

## Mass Intentions

### Sat., November 19

Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40

4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

### Sun., November 20 Solemnity of Christ the King

2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

7:30 am ... Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... ☩ Robert F. Lucci by Jack & Colleen Byrne

5 pm ... ☩ Francis Thomas O'Brien by Virginia Kelly

### Mon., November 21 Presentation of the B.V.M.

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4

12 pm ... ☩ René Mons by his family

### Tue., November 22 Saint Cecilia

Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11

12 pm ... ☩ Sr. Margaret Ahern, R.S.M., by Jane Kearns

### Wed., November 23 Sts Clement I & Columban

Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19

~NO NOON EUCHARIST~

6:30 pm ... ☩ Mary Kenney (46th Anniv.) by Anne Kenney

### Thur., November 24 RECTORY CLOSED

Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28

~NO MORNING EUCHARIST at SAINT RAPHAEL~

11 am ... Mass at Saint Anselm Abbey

### Fri., November 25 RECTORY CLOSED

Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33

9 am ... ☩ Robert "Doc" Reel by his family and friends

### Sat., November 26

Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36

4 pm ... ☩ Leo & ☩ Doris Moreau by their family

### Sun., November 27 First Sunday of Advent

Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

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

9:30 am ... ☩ Edward Bolton by Diane Bolton

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

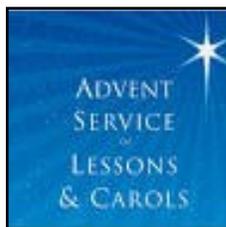


**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for our parish family.



We wish all our parishioners and their families a very blessed Thanksgiving! The rectory will be

closed on Friday, November 25.



Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate its annual candlelight **Advent Concert of Music and Reflection on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2pm.** We will have a variety of musical selections from various groups and individuals, interspersed with reflective readings

related to the Advent season. Parishioners and members of the wider community are invited to attend. Come and **bring your friends** to this beautiful tradition of Saint Raphael. All welcome!

## Weekly Collection

### Weekend of November 13, 2016

Regular Offertory \$2,881.00  
Make-Up Offertory 260.00  
Loose Offertory 455.75  
Online Parish Giving 345.00  
**Total \$3,941.75**

Stewardship \$1,815.00  
Stewardship Loose 157.10  
Stewardship Online Giving 60.00  
**Total Stewardship \$2,032.10**

**Last Year: Weekend of Nov. 15, 2015**  
**Total Offertory \$8,439.50**



Food Pantry

**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets to families on Tuesday, Nov

22., thanks to all those who volunteer their time to prepare and deliver the baskets, and to all who donate towards it.



**Thanksgiving Vigil Mass** Recognizing that most families travel on Thanksgiving morning or prepare to welcome family into their home, **Saint Raphael will celebrate a Community Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday, Nov. 23, at 6:30 pm.** There will be **NO**

**NOON MASS.** As we give thanks to God for our many blessings, please **bring food** (boxed or canned goods) to Mass for the poor and needy in our community. Our Food Pantry helps anyone living on the West Side with food, regardless of religious affiliation.



### Thanksgiving Dinner at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall

Don't be alone, come and share in a community Thanksgiving Dinner on **Thur., Nov. 24 from 12-2pm!** All are welcome! A wonderful, traditional Thanksgiving Dinner prepared by the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament is served in our Church Hall. There is no cost for the dinner; however, we do request that you RSVP by November 21<sup>st</sup> at 622.5445. The hall is handicapped accessible. Blessed



Please join us on **Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9 am — 4 pm.** We will have more than a dozen vendors, as well as several crafters for you to peruse and shop! Check out the insert with more details!



**Book Discussion Group** Please join the book discussion group as it completes its examination of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. We'll be reading *A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines. Set in the South

in the 1940s, the novel examines the relationship between two young black men, one of whom regularly visits the other in prison. Between them they sound the depths of human dignity and identity in powerful ways. We'll meet on **Thursday, Dec. 15,** upstairs in the church conference room. Books will be available at the parish office for \$9.00. Please join us! \$15. Please come early to enjoy some

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sun., November 20

9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall

10:30 am ... Christ the King Brunch

### Mon., November 21

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tue., November 22

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf. Rm

### Sun., November 27

9:15 am ... Religious Education—Parish Hall



Catholic Charities

**The 2016 Annual Campaign** has ended but as in

past years, **our anonymous donor has stepped forward** to offer once again a dollar-for-dollar match for any donations between Nov. 6 and the end of the year. Please consider donating, so that we can meet our goal! Envelopes at the back of the

## Year of Mercy: Christ the King reveals his majesty in his mercy

This past week at Saint Raphael, like the entire **Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy** called by Pope Francis for 2015-2016, has been a time of grace and blessing. I am deeply grateful to all those parishioners, friends and visitors who participated in the many events that marked the conclusion of this period of celebration, reflection and action with regard to mercy. Our parish mission week, “The Miracle of God’s Mercy,” provided not only a good review of the principles and discussions that have marked our observance but **an effective impetus** to continue to live in, through and from the mercy of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the fullest expression of God’s mercy to us.

Our **Triduum of Mercy**, three nights of prayer and preaching, was the center of the week. At Vespers, evening prayer of the Church, we joined the Catholic world as each day closes with the prayerful chanting of psalms and New Testament canticles, including the beautiful Magnificat, Mary’s hymn in praise of God’s mercy in Luke 1:46-55.

