

# V Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Mass Intentions

**Sat., February 6 Saint Paul Miki and Companions**  
1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

4 pm ... ☩Leo & ☩Doris Moreau by her family

**Sun., February 7 V Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

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

9:30 am ... ☩Mary Marszal by Lena Krager

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

**Mon., February 8 Saints Jerome & Josephine Bakhita**  
1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

12 pm ... ☩Bobby Annan by Jack & Colleen Byrne

**Tue., February 9**

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13

12 pm ... ☩John Kilroy by Diane Bolton

**Wed., February 10 Ash Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2;

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

12 pm ... Saint Benedict Academy students and faculty

6:30pm ... Our Parish Family

**Thur., February 11**

Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

8:30 am ... ☩Fr. Donald E. Lafond by P. Jerome

**Fri., February 12**

Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

6 pm ... ☩Jeanne Huard by Diane Bolton

**Sat., February 13**

Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

4 pm ... ☩Bernard & ☩Theresa Young by Elaine Young

**Sun., February 14 V Sunday of Lent**

Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91:1-2, 10-15; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... ☩Mable & ☩Henry Wallich by Anna Wallich

5 pm ... ☩Elmer Soderberg by Jaye Soderberg

## Pastor's Class



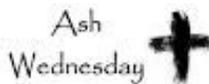
**Mercy in Scripture—Class starts this week!** Join P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, for the winter session of The Pastor's Class, "The Love and Mercy of God." The class will be **Tuesdays**

from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 9, 16 and 23, and March 1, in the parish hall classroom. The course will examine the biblical concept of "hesed," or "steadfast love and mercy" in the pages of the Old and New Testaments. The course is part of our Saint Raphael observance of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy in 2015-2016 called by Pope Francis. Please contact the parish office at 623-2604 if you are interested in attending! **Tuesday, Feb. 9 is Mardi Gras, so we will kick off the first class with a small Shrove Tuesday celebration!**



## REGULATIONS FOR FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Days for fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday, February 10, and Good Friday, March 25. Fridays during Lent are also days of abstinence. **FASTING** is observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. **ABSTINENCE** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not



We will distribute ashes on Wednesday, Feb. 10, at our 12 pm Mass, as well as at 6:30 pm Mass.



Congratulations to **James Christian Alukonis**, son of Michael and Erin (Rothhaus) Alukonis, who was baptized on Sunday, Jan. 31, into the Roman Catholic Church by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor. **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."**



**Lend us your voice!** The Saint Raphael Parish Choir

welcomes new members at any time. No need to know how to read music—many of us learn by ear and we rehearse the music each week with piano accompaniment. If you like to sing, please join us! (Especially tenors and basses!) We rehearse on **Thursdays from 7:30—8:45pm** in the chapel.



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **Bob Lucci**.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sun. February 7**

10:30 am ... Coffee & Doughnuts

**Mon., February 8**

6:30—8 pm .. Youth Ministry/Gr. 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

**Tue. February 9**

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

7 pm ... Pastor's Class

**Thur., February 11**

7 pm ... Knights of Columbus Mtg

7:30—8:45 pm ... Choir Practice

## Weekly Collection

January 31, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,016.00
Make-Up Offertory	391.00
Loose Offertory	
888.00 Online Parish Giving	
140.00 <b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,435.00</b>

Stewardship	\$
65.00	
Holy Day	\$
15.00	



A very big thank you goes to **Lillie Duquette** who completed the calligraphy for the dedications of our new hymnals. A reference key is posted on the carte if you would like to find yours! We still have some hymnals left, so if you want to dedicate one to a loved one, you can. Forms are on our website or call the office.



**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, Feb 1, the food pantry served **12** families and gave out **19** bags of groceries. We can always use brown paper bags! Thank you!

