

III Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions

Sat., January 23

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Ps 80:2-3, 5-7; Mk 3:20-21

4 pm ... ☩ Jeannette & ☩ Thomas Pitman by Maureen Houle

Sun., January 24

III Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19:8-10, 15; 1 Cor 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]; Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

7:30 am ... ☩ Deceased members of the Clement & Lively families by Ray Clement

9:30 am ... Our Parish Family

5 pm ... ☩ Scott Joubert by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Mon., January 25 Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

12 pm ... ☩ Maureen M. Lein by Margaret-Ann Moran

Tue., January 26 Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-18 or 9:1-22; Ps 24:7-10; Mk 3:31-35

12 pm ... ☩ Pauline Sarette by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Wed., January 27 Saint Angela Merici, Virgin

2 Sm 7:4-17; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30; Mk 4:1-20

12 pm ... ☩ Richard Taylor by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Thur., January 28

Saint Thomas Aquinas

2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14; Mk 4:21-25

8:30 am ... ☩ Romain Marcoux (6th Anniv.) by Diane Gallant

Fri., January 29

2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11; Mk 4:26-34

6 pm ... ☩ Lucille Grenon by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Sat., January 30

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41

4 pm ... ☩ Ronald Robichaud by Mary Robichaud

Sun., January 31 IV Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

7:30 am ... ☩ Sylvia Hobbs (37th Anniv.) by Cynthia Hobbs

9:30 am ... Eileen Smith (living) by Catechumen Steering Com.

5 pm ... ☩ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Theresa Johnson** by her family.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. January 24

10:30 am ... Coffee & Doughnuts

Mon., January 25

6:30—8 pm .. Youth Ministry/Gr. 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue. January 26

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

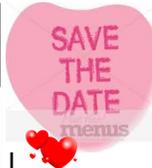
Thur., January 27

6—7:15 pm ... Hand Bell Practice

7:30—8:45 pm ... Choir Practice



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, Jan. 18, the food pantry served **18** families and gave out **25** bags of groceries.



Saint Valentine's Brunch following the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, Feb. 14. Watch for further details in the coming weeks. We hope you and your loved ones will join us!



Planning is under way for our annual **Saint Patrick's Dinner** on **Saturday, March 5, 2016**. We are accepting donations or monetary / gift card donations for our raffles. Items can be dropped off at the rectory M—F between 9 am and 4 pm. Tickets will be \$15 each and will be available next month for purchase. Further information? Watch the bulletin!



Heartfelt thanks to

everyone who assisted in the Memorial Mass and reception for **Ashley Elizabeth Boie**, 19, last week. Many thanks to the Youth Ministry and Religious Education staff and students.



Thank you to the Manchester West High School Select Choir and the West String Ensemble, both directed by Susan Wilkes, to everyone who donated food, and to all who helped prepare and clean up for the reception. We appreciate your generous remembrance of Ashley and your kind support of her family and friends.



Parish Pastoral Council We have two openings on the Parish Council, and two parishioners who are eligible to serve have expressed interest in joining. As a result, **Patricia Mack** and **Connie Richards** will fill three-year terms each. They will be welcomed at the next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of ☩ **Ashley Boie**, who died Jan. 15, and ☩ **Janice M. (DeVlaminck) Beliveau**, and ☩ **Edward Bennett**, both of whom died Jan. 17.

In Sympathy

Weekly Collection

January 17, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,904.00
Make-Up Offertory	436.00
Loose Offertory	
653.95 Online Parish Giving	
160.00 Total	\$5,153.95
Stewardship	\$
211.00 Online Stewardship	\$
60.00 Total Stewardship	\$
271.00	
Holy Day	\$



WINTER WEATHER

POLICY If the Manchester Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions, all parish facilities are closed. Classes and practices are also canceled. Check WMUR and our Facebook page to see if Masses are canceled.



If you would like to obtain a statement for your 2015 contributions, please contact Kerri at 623.2604 / secretary@saint-raphael-parish.com

During this Holy Year of Mercy, the 'narrow gate' swings wide

When I was growing up, the **front door at our house** was rarely used. This was partly due to the fact that the house was so old that it faced in the wrong direction! My family home is **an old New England farmhouse**, and the street, or what became the street, was originally little more than a cow path, so the "right" direction for the front of the house didn't matter too much. Later, of course, the development of the street and other homes, all suitably facing toward the street, became the standard. But two of the houses in "**the Valley**," which is what we called our neighborhood, were rogues. One looked west (that was us) and the other east (that was the Sullivan family), when every other house looked north or south.

Just about everyone who came to the house, resident, relative, neighbor or visitor, **came to the back door**. That's where the driveway led and was met by a walkway. We even had lights. **When someone came through the front door, however, we knew it was a big deal**. Somebody official was coming. An important parcel was being delivered. A mysterious stranger had arrived. The front door might have been rarely used, but it meant business!

