

XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Intentions
for the Week

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, 4 July

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... †Ed & †Peggy Moran by Margaret-Ann Moran

Sunday, 5 July

XIV Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am ... †Pauline Nadeau by Jaye Soderberg

9:30 am ... †Yvette Kilroy by Diane Bolton

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... †Mr. & Mrs. Alfred K. Hobbs, Jr., by Cynthia Hobbs

Monday, 6 July

Saint Maria Goretti

12 pm ... †Robert Hughes by Estella Hughes

Tuesday, 7 July

12 pm ... †Georges-Emile Blanchette by Lionel & Lil Coulon

Wednesday, 8 July

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... †Alfred K. Hobbs, Jr. by Cynthia Hobbs

Thursday, 9 July Saint Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions

8:30 am ... †Arthur E. Cooper by Anne Kenney

Friday, 10 July

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... †Henry Roy by Lionel & Lil Coulon

Saturday, 11 July

Saint

Benedict

3:30 pm ...

Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... †

Ann Lally Sheehan by Margaret-Ann Moran

Sunday, 12 July

XV Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

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

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Preservation of religious freedom by Mary Sullivan

Monday, 6 July

9—4 pm ... Lifeline Screening—Parish Hall

Tuesday, 7 July

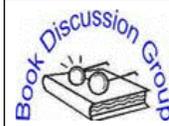
12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf. Room

Friday, 10 July

7 pm ... Follies & Revue Cast Party—Parish Hall



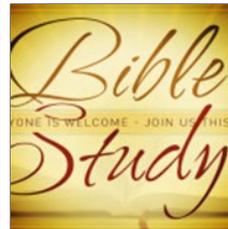
During July and August, the office will be closed Fridays. The rectory will be open Monday—Thursday between 9am and 4 pm.



It's Movie Night! Come join the parish book discussion group for a screening of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the 1962 film starring Gregory Peck. We'll meet on **Thursday, July 16, at 7 pm** in The Parish Hall Classroom. Please use the Ferry Street entrance. Hope to see



**WE WISH YOU ALL A
BLESSED AND HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE DAY**



In light of the encyclical *Laudato Si'* recently published by Pope Francis, Saint Raphael Parish will be offering a **Summer Bible Study** that takes a look at an expanded

notion of stewardship – if it's not just about giving money, what might God be asking of us? Each week, we will look at a different genre of writings from Scripture. **The Bible Study will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm, July 14-August 4** in the Parish Hall Classroom and will be facilitated by Pastoral Assistant Anna Wallich. Please let the Parish Office know if you are planning to attend!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for the 40th anniversary of Elmer & Jaye Soderberg by Jaye Soderberg.



We can't thank everyone enough for their participation in what turned out to be a truly great event. We grossed over \$6600 from ticket and ad sales. Photos have been posted on our website, and videos have already been posted to our Facebook page. We will have a cast

and crew ice cream party on Friday, June 10 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Those who were part of the cast and crew will get further details on this event.



On June 27, **Luke John McQuaid**, son of Matthew and Jamie (Vaughn) McQuaid, was welcomed into the Roman Catholic Church through the waters of Baptism by Fr. Jerome; on Sunday, June 28, **Abigail Marie Campbell**, daughter of Nathan and Kathy (Savard) Campbell, was baptized by Fr. Jerome. **Let us strive, by our word and example, to create an environment for them to come to know the love of God and the meaning of "being church."**

Finding God in the Garden (Again)

One of the blessings of my garden is an old, native, high-bush blueberry shrub. The blueberry predates me and all the permutations my garden has taken over the past thirty years - it has survived heavy rains, snow and ice and



drought and whatever bugs, deer, dogs and rodents might take an interest in it.

Although I have prettier things growing in my garden, I love that shrub because it speaks to me of character and depth and fruitfulness. The shrub is wiry and scraggly, no matter how much I try to prune it into a more refined shape. It is centered and grounded in the earth that nourishes it, and its growth depends on the gifts that God gives it through sun and weather. Commercial berries are plump and sweet, but they lack the intensity of the smaller native berries.

Sometimes a confluence of factors come together to help us see things in a new way; God is present in all things, and last year this blueberry bush provided me with that moment. For a few weeks, I was harvesting a bumper crop of berries, and I started thinking about how I had almost cut this shrub down years ago. It was at the edge of a woody area and had no fruit that I had noticed, so I actually didn't know what it was. It was a bit in the way of a flowering shrub I had wanted to plant, but I never got around to cutting it down that summer. Then I got dogs, who apparently were active enough to keep the birds away. Lo! and behold, there were blueberries, and for the past fifteen years they have been my summer companions.

Last year, as I was harvesting a bumper

crop of berries and thinking about the meaning of that shrub in my life, a Scripture story popped into my head that surprised me. But in a way, it made total sense since years ago I had almost overlooked something because it seemed

insignificant, and yet today it was bearing wonderful fruit.

As Jesus is in the Temple with his disciples, he notices how people give. "Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty." (Mk. 12:41-43).

Jesus wanted his disciples to understand that people who give out of their poverty are to be honored for their gifts, no matter how little it might seem. How many people had overlooked the widow and her gift that our Lord noticed? How many people compared themselves to her and came to a conclusion about her or themselves, negative or positive?

It's not that big gifts are to be despised for being big or easy because all gifts are good; it's simply that little gifts can be overlooked and we then miss something important in God's world, something that God is trying to tell us. As so often, Jesus turned conventional religious and social understanding on its

head: God honors the poor widow, and Jesus was making sure that the disciples had their priorities straight from the Church's very beginning.

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints." (2 Cor. 8:1-4) And to the Galatian church he wrote, "My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. (Gal. 6:1-3).

Too often, we undervalue the little things we and others do to share Christ's love, comparing ourselves to those who have more or less to give than we do. That's a fruitless path, because then we don't notice how *each* caring word spoken to build someone up, *each* action we take to reach out to others with Christ's love are pleasing to God.

We all need to be tended and pruned, and we need to help others with their tending and pruning. Plump and sweet berries are good, but they aren't the only way to go—Jesus wants us to know in our hearts that those little acts of loving kindness, just like the little berries, have a depth of flavor that brings great joy to those who receive them. It just takes noticing. © Anna Wallich

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

- Mark Twain

Readings for the week of July 5, 2015

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab; Mt 9:18-26;
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b, 15; Mt 9:32-38; **Wednesday:** Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19; Mt 10:1-7; **Thursday:** Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 10:7-15; **Friday:** Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mt 10:16-23; **Saturday:** Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Ps 105:1-4, 6-7; Mt 10:24-33; **Sunday:** Am 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Eph 1:3-14 [1:3-10]; Mk 6:7-13



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

On Monday, June 29, the food pantry served **36** families and gave out **62** bags of groceries. We are in need of **28** oz. cans of baked beans and soup. Be sure to LIKE us on our new Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food Pantry / Hope Chest** to get news and updates!

Weekly Collection

We are in the process of switching our census database system in accordance with diocesan guidelines and will have the June 21 and 28 financial reports included in next week's bulletin. Thank you for your patience while we go through our