



Mass Intentions

Sat., March 26 Easter Vigil

Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;
7:30 pm ... All those received into the Roman Catholic Church

Sun., March 27 Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4

8 am ... Our Parish Family

10 am ... ☩ John Fournier by Rose Fournier

Mon., March 28

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15

~Rectory Closed~

NO NOON EUCHARIST

Tue., March 29

Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18

12 pm ... Jessica and Grace Zygmunt (living) by the Pereira Family

Wed., March 30

Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35

11:30 am ... Penance & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ☩ Edward Bolton by Diane Bolton

Thur., March 31

Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48

8:30 am ... ☩ Fr. Jude John Gray, O.S.B. by the parish

Fri., April 1

Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14

5:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

6 pm ... Sara Alzate (living) by Anne Clark

6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat., April 2

Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15

4 pm ... ☩ Mary E. Deeg by Jeff Langan

Sun., April 3 Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 5:12-16; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

7:30 am ... ☩ Simone T. Auger by Pat Tremblay

9:30 am ... ☩ William J. Chartier by David & Alice Chartier

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., March 28

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr 6-12

7 pm ... Knights of Columbus Meeting

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., March 29

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

Wed., March 30

6:00 pm ... Confirmation practice

Thur., March 31

7 pm ... Book Discussion Group

7:30 pm ... Choir Practice



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!

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



April 3 is Divine Mercy Sunday. We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel immediately following the

9:30am Mass until 4:30pm, when Confessions are scheduled.. We welcome parishioners to sign up for 1-hour time blocks during Adoration, ideally in pairs. Please call the rectory at 623.2604 if you want to sign up.



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 Saint Anselm College's Dana Center. Some great silent auction raffles this year! Sponsorship opportunities too. **Please begin planning your acts and numbers!** Watch upcoming bulletins for further

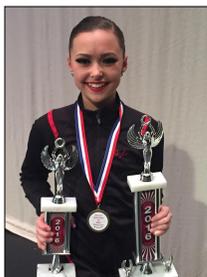


Many thanks to **Steve and Cheryl Gottsche**, who attended the Chrism Mass at

Saint Joseph Cathedral March 22 to receive the oils for our parish. The oils were presented at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday. Thank you also to **Sylvia Grady, Lynn Photaides**, and **Patricia Mack** for presenting the oils to P. Jerome, O.S.B., our pastor, and to the 12 gentlemen who participated in the foot-washing ceremony: **Mike Alukonis, Joshua Beaudoin, Griffin Cowles, Sean Donnelly, George D'Orazio, Corey Gillooly, Paul Kasper, Kevin McCormick, Jeff Photaides, Finlay Rauthhaus, John Ryan and Tommy Stanley.**



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Fr. Jude John Gray, O.S.B.**



Congratulations to **Skyleer Podziewski**, daughter of Daniel and Lucy (Benard) Podziewski, and granddaughter of Tom & Alice Benard, who won first place in her solo routine at an event last weekend in Worcester, MA. She was the only junior soloist to achieve

two platinum awards and won the highest solo score of the 12 and under age group! We can't wait to see Skye dance at our 2nd Annual Follies & Revue in June!



Catholic Charities

The 2016 Annual Campaign begins April 9, 2016. Our goal

this year is to raise \$26,000. Watch for further information in the



Saint Raphael Food

Pantry On Monday, March 21, the food pantry served **25** families and gave out **36** bags of

groceries We need Spaghetti's, fruit, macaroni, and can always use brown paper bags! Thank you!

Weekly Collection

Weekend of March 19-20, 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offertory | \$5,951.00 |
| Make-Up Offertory | 572.00 |
| Loose Offertory | |
| 638.75 Online Parish Giving | |
| 155.00 Total | \$7,316.75 |

Stewardship \$ 229.00

Easter Flowers \$2,478.00

Food Pantry \$ 100.00

Weekend of March 21-22, 2015

Easter at Downton Abbey: Insights from life among the upper crust

I don't recall the Crawleys celebrating Easter at **Downton Abbey** in the popular ITV-PBS series of the same name. The Anglo-American production concluded earlier this month, but in my mind's eye, I can see all manner of flowering trees and springtime blossoms erupting all around the venerable



home in Yorkshire. The seat of the fictional Earl of Grantham and his family, Downton Abbey both as an imaginary place and as a depiction of life in the **late Victorian and Edwardian ages** in Britain is hard to beat – and, somehow, as different as 21st century Americans are from their early 20th century British cousins, the show was a popular hit that won

critical acclaim. Some of the students in my class this term want to have a formal mid-afternoon English tea to celebrate the show before the end of the semester, and they tell me I'm invited! We've spent six seasons with the Crawleys.