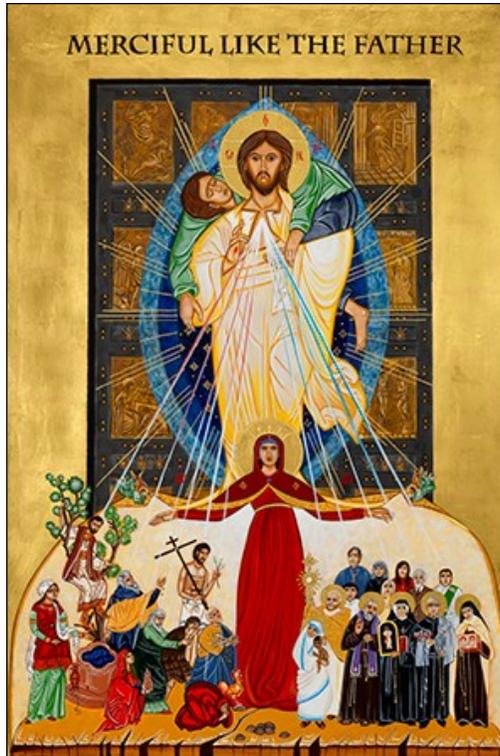
Doors are an important architectural feature in any structure. They enclose, shut off, protect and create zones for particular purposes or for personal privacy. Equally important, doors **swing wide open to welcome, admit, lead forth and usher in**. So important are the practical and symbolic functions of a door that **Jesus Christ identified himself as a gate or door**: "I am the gate. Whoever comes through me will be safe. He will go in and out and find pasture." (John 10:9)

In Greek, the word "**thyra**" means both door and gate, while the word for "safe" can also mean "saved."

Ever since 1300 A.D., the Church has used the feature of a "**holy door**" as part of a time of grace and favor, or holy year, to emphasize the love of God poured out in Christ. Through the biblical Word of God, the Sacraments and the Church herself, **men and women are meant to**

encounter divine mercy. That is especially the point during **the 2015-2016 Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy** called by **Pope Francis**.

In a recent interview, Pope Francis said, "We are used to bad news, cruel news and to



even bigger atrocities, which offend the name and life of God." The Holy Year of Mercy seeks to spark a "**revolution of tenderness**" from which "justice and all the rest derives." For mankind to move from a spirit of rage and revenge to a society, a spirit of mercy must prevail.

Last month, Pope Francis, joined by his predecessor **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**, opened the **Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica**. Traditionally, the door is bricked up between times of use to symbolize that sin impedes our relationship with Christ and our life with our brothers and sisters in the Church.

For this Year of Mercy, the basilica's door is only one of many throughout the Catholic world, as the Holy Father wishes to extend the opportunities and privileges of the Holy Door as broadly as possible. **Bishop Peter A. Libasci** opened the Holy Door at Saint Joseph Cathedral some days later to signal New Hampshire's participation in the events of this Year of Mercy.

Eight other churches throughout the Diocese of Manchester share in the privilege of having a Holy Door. The one for the

Amoskeag Deanery, that is, Greater Manchester, is the one at the **cathedral**.

Holy Years in the Roman Catholic Church derive from the ancient Jewish custom of **jubilee years**, and the Church usually observes them **every 25 years**. Activities include special celebrations, encouragement to repent of sin and convert to a virtuous and holy life, pilgrimages, greater opportunities to receive the sacraments, especially Penance, and indulgences. The theme for the Holy Year of Mercy, which officially began on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this past Dec. 8, which also marked the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) and will end on the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 20 this year, is "**Compassionate like the Father**."

Those who pass through the Holy Door, whether at the Vatican in Rome, at Saint Joseph's in Manchester or any legitimately designated Holy Door, receive a **plenary indulgence**, which removes temporal punishment due to sins committed up to that moment, as long as the believer goes to confession, receives Holy Communion and prays for the intentions of the Holy Father. (See this week's bulletin insert for further information.) In addition, Bishop Libasci plans a **pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**, birthplace of Saint Francis, April 18-26. The deadline for registration is this coming Thursday, Jan. 28.

Here at Saint Raphael, we plan several activities in connection with the Holy Year of Mercy, including a session next month of The Pastor's Class on the Scriptural understanding of God's mercy, a pilgrimage later this summer or fall to the **National Shrine of Divine Mercy** in Stockbridge, MA, a film festival focusing on the concept of mercy, a healing Mass and a special opportunity to receive Penance. In addition, we will endeavor to arrange a tour of the cathedral and passage through Manchester's own Holy Door! Special **prayer cards for the Year of Mercy** already have been distributed to parishioners, and there should be some available in the Information Nook at the door of the church.

It is my hope that our parish will employ the opportunities of this beautiful time to reflect on divine mercy **to grow ever more deeply** in our understanding and appreciation of the love of God poured out in the blood of Jesus Christ and **to witness faithfully, joyfully and convincingly** to that mercy in our community! © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



Pope Francis pushes open the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, on Dec. 8, 2015, to begin the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.