

## Mass Intentions

### Sat., May 7

Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28

3:35 pm ... Rosary

4 pm ... ☩ Bob McGrail (1st Anniv.) by Sue McGrail

### Sun., May 8 **VI Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26

7:30 am ... ☩ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue

9:30 am ... ☩ John & ☩ Theresa Grady by Fred & Marie Melvin

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ Robert J. Kirby by Talley, Joyce & PJ Guill

### Mon., May 9

Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33

12 pm ... ☩ William & ☩ Phyllis Wisneski by Teresa Greene

### Tue., May 10 **Saint Damien de Veuster**

Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

12 pm ... ☩ William Eafrazi (1st Anniv.) by Shirley Eafrazi

### Wed., May 11

Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19

11:30 am ... Penance & Reconciliation / Rosary

12 pm ... ☩ Cecile D. Moore by a friend

### Thur., May 12 **Sts. Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras**

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

8:30 am ... ☩ Eileen Norton by Virginia Murphy

### Fri., May 13 **Our Lady of Fatima**

Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19

5:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ☩ Celia Domenski by Teresa Greene

### Sat., May 14 **Saint Matthias**

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17

3:35 pm ... Rosary

4 pm ... ☩ Christian de Bellerive (5th Anniv.) by the Chalifour and Hunter families

### Sun., May 15 **Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

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

9:30 am ... ☩ Ernie & ☩ Betty Heidenreich and ☩ Ernest & ☩ Ann Heidenreich by Al & Barbara Heidenreich

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ William Canty, Jr. by Jack & Colleen Byrne



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ Dot, ☩ Ray, and ☩ Roger LaRoche by Lillian LaRoche.

*Happy Mothers Day*

In honor of The Year of Mercy, we invite all mothers, grandmothers and Godmothers to help yourselves to a Saint Raphael Parish light pen, as well as a carnation flower. God Bless you in all that you do!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Mon., May 9

7 pm ... Parish Council Meeting

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tue., May 10

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

### Wed., May 11

7 pm ... Knight & Crochet Group

### Thur., May 12

6:30 pm ... Catholic War Vets/Wives

7:30 pm ... Choir Practice



**Food Pantry**

### Saint Raphael

### Food Pantry On

Monday, May 2, the food pantry served 22

families and gave out 30 bags of groceries We need Spaghetios, fruit, macaroni, and can always use brown paper bags! Thank you!



### Pentecost Mass and breakfast

Members of this year's First

Communion and Confirmation Classes will be honored during the 9:30 am Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 15.

Following the Mass, they will be guests of honor at our parish breakfast immediately afterwards. Please join us and wear RED, to honor the Holy Spirit, at whatever Pentecost Mass you plan to attend!



### Respect Life

**Committee** The Saint Raphael Respect Life Committee is sponsoring it's Annual Baby Bottle fundraiser to benefit CareNet Pregnancy Center. Bottles will be available for distribution

this weekend at the back of the church and in the chapel. Please limit bottles to one per family and return your bottle on Father's Day weekend June 18/19. We look forward to your help in making this

## Weekly Collection

### Weekend of May 1, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,372.00
Make-Up Offertory	420.00
Loose Offertory	
937.40 Online Parish Giving	
<b>150.00 Total</b>	<b>\$4,879.00</b>

Stewardship \$  
50.00

### Last Year: Weekend of May 3, 2015

*"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*



**Catholic Charities**

### The 2016 Annual Campaign has begun.

Our goal this year is \$26,000. Thank

you to those who have supported Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities is there, answering the increasing cries for assistance. Your gift today will help answer those cries; strengthen families, teaching life-changing skills, and creates opportunities that move lives forward. If you haven't had a chance to give, there are envelopes available at the back of the church.



### Sign up to host Vocation Chalice and Pilgrim Virgin statue

Parishioners and friends of the parish are encouraged to sign up for either or both of these opportunities for two-week intervals. Find out more by reading P. Jerome's explanation in The Pastor's Column this week (opposite page). Please call the office at 623.2604 to make arrangements. This is a great opportunity to develop prayer in your home and heart, to honor Mary and to ask God for the gift of new vocations!



### The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue

Save the date! Friday, June 3, 2016, at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center.

Tickets are just \$12 and are available following all weekend Masses or during the week at the rectory.

## Someone's knockin' on your door! It's your brother and your mother!



Mother's Day is as good a time as I can imagine for Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish to begin **two new projects** designed to enhance our spiritual lives. They will require each participant to **think on three levels** – and I realize that can be a challenge. Some days, I find it tough enough to think on any level! But I believe we will be well rewarded

for the effort that we put into these projects, which are connected to our parish observance of this beautiful **Jubilee Year of Mercy**.

The first project, appropriately for Mother's Day, is a **traveling statue** of Our Lady of Fatima, whose feast day is later this week, May 13. Under the auspices of the **Knights of Columbus, the Arthur J. O'Neil Council 5112**, which serves and meets at Saint Lawrence Parish, Goffstown, and Saint Raphael, Manchester, we are invited to say the Rosary, or perhaps only a decade of the Rosary, for a week or two, before the statue moves on to another family. The basket with the statue also contains information on how to pray the Rosary, why it is important in Catholic life, and what it has meant in the history of the Church. Likewise, the statue, which is blessed, can be a **powerful motivator for family unity and prayer**.