## Loving manipulation of needles helps knit our parish together

In every parish in the Catholic world, one can meet fascinating and devout people, some of them great and powerful in the ways of the world, and others of them, simple and ordinary ... but no less fascinating. Into this latter category, I think we might place Lorraine (Pratt) Lynch. There was no one at Saint Raphael who was more **determined or more generous** than Lorraine. She was among the feistiest ladies in the parish – and Saint Raphael is replete with feisty women. We shall miss her a great deal.

As we gather this morning to bid farewell to **Lorraine F. (Pratt) Lynch**, age 92, we thank



9/22/23—1/24/16

God for the great gift that she was and will remain in the lives of each of us. I think my favorite memory of Lorraine is standing at the rectory doorway with a bundle of **afghans, hats, mittens and other knitted goods**. Because Lorraine didn't hear so well in her

latter years, one had to shout a little – and even then you couldn't be certain she understood what you were saying!

"Those afghans are **nice and cozy**," she would say, beaming with pride as people admired her handiwork. "Now, make sure you give them to people who can use them. Don't be keeping them all for yourself, Father."

Then, she would laugh and laugh and give me a wink. I have to admit, if you did a search of the rectory you might find one or two of her afghans still here. They are indeed nice and cozy! People from this parish, those who come to us for assistance can all attest about their quality and comfort. In many ways, Lorraine's afghans and knitted goods were tangible signs of mercy, bonds of love that literally and symbolically helped knit together our parish!

Because of her talents and interests in knitting, Lorraine was **a habitué at Michael's and A.C. Moore**. She was fascinated with automobiles, although it is not believed that she ever knitted a sweater for a car. She **learned to drive at age 14** at Saint Joseph Cemetery, so if we discover someone heading down the straight shots in the cemetery and screeching on two wheels around the corners, we will have a pretty good idea Lorraine is back and up to her old tricks. She motored around town right up until a year ago this February. Trips around town and a sandwich at Lake Massabesic were important. Little things are often the most important things.

Lorraine was **an avid reader**, who could expand the excitement in her world and the scope of her interests just by opening up a book. She always wondered why more people did not borrow books from the public library. As she got older and had to hang up her golf clubs, reading became increasingly important.

**A Manchester native**, she was a graduate of Saint Joseph High School for Girls and earned her B.S. from Mount Saint Mary College in 1947, **the first woman in her family**



**to receive a college degree!** She used to say that she had married **Frank Lynch**, the "love of her life," and together they built up a happy family and home until his death in 2002.

Frank's brother, the **Rev. John Lynch, O.S.B.**, was a member of our community at Saint Anselm Abbey for many years.

Lorraine was well known as **an intelligent woman** – and she used that intelligence to remind her loved ones that they had better not try to take her down in "Trivial Pursuit." Lorraine had a strong Catholic faith and made sure that her son John and his late brother Thomas did their duty as altar boys. She had an abiding love for Latin and loved to hear that ancient language in hymns or in the Gloria, Sanctus or Agnus Dei at Mass.

Prior to the start of most funeral Masses, we invite a member of the decedent's family to inscribe the name of their loved one in our parish Book of Remembrance. This ritual action is an echo of our first reading, which mentions **finding our names** written in a far more important book, the **heavenly Book of Life**. In the Book of Daniel, chapter 12, we discover that those inscribed in the Book of Life will rise from the dead, live forever in the joy of the Kingdom of God. We also discover that "the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament and those who lead many to justice shall be like the stars forever." **The Archangel Michael**, prince of the heavenly host, shall arise and defend God's holy people, even amid "unsurpassed" distress. In the midst of all that is fearful and frightening, God abides with his holy people.

