



Mass Intentions

Sat., March 12

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a **4**

pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., March 13

V Sunday of Lent

Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 (23:1-49)

7:30 am ... ☩ Charles Young by Patricia Damour

9:30 am ... ☩ Linda Paris by Bill Paris

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Mon., March 14

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20

12 pm ... Barbara Bennett by Anne Clark

Tue., March 15

Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

12 pm ... Fred Sjoquist by Anne Clark

Wed., March 16

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

12 pm ... Robert St. Jean by Gabrielle Cusson

Thur., March 17

Saint Patrick

Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59

8:30 am ... Pope Francis by Mikki Margaritis

Fri., March 18

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

6 pm ... Edith C. Clark by Anne Clark

Sat., March 19

Saint Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M.

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

4 pm ... ☩ Ethel Connolly by James & Joan Connolly

Sun., March 20

Palm Sunday

Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 (23:1-49)

7:30 am ... ☩ Leonard & ☩ Florence Foley by Connie Raymond

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

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Mary O'Neil Kenney (10th Anniv.)** by Katie Kenney.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Wednesday, March 16 at 11:30am—12pm, 7pm

Monday, March 21

Worldwide Day of Reconciliation)

11:30am—12pm

Good Friday, March 25 at 3:30pm



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. March 13

10:30 am ... Coffee & Doughnuts

Mon., March 14

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue. March 15

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

Wed March 16

7 pm ... Lenten Penance Service

Thur., March 17

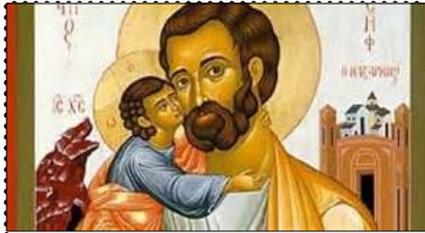
7:30—8:45 pm ... Choir Practice

Fri., March 18

6:45 pm ... Stations of the Cross

Sat., March 19

5:15 pm ... Empty Bowl Project



Weekly Collection

March 6, 2016

Regular Offertory \$3,519.00
Make-Up Offertory 202.00

Loose Offertory
840.15 Online Parish Giving

395.00 **Total** \$4,956.15

Food Pantry \$ 375.00



The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue

was so popular last year that the show will be

back again this year. Save the date!

Friday, June 3, 2016, at the Saint Anselm College Dana Center. Check the bulletin and our Facebook page for further details!

Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Three upcoming events for parishioners and friends of Saint Raphael to mark the feast of the patron of the Universal Church and of the Diocese of Manchester. **First**, the **annual novena** to Saint Joseph prayed at Mass each day until his feast on March 19. If you can't join us, why not take a the novena

prayer sheet home and make the novena privately. **Second**, men of the parish and friends are invited to join P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, at Saint Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, on **Saturday, March 19, at 8 am** for Mass with Bishop Peter Libasci and a breakfast to follow. Please call the rectory office at 623.2604 by Wednesday, March 16, to register and get arrangements. **Third**, kitchen enthusiasts are invited to **make a loaf of their favorite bread** and bring it to the rectory office by **Friday, March 18**, so that they can be placed at the shrine of Saint Joseph for a blessing and distribution to those in need through our Food Pantry on Monday, March 20.



On **Wednesday, March 23, 2016**, Saint Raphael Parish is pleased to offer a potentially life-saving health event with Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings. The **6 for Life Health Assessment** measures your risk of developing 6 chronic diseases, including heart disease, congestive heart failure, stroke, diabetes, COPD and lung cancer. A customized report will determine which risk factors contribute most to your disease risk and are within your control to change. Finger-stick blood tests along with biometric measurements are included with this assessment. Protect your health by registering today for the 6 for Life Health Assessment for \$79. Call **1-888-653-6441** or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners to schedule your appointment. Take control of your health; knowledge is empowering!

