

The Most Holy Trinity

Mass Intentions

Sat., May 28

Jude 17, 20b-25; Ps 63:2-6; Mk 11:27-33

3:35 pm ... Rosary

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

Sun., May 29 **The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ**

Gn 14:18-20; Ps 110:1-4; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9:11b-17

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

9:30 am ... †Deceased members of the Linehan and Tullgren families by Irene Tullgren

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Theresa Chabot (living) by Anne Clark

Mon., May 30 **~RECTORY CLOSED~**

2 Pt 1:2-7; Ps 91:1-2, 14-16; Mk 12:1-2

9am ... Memorial Day Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery

Tue., May 31 **The Visitation of the BVM**

Zep 3:14-18 or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 1:39-56

12 pm ... †Jillian Lescatre by Saint Benedict Academy

Wed., June 1 **Saint Justin**

2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Ps 123:1b-2; Mk 12:18-27

11:30 am ... Penance & Reconciliation

12 pm ... †Shaun M. Keane by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Thur., June 2 **Saints Marcellinus and Peter**

2 Tm 2:8-15; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Mk 12:28b-34

8:30 am ... †Robert Lucci by Denis & Eileen Smith

Fri., June 3 **The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Ez 34:11-16; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5b-11; Lk 15:3-7

8:30 am* ... †Romain & †Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

(*NOTE TIME CHANGE FOR THIS WEEK ONLY.)

Sat., June 4 **The Immaculate Heart of the BVM**

2 Tm 4:1-8; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 2:41-51

4 pm ... †Jack North by Mary Dery

Sun., June 5 **X Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1 Kgs 17:17-24; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Gal 1:11-19; Lk 7:11-17

7:30 am ... †Joan Foley by Connie Raymond

9:30 am ... Our Parish Family

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... †Jeannette Magarian by Charles Magarian



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for the **deceased veterans of Saint Raphael Parish, as well as those from among our families and friends.**



Respect Life Committee The Saint Raphael Respect Life Committee is sponsoring it's **Annual Baby Bottle fundraiser** to benefit CareNet Pregnancy Center. There are still bottles available for you to take from the basket at the back of the church. Please limit bottles to one per family and **return your bottle on Father's Day weekend June 18/19.** Thank you for your help!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., May 30

Memorial Day—Rectory Closed. NO FOOD PANTRY

Tue., May 31

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse

Thur., May 26

7:30 pm ... Choir Practice



Annual Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated **Monday, May 30**

at 9 am at Old Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Donald Street, Manchester. If it rains, Mass will be in Saint Joseph Cathedral. Please bring a lawn chair for seating at the cemetery. Note that there will be **NO MASS at Saint Raphael Parish on Memorial Day and the office**



Save the date! VBS... Saint Raphael's ever popular

Vacation Bible School is coming! This year, VBS will be **July 18-22 from 9 am-12 pm.** This year's theme is "Cave Quest—Following Jesus, the Light of the Word". We are enlisting volunteers and participants and applications will be available soon!



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!



Catholic Charities

2016 Annual Campaign. Our goal this year is \$26,000. Thank you to those who

have supported Catholic Charities. To date, your gift has helped us raise **\$3,825** towards our goal. Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting Catholic Charities New Hampshire.



The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR TICKETS YET? **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. You don't want to miss it! There will be great entertainment, a silent auction, and lots of fun and derring-do!



Note that the Mass for **Friday, June 3** will be celebrated at **8:30am** rather than the normal 6pm.

Confessions will be canceled.



Lynne Hartshorn Memorial Blood Drive

Mark your calendar for **Monday, June 20, 1-6 pm**, in the Parish Hall. Lynne was a longtime volunteer and receptionist at the American Red Cross Center, Manchester. Her son, Peter Hartshorn and his wife, Melissa, and their three children are parishioners of Saint Raphael. All blood donations would be greatly appreciated!



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!

Vicious, violent or just nasty, our speech erodes our rights, dignity

Those of us who **still read the news**, whether it is in a newspaper, on the computer screen or in the phone, often react to stories. We **exclaim, we shake our heads, we mutter** and, sometimes, we might even need to delete an expletive or two. All very natural reactions. When **issues of great importance** arise, locally, regionally, nationally or globally, we might even write a letter to the editor to express our point of view and rally support or opposition as the case may require. Again, all very normal and natural.

Sometimes, however, our reactions can get the better of us. We might sit at the lunch table and run down a candidate or a position, and on particularly bad days, we might even **denounce** a fellow employee for holding a position we deplore.