As the **Church celebrates Easter**, I am reminded that some of the enduring images and lessons I took from creator **Julian Fellowes' work** actually have roots in religious faith. Robert, Lord Crawley, and his American-born wife Cora may not have been the most zealous devotees of the local Anglican parish, but they were believers who **practiced their faith** – not just in church but throughout their lives. What makes them and their daughters and the whole cast so affecting, I think, is the way they **struggled to "do the right thing"** and "be" the right kind of man or woman even amid conflicting passions.

Here are a few lessons that I've drawn from Downton Abbey that **connect with our Catholic faith** in the Crucified Jesus, the Risen Christ:

Beauty and graciousness in life are more a function of attitude and approach than money and position. Even though the Crawleys go from vast wealth to the brink of economic collapse, then back to considerable wealth, it's their **grace under pressure** that attracts attention. The servants, who provide a world every bit as fascinating as life upstairs, are no less gracious in their dealings. There is an unwritten code of civility, respect and restraint which makes life not only bearable but enjoyable. **Respect** is the way we recognize the dignity of each person.

Family matters a great deal, and even when parents or brothers and sisters push one to the edge, they remain family. Great strength of character can be found among family members and close friends, and when life seems to deal unfairly or cruelly with us, those people are the ones who stand with us in the end. To forget the bonds of family relationship, to drop old friends is to cut ourselves off from the roots of who we are and who we can become. It is to deny ourselves the resources that constitute our very identity.

Forgiveness can be difficult, but is always life-giving, especially when wounds cut to the heart. Downton Abbey has its share of acid commentary, deceit, hypocrisy, backstabbing and betrayal, but in the show's six seasons, amazingly enough, most ruptures were healed. Edith and Mary both play a role in each other's final healing and happiness. The dowager countess and her socially conscious cousin call truces all the time to pursue their common goals, and never let even the most controversial issues, undermine their friendship. The modernization of the



innovation breathe life into tradition and help preserve it. Historians say one of the fatal flaws of the old ancient regime in France in the 18th century was its hidebound refusal to open up to new ideas. The remarkable resiliency of the British aristocracy has been its knack for

adopting the new while preserving the old. That is a challenge not just for lords and ladies but for all of us. In the show, we see telephones, phonographs, jazz music, motorcars, flappers, rich American relatives, working women, socialists, even electric toasters invade Downton Abbey – absorbed and modified, changing the family and servants just as they too are changed. The story of the chauffeur, Tom Branson, the Irish nationalist, who becomes part of such an aristocratic family. Christ's Church knows something of that same dynamic.

Finally, Downton Abbey, despite the seemingly strict conventions and class structure of the era it depicts, underlines **the Christian insight that we are all children of the one God**, brothers and sisters in Christ's love. That's **true before all else and after all is said and done**. People can change, and often a simple act of mercy changes everything. Thomas Barrow, the bitter, frustrated and frequently nasty gay butler, is rescued from attempted suicide by his downstairs colleagues – and winds up with a new view of life succeeding Mr. Carson, the imperious but lovable butler.

You wouldn't have to push hard to make me admit that Downton Abbey was **a little sappy, a little melodramatic and a little contrived at times**. But wasn't it magnificent television just the same?! It provided viewers with a feast of color and richness, of elegance and ease, of conflict and resolution, of character and crisis, of escapism and excitement the likes of which we haven't seen in a long time. Set within and around the elegance of **Highclere Castle** in England, the fictional Downton Abbey was an engaging period drama. And I love the nod it gave to some of the very lessons at the heart of **our encounter with the Risen Christ at Easter**.

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town hospital ignites fireworks, but in the end, the countess and Mrs. Crawley call a truce – and it is the countess who helps her old friend achieve love and marriage.

Admitting mistakes, a measure of humility and humor, plus openness to