

Mass Intentions

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

Mon., September 12 **Most Holy Name of Mary**

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 7:1-10

9 am ... ✠ Jack Healy by Don & Esther Leclerc

Tue., September 13 **Saint John Chrysostom**

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 7:11-17

4 pm ... ✠ George Koeppinger by Dave Bregar

Wed., September 14 **The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

12 pm ... ✠ Elise Lambert by Bob & Carmelle LaRoche

Thur., September 15 **Our Lady of Sorrows**

1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 7:36-50

8:30 am ... ✠ Cecile M. Wojnicki by P. Jerome

Fri., September 16 **Saints Cornelius & Cyprian**

1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3

6 pm ... Our Parish Family

Sat., September 17

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15

4 pm ... ✠ Elise E. Lambert by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Sun., September 18 **XXV Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]

7:30 am ... ✠ Clayton Raymond by Connie Raymond

9:30 am ... ✠ Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family

5 pm ... William Wisner III by Teresa Greene



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for all those claimed by the violence on Sept. 11, 2001.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of September 3, 2016

Regular Offertory \$2,849.00
Make-Up Offertory 387.00
Loose Offertory 387.00
Online Parish Giving 734.75
Total 4,295.75

Stewardship \$ 40.00
Assumption of B.V.M. \$ 65.00

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 so closely plays a part in the celebration of the Eucharist. We welcome youth who have made their First Communion, **as well as adults who would like to serve**, to attend an **informational meeting on Oct. 16 at 11 am** in the church. Training and refresher training will be provided as well. Questions? Please contact Eric Bernazzani, director of altar serving, at eric.bernazzani@yahoo.com



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



Knitting Group

The Knitting Group will meet on **Wed., Sep. 14 at 7pm** in the Church Conference Room. All are welcome to join us, whether you are a new or experienced knitter or crocheter. Please join us for fellowship and fun!



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. We ask that sign-up and deposits be made by



Congratulations to **Maisie Jane Hebert**, daughter of Stephen and Kristen (King) Hebert, who was baptized on Sunday, Aug. 28, by Abbot Matthew Leavy, O.S.B. **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."**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tue., September 13

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conference Room

Wed., September 14

8 am—6pm ... Lifeline Screening—Parish Hall

7 pm ... Knit & Crochet Group—Church Conference Room

7:30 pm ... Choir Practice—Choir Loft

Thur., September 15

7 pm ... Book Group (12th Anniv. Dinner)—Parish Hall



Soon we will be revealing our big surprise... Stay tuned!



III
Michael McGeever & Alejandra Potter
IV
Michael Courtney & Lindsey Gray



Our SRP Choir has resumed singing at the 9:30am Sunday Masses. Practices are Thursdays

from 7:30—8:45 pm. We welcome new members, so please join us or contact Lyle Hamel, director of music, at lyle03102@yahoo.com for more info.

Corporal works of mercy abounded on 9/11, and we need them still!

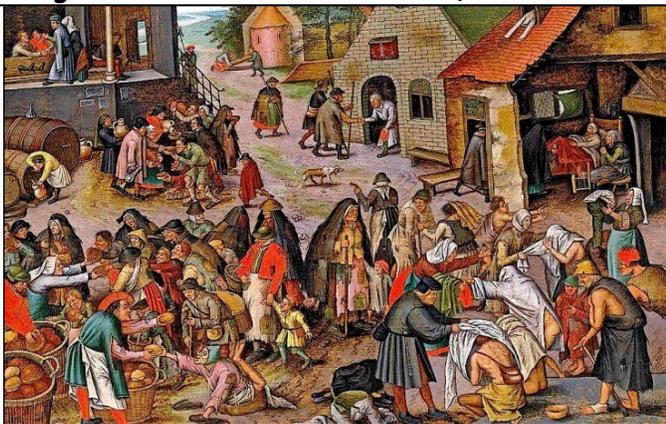
When you study and teach English and communication, I suppose it's inevitable that you'd pay attention to irony. **Literary critics** define "irony" as saying one thing but meaning another. I think a helpful way of understanding the term is seeing the way things that ought to fit often don't and the way things that aren't supposed to fit sometimes do. In turn, that disjunction can light up our understanding, make us laugh or cry and prompt new ways of thinking.

I realize the profound irony of discussing the **corporal works of mercy** on the day when our nation marks the 15th anniversary of the jetliner hijackings and subsequent attacks on the **World Trade Center towers** in New York, the **Pentagon** just outside Washington and the aborted attack that slammed into the earth in **Shanksville, PA**. The tragedies of 9/11 in 2001 claimed nearly 3,000 innocent victims, opened up a new era in global terrorism and set the course for U.S. foreign policy for decades.

