



## Mass Intentions

**Sat., October 22** **Saint John Paul II**  
Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9  
4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

**Sun., October 23** **XXX Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-19, 23; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14  
7:30 am ... Our Parish Family  
9:30 am ... ☩ Donald J. Leclerc by Esther & Don Leclerc  
5 pm ... ☩ Robert "Doc" Reel by his family and friends

**Mon., October 24** **Saint Anthony Mary Claret**  
Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17  
12 pm ... ☩ John & ☩ Irene Narkey by Teresa Greene

**Tue., October 25**  
Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21  
12 pm ... ☩ Bea Devine St. Pierre by Margaret-Ann Moran

**Wed., October 26**  
Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30  
12 pm ... ☩ Ira Taylor (1st Anniv.) by Jack & Colleen Byrne

**Thur., October 27**  
Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35  
8:30 am ... ☩ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue

**Fri., October 28** **Saints Simone and Jude**  
Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16  
6 pm ... ☩ William R. Wisner by Teresa Greene

**Sat., October 29**  
Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11  
4 pm ... ☩ Leo & ☩ Doris Moreau by her family

**Sun., October 30** **XXXI Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
Wis 11:22 — 12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; 2 Thes 1:11 — 2:2; Lk 19:1-10  
7:30 am ... ☩ Jack Healy by Elizabeth & Rory Lavery  
9:30 am ... ☩ Lucille Kelley (2nd Anniv.) by the Kelley family  
5 pm ... Our Parish Family



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Lucille Kelley** by the Kelley family.

## Weekly Collection

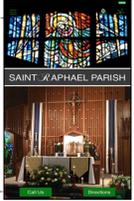
**Weekend of October 16, 2016**  
Regular Offertory \$3,042.00  
Make-Up Offertory 629.25  
Loose Offertory 598.75  
Online Parish Giving 410.00  
**Total**

**\$4,270.00**  
Stewardship \$  
320.00 Stewardship Online  
60.00  
**Total Stewardship \$ 380.00**



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**Miracle of Divine Mercy mission week will take place Nov. 13—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

**We have an App!** Download our free app for info and updates. Enter "Saint Raphael Parish" to find us in the app store.



## Welcome to Oktoberfest at Saint Raphael Parish! No need to



put on your Lederhosen or Dirndl—come join us for an evening of good German food and conviviality with authentic oompah music! Oktoberfest at Saint Raphael Parish will take place this **Saturday, Oct. 22, from 5-8 pm.** There are no tickets for the event, but a suggested donation of \$8 per person/\$16 per family would be appreciated.



**Trinity High School Open House** If you want your son or daughter to have the very best environment to learn and grow in high school, invest some time at Trinity High School's Open House for 8th graders on **Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m.** Trinity combines a



proven curriculum with dynamic teachers and innovative technologies in a caring Catholic learning community. Thanks to small classes that average 15 students, Trinity students receive the support they need to succeed. Students grow in faith, scholarship and character at Trinity which is located at the intersection of Bridge Street and Mammoth Road in Manchester. To learn more, attend the open house or

**SRP Respect Life Committee** is holding its annual fundraiser the weekend of **November 5-6.** A playpen will be placed at the back of the church to collect clothing and other items to benefit **BirthRight & Our Place Pregnancy Centers.** Light refreshments will be served following the Sunday, Nov. 6 9:30 am Mass. Please bring **NEW** and unwrapped items and place them in the playpen located at the church entry. Thank you for your interest



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sat., October 22**  
5 pm ... Oktoberfest—Parish Hall

**Sun., October 23**  
9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall

**Mon., October 24**  
7—8:30 pm ... Youth Ministry  
7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

**Tue., October 25**  
12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf. Room

**Thur., October 26**  
9:30 am ... Scripture study—Church Conf. Room  
5 pm ... Oktoberfest—Parish Hall

**Sun., October 30**  
9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall



**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, Oct. 17, the food pantry served **39** families and gave out **66** bags of groceries.

## In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of ☩ **Pauline "Polly" (Solomon) Roukey**, who died on Oct. 13 and whose funeral Mass was celebrated last week by P.



## World Mission Sunday

Your prayers and generous support offered to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith on World Mission Sunday directly benefits the Mission Church. Envelopes are located at the back of the church and can be dropped in the offertory basket this weekend or next. Thank

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

We will celebrate **All Saints Day Masses Mon., Oct. 31 (Vigil) at 6:30pm** and **Tues., Nov. 1 at 12pm.** **All Souls Day** will be celebrated **Wed., Nov. 2 at 12pm and 6:30pm.**



## Old Saint Francis, fallen to time, will persist in the memory and heart

Last month, they knocked down my old parish church. Saint Francis had been closed since the **end of 2008**, when the five parishes in my hometown were merged into one. But many of us had hoped a new use would be found for our beloved old church, a building nearly as large as Ste. Marie in Manchester, but it was not to be. The destruction of our landmark church, for me, feels like an assault on memory, a violation of something sacred and a death in the family.

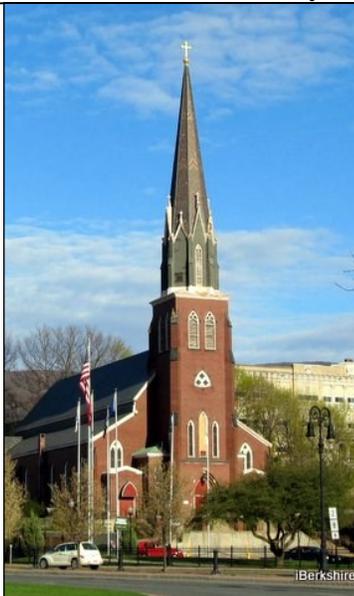
**Saint Francis of Assisi Church** was the first Catholic church in North Adams, MA. Designed by architect James J. Murphy of Providence, RI, the church was a Civil War-era structure in a simple but elegant German Gothic style. It was once the largest ecclesiastical structure in western and central Massachusetts. The parish was **organized in 1862, canonically established in 1863** and the next year, men of the parish began to dig the half-basement foundation that would support the building. Many of them were **Irish miners** who had come to the area to help dig the Hoosac Tunnel, which, at five miles, was the longest railroad tunnel in the world for many years. The tunnel gave Boston shippers, manufacturers and merchants access to Chicago and points west.

