

Last Sunday in Ordinary Time—Christ The King



Saturday, 21 November **Presentation of the B.V.M.**
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... †Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sunday, 22 November **Solemnity of Christ the King**
 7:30 am ... †Marion Lefebvre by Dottie DeCotis
 9:30 am ... Our Parish Family
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... †Francis T. O'Brien by Virginia Kelly

Monday, 23 November **Saints Clement I & Columban**
 12 pm ... †Romain & †Louise Marcoux

Tuesday, 24 November **Saint Andrew Dung-Lac**
 12 pm ... †Mary C. Kenney (45th Anniv.) by Anne Kenney

Wednesday, 25 November **Saint Catherine of Alexandria**
 6:30 pm ... †Edward Bolton by Diane Bolton

Thursday, 26 November
 11 am ... (Mass at Saint Anselm College)

Friday, 27 November
 5:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 6 pm ... †Albert Dudek by P. Jerome

Saturday, 28 November
 3:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 4 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sunday, 29 November **First Sunday of Advent**
 7:30 am ... †Charlie Young by Arlene Ackerson
 9:30 am ... †Luke Dambach by Joe, Christine & Jack Dambach
 4:30 pm ... Confession & Reconciliation
 5 pm ... †Dot Dery by Mary Dery

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **The deceased members of the Coulon and Doucet families** by Lionel & Lillian Coulon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 22 November
 10:30 am ... Christ the King Brunch —Parish Hall

Monday, 23 November
 6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr. 6-12—Parish Hall
 7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tuesday, 24 November
 12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Room

 **Book Discussion Group—** please join the Book Discussion Group in commemorating the 500th birthday of St. Teresa of Avila, the first woman to become a Doctor of the Church. We'll be reading St. Teresa's masterwork *The Interior Castle*, a beautiful treatment of the soul's journey to union with God. Copies are available at the parish office for \$15. We'll meet on **Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7pm** in the conference room at the back of the church. Please come early to enjoy some refreshments!



Thanksgiving Vigil Mass Recognizing that most families travel on Thanksgiving morning or prepare to welcome family into their home, Saint Raphael will celebrate a Community Thanksgiving Mass on **Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 6:30 pm. There will be NO NOON MASS.** As we give thanks to God for our many blessings, please **bring food** (boxed or canned goods) to Mass for the poor and needy in our community. Our Food Pantry helps anyone living on the West Side with food, regardless of religious affiliation.



The Parish Book of Remembrance is available in the chapel underneath the statue of Saint Joseph, patron of a happy

death, during this month. Please feel free to enter the name of your **recently deceased loved ones** and friends whom you would like to have remembered in prayer. If you have entered a name already, you do not need to re-enter it.



Please pray for parishioner †**Yolande Hamilton**, who passed away Nov. 15 and whose funeral Mass was celebrated last week by P. Jerome.

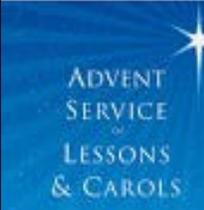


We wish all our parishioners and their families a very blessed Thanksgiving! **The rectory will be closed on Friday, November 27.**



DON'T BE ALONE THIS THANKSGIVING!

Come and share in a community Thanksgiving Dinner! All are welcome! A wonderful, traditional Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament is served in our Church Hall. There is no cost for the dinner; however, we do request that you RSVP by November 24th. The hall is handicapped accessible. Dinner will be served 12—2pm at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, 14 Elm St., Manchester. RSVP by Nov.



Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate its annual **Advent Evening of Music and Reflection** on **Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 7 pm.** We will have a variety of musical selections from various groups and individuals, interspersed with reflective readings related to the Advent season. Parishioners and members of the wider community are invited to a **candlelight evening of prayer and beauty as we open the Jubilee Year of Mercy in our parish.** Come and **bring your friends** to this beautiful tradition of Saint Raphael. All welcome!

Saint Raphael's 'new' church celebrates its golden jubilee

Parishioners and friends of Saint Raphael should take a bow, and bow their heads, today as we celebrate the **50th anniversary of the "new" church**. The building in which we worship together each week, where we celebrate daily Mass and where we mark important personal, family and parish milestones, was dedicated

half a century ago on **Aug. 1, 1965**. We're a little late, but our celebration is still heartfelt!

