

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, 6 June **Saint Norbert, Bishop**

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ☩Dr. Robert Allard by his mother

Sunday, 7 June **The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ**

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... ☩Phil Beland by Linda Beland

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩James McGrath by Margaret-Ann Moran

Monday, 8 June

12 pm ... ☩Eileen Audet by Dennis & Eileen Smith

Tuesday, 9 June **Saint Ephrem**

12 pm ... ☩James Gray, Sr., by Eledia Venne

Wednesday, 10 June

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ☩Sylvia Hobbs by Cynthia Hobbs

Thursday, 11 June **Saint Barnabas, Apostle**

8:30 am ... ☩Cecile D. Moore by a friend

Friday, 12 June **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ☩Robert Hughes by Estella Hughes

Saturday, 13 June **Immaculate Heart of the BVM; St Anthony**

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ☩Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sunday, 14 June **VI Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 am ... ☩Joan Foley by Connie Raymond

9:30 am ... ☩Edward Heroux by Alexis Benner

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sunday, 7 June

10:30 am ... Coffee & Donuts—Parish Hall

Tuesday, 9 June

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

2:30—4 pm ... Grief & Loss Group—Church Conf. Room

Wednesday, 10 June

6 pm ... K of C Meeting—Parish Hall Classroom

Thursday, 11 June

7 pm ... Giving Hands Knitting Group—Church Conf Room

Sunday, 14 June

10:30 am ... Coffee & Donuts—Parish Hall



Two shouts out to juniors, **Abby Desrochers**, who received the Saint Anselm Book Award and **Nathan Podziewski**, who received the Thespian Of The

Year Award at the Awards Ceremony at West Manchester High School. Abby is the daughter of Kathryn Desrochers and granddaughter of Tony and Dorene (Hebert) Turner. Nathan who is also a long time altar server, is the son of Daniel and Lucy Podziewski. Congratulations to both of them on these wonderful achievements!

Lynne Hartshorn Memorial Blood Drive



Please mark your calendar for **Monday, June 15 from 1-6 pm** in the Parish Hall. Lynne was a longtime volunteer and receptionist at the American

Red Cross Center in Manchester. Her son, Peter Hartshorn and his wife, Melissa and their three children are parishioners of Saint Raphael. All blood donations would be greatly appreciated!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩Dot, ☩Ray, and ☩Roger Larochele by Lil Larochele.



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 our website and at back of church. **Still time to sign up!** **Invite your family and friends to join us!** Please call the rectory at 623.2604 if you are interested or have questions. Forms are available on our website, www.saint-raphael-



Sincere thanks from P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, to all parishioners who assisted in the wake, funeral and committal for Heritier Joachim Bosa Ngondu May 30 here at Saint Raphael. The prayerful solidarity and Benedictine hospitality so many demonstrated is both inspiring and characteristic of the people of this parish! Your goodness will be remembered by Heritier's family.

Saying farewell with faith in the Risen Christ to a young, promising life

The following column is derived from the homily delivered at Heritier Bosa's funeral Mass on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Because of the large number of French-speaking Congolese at the Mass, the homily was delivered in French. Many American members of the parish who attended the Mass have asked for it in English, and I am happy to oblige.

When we read the gospel passage from **John 11**, we can hear quite easily the anger and bitterness voiced by **Martha** and we can virtually see the desolation evidenced by **Mary**. Their beloved brother **Lazarus** has died, quite unexpectedly, and they are hurt and confused by the seeming failure of Jesus to prevent it. After all, **Jesus of Nazareth** is the great friend of their family at **Bethany**. To their home, the Lord Jesus has come as an honored guest, almost a family member, many times. Why did the Lord, who has worked miracles for so many others, not work a miracle for their brother?

That question can haunt us this morning as we say farewell to **Heritier Joachim Bosa Ngbondu**, a beloved son and brother, friend and community leader. The swimming accident which claimed Heritier **May 17** has left all of us – family, friends, members of the **Congolese community** and parishioners here at Saint Raphael – confused and broken. How is it possible that someone so young, vibrant, full of possibility could be snatched away just as he stood on the threshold of so much success and promise?