Local contractors constructed the red brick church that feature a fully groined ceiling, soaring Gothic columns and arches and large stained glass windows. Like Manchester, North Adams was a **mill town** during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first two-thirds of the 20<sup>th</sup>. We made shoes and machinery, and we were the largest cloth-printing center in the country. The tide of immigrants, beginning with the Irish, filled up Saint Francis, which was **dedicated in 1869**. When French-Canadians, Italians and Poles arrived later in the century, they worshipped at Saint Francis until their numbers made possible construction of their own churches.

Saint Francis survived fire, earth tremors, hurricanes and the Depression. She sent many of her sons, and some of her daughters, to serve the nation in war. As a parish, she established successful grammar and high schools staffed by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The **Golden Gaels of Saint Joseph High** could score on national tests, win basketball championships, produce top rated school newspapers, debate opponents under the table and swoon and croon on stage. Graduates went on to some of the top colleges and universities. The cops picked up a few. From Saint Francis came dozens of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The economy at home had changed, and it is a post-industrial city unconnected to any major highway. Tourism and arts development are now the emphasis. The **northern Berkshires** are beautiful, one of the loveliest parts of New England, but the population has declined. In North Adams, the census has slipped from nearly 22,000 when I was in school to just a little over 13,000. That's a lot of church envelopes gone away.

Saint Francis, along with **the other four Catholic parishes in town**, confronted many challenges: declining vocations to the priesthood and religious life, population loss in the community, eroding Mass attendance, the clergy sexual abuse scandal (an offender had served there for a few years and



was the largest of the remaining parishes, another church and rectory, built almost a century later with a parish center constructed in the 1970s, won the sweepstakes.

In the months that followed, Saint Francis saw her exquisite rosato marble altar disassembled and shipped away for sale, along with her Bavarian stained glass, her Daprato statuary, her carved oak pews and her vestments, chalices and ciboria **sent off to other parishes or put up for sale**. People in town, former parishioners, looked on aghast, realizing that this item remembered their

grandparents and that bench memorialized their brother. In the aftermath of the closing and the denuding of the church and rectory, a neo-Georgian style home for four priests built only in the 1960s, the diocese attempted to market the buildings

Despite nibbles from a developer or two, **no firm ever stepped forward with a suitable plan**. The city eventually imposed an historic structure review provision that would have required anyone seeking demolition of a designated vintage building to have the historical commission review the impact of demolition on the city, which is known as the "**City of Spires**," due to its large number of Victorian-era churches. I worked with a group to devise **an innovative museum plan** for the church, but we were never able to find sufficient financial support to buy Saint Francis ourselves.

The museum would have told the story of religious faith in the U.S. through its development in North Adams. Without money, it's hard to change things – and **the diocese wanted \$600,000** for the downtown site. In some cases, dioceses have donated disused churches to communities or groups, but in our case, I believe the collective debt the North Adams parishes triggered the desire for a sale.

This spring, a night of high winds whipped some

did his damage), continuing debt from the school operation, which had closed in 1974; and an aging physical plant. Even though Saint Francis had increased its weekly collections by \$1,000 a week, had the most active record of baptisms, weddings and funerals, and

slates off the spire of Saint Francis and dislodged some masonry, and it tumbled to the ground, though the spire still stood. Within days, contractors were removing the **massive cross and orb atop the spire**, taking out the five great bells that had once summoned millworkers to Mass and other services and had marked the hours of the Angelus, and taking down the spire. Diocesan and city engineers agreed that the foundation was crumbling in the southeast corner of the building, though I had to think that those Irish miners of some 150 years ago would have known how to fix the problem. The new bishop visited the city and announced that **the church would have to come down**. Within days, all that was left of Saint Francis was the front stairs and main entry at the base of the great central bell tower.

When a beloved landmark, such as your parish church or school, falls victim to time and change, it leaves a **huge emptiness**. Things never seem quite the same. I've been home several times since all this began, and I've tried avoiding that portion of downtown, but, inevitably I found myself cringing and tearing up as I saw the destruction. Memory provides a way to remember, and even relive, our experience of people and places. I hope I never forget the afternoon sun flooding the church and gilding the woodwork, columns and altar or the brilliance of the colors in the stained glass.

Whenever I had an important decision to make, I went to my knees before the face of Jesus in our **statue of the Sacred Heart**. I learned to serve Mass at the altar of Saint Francis, and in no time, it seems, I was celebrating Mass at the altar and

preaching. Most of the baptisms, First Communions, confirmations, marriages and funerals took place there for my family and friends.

I still shake my head sometimes when I realize Saint Francis is gone, and I lament the forces and the lack of attention our physical past surrounding the church's demolition. Of course, I know that **the Eucharist and the community of faith**, and I am grateful for that. I know

that the Church is not, as such, bricks and mortar — but she is a custodian of heritage and she teaches us about the sacred nature of space. Educational and social service programs must have their place, we are told, and that is true enough. But I still think that beauty, even in an old mill town, has a claim on our love and respect.

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