much attention. But I am here and I am here to ask you, to implore you for the sake of our common humanity to help us. **Stand with us as we**, as Christians, have stood with all the people of the world and help us. We want nothing more than to go back to our lives; we want nothing more than to go home.

Thank you and God bless you!

# May 17, 2015

## Readings for the week of May 17, 2015

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33  
**Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a  
**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19  
**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26  
**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19  
**Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25  
**Sunday:** Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39  
 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15



Our 2015 Catholic Charities fundraising drive has begun. Our **goal** this year is to raise **\$30,000 and we have raised \$450 to date!**

Your gifts to Catholic Charities tackle a wide variety of social challenges; together they strengthen families, friends and neighbors and build independence and restore dignity. Your contribution will support all of the vital services we offer, such as food distribution for the hungry, parenting and prenatal education for first time at-risk parents, professional, licensed counseling for those in times of distress, and more. Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Please take a moment to complete the form and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to Catholic Charities. You can give through a pledge, become a sustaining donor with a monthly gift or give once a year. **Every dollar is important. Every gift brings hope.** As you're considering your donation, please keep in mind that we serve 1-in-13 people throughout NH, and to do that, we need your continued support. Thank you!



**Pentecost Mass** will be celebrated during the May 23-24, 2015 weekend Masses. Please remember to wear red!



**Trinity Sunday Mass and breakfast**  
 Members of this year's First Communion and Confirmation classes, as well as those welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil, will be honored during the **9:30 am Mass** on the **Most Holy Trinity, May 31**. Following the Mass, they will be guests of honor at our parish **continental breakfast** immediately afterwards. Please join us!



**Baby Bottle Fundraiser**—Bottles are available for distribution at the back of the church for Saint Raphael Respect Life Committee's 6th Annual Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Bottles should be returned during the Father's Day weekend Masses, June 20-21. Thank you for helping to make this a success again this year!

## Weekly Collection

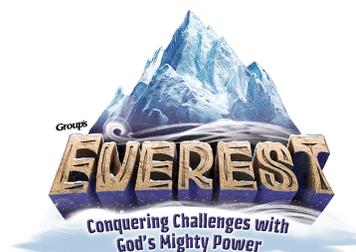
**May 10, 2015**

Offertory Regular	\$ 3,622.00
Offertory Make-Up	744.00
Offertory Loose	7,486.95
Offertory Online Giving	210.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,062.95</b>
Stewardship	\$ 2,141.00
Stewardship Loose	183.75
Stewardship Online Giving	10.00
<b>Total Stewardship:</b>	<b>\$ 2,334.75</b>
Ascension of the Lord	\$ 50.00
Food Pantry	\$ 464.99

*Thank you for your generosity!*



**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, May 11, the Food Pantry served **19 families** and gave out **27 bags** of groceries. We are in need of soup, macaroni & cheese, and Spaghetti's. Be sure to **LIKE** us on our new Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food Pantry / Hope Chest** to get news



**Save the date!**  
**VBS... Saint Raphael's ever popular Vacation Bible School is coming!** This year,

VBS will take place July 13-17 from 9 am—12 pm. This year's theme is "Everest—Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power". We are enlisting volunteers and participants and applications will be



A shout out to **Sydney Mailloux**, who is a homeschooled student graduating this year. She will attend Northeast Catholic College in Warner in the fall. Sydney has

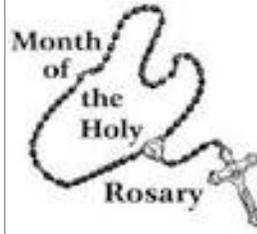
been a longtime altar server for Saint Raphael's and has served as altar server trainer. Congratulations, Sydney! Do you have a graduate in the family? Please email the office at [secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com](mailto:secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com) with the graduate's school and further endeavor plans so we can share it with our parishioners.

# VII Sunday of Easter

## 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](http://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.**

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A reminder to our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist serving at the 4 pm Vigil Masses for the month of May that we will pray the Rosary at 3:35pm. Please plan to arrive on time so that you may lead the Rosary on the day you are serving. The Rosary will also be said on Wednesdays during May following the 12:30pm daily Mass. Thank you!



**Healing Mass for the Sick** All those who are sick in any way are invited to a Healing Mass at Saint Augustin Church, corner of Spruce and Beech Streets on **Saturday, May 23 at 4 pm.**



**Special Collection for Victims of Nepal Earthquake** Bishop Libasci is asking parishes to take up a special free will offering the weekend of May 30-31 to support recovery efforts in Nepal following last month's devastating earthquake. Donations collected will benefit Catholic Relief Services. Thank you for responding to this plea and please keep all of them in your

prayers.



**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!

## Summer Program at Northeast Catholic College

Room is still available for the Summer Program at Northeast Catholic College in Warner, NH! The Collegiate Summer Program offers participants the opportunity to study theology, philosophy, literature and political science. During the summer program, students also attend daily Mass and enjoy sports, socials and day trips including hiking and canoeing. The program is for students who will be entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school in the fall of 2015. It is also open to students who have just graduated high school. The Collegiate Summer Program is a two-week session that runs from **Sunday, July 26 – Saturday, August 8, 2015.** Register today at [www.NortheastCatholic.edu](http://www.NortheastCatholic.edu)! For more information, contact the admissions office at [admissions@northeastcatholic.edu](mailto:admissions@northeastcatholic.edu) or [603.456.2656](tel:603.456.2656).



## Homeschoolers... On Wednesday, May 20,

homeschooling families from the area will host a lunch in the Saint Raphael Parish hall following the noon Mass.

Parishioners and others attending the Mass are cordially invited to join

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.***



Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael!

**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)).