For many of us, the new church represents something **warm and comforting, sacred and beautiful, enduring and inspiring**. We are grateful to God for filling it with his presence, and proud of our own efforts and those of our family and parish forebears to sustain and enliven this

beautiful building.

The new church was designed to be solid, graceful and long-lasting, an impressive monument to the faith of a parish established here in Granite Square back in **1888**. Architecturally, the church is a 20th century interpretation of an Italianate-style church with a free-standing bell tower (*top photo right*). Benedictines had been in the forefront of liturgical renewal, so when the **Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)** promulgated its first decree, *Sacrosanctum Consilium*, the monks of Saint Anselm wanted the new church to fit the conciliar changes.

At the parish, the need for a new church had been obvious for some time. The existing worship space was on **the first floor of the original 1888 building** (*photo top left*). Parish numbers were growing, and even with several Masses each Sunday, the accommodation that Saint Raphael could provide was limited. Bedford, within the original parish boundaries, was growing and families were still relatively large. Saint Raphael School shared space in the same building. Everywhere, space was needed.

With permission to construct a new church and school from the **Most Rev. Ernest J. Primeau, S.T.D.**, bishop of Manchester, and **Abbot Gerald F. McCarthy, O.S.B.**, second abbot of Saint Anselm, and the support of the monastic community, **the Rev. Raymond A. Burns, O.S.B.**, longtime and beloved pastor of Saint Raphael, and a committee of parishioners began fundraising efforts in April of 1963 and **ground was broken on April 26, 1964**.

Students and their teachers, the Sisters of Mercy, moved into the new Saint Raphael School in December of 1964, while the **first Sunday Mass was celebrated in the new church on Mother's Day, May 9, 1965**. On June 14 of that year, Abbot Gerald presided over impressive ceremonies at the **consecration of the altar**. He was joined by Benedictine priests from the abbey, college and parish.



Formal dedication of the new parish church occurred on Aug. 1, 1965. Bishop Primeau presided over the blessing and delivered the homily, while the prior of the monastery, the **Very Rev. Joseph J. Gerry, O.S.B.**, was scheduled to celebrate the Mass. Due to his illness, however, **the Rev. Peter J. Guerin, O.S.B.**, current sub-prior and, for many years, dean of the college, substituted as celebrant.

Following the Mass, parishioners, monks and guests celebrated with a **dedication dinner** that included remarks by Bishop Primeau, **NH Gov. John W. King**, a parishioner, and Father Raymond. Parishioner **Robert Collins** served as master of ceremonies. The day concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the church and a clergy reception.

The new parish church and school were designed by **Andrew C. Isaak** of the Manchester architectural firm Koehler & Isaak, and both displayed the quality work characteristic of Benedictine enterprises. The dedication booklet lauds the all the designers and builders for **"their outstanding craftsmanship, earnest good will and unreserved cooperation."**

Through the efforts of **general contractors Blanchard Stebbins Inc.**, the new church rose with a steel frame supporting brick walls, with a pitched redwood ceiling. Six large gold and amber-tinted windows in the clerestory circle the nave of the **basilica-style church** to gild the interior in sunlight. On the east wall, a stained glass window depicts **the parish patron Saint Raphael the Archangel**, while above the choir loft, on the west wall, a window depicts the **symbols of our faith**: the crowned Chi Rho monogram of Christ the King, M for Mary, the hand of God, and the ram's horn of sacrifice.

In the sanctuary, a modern gabled oak reredos, or screen, rises behind the **green and white marble altar of sacrifice** and supports the **Blessed Sacrament altar**, situated at the center and apex of the sanctuary. Directly above, two angels flank the **large and elaborate crucifix**. These elements came from the old church, as did the tabernacle and other appointments. Light pours in from a clerestory above the sanctuary.

The church has a **traditional cruciform shape** and originally, its transepts were for general seating. In the 1980s, under the **Rev. Simon J. O'Donnell, O.S.B.**, pastor then, substantial alterations were made to respond to changing needs.

The **south transept**, featuring the **altar and statue of Saint Joseph**, became a **chapel** for

daily Mass and an enlarged crying room. It was separated from the nave and sanctuary by a massive ceiling-to-floor glass wall, with a **large bronze cross** on which are images of the four evangelists and the Lamb of God. There is also a **Byzantine-style icon cross**, sometimes used for processions, and an **icon of Saint Benedict**, both "written," at Father Simon's request.