We heard three important “gospels of mercy” proclaimed. **Father John Fortin, O.S.B.**, pointed to God’s plan to bring mercy to a **specific woman** at a **certain moment** in a **particular place** amid the **unique circumstances** of her life when Jesus meets **the Samaritan woman at the well** in John 4:1-26. God always acts in our lives that way, he said, sharing a story from his days as dean of students at Saint Anselm College.

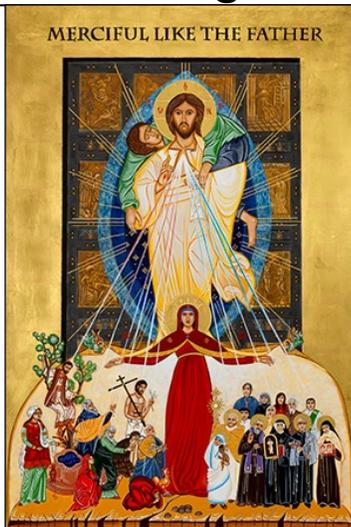
He had to **reprimand a student** and assign her some community service hours. Some weeks later, she came back to see Father John – and complained that she was mighty angry with him. Why, he asked, and she smiled. The elderly woman to whom she had been assigned now depended on her visits.

“And now I can’t just stop visiting her,” the student said. “She’s helped change my life.”

That’s how mercy operates, he observed.

Wednesday, **Father Anselm Smedile, O.S.B.**, emphasized that often in life we are called to “cross the road to the other side” in order to bestow mercy on someone. Speaking on the parable of the **Good Samaritan** in Luke 10:25-37, we have to take a risk to show love to others who may be on the margins of society, alienated, hostile or difficult.

**Father Augustine Kelly, O.S.B.**, considered the image of the Good Shepherd as given in John 10:1-21 in his remarks Thursday night. With some amusing tales of his experience with actual sheep in the Scottish Highlands and at the Topsfield (MA) Fair, he underlined how sheep follow only **the voice of the shepherd** they know will care for and protect them. The Good



**Sacrament.** Once a weekly feature of worship in Catholic parishes, this service of adoration and blessing by the Eucharist is a lovely way to focus on the centrality of Christ – and his summons to experience the mercy of the Eternal Father in our own lives and to bestow that same mercy on those we encounter.

Our annual **Saint Raphael Film Festival** was part of this week, and each film highlighted one dimension or another of God’s mercy – not something one always finds at the movies or from Netflix. Our first film, *Soul Surfer* (2011) underlines the way a teenage girl discovers God’s mercy after a shark attack in the waters off her Hawaiian home. She survived, returned to the water, then to **competitive surfing**. She had a family and friends eager to support her. Her surgery for a prosthesis was successful. But it was a church mission trip to Thailand to help in the recovery after the post-Christmas tsunami of 2004 that changed her. She was still needed, she found, and her disability gave her a **remarkable ability to connect** with some people. She transformed an orphan boy’s life – and, in the bargain, God transformed hers.

*The Flowers of War* (2011), a Chinese-American production starring Christian Bale, examines the encounter between **two unlikely groups** during the 1937 Japanese invasion of China at the start of World War II. Set in Nanjing, the film has Bale masquerade as a Catholic priest to protect a group of convent schoolgirls huddled in the cathedral compound to escape the violence. When women from a nearby brothel seek shelter there too, both sides see that mercy can have unlikely faces and occur in unusual moments.

Saturday’s film, *The Way* (2010), stars Martin Sheen as a father who travels to Spain to retrieve the body of his son, who died while hiking the famous **El Camino de Santiago de Compostela**, one of the great

Shepherd is Jesus and he lays down his life to protect his sheep and given them new and eternal life, he said.

The centerpiece of the triduum each night was **Benediction of the Blessed**

medieval pilgrimage routes. Sheen’s character decides to complete the Camino for his son – and, in the process, encounters the rich dimensions of divine mercy. Parishioner **Roger Joly** led our discussion on the film, and he shared some of his own insights about the Camino. Roger has hiked the pilgrimage trail twice in recent years.

If the needs of spirit and mind were attended to during our week of mercy, so were the needs of the body. We had a **wonderful parish supper** Wednesday night, prepared by our social affairs committee. The movie nights saw pizza, popcorn and other snacks along with coffee, tea and soft drinks

During our Jubilee Year of Mercy, the winter session of **The Pastor’s Class** examined the concept of mercy in the Old and New Testaments. A great many weekend homilies this past year have touched on divine mercy as we find it in Jesus and as we bestow it in our families, among our friends and all those we encounter. Our book discussion group has read several works where mercy was at the central issue. We have looked at mercy in the Mass, **the spiritual and corporal works of mercy**, some of the great saints of mercy and so on. I have been amazed as I read the words of the Mass in each Eucharistic Prayer how often the concept of mercy appears.

And so, on this **Solemnity of Christ the King**, we come to the end of our Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. We have been called to **“be merciful like the Father.”** We have seen that mercy is love that bends down to those who may not even expect or deserve it, but who are renewed and transformed by it – and who among us does not fit into those categories? We have looked at the Divine Mercy devotions. We visited the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. And we have celebrated this **parish mission week** with a “Triduum of Mercy” as its centerpiece. The Lord Jesus, son of the Living God and Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is Mercy and he calls us to experience it and share it. **Before ever mercy is ours, it is God’s.** And before mercy is a devotion, a practice or a shrine, it is **a way of living and loving.** May God’s mercy be abundant in our hearts in all the days to come!

© Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.