



Mass Intentions

Sat., October 1 **Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus**
Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24
4 pm ... ✠Leo & ✠Doris Moreau by their family

Sun., October 2 **XXVII Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10
7:30 am ... ✠Anne & ✠David Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ✠Carolyn Barz by the Myers family
5 pm ... ✠Dot Dery by Paul & Mary Dery

Mon., October 3
Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
12 pm ... ✠Elise Lambert by Bob & Carmelle LaRoche

Tue., October 4 **Saint Francis of Assisi**
Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
12 pm ... ✠Peggy Lally Moran (10th Anniv.) by Margaret-Ann Moran

Wed., October 5
Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
12 pm ... Linda Kratka (living) by Anne Clark

Thur., October 6 **Saint Bruno**
Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
8:30 am ... ✠Eugene Mackie by Barbara Mackie

Fri., October 7 **Our Lady of the Rosary**
Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
6 pm ... ✠Mary Marszal by Faye Kelly
6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat., October 8
Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
4 pm ... ✠Jack North by Mary Dery

Sun., October 9 **XXVIII Sunday in Ordinary Time**
2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19
7:30 am ... ✠Mary Marszal by Elaine Wood
9:30 am ... ✠Gertrude Doherty, Lucy Kelley, & Lucille M. Kelley by the Kelley family
5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Weekly Collection

Weekend of September 26, 2016
Regular Offertory \$2,904.00
Make-Up Offertory 373.00
Loose Offertory 913.65
Online Parish Giving 295.00
Total \$4,485.65
Stewardship 293.00



Catholic Charities

2016 Annual Campaign
Our goal is \$26,000. Thank

you for your support! To date, your NH Catholic Charities gifts have helped us raise **\$21,325** towards our goal. **Let's raise the remaining \$4,675.** Envelopes at the back of the church. Thank you for extending the compassionate hand of Christ.

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate this great saint's love "for all creatures great and small" Bring your family pets to the parish, where P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, will bless the animals during a short service **Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 5:30 pm** at the church entrance. Please have your animals on a leash or in a restrainer. Crocodiles OK but only with a muzzle and explicit permission!



Routes / Roots of Faith Pilgrimage—Fall 2016

Still time to join us! As part of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, we will embark on a one-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Divine Mercy and the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, MA. **Depart SRP at 7:30 am Sunday, Oct. 9, return before 10 pm.** The \$139 fee includes admission to shrine, museum and evening dinner. Forms and deposits due **Thursday, Oct. 6.**



SAVE THE DATES! Miracle of Divine Mercy mission week will take place Nov. 14—20. We have several events planned. Watch the bulletin and check our Facebook page and App for further details. Check the flyers located at the back of the church.

WOULD KNOWING AND LIVING JESUS CHRIST MAKE IT BETTER? DO YOU NEED A COMMUNITY OF LIFE, LOVE AND FAITH you or someone you know have an interest in becoming Catholic or learning more about the Catholic faith? People here at St. Raphael will welcome the opportunity to help you with that journey. An informal evening is in the planning stages for people to come and ask questions regarding anything to do with the Catholic faith. If you are seeking Baptism, are already baptized in the Catholic faith and looking for Eucharist and Confirmation, or baptized in another denomination, there is a path for you to follow to become a Catholic and we are here to help. Please call and let us know of your interest! 623-2604.



Michael Courtney & Lindsey Gray

Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠Christopher Margaritis by Mikki Margaritis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., October 2
9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall

Mon., October 3
6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry—Parish Hall
7 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., October 4
12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf. Room
5:30 pm ... Blessing of the Animals—Main Church Entrance

Thur., October 6
1—6 pm ... K of C Blood Drive, Parish Hall

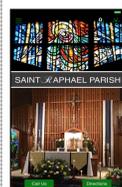
Sun., October 9
9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall



SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION - "Were not our hearts burning while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures for us!" (Luke 24:32)

An opportunity is coming to open ourselves to meeting Jesus and discovering his love and mercy while walking through the Gospel of John together! Beginning on **Thursday, Oct. 20 at 9:30am (following 8:30 am**

Mass.) This Scripture study will be facilitated by parishioner Eileen Smith and will focus on the text's meaning for faith and life rather than on technical questions that occupy scholars. What to bring? A notebook and an open heart - everyone welcome! Call 623.2604 please to let us know of



It's finally here! SRP has an App! Want to get up to date notifications from us on the events and happenings of the church? Now you can! Download our free app from your smart phone and we will be right there in your back pocket! Enter "Saint Raphael Parish" to find us in the app store.



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, Sep. 26, the food pantry served **41 families** and gave out **64 bags of groceries.** We need mac 'n cheese and can always use brown paper bags!