Some of this is quite within reason, and some of it is morally wrong – and until relatively recently **most of us knew the difference**. But the **age of interactivity** has arrived on the computer screen, and readers of news stories, visitors to blogs and guests on chat lines now have the capacity to post comments to news stories, opinion columns or public discussions. As a rather serious defender of the **First Amendment**, all this expression of free speech does my heart good – most of the time. Unfortunately, the rise of the technical capacity to post opinions has become an open invitation for racists, bigots, misanthropes, misogynists, bullies and others to turn the public sphere of social media into an open sewer.

When I was editorial director of **The Lowell Sun**, downriver in Massachusetts, the publisher wanted to introduce a feature on the editorial page that would allow anyone in the community to post a comment. I **resisted the idea**, explaining, “We already have a section for letters to the editor. That’s already serving the needs of people with opinions pretty well.” I managed to hold out for a good few years, but, eventually, when I left the paper to ender the abbey, **the floodgates were opened**. It didn’t take long for the nonsense, vitriol, vacuity and hatefulness to find their way into our pages. In no way do I think public discussion has been improved by the phenomenon, and in fact, it has promoted a **culture of emotional over-reaction, stridency and alienation** so that finding common ground becomes ever more difficult. Advocates of technology lament that this is



communication were supposed to work!

To some extent, each of these venues is an open forum, subject to minimal vetting and supervision. That is the way free speech operates. As the great English writer **John Milton** observed in his famous treatise *Areopagitica* in 1644, the power of good ideas should be sufficient to defeat, clean up or transform bad ideas.

The problem these days is that many contributors to discussion in the public sphere have little interest in **the common good**. They simply enjoy stirring the pot and creating division. Many commentators post messages that would make **longshoremen, truckers and special forces** blanch. Some contributors rely on language that is coarse, vulgar, scatological, insulting and demeaning. Their reasoning is flawed, vapid or absent. Some writers **promote a culture of suspicion, conspiracy and even violence** seeming to think that we all live in some tenuous combination of Oz, Never-Never-Land, Brigadoon and Dante’s Inferno.

Late-night television talk shows now frequently have features in which the host or celebrity guests read “**mean tweets**,” short messages of 140 characters or fewer, addressed to them. Recipients have been threatened with **death, sexual violence and all manner of abuse**. Recently, the on-line podcast “Not Just Sports” invited several men to read aloud tweets that had been sent to two female sports broadcasters. In short order, the men were not only shaking their heads or twisting their mouths in disgust but were choking and tearing up.

The readers were not the writers of the offensive tweets; they were simply guys appalled at the level of crudity and aggression that passes for public discourse in our country and elsewhere. That is, sadly, **why the**

not the way these advances in

rhetorical extremes of this election cycle have been able to linger and even flourish. As Pogo observes, “We have met the enemy and they are us.” One reason for this is the ease with which writers can cloak themselves with anonymity. The old-fashioned letter to the editor of “my day” **required a name and address**. The editor insisted on knowing who the writer was and where he or she lived. To express an opinion was a First Amendment right, but it carried an **implicit responsibility**. If I want to say it, I must be willing to name it, claim it and own it by attaching my identity to it.

I suppose it has been ever thus. I remember getting **anonymous hate mail** as a newspaper editor. I’ve received on rare occasions nasty evaluations from students. It’s not the criticism that I deplore, it’s the hateful commentary and the anonymity. And even as pastor, I’ve received slicing commentary once in a blue moon. Again, the **anonymity of the unsigned note** or hidden e-mail address is just too great a temptation for some folks. Cloaked by anonymity, some people think they can say whatever they wish and threaten anyone who disagrees with them.

Many of us use social media and many more comment on line. At least at Saint Raphael, I hope those comments are always owned by writers willing to identify themselves and express themselves with clear thinking, polite language and respectful tone. And a sense of humor wouldn’t hurt! **God has given us marvelous gifts**, and he has blessed us with life in nation where freedom of expression is a right. But it is also a responsibility — and unless we use the freedom responsibly, its heritage as a right becomes ever more tenuous. The men and women we honor **this Memorial Day weekend** defended our freedom to use our rights with responsibility and care, not squander and cheapen them. © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of May 15, 2016

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Regular Offertory | \$3,581.00 |
| Make-Up Offertory | 411.00 |
| Loose Offertory | |
| 619.50 Online Parish Giving | |
| 200.00 Total | \$4,811.50 |

Stewardship \$ 62.00

Last Year: Weekend of May 10, 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



Saint Raphael Food Pantry

On Monday, May 23, the food pantry served **23** families and gave out **38** bags of groceries We need Spaghettios, fruit, macaroni, and

can always use brown paper bags! Thank you! **REMINDER: The food pantry will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.**