Violence, fear, chaos and hate surrounded us that terrible day, one that ironically dawned with such late summer beauty all along the Atlantic coast. The corporal works of mercy may have seemed far distant. Those acts are so called because we find them **practiced and praised by Jesus Christ** himself in the gospels as practical and effective ways to bestow mercy on our brothers and sisters in the God's name. The response of firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, EMTs and thousands of ordinary people, however, shows that even 9/11 abounds in mercy!

When I was in school, we used to hear the **Sisters of Saint Joseph** speak about them all the time. Did we know them? Did we practice them? Did we see how they helped us extend the love of Jesus to those in need around us? I bet the **Sisters of Mercy** here at Saint Raphael were doing and saying the same things. But somehow, we let instruction on the works of mercy slip out of our discourse, and when it slips out of how we talk, it can slide out of our consciousness and behavior.

During this **Jubilee Year of Mercy**, happily, I've found an increasing amount of attention to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. (*We'll consider the spiritual works of mercy in another column.*) The Church, in the wake of the **Second Vatican Council (1962-1965)**, put a great deal of emphasis on these **practical applications of Christian love and faith**, but their collective impact was diminished in some ways because we stopped speaking of them as **a group of essential and inter-related actions designed to bring the love of Christ to our neighbor**.



What are the corporal works of mercy? The Church lists seven of them as follows: **1.) feed the hungry; 2.) giving drink to the thirsty; 3.) clothing the naked; 4.) sheltering the homeless; 5.) visiting the sick; 6.) visiting the imprisoned; and 7.) burying the dead.** Giving alms to the poor is a way to fulfilling any and all of them. Pieter Bruegel's 16th century painting above illustrates these works.

Many of our activities here at Saint Raphael are direct responses to those works of mercy.



Those who contribute to our **SRP Food Pantry and Hope Chest** in time, treasure or talent make a substantial gift in assisting the hungry and those in need of clothing, who often rely heavily on the provisions they find here. We not only provide food but often drinks of one kind or another. Through tithing contributions and the annual diocesan Catholic Charities campaign, parishioners provide shelter for the homeless in

both emergency circumstances and permanent arrangements. Visiting the sick is something many of our people do for family and friends, and some of our Eucharistic ministers visit parishioners who rely on Saint Raphael as their family. **Burying the dead** may seem an odd act of mercy, but from time to time Saint Raphael has assumed responsibility for providing a simple but dignified and decent burial for individuals who have no one else. Finally, giving alms, providing financial assistance to the parish through weekly, special and tithing collections and to Catholic Charities is perhaps the crucial way our parish community extends the **compassionate hand of Christ**.

Necessary as these ways are, it is important to remember that Christ's love summons to a **personal act of mercy and sacrifice**. It is easy to let routine dull us so that we hardly notice the importance or the impact of our mercy. As a personal act we must know what we are doing, will to undertake that act and then perform the corporal work of mercy

with a good heart and intention. **Something of our own personality and character, something that we feel and acknowledge** should be included in performing corporal works of mercy sometimes. We are not robots, but rather thinking and feeling human beings. We shouldn't wear our acts of mercy on our sleeve, but we certainly should feel them in our hearts. We need to make a personal investment in our acts of mercy.

What might this kind of "investment" look like? Obviously, we should not drop good habits, so weekly contributions to the parish and other charities that we find important should continue. But perhaps, from time to time, we could make small sacrifices, say skip the lunchtime visit to a restaurant, give up my morning latte on occasion, read a book instead of renting a movie, to enhance my contribution. If we don't ever shop for the Food Pantry or Hope Chest, that would be an excellent way of investing.

We have many older parishioners confined to home or nursing facility, and periodic visits would do them a world of good. **The parish can prepare you and link you to someone** whose world you might brighten. Some people write or visit those in prison. Visiting the cemetery or calling a surviving spouse or lonely friend can be a beautiful way of honoring the call to "bury the dead." These days, as some people abandon the practice of having a proper funeral; you might remind them of **the value of the Eucharist and hope in the Risen Christ** found in a funeral Mass. Promoting clean water policies enables us to give drink to the thirsty.

By undertaking the corporal works of mercy, not just during this jubilee year, but throughout our lives, we give glory to God, strengthen love for and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Church and wider community and experience our own transformation in God's grace. Ours is a parish where this understanding of divine mercy is alive and well, but every community of faith and every individual can be enriched by pouring out the love God bestows on us in mercy to those around us. © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.