

# XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Saturday, 18 July** **Saint Camillus de Lellis**

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

**Sunday, 19 July** **XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30 am ... ☩ Donald Leclerc (13th Anniv.) by Esther Leclerc

9:30 am ... ☩ Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

**Monday, 20 July** **Saint Apolinaris**

12 pm ... ☩ Frank Kenney, Sr. (69th Anniv.) by Anne Kenney

**Tuesday, 21 July** **Saint Lawrence of Brindisi**

12 pm ... ☩ Mary Perez by Connie Raymond

**Wednesday, 22 July** **Saint Mary Magdalene**

11:30 am ... Confession & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ☩ Romain & ☩ Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

**Thursday, 23 July** **Saint Bridget of Sweden**

8:30 am ... ☩ Bob McGrail by Dennis & Eileen Smith

**Friday, 24 July** **Saint Sharbel Makhluf**

~RECTORY CLOSED~

5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ☩ Gordon Robertson by Richard Panzieri

**Saturday, 25 July** **Saint James, Apostle**

3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

4 pm ... ☩ Bette Lloyd by Jack & Colleen Byrne

**Sunday, 26 July** **XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

9:30 am ... ☩ Monica Celeste Morin by Christine & Don Benner

4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ Anne & ☩ Vincent McHugh by Mary Sullivan

**Tuesday, 21 July**

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

7—8:30 pm ... Bible Study—Parish Hall Classroom

**Wednesday, 22 July**

12:45 pm ... Home school lunch—Parish Hall



**Homeschoolers...** On Wednesday, July 22, 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



### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Bishop Peter A. Libasci of Manchester invites all couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or beyond Wedding Anniversary (anytime during

2015), to attend a **Special Anniversary Mass**. This celebration will be Oct. 18, 2015 at 2 p.m., at Saint Anselm Abbey Church, Manchester. If you are celebrating such an anniversary, please contact the parish office **by Aug. 6, 2015**. We will need your **last name, first names and mailing address**. Please also indicate your special anniversary year.



Summertime livin' is easy! But we still need to attend Mass each week. If you are traveling, be sure to find the times of Masses in the area. You can check out [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) for such information. Likewise, let's remember to dress with care and consideration for our weekly worship.



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **Our Parish Family**.

*In Sympathy*

Please pray for parishioner ☩ **William Eafrazi**, who passed away May 10.



Catholic Charities

We have raised \$8,805 towards our \$30,000 goal. If you haven't yet donated, there is still time. Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Thank you!



**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, July 13, the food pantry served **32** families and gave out

**46** 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!

### Readings for the week of July 19, 2015

**Monday:** Ex 14:5-18; Ex 15:1bc-6; Mt 12:38-42;  
**Tuesday:** Ex 14:21 — 15:1; Ex 15:8-10, 12, 17; Mt 12:46-50; **Wednesday:** Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18; **Thursday:** Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Dn 3:52-56; Mt 13:10-17  
**Friday:** Ex 20:1-17; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23;  
**Saturday:** 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28; **Sunday:** 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15

## Weekly Collection

July 12, 2015

Offertory Regular	\$3,103.00
Offertory Make-Up	267.00
Offertory Loose	850.85
Online Giving	347.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,567.00</b>

Stewardship	\$2,036.00
Stewardship Loose	183.65
Stewardship Online Giving	60.00
<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$2,279.65</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 420.00</b>

## ‘Go up to a high place,’ says the Lord, to discover my beauty, power



This past week, we’ve been up in the mountains – the mountains of imagination. Situated as Saint Raphael is by the banks of the Merrimack, we know that the majestic

**White Mountains of New Hampshire** begin to rise somewhere between Concord and Laconia, but we can’t see them from here. We could see them, I bet, from the summits of **Uncanoonuc**, but even that friendly, twin-peaked mountain is invisible to us down here in Granite Square even though it is only a few miles to the west.

The mountains that have been occupying our attention this week make even the mighty Whites look tame. I speak of the **lordly Himalayas**, in particular, **Mount Everest**, at 29,029 feet the highest mountain in the world (*photo at right*). This year’s theme for our annual **Vacation Bible School** is

“Everest—Conquering Challenges with God’s Mighty Power.” Because mountains inspire awe, present challenges and command humility in their presence, they make a pretty good metaphor for God himself. **Genesis 1** suggests that God raised up the mountains on the fourth day of creation, and according to **Daniel 3:75**, the mountains and hills are summoned to give praise to the Lord.