In our second reading, from Saint Paul's famous Letter to the Romans, chapter 6, we discover that "we were indeed buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." More than nine decades ago, when Lorraine's parents, Edward and Helen (Barry) Pratt took her to **the font of Baptism**, she was united to Christ in his Mystical Body. His death on the Cross put to death the malignant and permanent effects of sin in our lives; in that sense, we die as little ones with Jesus – so that, in fact, we might have real and eternal life in him as well. Just as Lorraine's parents and godparents made promises on her behalf, promises of belief, fidelity and charity, so too she received **a promise from Christ**. His resurrection would mean hers too in due course. Yes, she, like all men and women, would die – but not die forever, not die into nothingness, not die without genuine hope. Christ's Resurrection on the morning of the third day in a garden outside Jerusalem gives Lorraine and each one of us hope for eternal

life and happiness with the Lord.

Finally, our gospel passage from John 6 presents to us the sign, seal and symbol of this promise of life. Jesus, who is himself, the Way, the Truth and the Life, gives us his own **Body and Blood as spiritual food and refreshment**. In the Eucharist, which Lorraine received with great faith and much love throughout her life, which she taught to her family and which attended joyfully and dutifully, we find Jesus in his sacramental form.

Jesus declares to the crowd, "**I AM the living bread** that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." The Jewish leaders of Jesus' time, like so many skeptics today, could not fathom how the Lord could make all this happen. The fact that **Christ is the Word by whom all creation came to be**, the fact that there can be a difference between outward appearance and inner essence eludes them for a simple reason: they do not trust God.

Lorraine's **lifelong devotion to Christ in the Eucharist** depended largely on her humility and her **willingness to trust the Lord**.

The Eucharist is one of those truths of faith that is simultaneously **so little and simple** and **so great and awesome** that it is hard to fully understand. Simple bread and wine, some words and gestures from the priest make it all happen, but it happens only because of Christ and his sacrifice on the Cross and his Resurrection. It happens only because the Father sent him, and Christ and the Father send the Holy Spirit to us. It happens only because the Spirit breathes Christ's life into the Church. **But here's the thing: it happens!** In bringing us the Living God, received on the tongue or in the hand, the Eucharist bestows on us **a moment of eternity suspended in time, an experience of mercy in the midst of pain and confusion**.

Moreover, the Eucharist enables us to share in Christ's life and so be joined to Lorraine and "all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith." **May we believe ever more truly, ever more fully**, the words of Jesus himself, "Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood, has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

*Adapted from the homily by Fr. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, at Lorraine Lynch's funeral Mass.*

# December 20, 2015



## CLOCK IS TICKING, PLEASE STEP FORWARD AGAIN

We had planned to terminate active participation in the campaign this past week, but, again, an **anonymous donor** emerged who promises to **MATCH** any additional contributions we receive through the end of the calendar year. To date, we have raised **\$18,786**, with an additional **\$1,300** which will be matched, raising our total to **\$21,336**. Please help us reach our \$30,000 goal and consider donating towards this cause. Your contribution now will be matched! Thank you to everyone who contributed to date!



Please pray for the repose of the souls of **†Lorraine (Pratt) Lynch**, who died Jan. 24, and **†Joyce (Lefebvre) Trott**, who died Jan. 26, both of whose funerals were celebrated by P. Jerome last week.

*In Sympathy*

## Weekly Collection

**December 13, 2015**

Regular Offertory	\$ 3,495.00
Make-Up Offertory	831.00
Loose Offertory	567.75
Online Parish Giving	85.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,978.75</b>
Stewardship	\$ 1,969.00
Stewardship Loose	240.00
Stewardship Online	10.00
<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 2,219.00</b>
<b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>Food Pantry</b>	<b>\$ 102.00</b>

*“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*

SAVE THE DATE



*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. Please call the rectory at 623-2604 or stop in between 9am and 4pm to purchase tickets.



First-time visitor? welcome! cards on the table at the entry invite you to fill out contact information should you want to register. We’d love to have you! Cards may be placed in the collection basket during Mass.



**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



Thank you to those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please keep

- BYRON BOISVERT**
- NICHOLAS DOHERTY**
- KENNETH BREUDER**
- JASON MATEO**
- PHILIP BREUDER**
- LCDR JOHN C. VINSON, JR.**

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