To Heritier's parents, **Joachim and Lembela**; to his brothers, **Teo, Isaac, Marcel and Joachim**; to his sisters, **Judith and Rebecca**; to his nieces, nephews, family members and friends, and especially to **the child due to be born soon** who will call Heritier "my father," I wish to express the sympathy of all of us at Saint Raphael and the promise of our prayers and encouragement. Please know that you are always wanted and welcome in this parish community.

The distress of Martha and Mary is real; it is exactly like the suffering we feel this morning. In **Lamentations 3**, the Prophet Jeremiah expresses his sense of loss and bitterness. His pain and emptiness are like wormwood and gall.

He feels the future is bleak and barren. But as he reflects on his circumstances, the prophet realizes that "the favors of the Lord are not exhausted. They are renewed each morning," so great is God's love and



sisters should have no doubt about the love and concern Jesus has for them and their brother after these answers are provided. First, as the gospel story unfolds, Jesus goes to the tomb of Lazarus and weeps. His sorrow at the death of his beloved friend is clearly evident. Second, Jesus works a miracle to the utter amazement of the crowd. He summons a man, dead for four days, to come forth into the light. When Lazarus returns to life again, he stumbles out of the tomb and Jesus commands that his burial cloths be untied and that he be freed. Third, and finally, Jesus tells Martha that "I AM the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

This statement demands of us faith. We cannot believe this claim of Jesus unless we too believe in his resurrection. Even the raising of Lazarus, powerful though it be, is a temporary resuscitation. In due course, Lazarus will die again. He too depends upon the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on **Easter morning**. Certainly, Jesus supports his claim with miracles, most especially the raising of Lazarus. But to claim that Jesus is the permanent victory over sin and death still requires **an act of faith**.

Heritier's life was filled with acts of faith. Life in the Congo, amid a brutal civil war, required faith. The images of a typical Congolese village in the countryside and downtown Manchester help illustrate

mercy. In fact, the prophet discovers he has good reason for hope.

To the distress of Martha and Mary, the Lord Jesus gives **three powerful answers**. The



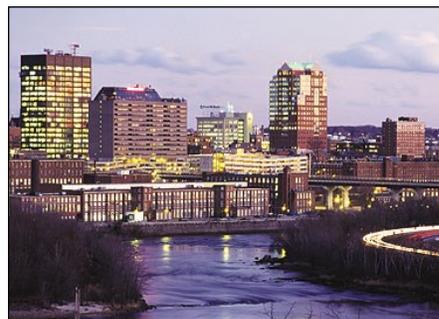
the nature of the demands such a change makes. Emigration and arrival in America required faith. The search for employment, at a bakery and at Lindt Chocolate, required hard work, determination and faith. Joy in the pending arrival of a child demanded faith.

And now, as we bid Heritier adieu, we require faith again – faith in a God who loves each and everyone of his sons and daughters in Africa, in America and around the world. We have **a promise that we shall see Heritier again!** A promise that, in God's mercy, he will be embraced by the conquering love of God in Christ Jesus! Saint Paul speaks of this promise when he writes his famous letter to the Romans. In chapter 8, he reminds us that in baptism, we share in the eternal, divine life of Christ. We are able to call the father of Jesus "**Abba, most loving Father**." Jesus has proved himself worthy of our trust over and over again. He gives us hope. He endows us with a vision of completion and fulfillment. He shows us through the love and gentleness of his teaching and through the power of his miracles that we can rely on his promise. He gives us the community of faith, the Church, in which to grow and develop. **We are summoned to support and encourage one another** amid our joys and our sorrows.

Heritier was 26. Only a few weeks before his death, he had celebrated his birthday. He demonstrated **intelligence, skill, courage and determination** in transitioning from the Congo to life in America. He was a responsible young man, helping to provide for his family. He was a hard worker who enjoyed his duties at work. He smiled often, was eager to assist others, and Heritier was especially close to his father. He always had time for a game of soccer!

