

Solemnity of Pentecost

Mass Intentions

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

Mon., May 16

Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

12 pm ... ✠Robert Lucci by Donald & Esther Leclerc

Tue., May 17

Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37

12 pm ... ✠Charles Young by Saint Raphael Parish

Wed., May 18 **Saint John I**

Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40

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

12 pm ... ✠Eileen Norton by NH Masonicare

Thur., May 19

Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50

8:30 am ... Marthe Deschenes (living) by Robert & Carmelle LaRochelle

Fri., May 20 **Saint Bernadine of Siena**

Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12

5:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ✠Richard Kirouac by Rita Montpelier

Sat., May 21 **Saint Christopher Magallanes**

Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16

3:35 pm ... Rosary

4 pm ... ✠Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., May 22 **The Most Holy Trinity**

Prv 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

7:30 am ... ✠Charles Richard by Tom & Alice Benard

9:30 am ... ✠Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ✠Robert Murphy by Tom & Alice Benard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., May 16

7-8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., May 17

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

Wed., May 18

7 pm ... Respect Life Committee Meeting

Thur., May 19

7 pm ... Book Discussion Group



Pentecost Mass and breakfast

Members of this year's First

Communion and Confirmation classes will be honored today during the **9:30 am Mass** and at our **Pentecost breakfast** immediately following the Mass. Please join us and wear **RED**, to honor the Holy Spirit, at whatever Pentecost Mass you plan to attend!



Congratulations to our parishioners who were welcomed to the Lord's table at their First Communion on May 1: **Olivia Morin Baker,**

Ryan Morin, Mary Janine Boucher, Elise Anna Cat- aldo, Kaelyn Elizabeth Gagnon, Miley Faith Houle, Kyle Andrew Kelley, Dannielle Nadene Mailloux, Tairiq Arthur Phillips, Ethan Andrew Royter, Tyler Gary Stephen Stafford, and to Noah David Hall-Plumpton, who made his First Eucharist on May 10 with his uncle, Fr. Maurice Lavigne, concelebrating.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of May 8, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,117.00
Make-Up Offertory	\$396.00
Loose Offertory	
544.30 Online Parish Giving	
295.00 Total	

\$4,352.30

Stewardship	\$
2,778.00	
Loose Stewardship	321.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 3,099.00

Ascension of the Lord	\$3,314.00
Loose Ascension	324.75
Total Ascension	\$3,638.75

Last Year: Weekend of May 10, 2015
Total Offertory



Catholic Charities

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

you to those who have supported Catholic Charities. To date, your gift has helped us raise **\$3,425** towards our goal. Through you, young teens learn to be great parents, grief is relieved, the confused find their way and the vulnerable are strengthened. If you haven't had a chance to help your neighbors facing difficulties, please take a moment to make a pledge or gift to Catholic Charities. Your gift moves lives forward!



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 about it on our website, www.saint-raphael-parish.com. 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!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠**Maureen Harlow** by Bill & Mary Ellen Biser.



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, May 9, the food pantry served **14**

families and gave out **21** bags of groceries We need Spaghettios, fruit, macaroni, and can always use brown paper bags! Thank you!



Altar Servers Needed! The Altar Server's Ministry is a unique one in the Catholic Church. Other than priests and deacons, no one else is allowed to so closely play a part in the preparation of the Eucharist. Your participation as an Altar Server is special. When you serve the priests and deacons, you serve the people of God, and above all, you serve Christ. Servers should have received their First Eucharist before they start serving. If you are interested, please call Kerri in the office at 623.2604. Thank you!



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.

Mary shows us how to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit

One of my favorite paintings of the Annunciation is by **Henry Ossawa Tanner** (*photo below*), an American painter who lived in the late 19th century. I became acquainted with this painting a little over five years ago during my Spiritual Direction practicum at **Boston College** as part of a morning meditation, and I have found it a good counter-point for paintings from the medieval, Renaissance and Romantic traditions with their elaborate depictions.