Paul and John see Jesus as the center of mercy, call us to live mercy

For the past several weeks, we've been examining the concept of "mercy" as it emerges from the pages of Sacred Scripture. This week, we bring these reflections to a close, although contemplating mercy in the biblical text is never a closed book. The **living Word of God** is itself a manifestation of a merciful God revealing himself and

reaching out to mankind. Pope Francis proclaimed this **Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy** so that we might examine how the Lord reveals his merciful heart to ancient Israel and in Jesus Christ and how that mercy is understood by the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ. The Holy Father declares that "**mercy is the beating heart of the gospel.**" This week, we explore mercy in the works of **Saints Paul and John.**

If we claim that mercy is discovered in the Old Testament, and if we maintain that it is unveiled fully in the acts and person of the Lord Jesus in gospels in the New Testament, I think we would want to add that the Church comes to understand Christ's centrality in salvation, the heart of which is mercy, through the **letters of Paul and John.** That theological insight, revealed and articulated in Scripture, becomes the bedrock for knowing the love of Jesus and recognizing our need for his saving grace.

Perhaps the best place in Paul's many letters to the earliest Christian communities to find his discussion of mercy is in the **famous Letter to the Romans.** Paul, originally Saul of Tarsus, once fanatically persecuted Christians. His conversion on the Damascus Road by the Risen Christ forever changed him (**Acts of the Apostles, 9:1-9**). Now "Paul," he was always conscious of the mercy shown him by God. In **1 Cor. 15:8-10**, he emphasizes God's mercy, forgiveness and grace.

In Romans, chapter 9, Paul underlines that God is free to bestow his mercy on those whom he chooses. Anyone can receive **divine election**; it is not simply a gift of birth. Although Paul (*top image*), a Jew by birth and a member of the Pharisee sect by choice, recognizes the privileges accorded Israel, he insists that **in Christ mercy is now available to all mankind.** In Rom 9:15-16, 18, Paul declares: "For [God] says to Moses: 'I will show mercy to whom I will, I will take pity on whom I will.' So it depends not upon a person's will or exertion, but upon God, who shows mercy. ... Consequently, he has mercy upon whom he wills, and he hardens whom he wills."

For Paul, **divine mercy is intimately connected to the revelation of divine glory.** In Rom 9:23-24, the Apostle to the Gentile writes, "What if God, wishing to show his wrath and make known his power, has endured with much patience the vessels of wrath made for destruction? This was to make known the riches of his glory to the

vessels of mercy, which he has prepared previously for glory, namely, us whom he has called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles." Saint Paul makes it clear that the inadequacy of performing acts, even of the Law of Moses, and the universal condition of sin have a single purpose, the extension of God's mercy to all mankind. In Rom 11:30-32, Paul observes, "Just as you [Gentiles] once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they [Jews] have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may [now] receive mercy. **For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.**"

Paul sees Christ's sacrifice on the Cross as the sacrifice that atones, justifies and redeems mankind, and human beings share in the that sacrifice not only spiritually but physically, that is, **through their own bodies.** We die with Christ in the waters of Baptism and we put away the sins of the body. Our acts of compassion toward others are meant to imitate Christ's supreme act of mercy on the Cross. In the Letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, Paul writes, "Put on then, as God's chosen one, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **bearing with one another and forgiving one another,** if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. **And over all these put on love.**"

Ironically, neither the Gospel of Saint John nor his epistles mention the word "mercy" as such. However, John (*image at left with Jesus*) **repeatedly portrays mercy** in his gospel portrait of Jesus. The encounters of Christ with the woman at the well, the woman with five husbands, the woman who washes his feet with her tears, the raising of Lazarus and so many others manifest the Lord's ready application of mercy. In the Johannine letters 1-3, the **distinguishing marks of Christian identity and behavior are love and forgiveness.** Just as in the Old Testament, these dimensions of mercy require contrition and reform from sin. Just as Paul stresses that Christ bears the burden for human sin, paying its price and giving the benefit of that atonement to his brothers and sisters, so John insists that we forgive each other and reject sin.

Elsewhere in the New Testament, we find many other discussions of mercy. In the **Letter to the Hebrews**, Christ is portrayed as the merciful high priest who understands the human condition fully. Even though he himself is sinless, Jesus, the God-Man, shares a human nature with us. Texts such as Heb 2:17; 4:15-16; 5:2; 8:12; 9:5; 10:28; and 10:34 provide helpful insights. In James 2:12-13, mercy is central to



Christian life: "So speak and so act as people who will be judged by the law of freedom. For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment."

