

Mass Intentions

Sat., September 3 **Saint Gregory the Great**
1 Cor 4:6b-15; Ps 145:17-21; Lk 6:1-5

4 pm ... ☩ Yvon Brunette (2nd Anniv.) by the Brunette family

Sun., September 4 **XXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90:3-6, 12-17; Phlm 9-10, 12-17; Lk 14:25-33

7:30 am ... ☩ Charlie Young by Dottie DeCotis

9:30 am ... ☩ Heather Cashin (25th Anniv.) by Joe & Sue Cashin

5 pm ... ☩ Arthur Smet (39th Anniv.) by Cynthia Hobbs

Mon., September 5 **LABOR DAY** **St. Teresa of Calcutta**
~RECTORY CLOSED~

1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11

9 am ... ☩ Larry Cote by Jeannine Cote

Tue., September 6

1 Cor 6:1-11; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 6:12-19

12 pm ... ☩ Michael Tower by P. Jerome

Wed., September 7

1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26

12 pm ... ☩ Mary Marszal by Faye Kelly

Thur., September 8 **The Nativity of the B.V.M.**

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 (18-23)

8:30 am ... ☩ Mary Meenaghan by Margaret-Ann Moran

Fri., September 9 **Saint Peter Claver**

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42

6 pm ... ☩ Eileen Norton by P. Jerome

Sat., September 10

1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49

4 pm ... ☩ Frank Connolly by James & Joan Connolly

Sun., September 11 **XXIV Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

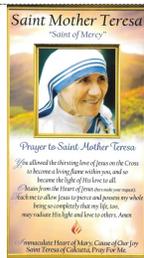
7:30 am ... ☩ Sylvia Hobbs by Cynthia Hobbs

9:30 am ... Al & Barbara Heidenreich (60th wedding anniv.) and
☩ Katherine Jaskolka

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for the ☩ **Martin F. Kenney (50th Anniv.)**

Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, August 29, the food pantry served **20** families and gave out **44** bags of groceries. We will be closed on Monday, Sep. 5 for Labor Day. We need Mac 'n Cheese and can always use brown paper bags!



Mother Teresa Prayer Cards
Mother Teresa will be canonized as a saint on Sunday, September 4. Please take a prayer card located in the baskets at the main church and chapel entrances—and use it to invoke her intercession.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of August 28, 2016

Regular Offertory \$8,872.00
Make-Up Offertory 499.00
Loose Offertory 499.00
Online Parish Giving 636.60
Total 265.00

\$10,27

2.60

Stewardship \$
90.00

Assumption of B.V.M. \$ **160.00**

Last Year: Weekend of August 30, 2015

Total Offertory \$7,675.00



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 **\$19,2010** towards our goal. **Let's raise the \$6,790 to reach our goal!** Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting Catholic Charities New Hampshire. Please help us reach our goal!



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 play so closely a part in the preparation of the Eucharist. We welcome youth who have made their First Communion, as well as adults who would like to serve, to attend an **information meeting on Oct. 16 at 11 am** in the church. Training and refresher training will be provided as well. If you have any questions before then, please contact Eric Bernazzani, our director of altar serving, at eric.bernazzani@yahoo.com.

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Saint Raphael Parish on **Sept. 14, 2016**. See the flyers at the back of the church for details and registration info.

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive Mark your calendar for **Thursday, Sept. 29, 1-6 pm**, in the Parish Hall. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a blood drive. Blood is in short supply. All blood donations would be greatly appreciated! **Note that the original date of Fri., Sept. 22, has been POSTPONED to Sept. 29.**

September training We will be having a training opportunity for sacristans, Eucharistic ministers and lectors on **Sept. 18 at 3pm**. This will be a refresher for current parishioners in these roles. All sacristans, EMs and lectors are strongly encouraged to attend. Further information will follow

Routes / Roots of Faith Pilgrimage—Fall 2016 As we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we will embark on a three-day pilgrimage in the Catskills and Berkshires. **The National Shrine of the Divine Mercy**, The National Shrine of the North American Martyrs, The Norman Rockwell Museum, and Yankee Candle Village are among the stops on **Oct. 9—11** pilgrimage. Full details are included in orange flyers at the doors of the church.

Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael Parish!

Mother Teresa's love, service to poor epitomize this Year of Mercy

Sometimes the best gifts aren't planned, they just work out that way! Today, **the fourth of September**, is my 63rd birthday, and although that will shock all and sundry who know me, owing to **my youthful good looks and athletic physique**, it is, alas, the truth. Over the years, and in a special way here at Saint Raphael, people have been very kind, remembering profession and ordination anniversaries, holidays and, of course, birthdays. But this year, the best gift in some important ways, will be a ceremony in Rome led by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. He will be proclaiming a diminutive woman from an obscure country in southern Europe a **saint** of the Roman Catholic Church.