As a proud and grateful native of the **Berkshires**, the mountainous region at the western edge of

Massachusetts, I suppose I’ve always been fascinated by mountains. I find them inspiring to behold, enjoy climbing them and always feel at the top of my game when I reach summit. Although I have climbed a few mountains in my day, no one is going to mistake me for a consummate hiker or climber. In our community at Saint Anselm, however, we do have monks who have an impressive record of mountain climbing. **Abbot Matthew Leavy, O.S.B.**, retired



abbot of the community, and **Br. Andrew Thornton, O.S.B.**, are the leading climbers among us. And among my journalist pals, **Jim Niebalski** has a tremendous record, having hiked the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine and accomplished a similar trek in the American and Canadian Rockies.

My mountain-climbing is a lot more modest. I can claim ascents up all or part of **Mount Greylock** at home, at 3,491 feet the highest peak in Massachusetts, **Pack Monadnock** and **Cannon Wicklow Mountains** and **Croagh Patrick** in Ireland.

Through mechanized conveyance, I’ve been up **Mount Washington**, at 6,288 feet, the highest in New Hampshire and all the Northeast U.S., **Monte Cassino** and **Subiaco** in Italy and **Mount Tabor, Mount Zion** and **Masada** in Israel. Each of these mountains has a

fascinating story to tell, of course, but almost any mountain has the capacity to inspire reflection on the power, beauty and presence of God in our world and in our lives. Likewise, even mountains of modest size demand respect and prudence. No wonder the national publishers of the VBS program chose the mountains!

Biblically, God reveals himself over and over again on or at mountain. At **Horeb**, God reveals himself in the burning bush and later reveals his holy name. At **Carmel**, he vindicates the faith of the Prophet Ezekiel and accepts his sacrifice in the face of the prophets of Baal. It is to **Mount Zion** that the

Prophet Isaiah calls Israel to look for hope in the exile. In the New Testament, Jesus shows his preference for mountains in several respects. He teaches the famous “Sermon on the Mount.” He retires to the mountains to fast and pray. He is **transfigured atop Tabor, crucified atop Calvary** and **ascends from Olivet**. Jerusalem itself, the holy city, is situated atop **Mount Zion**.

Consistently in the Old Testament, God encounters mankind on “high places.” Indeed, the word “altar,” the place where a sacrifice is made to the Lord, is connected to the Latin “altus,” a word for a “high place.” Being high up may frighten a few people, but most of us agree that it is where we can best worship and praise the Lord.

In the Christian era, **Benedictines** have been associated with hills and mountains. **Subiaco** (*photo at left*) and **Monte Cassino**, (*photo at top*) Saint Benedict’s first two major foundations, are in or atop mountains. The



musical and film *The Sound of Music* certainly makes the case for the Salzburg abbey’s location in the **Austrian Alps**. Even Saint Anselm is located on the **lower slopes of Uncanoonuc**, twin peaks at 1,324 (north) and 1321 feet (south) (*photo below*). And there is a medieval Catholic jingle that reads, “*Bernardus valles, montes Benedictus amabat, / Oppida Franciscus, celebres Dominicus urbes.*” The translation is “Bernard loved the valleys, Benedict the mountains, Francis the towns, Dominic the populous cities.” In other words, the Cistercians, made famous by Saint Bernard, were often found in the valleys, while Benedictine abbeys were usually situated **on or atop mountains**, while the Franciscans gravitated to the towns and the Dominicans to the great cities. There are exceptions, but generally the jingle truthfully describes the location and ministry each order preferred.

Given my own love for the mountains—I grew up with **Hoosac Mountain** in the backyard! —it’s obvious that I’m pretty happy with Saint Benedict’s real estate preferences. When we are “atop the world” in the mountains, we may not be any closer to God than anyone else, but the views, the perspectives, the lofty heights make us think so – and that is a huge help in lifting up our hearts and minds to the Lord!

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