

IV Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

Sat., April 16

Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69

4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., April 17

IV Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14, 43-52; Ps 100:1-3, 5; Rv 7:9, 14b-17; Jn 10:27-30

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... ☩ Harvey Clement (3rd Anniv.) by his family

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ Dorothy Evelyn O'Brien by Virginia Murphy

Mon., April 18

Acts 11:1-18; Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4; Jn 10:11-18

12 pm ... ☩ John Daly & ☩ Ron Huot (4th Anniv.) by Jane Daly

Tue., April 19

Acts 11:19-26; Ps 87:1b-7; Jn 10:22-30

12 pm ... Kate (living) by the Pereira family

Wed., April 20

Acts 12:24 — 13:5a; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Jn 12:44-50

11:30 am ... Penance & Reconciliation

12 pm ... ☩ Pauline Frechette by Connie Raymond

Thur., April 21

Saint Anselm

Acts 13:13-25; Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25, 27; Jn 13:16-20

8:30 am ... ☩ Robert "Doc" Reel by his family and friends

Fri., April 22

Acts 13:26-33; Ps 2:6-11ab; Jn 14:1-6

5:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ☩ Charlie Young by Patricia Damour

Sat., April 23

Saints George and Adalbert

Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

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

Sun., April 24

V Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

7:30 am ... ☩ Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family

9:30 am ... Commemoration in memory of the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ Nelson R. Kelly by Virginia Murphy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., April 18

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., April 19

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

Thur., April 21

7:30 pm ... Choir Practice Fri., April 22

7:30 pm ... Holy League Group



Food Pantry

Saint Raphael

Food Pantry

On Monday, April 11, the food pantry served **25** families

and gave out **32** bags of groceries

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



Please pray for the repose of the soul of ☩ **Howard B. Kreider, Jr.**, who died recently.



It's All About LOVE...

Concert at St. Anthony of Padua Church,

Manchester, on **April 30 at 7pm**. Come and enjoy Marie-Line Morin, soprano, along with pianists Lucille Fortin and Jan Borderleau. For more information, please call 625.6409.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of April 9-10, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,174.00
Make-Up Offertory	215.00
Loose Offertory	
536.45 Online Parish Giving	
395.00 Total	\$4,320.45

Stewardship	\$
1,967.00 Online Stewardship	
10.00 Loose Stewardship	
246.00 Total Stewardship	
\$2,223.00	

Easter	\$ 50.00
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Food Pantry	\$ 425.00
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Catholic Charities

The 2016 Annual Campaign has begun. Our goal this year is \$26,000. Thank

you to those who have supported Catholic Charities. If you haven't had a chance to give, there are envelopes available at the back of the church. Your gift feeds the hungry, clothes the poor, and provides care to those who are ill.



The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue Save the date!

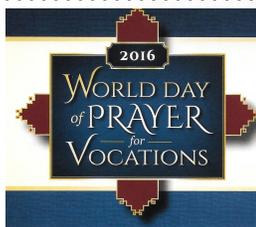
Friday, June 3, 2016, at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center. Check out highlights in the yellow flyer in this week's bulletin.



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Linda Paris** by Bill Paris. The candle burned last week for **Marthe Deshenes** by Robert & Carmelle LaRochelle.



Congratulations to **Andrew James Atkinson**, son of Michael and Heidi (Van Vliet) Atkinson, who was baptized last week 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."*



April 17, 2016—Good Shepherd Sunday & World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life? Please pray for priests who may have ministered to you throughout your life, both living and dead. Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week. Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister. Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our diocese to respond to God's call.

Telling the stories of priests who were Good Shepherds to us

During this **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, the Church's liturgy gives us many opportunities to reflect on the gift of God's merciful love, a love that is extended to us when we have done nothing to deserve it but a love that is generously bestowed just the same.

Today's celebration of **Good Shepherd Sunday** is a case in point. How often through the years have we benefited from God's care as it has been mediated by one of those men or women he calls to shepherd us?