Her name is **Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**, born of Albanian parents in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, Aug. 26, 1910, and died Sept. 5, 1997, in India. She worked most of her life in the slums for the poor in one of the largest nations. The world knows her as Mother Teresa, and the pope's declaration will not put her in heaven – she is already there. Her canonization is simply **the Church's recognition that the evidence** – her work, her commitments, her writings, her legacy and her spiritual impact – gives ample warrant for the confident assertion that God's grace has been fully victorious in her life.

Unlike the great saints of the past, who are accessible to us in their spiritual writings and in art, Mother Teresa is a woman of our own time. Like the two popes proclaimed saints in 2014, **John XXIII and John Paul II**, Teresa came to us in the nightly news, radio interviews, films and visits around the world. To my great regret, I abandoned an opportunity to interview her in the mid-'80s back in my days as an editor when she spoke at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. I would have relished the chance to see and speak with her, but the expected mob of journalists and cameramen prompted me to jettison the idea. I realize now that sometimes we should just press forward and use an elbow here and a shoulder there, gently, of course.

Mother Teresa won the world's **attention, then affection** for her years of tireless work on behalf of the "poorest of the poor," those who were suffering in slums and on the streets, the sick, homeless, maimed, dispossessed and dying. Her own work focused on Calcutta, one of India's largest cities, where it was not unusual to find men, women and children not only begging but dying on the street. She taught the members of the religious community she founded, the **Missionaries of Charity**, to minister to spiritual, emotional and physical needs on the spot, then, whenever possible to arrange care in hospices, hospitals and relief centers. The sisters, **numbering 4,500** and distinctive in their blue and white saris, the traditional attire



The many faces of Mother Teresa: in later life as a Missionary of Charity (top), and below as a girl at home, as a young woman and as a Sister of Loreto.

for women in India, can be found throughout the world now, including in the U.S.

Mother Teresa's critics, and there were some notable ones, chided her for treating symptoms of problems rather than addressing root causes. The intelligent way to confront severe poverty and disease in India and elsewhere was systemic social and economic change, they sneered. For Mother Teresa, that was the work of government, business and large organizations. Her work, she asserted quietly, was **an encounter with the suffering Christ in each face**, in every wound. For Mother Teresa, the individual soul, the personal dignity of each man and woman mattered eternally! Economic and political solutions have their place, but they cannot, and must not, replace an appreciation of the individual person. That is particularly important for us working in the various ministries of the Church, but Mother Teresa's message is for all disciples of the Lord.

Her **consistent defense of life** from the **most vulnerable to the most abandoned to the most infirm** grew out of her understanding of the inestimable value of the individual. The widespread support for abortion in the U.S. and western Europe left her baffled, because she saw it as evidence of a spiritual poverty worse than the streets of Calcutta.

Sometimes, Mother Teresa and her sisters

would see that their efforts on behalf of an individual or a community came to naught. A man might slip back into abject poverty on the streets or a neighborhood might erupt in violence. **"God does not ask us to be successful," she would remark, "only to be faithful."**

Mother Teresa, having felt called to the life of a missionary, entered an Irish order, the **Sisters of Loreto**, where she learned English and trained to be a teacher for schools in India, where she served privileged youngsters from Christian and Hindu homes. She always said she loved her 20 years with Loreto, but increasingly came to believe she was being **called by God to a radical service of the poor**. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950 and the congregation has grown to serve in 133 nations, including the U.S. During her years with the most abject poor, Mother Teresa also met the world's most powerful, wealthy and influential figures to win support for her clinics, orphanages, hospitals, hospices, soup kitchens and counseling programs. Princess Diana was one of her friends. The

winner of countless awards, Mother Teresa received the **1979 Nobel Prize for Peace**.

She reminds us over the long course of her life of the purpose of peace – that each of us might come to know and experience our value and dignity in the eyes of God. Mother Teresa did that through constant and consistent attention to mercy and respect for the individual, something her critics never quite understood. Her canonization during this **Jubilee Year of Mercy** renews for the Church the impetus to seek out and defend the value and dignity in every person, regardless of condition.

Most of us will have neither the opportunity nor the skill to minister those in need as did Mother Teresa, but we will discover situation after situation where a word, gesture, act or decision, **rooted in compassion**, will make a world of difference! *Mother Teresa, teacher of mercy, show us how to minister to Christ in all his faces!* © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.