

# I Sunday of Lent

## Mass Intentions

### 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

### I 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

### Mon., February 15

### Presidents' Day

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

9 am ... ☩ Philip Therrien by Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. LaRochelle Jr.

### Tue., February 16

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

12 pm ... ☩ Charlie Young by Dottie Young

### Wed., February 17

Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

12 pm ... ☩ Sue Bucceny by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

### Thur., February 18

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

8:30 am ... ☩ Edward Heroux (1st Anniversary)

### Fri., February 19

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

6 pm ... ☩ Maryann French by Sylvia Grady

### Sat., February 20

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

### Sun., February 21

### II Sunday of Lent

Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17 —

4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

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

5 pm ... ☩ Helen Wickey by the Wickey family

### Sanctuary candle

The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ Cecile D. Moore.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sun. February 14

10:30 am ... Saint Valentine's Brunch

### Mon., February 15

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr. 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tue. February 16

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

7 pm ... The Pastor's Class

### Wed., February 17

7 pm ... Respect Life Committee Mtg

### Thur., February 18

7 pm ... Book Discussion Group

7:30—8:45 pm ... Choir Practice

### Friday, February 19

6:45 pm ... Lenten Supper & Movie



Please note that Mass will be at 9am on Monday, Feb. 15, in observance of President's Day. The office will be closed.

### Pastor's Class



**Mercy in Scripture**—Class started last week, but you can still join us! 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. Feb. 16, 23, and March 1**, in the parish hall classroom. The course examines 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 interested in attending! **Each class is free-standing, so come at any point.**

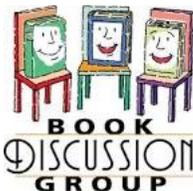


Planning is on for our annual **Saint Patrick's Dinner** on **Saturday, March 5, 2016**. We are accepting donations or monetary / gift card donations for our raffles. Items can be dropped off at the rectory M—F between 9 am and 4 pm. Tickets will be \$15 each. **Please call the rectory at 623-2604 or stop in between 9am and 4pm to purchase tickets.**



Please pray for the repose of the soul of ☩ **Lucille Bellisle**, who died Feb. 4, and whose funeral was celebrated last week at Saint Anselm Abbey.

**HELP WANTED:** Parish family in need of someone to do light housekeeping weekly. Reasonable rate of pay. Please call 533.7732 if interested.



**Love is in the air!** Please join the parish book discussion group for a reading of poetry, prose and Scripture passages in honor of Saint Valentine's Day and the Holy Year of Mercy. Our event is titled "**Readings of Love and Mercy**," and will take place on **Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7pm** in the chapel. Refreshments will follow in the church conference room. Bring a friend!



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

always welcomes new members. No need to know how to read music—many 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! That's what guys in a choir usually sing!) We rehearse on **Thursdays from 7:30—8:45pm** in the chapel.

KEEP CALM AND LIVE LENT

## Weekly Collection

February 7, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,788.00
Make-Up Offertory	203.00
Loose Offertory	
664.50 Online Parish Giving	
<b>380.00 Total</b>	<b>\$5,035.50</b>
Stewardship	\$



During the season of Lent, we plan to have several Lenten suppers. The first will be **Friday, Feb. 19 at 6:45pm** in the parish hall, and will be followed by a documentary titled "The Rule". See how the **Benedictine monks of Newark Abbey**, in the heart of one of America's most dangerous cities, are able to achieve amazing success with the most vulnerable population: inner city African American and Latino teenage males. Please join us! If you would like to make a Lenten supper dish, please contact Kerri Stanley at



## Lent 2016: Doing the works of mercy on the road of the jubilee

*“I desire mercy, and not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13).*  
**1. Mary: image of Church which evangelizes because she is evangelized**—In the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I asked that “the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God’s mercy” (*Misericordiae Vultus* [MV], 17). By calling for an attentive listening to the word of God and encouraging the initiative “24 Hours for the Lord,” I sought to stress the **primacy of prayerful listening to God’s word, especially his prophetic word.** The mercy of God is a proclamation made to the world, a proclamation which each Christian is called to experience at first hand. For this reason, during the season of Lent I will send out Missionaries of Mercy as a concrete sign of God’s closeness and forgiveness.

After receiving the Good News told to her by the Archangel Gabriel, **Mary, in her Magnificat, prophetically sings of the mercy whereby God chose her.** The Virgin of Nazareth, betrothed to Joseph, thus becomes **the perfect icon of the Church which evangelizes, for she was, and continues to be, evangelized by the Holy Spirit, who made her virginal womb fruitful.**

In the prophetic tradition, mercy is strictly related – even on the etymological level – to the maternal womb (*rahamim*) and to a generous, faithful and compassionate goodness (*hesed*) shown within marriage and family relationships.