In the Old Testament, **Joshua**, the man who would follow Moses as leader of God's people Israel, declares, "As for me, and my house, we will follow the Lord." In so many ways, that was the response of Heritier. May this good young man follow the Lord Jesus ... into the arms of the Eternal Father!

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



June 7, 2015

Readings for the week of June 7, 2015

Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-7; Ps 34:2-9; Mt 5:1-12
Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129-133, 135; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday: 2 Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 5:20-26
Friday: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Is 12:2-6; Eph 3:8-12, 14-19; Jn 19:31-37
Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Mt 5:33-37 or, for the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart, Is 61:9-11; 1 Sam 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 2:41-51
Sunday: Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16; 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34



Our 2015 Catholic Charities fundraising drive has begun. Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000 and we have raised \$2,050 to date!

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 Catholic Charities serves 1-in-13 people throughout NH. To do that, we need your continued support. Thank you!



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



Lifeline Screening will be at Saint Raphael Parish on Monday, July 6. This preventive health screening can detect your risk for serious disease and help to save your life and the lives of your loved ones through simple, painless, preventive health screenings. Watch for a flyer in the bulletin with registration information in the coming weeks.

Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael! We tweet, too (sometimes)! Find us at StRaphaelManch.



Weekly Collection

May 31, 2015

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Items include Offertory Regular (\$3,747.00), Offertory Make-Up (296.00), Offertory Loose (811.15), Offertory Online Giving (110.00), Total (\$4,964.15), Stewardship (\$35.00), Ascension of the Lord (\$5.00), Nepal Hurricane Relief Fund (\$1,449.90), and Food Pantry (\$1,306.00).

Thank you for your generosity!



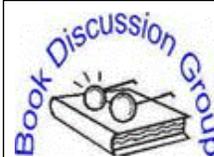
Saint Raphael Food Pantry

The food pantry was closed Monday, June 1, the food pantry served 30 families and gave out 40 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 and updates!



A shout out to Sarah Bennett, former altar server and catechist, who graduated from the University of Hartford magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in insurance &

finance with a minor in actuarial studies. She has just started her new job in Windsor, CT as a project manager for Vertafore Corp. Sarah is the daughter of parishioners Chuck and Denise Bennett. Congratulations, Sarah! Do you have a graduate in the family? Please email the office at secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com with the graduate's school and further endeavor plans so we can share it with our parishioners.



A Great Literary Event: later this summer, for the first time in over fifty years, publishers will release a new novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Harper Lee. In anticipation of this exciting event, the parish book

discussion group will read Lee's classic novel To Kill a Mockingbird. It's the perfect time to read or revisit this seminal work of American literature! We will meet on Thursday, June 18th, at 7:00 pm in the church conference room. Books are available at the parish office for \$15.



The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue

*NOW, TWO NIGHTS OF FUN, ENTERTAINMENT
AND DERRING-DO!*

WHO? YOU'LL BE SURPRISED, BUT YOU KNOW THEM ALREADY
WHAT? A TALENT SHOW FOR THE NOT-SO-FAINT-OF-HEART!

WHEN? THURSDAY, JUNE 25

OR FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015, 7.30 P.M.

WHERE? DANA CENTER., SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE

WHY? TO RAISE FUNDS AND FUN FOR THE PARISH!

HOW? TICKET SALES, ETC. ... AND YOUR HELP

WHOM & WHAT DO WE NEED RIGHT NOW?

- ▶ DONORS FOR DOOR PRIZE: LOTS OF GOOD STUFF
- ▶ VOLUNTEERS FOR PARKING AND CHILD CARE
- ▶ PROGRAM SPONSORS: FULL PAGE \$100, HALF PAGE \$50, QUARTER PAGE \$25, SHOUT-OUT PATRONS \$10, WITH PHOTO \$20, THREE-LINE MAX. AD COPY DUE AT PARISH OFFICE BY JUNE 19 (*DEADLINE EXTENDED*).



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