In the **north transept**, featuring the **altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, the baptismal font stands at the head of a **new pool**, where partial or even total immersion baptisms can be celebrated and where wakes for parishioners might occur. The font and pool are important symbols of life in and with the Risen Christ and his offer of eternal happiness.

When nearby **Saint Patrick Parish** closed a number of years ago, two stained glass windows were given to our parish by the Diocese of Manchester. The **windows were restored and placed in lighted cabinets with the modern-style arch found throughout the church**, and so Saint Patrick and Saint Bridget rise on either side of the reredos while a **beautiful statue of Saint Raphael** and the **sanctuary lamp** stand on either side of the tabernacle.

The lower level contains a spacious **parish hall** with a fully equipped kitchen, space for meetings, meals and social gatherings, surrounded by **classrooms** for religious education and youth ministry. **The Pastor's Classroom**, with its **library**, is on the lower level too.

Any physical asset presents challenges, but for five decades, the "new" Saint Raphael has served our community well. It has been a spiritual home to **the community of faith gathered here under Benedictine care**. It has been a sign of God's presence on the West Side every time its bells ring out. It has welcomed bishops, abbots, priests and monks, governors, presidential candidates and visitors from near and far. It has sheltered the poor, troubled and distressed. Its walls have echoed the whisper of the prayers of old folks, the laughter of students, the thunder of our organ and the melodies of our singers.

A church is a physical manifestation of the riches of the Mystical Body, a **place of encounter with the Living God** who reveals himself in Christ Jesus who makes himself available in the Spirit in Word and Sacrament every day. As we mark our parish church's golden anniversary this weekend, let us declare with a joyful heart, "Deo gratias!"

© Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



November 22, 2015

Readings for the week of November 22, 2015

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28; Thanksgiving Day,
 Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



Catholic Charities

We have raised **\$18,211** towards are **\$30,000** goal to date. Envelopes are at the back of the church. Thank you! Saint Raphael will end its active campaign this

Holiday Craft Fair

HAWTHORN WOODS

Saint Marie's Craft Fair—please join us on **Dec. 5, from 9am—4pm**, 378 Notre Dame Ave., Manchester. There will be over 40 crafters

ranging from baking to sewing, jewelry, American Doll clothes, hand- made baskets, and more. Lunch will be served and children can have their photos taken with Santa. We will have raffles, too. Bring a friend and join us!

Weekly Collection

November 15, 2015

Regular Offertory	\$ 7,275.00
Make-Up Offertory	366.00
Loose Offertory	477.50
Online Parish Giving	110.00
Total	\$ 8,228.50

Stewardship	\$ 369.00
All Saints Day	\$ 12.00

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinth 9:7



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

On Monday, November 16, the food pantry served **67** adults, **38** children, and gave out **54** bags of groceries.

Be sure to LIKE us on our new

Facebook Page—**Saint Raphael Food Pantry / Hope Chest** to get news and updates!

Thank you to the **Cadet Girl Scout Troop 10986** of Bedford for their donation of fleece hats, mittens, scarfs to our Hope Chest!



Seeking Christmas Choir Singers. Do you like to sing? Would you like to sing in our choir for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass? Practice is held on Thursday night from 7:30-8:45 with a warm-up prior to 9:30 Mass. Please contact Susan Papinsick at spapinsick@comcast.net for more info or come to a rehearsal and check us out.



The Angels are coming! Our Christmas Angel Tree appeal will begin next week. You will find angels hung on the tree located at the back of the church. We appreciate your assistance in helping to make Christmas brighter for those in need.



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



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Thank you to those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please keep them in your prayers, especially:

BYRON BOISVERT	NICHOLAS DOHERTY
KENNETH BREUDER	DANIELLE WELLS
PHILIP BREUDER	JUSTIN WEBB
CAPT. MIKE BUTLER	SGT. JASON MATEO

If you have a member serving and would like to add his or her name to our list, please let us know!



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! There is still time for you to dedicate a new hymnal in memory or in honor of a loved one. Each \$20 donation covers

book purchase and a printed dedication inside the cover. Order forms can be found at the back of the church and are also available on our website, www.saint-raphael-parish.com. Thank you for your support of our parish!