Certainly, most of us would identify our **parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and other members of our family**, as well as **close friends** as some of the most important "shepherds" we have encountered. That is also true for many **teachers, coaches, employers and other mentors** we have met along the way. I hope that our list includes a **few priests too** – for on Good Shepherd Sunday, the Church invites us to consider the necessary gift of vocations to **the priesthood** and **the religious life**. These are not the only vocations, of course. Most people are called to **the married life or the single state**. Some likewise see their professions, trades or skills as a kind of vocation, which is nothing less than a **call from God** to live in a certain way for a specific set of purposes so that we might enter into a deep and abiding **relationship with him**. Such a relationship rightly lived out enables us to be what Saint Irenaeus of Lyons used to call "**man fully alive**," which gives the greatest glory to God! Nonetheless, there is an obvious and clear connection between Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and those who shepherd us in his name.

I've been thinking about some of the priests I've known over the years who have acted as good and effective shepherds in my own case. During recent years, the **public perception** of the priesthood has been twisted and distorted by the **clergy sexual abuse scandal**. The number of individuals has been roughly commensurate with the number of abusers in the general male population, but the number of victims for priests has been higher given the access priests historically have had to settings where young people are to be found. Without wishing to sweep this tragic issue under the rug, **what a pity if we lose or forget**



10-15 years older than they, but it was enough for them to be as amused by me as I was with them. But the fact is, they have become **good priests – and their brotherly concern** has survived these many years.

When my sister died back in 2011, I was moved by confreres at the abbey who reached out to me with interest in a story or two, expressions of concern and the promise of prayer. In case after case, I've seen **the sacrifices they make** to serve our students, faculty, staff and alumni, as

the tremendous example of good, selfless and dedicated priests who served with zeal and joy, faith and commitment!

When my dad died, a couple of the priests at our parish, **Saint Francis**, routinely checked in on my mom and me to see how we were doing. Just a **chat, a quick cup of coffee and a funny story** – but enough for a young widow to know that people cared and were looking out for her and her son.

When I was a high school student and got knocked off a debate and speech tournament trip to Washington, one of the priests **wondered why**, found no good reason for the exclusion and helped make the experience possible.

When I was struggling with the question of vocation, I remember one of the Benedictine priests at the abbey **maintained regular contact** – snail mail in those days! He always joked that only a few rooms were left, so I'd best get busy. A joke, but a way of expressing interest and concern.

When my mom was on her way to the Lord, I remember our pastor at Saint Francis routinely **traveled to the hospital 25 miles** away to spend a little time with her. Sometimes, if she were not conscious, he would leave a note to express faith and elicit a bit of laughter. He had served in the military and had seen some dangerous action, but he never lost his sense of humor.

When I was in seminary – **Saint John's in Boston** – I was routinely amused by the antics and issues of the younger guys in class. I had expected to go to the seminary for older men, now Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA, but I was sent to school with the younger fellows. I was only

well as people in the community. That includes our own people here at Saint Raphael. They bear the burdens of their work and vocation with dedication and never forget to smile.

The Church still confronts her **vocation crisis in this country**. The number of priests in the U.S. is about 40,000 — to serve more than 70 million Catholics. We clearly feel the shortage here in New Hampshire. The Holy Spirit will inspire young men to answer the vocational call when and how he will, but one way we can assist the Spirit in this critically important endeavor, I think, is by **revisiting our own memories** for those priests who have made a powerful impression on us, then **sharing the stories and recollections** that move us with young people. Stories always have a powerful, motivating impact, but especially when the number of priests is small. After all, the gospels themselves tell stories. Young people, especially young adults, seek lives that will give them meaning and happiness. Our Catholic young people need to discover that priests can live a beautiful, rewarding and love-filled life for Christ and his Church, and stories about those priests who have contributed to our lives are one way or another.

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