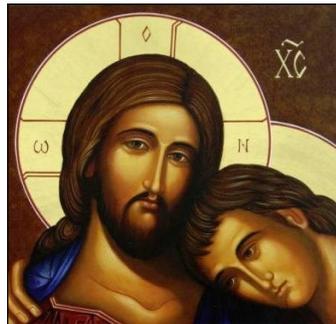
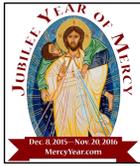
In **1 Peter**, we discover that the Gentiles who were "no people," have now received God's call to become **a people in Christ, and thus receive divine mercy.** In 1 Pet 2:9-

10, we find the assertion that "you are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were 'no people' but now you are God's people; you 'had not received mercy' but now you have received mercy."

In the **Letter to Jude**, verses 21-23, we find the saving power of divine mercy – and the call to extend such mercy in our own behavior. "But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. On those who waver, have mercy; save others by snatching them out of the fire; no others have mercy with fear, abhorring even the outer garment stained by the flesh."

Our brief biblical survey of "mercy" shows us, I think, that **mercy is God's action in our lives,** lives that do not of their own accord "deserve" his attention and love. Mercy bends down to us in our need. Whether rescuing Israel from her enemies, granting faith, providing the Eucharist in Jesus, granting the gift of election and vocation, endowing us with life in Christ's Church, or enflaming us with the Holy Spirit, God gives life, all fundamentally dimensions of mercy. They *are* mercy and they call forth two responses from us: recognition that we need mercy and desire to extend mercy to others.

Despite the evolution in our understanding of mercy from Old Testament times, the Christian concept of mercy retains its central characteristics. **Mercy manifests God's glory.** It responds to human need. Mercy renews and strengthens our covenant with God in Christ. It still requires justice and conversion, or a turning toward God, but now Christ's death on the Cross satisfies any kind of human justice. Finally, mercy manifests divine love toward so many of us who have neither right nor claim to it. Likewise, mercy is the way God summons us to share his love with all around us. © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



SAINT PATRICK'S DINNER

Saint Raphael welcomed more than 200 parishioners and friends to our annual Saint Patrick's Dinner last Saturday who enjoys a delicious corned beef dinner with all the trimming. The success of the event wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of the following individuals, who worked effortlessly putting it all together, from the pre-planning stages, working behind the scenes, and during the event.



To the following people, we extend out gratitude for all of their help: **Joan Bissonnette, Diane Bolton, Kathy Chartier, Ray Clement, Kaitlyn and Jillian Colby, Lionel & Lillian Coulon, Tricia and Danielle DiLorenzo, Griffin Cowles, John & Rose Foley and family, John Michael Galluzzo, Anne Kenney, Maura and Meghan Maguire and friend Craig, Margaret-Ann Moran, Ed Poisson, Don Provencher, Connie Richards, Karen Robichaud, Shauna Ryan, Eileen Smith, Patrick Smith and family, Kerri, Tommy and Christopher Stanley, and JJ Wrobel.**

To everyone who donated raffle prizes: **The Bagg Lunch Diner, Cecile Belz, Bill & Mary Ellen Biser, Joan Bissonnette, Jack & Collen Byrne, Bob & Lorie Cochran, Frances Colby, Lionel & Lillian Coulon, Therese Dame, Dan DiLorenzo R&R Games, Dana Center, Jacques Flower Shop, Anne Kenney, Cristina & Mathew Kubik-Valente, + Lorraine Lynch, Maura Maguire, Mikki Margaritis, Margaret-Ann Moran, John Normandin, North Garden, Ollie's Restaurant, Palace Theatre, Don Provencher, Karen Robichaud, Ronnie Schlender, Eileen & Denny Smith, Kerri Stanley, Fr. Patrick Sullivan, O.S.B., TD Private Client Group, Jeannie Thornton and John & Becky Vinson.**

We'd like to acknowledge our appreciation to the following businesses for their generosity and support: **Celebrations Catering, Big Easy Bagel & Deli, PJ's Flowers.**

For their excellent entertainment, our thanks goes to: **Cunniffe Academy of Dance and The Larson Family Band.**

Finally, we'd like to thank **YOU** for joining us and showing your support. We raised over \$2500! Photos from the event will soon be posted on our website.