Dismas Home enables us to apply mercy, promote self-respect

Parishioners at **Saint Raphael** will have an opportunity to put our energy and time where our mouth is in the coming months when a new half-way house for women released from state prison opens in the **Granite Square neighborhood.**



Organizers of the program and the facility have asked us in the parish to serve as

partners to assist these women who are serious about making a new start in life. I've responded that Saint Raphael has a reputation for welcoming those who need a hand-up, a reputation that we see lived out in our Food Pantry, Hope Chest and emergency relief efforts. I am certain that parishioners and friends of the parish will step forward to **greet these ladies in the spirit of Saint Benedict**, who teaches in the *Holy Rule*, "Let all guests be received as Christ."

During this **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**, we have heard a lot about our need for God's mercy, his gracious gift of that mercy in Christ and our responsibility to share that same mercy. One of the practical ways to do so is in and through the "corporal and spiritual works of mercy," about which I have both written and preached. One of the corporal works is **visiting the imprisoned.**

Such a recommendation acknowledges the fact that prisoners, whether justly or unjustly incarcerated, need to know they are in our thoughts, that we wish them well, that we are willing to assist them in helping them acquire the social, vocational and practical skills, as well as the necessary intellectual and psychological insights, to return successfully to life "on the outside." **Dismas Home**, which operates across the U.S., including in our neighbors, Massachusetts and Vermont, seeks to identify opportunities, foster dignity and demand accountability from participants, according to the founders of Dismas Home in New Hampshire, **Jack and Julie McCarthy**. They have been involved in various dimensions of Catholic prison and marriage ministry for many years.

Residents, support staff, directors and benefactors all seek a.) successful **transition back** into the community so that participants become contributors to society; b.) **lower the recidivism rate**; c.) the **strengthening of families** by assisting their loved ones in their reentry and d.) the **saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars** of taxpayers money through the reduction of the recidivism rate. Organizers tell us that they expect between four and six women will reside in the house, located at

102 Fourth St. at the southern end of the street just before the Merrimack River walkway begins (*photo, right*). The newly renovated house features four bedrooms, a dining room, kitchen, several bathrooms, parlor, laundry area, a backyard and adequate parking.

The house, owned by **Catholic Charities**, will have its own director, **Sara Lutat**, who will be on site every day, while an assistant will provide nighttime coverage.

The program already has signed up partners at **Saint Anselm College**, including student interns and volunteers from the Meelia Center. Two of Saint Anselm personnel are members of the board of directors for Dismas Home, **Professor Elaine Rizzo** from the Department of Criminal Justice, and **Dan Forbes**, director of the Meelia Center.

From Saint Raphael, I hope that we are able to undertake many forms of assistance. Our **knitting group** is interested in creating afghans for each resident, afghans that are knitted with skill and prayer. Perhaps, the knitters will be able to teach their skills to some of the residents. I would be thrilled likewise were we able to assemble **a team of parishioners who might prepare a meal** once or twice a month with some of the residents and then engage the women in conversation, story-telling and games. Our **reading group** might provide some opportunities for the residents, who, in turn, would be welcome to assist in our **Food Pantry and Hope Chest**. I could easily imagine the residents appreciating the opportunity to learn all manner of practical and technological **skills from some of our talented parishioners**. Without question, these ladies would be **welcome to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist** and our other services and programs.

Dismas Home takes its name from the **Good Thief**, who is described in Lk 23: 39-43. At his crucifixion atop Calvary, Jesus is ridiculed by Temple priests, scribes and elders, passers-by and even by one of the two criminals crucified on either side of him.

"Are you not the Messiah? Then save yourself and us," says one of the criminals.

Meanwhile, the other felon rebukes him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, seeing you



are under the same sentence? We deserve it, after all. We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then, he adds, "Jesus, remember me when you enter into your Kingdom."

The Lord Jesus answers, "**I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise.**"

The name Dismas comes to us from the Gospel of Nicodemus, a 4th century account of the life of Christ, but not

a text that the Church has accepted as "canonical," that is, a text regarded as inspired by the Holy Spirit, accepted by Tradition and appropriately included in the biblical Word of God. The other thief, by the way, is called Gestas.

Clerics, police officers and prison guards sometimes joke that Dismas is the most successful crook in history for, **at the last minute, he stole heaven from the Lord himself!** In fact, however, Dismas was sorry for his sins, sought out repentance, spoke up for the truth and manifested the same mercy he sought – a perfect example for all of us during this **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy!** It will do us little good if we fail to live out the life of mercy long after the conclusion of the jubilee year. What a wonderful opportunity Dismas Home presents not only its residents but also each of us in **living out the mercy of God.**

I should add that if the proximity and purpose of Dismas Home aren't connections enough for us to support the program, perhaps the house's history is. For **Anne Kenney**, our arch-sacristan, senior lector and Eucharistic minister, and winner of the **Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal** earlier this year, grew up in that house!

Welcome, Dismas Home, to the Granite Square neighborhood and to Saint Raphael Parish. We wish you success and an abundance of God's blessings!

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