**2. God’s covenant: a history of mercy**—The mystery of divine mercy is revealed in the history of the covenant between God and his people Israel. God shows himself ever rich in mercy, ever ready to treat his people with deep tenderness and compassion, especially at those tragic moments when infidelity ruptures the bond of the covenant, which then needs to be ratified more firmly in justice and truth. **Here is a true love story, in which God plays the role of the betrayed father and husband, while Israel plays the unfaithful child and bride.** These domestic images – (cf. *Hos* 1-2) – show to what extent God wishes to bind himself to his people.

This love story culminates in the incarnation of God’s Son. In Christ, the Father pours forth his boundless mercy even to making him “mercy incarnate” (MV, 8). **As a man, Jesus of Nazareth is a true son of Israel;** he embodies that perfect hearing required of every Jew by the *Shema*, which today too is the heart of God’s covenant with Israel: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (*Dt* 6:4-5). **As the Son of God, he is the Bridegroom** who does everything to win over the love of his bride, to whom he is bound by an unconditional love visible in the eternal wedding feast.

This is the very heart of the apostolic *kerygma*, in which divine mercy holds a central and fundamental place. It is “the beauty of the saving love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead” (*Evangeli Gaudium*, 36), that first proclamation which “we must hear again and again in different ways, the one which we must announce one way or another throughout the process of catechesis, at every level and



hardened heart of his Bride.

**3. The works of mercy**—God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn. In an ever new miracle, divine mercy shines forth in our lives, inspiring each of us to love our neighbor and to **devote ourselves to what the Church’s tradition calls the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.** These works remind us that faith finds expression in concrete everyday actions meant to help our neighbors in body and spirit: by feeding, visiting, comforting and instructing them. On such things will we be judged.

For this reason, I expressed my hope that “the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy; this will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty, and to enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy” (*ibid.*, 15). For in the poor, the flesh of Christ “becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us” (*ibid.*). It is the unprecedented and scandalous mystery of the extension in time of the suffering of the Innocent Lamb, the burning bush of gratuitous love. Before this love, we can, like Moses, take off our sandals (cf. *Ex* 3:5), especially when the poor are our brothers or sisters in Christ who are suffering for their faith.

In the light of this love, which is strong as death (cf. *Song* 8:6), **the real poor are revealed as those who refuse to see themselves as such.** They consider themselves rich, but they are actually the poorest of the poor. This is because they are slaves to sin, which leads them to use wealth and power not for the service of God and others, but to stifle within their hearts the profound sense that they too are only poor beggars. **The greater their power and wealth, the more this blindness and deception can grow.** It can even reach the point of being blind to Lazarus begging at their doorstep (cf. *Lk* 16:20-21).

**Lazarus, the poor man, is a figure of Christ,** who through the poor pleads for our conversion. As such, he represents the possibility of conversion which God offers us and which we

moment” (*ibid.*, 164). Mercy “expresses God’s way of reaching out to the sinner, offering him a new chance to look at himself, convert, and believe” (MV, 21), thus restoring his relationship with him. In Jesus crucified, God shows his desire to draw near to sinners, however far they may have strayed from him. In this way he hopes to soften the

may well fail to see. Such blindness is often accompanied by the proud illusion of our own omnipotence, which reflects in a sinister way the diabolical “you will be like God” (*Gen* 3:5) which is the root of all sin. This illusion can likewise take social and political forms, as shown by the totalitarian systems of the 20th Century, and, in our own day, by the **ideologies of monopolizing thought and technoscience,** which would make God irrelevant and reduce man to raw material to be exploited.

This illusion can also be seen in the **sinful structures linked to a model of false development based on the idolatry of money,** which leads to lack of concern for the fate of the poor on the part of wealthier individuals and societies; they close their doors, refusing even to see the poor.

For all of us, then, **the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favorable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God’s word and by practicing the works of mercy.** In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separated. **By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering,** sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the “proud”, the “powerful” and the “wealthy” spoken of in the *Magnificat* can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by **a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell.** The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them” (*Lk* 16:29). Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

**Let us not waste this season of Lent,** so favorable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God’s mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. *Lk* 1:48) and to call herself the Lord’s humble servant (cf. *Lk* 1:38).

# 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!

## 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*



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.”**



## 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

*In Sympathy*



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

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>BYRON BOISVERT</b>  | <b>NICHOLAS DOHERTY</b>         |
| <b>KENNETH BREUDER</b> | <b>JASON MATEO</b>              |
| <b>PHILIP BREUDER</b>  | <b>LCDR JOHN C. VINSON, JR.</b> |

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