Congratulations again to this year's Saint Patrick's Parade Grand Marshals Bill and Mary Ellen Biser.

Any exclusions were purely accidental. We are grateful for ALL who helped!

THANK YOU!



March 13, 2016



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

On Monday, Feb 29, the food pantry served **14** families and gave out **20** bags of groceries and served **22** families and gave out **34** bags of

groceries on Monday, March 7. We need Spaghetti's, fruit, macaroni, and can always use brown paper bags! Thank you!



Easter flower remembrance

Donations for Easter flowers will be accepted in the name of deceased loved ones and friends, as well as the living.

While all contributions are welcome, a

\$25 donation per lily per name is recommended. Include name along with the donation and send in your offerings to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket. Look for the Easter Flower envelope in your packet or use your own. A list of the donors will be published during the Easter season. Your generosity is appreciated as the gift is above and beyond your Easter offering. Thank you!



Annual Empty Bowl Project

The Friends of Quota International will host its annual Empty Bowl Project at Saint Raphael **Saturday, March 19, from 5:15—6:30pm** in the parish hall.

No cost, but a good will offering will be accepted gratefully. Donations will benefit the NH Food Bank and the Saint Raphael Parish Food Pantry / Hope Chest. Checks payable to either Saint Raphael Parish or to the NH Food Bank. Please join us!



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

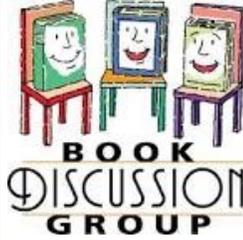
HELP WANTED

Parish family in need of someone to do light house keeping weekly. Reasonable rate of pay. Please call 533.7732 if interested.

Saint Marie Child Care Center, now accepting applications for full and part-time employees for the summer and fall of 2016. Must have at least 9 ECE credits and experience preferred. Please call 668-2356.

Lenten Prayer

Help me be patient on my Lenten journey, and open to the grace that will help me recognize opportunities to reach out to others.



"It was the best of times": Please join the parish book discussion group as it explores the corporal and spiritual works of mercy during this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Our first selection will be Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, set during the brutality of the French Revolution. Replete with themes of sacrificial love and resurrection, this novel offers insights suitable for Lent as well. We meet **Thursday, March 31, at 7pm** upstairs in the church classroom. Please come early for refreshments! Books are available at the parish office for \$9.



Henry J Sweeney American Legion Post 2 is the largest veterans organization in New Hampshire and St Raphael Parish claims a long list of Commanders at the post. The latest is Alan Heidenreich, the current Post 2 Commander who is seeking re-election to the position. This is the first time in the 97 year history that a Commander can serve consecutive terms as a result of recent by law change. Mr Heidenreich respectfully requests that qualified members cast a vote for him on **Tuesday, March 22 between 12 Noon and 7 pm at the 251 Maple Street location**. Your support



Run for the Troops 5K

The Run for the Troops 5K race has been

doubling in size each year since its first race in 2010.

This year's event will be **Sunday, April 3, at 9 am** in Andover, MA. Parishioner

Carmelle Fair will be participating and would appreciate your support in

this endeavor. If you would like to make a donation, please go to

www.runforthetroops5k.com and reference Carmelle Fair in your notation. Thank you!

Care Net Pregnancy Center
of Manchester & Nashua



ONE GREAT CAUSE • 2 LOCATIONS • 2 WAYS TO GIVE

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Registration at 9:30AM

Walk at 10:15AM

follow the link on www.TheFriendsOfLife.org

Manchester Walkathon Site
Veteran's Memorial Park
Elm Street



Nashua Walkathon Site
Greeley Park
Concord Street

Join with us as area churches, pastors, and supporters gather together to support life in southern New Hampshire!

CALL 623-1122 OR 883-1122 FOR MORE INFORMATION