Mary, the holy Mother of God, the mother Jesus knew in this life and who gave her to us, his brothers and sisters in Baptism, as he prepared to die on the Cross, is the perfect human model of Christian life. She is rightly seen as the first disciple of her divine Son, as the Mother of his Church and the Mother of the Eucharist. Under her various titles around the world, Mary is understood as **the human mother of the source of Divine Mercy**, Jesus Christ himself. She intercedes for us for that mercy, she shows us how to live in that mercy in faith and she herself knew the transformative power and beauty of that mercy!

Families and individuals may **request to have the pilgrim statue** of Mary visit their homes. They will be asked to arrange for pick-up with the rectory office, provide safe-keeping for the statue and basket and organize the prayer service that is at the heart of the visit to each home. On occasion, the **rectory office will contact families to welcome** the statue, but I would be happy to see us start with families and individuals on a sign-up list. No one, of course, is required to receive the statue – but I would be surprised if there were any Catholic who would not welcome an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary to his or her home. How wonderful if the Pilgrim Virgin statue of Mary visited every home in our parish over the next year or two!

For families, reception of the statue would invite the couple and their children to come



prayer before the image is important too and should be encouraged. What a great opportunity a visit from the Pilgrim Virgin would be to teach youngsters about the value of prayer, the lives of Mary and Jesus as they unfold in the Rosary, the connection between individuals, family, parish, community, nation and world and the life we share in Christ's Mystical Body, the Church.

When individuals living alone take the statue, they obviously will find time for private prayer. However, the week or two someone hosts the Pilgrim Virgin statue quite likely will **afford some opportunities to invite family and friends** to visit for some prayer and good conversation and fellowship.

Whether we live on our own or together with family members, we ought to think on three levels with regard to this project. First, we need to know that **we all require time for prayer and reflection**. Who among us does not have need to praise God, thank him for all he has given us, ask his help for ourselves or others and lament our sins, failures and selfishness? Prayer nourishes and strengthens our spiritual lives. Second, **we must reach out** in love and compassion to those around us – family and friends. They help us establish, build and constitute our lives. They have a claim on our prayers, and we on theirs. Third, Catholics know they **participate in the Mystical Body of Christ**. That body we first encounter in our parish, which is its Eucharistic heart, but which extends around the world through time and space.

Closely related to the Pilgrim Virgin statue project, the **Vocation Chalice project** offers us another opportunity for prayer along the same lines. Here, however, the family or the individual with friends prays specifically for the gift of new, good and holy vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. Some

years ago, Saint Raphael received a small but quite lovely chalice that is more suited to be a decorative piece than a usable chalice for the altar. The visit of the Vocation Chalice, to be conducted along the same lines as the statue of Mary, **will give many people in our community of faith the motivation to pray for vocations**.

Whether one chooses to sit or kneel in silence, read biblical passages, pray the Liturgy of the Hours, recite the Rosary, rely on other devotional prayers or use the pamphlet the parish will provide, the object is to lift your heart to the Lord and ask him to **move hearts in this highly secular age** so that people may hear Christ's call and respond to it.

This past week, I had the opportunity to attend the annual priestly convocation of the Diocese of Manchester. We gathered at the lovely old Mountain View Grand Hotel in Whitefield in the White Mountains, had Mass at nearby Saint Matthew's Church and heard some insightful and inspiring conferences by **Donald Cardinal Wuerl, archbishop of Washington**. One thing I was left with was a recognition of how much we need new priests here in New Hampshire and throughout the U.S. The men with whom I prayed, studied, ate and socialized are good, holy and effective priests of Jesus Christ, none perfect perhaps, but the vast majority dedicated and determined. But our numbers are declining – and the Church needs her priests. Only one young man is scheduled to be ordained for this diocese this year. The needs at Saint Anselm Abbey parallel the needs throughout the country. One confrere is scheduled to be ordained next years, but it has been a **decade since our last priestly ordination!**

I rather like the idea of these two projects moving forward simultaneously. May they be like two great ribbons weaving in and out of our lives, two great curving lines creating one of those beautiful Celtic knots and binding our parish together in Christ and Mary, his holy Mother!

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together at a mutually convenient time to pray together before the image. As Catholics, we recognize that our prayer is directed to God, but we invoke Mary, the saints and the angels too for their help and solidarity along the journey of life. Morning, evening or sometime in between, the **members of a household come together** as a family to pray – but individual

prayer before the image is important too and should be encouraged. What a great opportunity a visit from the Pilgrim Virgin would be to teach youngsters about the value of prayer, the lives of Mary and Jesus as they unfold in the Rosary, the connection between individuals, family, parish, community, nation and world and the life we share in Christ's Mystical Body, the Church.

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