Tanner's painting depicts Mary as a young girl, looking confused at the blaze of light that illuminates the presence of one of God's messengers, **trying to parse what it all means and what she will do**. The room she occupies is simple, and it's not clear whether she is in the process of arising from sleep, taking a moment to rest during the day, or getting ready to retire for the night. Mary's uncertainty in this painting emphasizes the **free choice of will she is given** to listen and accept God's plan for her life. I suppose I like this painting so much because it gives me confidence that at each moment of confusion in my life, if I say yes to what I believe God is speaking into it, I will find God's blessing.

Scripture doesn't tell us much about the encounter between Mary and the Archangel Gabriel. *"In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be."* (Lk. 1:26-29)

While we hear about their conversation, Mary's questions and the angel's reassurance, God's promise and **Mary's assent to God's plan**, Scripture gives us no clues about where this encounter took place, what Mary was doing or how the angel came to her. Was she doing dishes? Was she in the market place? Was she taking care of the garden or doing other errands? Was she on the rooftop in prayer? We simply do not know, although artists have imagined the scene throughout history. Often they place Mary in a setting where she is seen reading from Sacred Scripture. She is contemplating the Word even as she is about to be made great with the Word.

Mary has been a great source of inspiration



to me over the years, and **she is one reason why I entered the Catholic Church**. Mary encapsulates for me that wonderful Catholic theological concept of **"both/and"** where so many possibilities lie and where so many of our choices are made. We often think in terms of "either I do this or I do that" or "it either means this or that," and yet in searching for that third thing that is "both/and," **we broaden our horizons and find God in all manner of ways**.

For us as Catholics, it is not Scripture or Tradition but both, not prayer and service but not, not faith or works but both, not personal spirituality or liturgical worship but both. Ossawa's painting emphasizes the human element encountering the supernatural power of God. By showing so much emotion on her face, the painting helps me to see how Mary holds within herself both an ordinary village woman as well as Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Mary's reply to the angel, *"Let it be to me according to your Word,"* set the course for the rest of her life. **Her life was filled with trials and hardship, as well as blessing**. I can't imagine traveling on foot or horseback the 70 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem while nine months pregnant, nor can I imagine fleeing hundreds of miles with a baby to escape the wrath of a tyrant, and I can't imagine losing my beloved child to a brutal conspiracy. But Mary also spent lots of time in a loving community, traveling to Jerusalem with family each year and being supported by a loving husband. She was active in her community, helping to arrange for needs to be met such as at **the wedding feast of Cana**, and she had a loving son

who placed her in the care of his best friend at the time of his death.

For each of us, there is a moment and sometimes many moments, when God speaks into our lives, asking us to give assent to his purposes instead of our own. Many of the saints led blameless lives, but many others, **Saints Francis of Assisi and Ignatius of Loyola**, were people who lived according to their cultural circumstances. The journey there can be arduous and filled with stress, but we should always know that God supports us through our faith communities and those who love us.

Faith in such divine support depends heavily on the **action of the Holy Spirit** in our lives. Mary had a deep and beautiful relationship with God in and through each Person of the Blessed Trinity. This daughter of the Eternal Father, this daughter of Israel was overshadowed by the Spirit and gave birth to the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. She was always attuned to the words of her son, and the speech of Jesus is filled with the Spirit. Mary was with the apostles and other disciples in the Upper Room when the Spirit descended upon them at Pentecost. Through the visible signs of **a rushing wind, an explosion of languages and tongues of fire**, the Spirit made his presence know and felt. Mary teaches us the incomparable value of opening our hearts, minds, wills — our lives — to the Father.

In spite of whatever troubles us or perplexes us, if we ponder what it means for God to be present for us in our particular circumstances, we will engage in that conversation with God that lets us see the "both/and" so that we can ultimately say with confidence and trust, *"Let it be done according to your word."* As we celebrate **Pentecost this Sunday**, may we pray that our hearts are opened by the Holy Spirit so that we, like Mary of Nazareth, can serve God to the best of our abilities, whenever, however, wherever and why ever God asks us.

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