

# Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

## Mass Intentions

**Sat., December 31** **Saint Sylvester I**  
 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18  
**4 pm** ... The Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass

**Sun., January 1** **The Solemnity of Mary**  
 Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
**8 am** ... †John Daley by Kathy Gunther  
**10 am** ... Our Parish Family

**Mon., January 2** **St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazarian**  
 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28  
**12 pm** ... Paula Valenti (living) by Anne Clark

**Tue., January 3**  
 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-6; Jn 1:29-34  
**12 pm** ... Rosemarie Gartner (living) by Anne Clark

**Wed., January 4** **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42  
**12 pm** ... †Robert Murphy (2nd Anniv.) by Gloria Murphy

**Thur., January 5** **Saint John Neumann**  
 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 4:14-22a  
**8:30 am** ... Madeline Zell (living) by Anne Clark

**Fri., January 6** **Saint André Besette**  
 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-28 (23, 31-34, 36, 38)  
**6 pm** ... †Joseph Handy by Gregory Handy

**Sat., January 7** **Saint Raymond of Penyafort**  
 1 Jn 5:14-21; Sal 149:1-6a, 9b; Jn 2:1-11  
**4 pm** ... †Leo & †Doris Moreau by Elaine Plourde

**Sun., January 8** **The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12  
**7:30 am** ... ♦Our Parish Family  
**9:30 am** ... †Joseph Dambach (1st Anniv.) by Christine and Jack Dambach  
**5 pm** ... †Lorraine de Bellerive (5th Anniv.) by the Hunter and Chalifour families

## Weekly Collection

**Weekend of December 25, 2016**  
 Regular Offertory \$2,810.00  
 Make-Up Offertory 479.00  
 Loose Offertory 1,236.00  
 Online Parish Giving 425.00  
**Total \$4,950.00**

**Stewardship \$ 175.00**

Christmas \$8,219.00  
 Christmas Loose 768.00  
**Total Christmas \$8,987.00**  
**Food Pantry \$2,150.00**

**Last Year: Weekend of Dec. 27, 2015**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

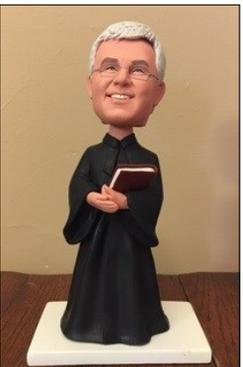
**Mon., January 2**  
**7—8 pm** ... Food Pantry  
**Tue., January 3**  
**12:45 pm** ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Rm



**Saint Raphael Food Pantry** The food pantry was closed on Monday, December 26. We need fruit, peanut butter, and cereal. We can always use plastic and brown paper bags. Thank you!



**The Pastor's Reception** for volunteers and those serving in ministry or in a volunteer role at Saint Raphael Parish will be **Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017 from 1—4 pm at the rectory**. If you volunteer or are in a ministry and have not received an invitation, please call the office at 623.2604, and we hope you can join us! Thank you!



**Sincere Thanks**  
 Our pastor, **P. Jerome, O.S.B.**, thanks all those members of the Saint Raphael community and friends who remembered him at Christmas with Masses, prayers, cards, visits, baked goods, gifts and other forms of kindness. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones abundantly during this beautiful Christmas season and throughout the New Year of 2017!

**Parish Giving eGiving ...**  
 —SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING— Now you can use your credit card or electronic check to support the mission of Saint Raphael Parish. Using electronic giving is easy to do. Go to our website ([www.saint-raphael-parish.com](http://www.saint-raphael-parish.com)) and click on the Giving button. In a few minutes you can be sure that your gift will work every day of the year to help our parish.

**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for †**Rita DeCotis** by Dottie DeCotis.

 Please note that the rectory will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2017 in observance of the holiday. Happy New Year!



**Seminarian Fund Collection**  
 The annual special collection for the support of our young men studying for the priesthood will take place the weekend of January 14-15. You can learn more about this collection from the inserts that will be included in next week's bulletin. Your assistance in helping the diocese to raise the funds necessary to educate the future priests of our diocese is greatly appreciated.

**Called TO Serve**  
**Wanted: Sacristans, lectors & ushers**  
 Have you ever considered serving God and your fellow parishioners as a sacristan, lector or usher? Service in these important roles is by appointment, but you can help Saint Raphael expand our roster by volunteering for consideration and indicating when and for how long you might be available. Please contact the office at 603.623.2604 if you are interested and would like more info. Thank you!

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
 40 Days for Life Leadership Team is in need of assistance during the next Manchester prayer vigil to end abortion scheduled **March 1 – April 9, 2017**. Help is needed to coordinate events, contact churches and assist participants. For more info or to volunteer contact Beth at 978.226.3240 or send an e-mail to: [40daysforlifemanchester@gmail.com](mailto:40daysforlifemanchester@gmail.com).

**Thinking About Remarriage 2017** Workshops will be: Saturday, January 21, 2017 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Bedford and Saturday, May 20, 2017 at St. Pius X, Manchester, from 9am—4pm. Visit [www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org) for the registration form or call Maureen Haas at 669-3100 #195 or email [mhaas@rcbm.org](mailto:mhaas@rcbm.org).

## Pope Francis' Christmas message 2016: It is time for peace & hope



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Happy Christmas! Today the Church once again experiences the wonder of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and the shepherds of Bethlehem, as they contemplate the newborn

Child laid in a manger: Jesus, the Saviour. On this day full of light, the prophetic proclamation resounds:

"For to us a child is born,  
To us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulder; and his name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Is 9:6)

**The power of this Child**, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; **it is the power of love**. It is the power which created the heavens and the earth, which gives life to all creation: to minerals, plants and animals; it is the force which attracts man and woman, and makes them one flesh, one single existence; it is the power which gives new birth, pardons faults, reconciles enemies, and transforms evil into good. **It is the power of God**. This power of love led Jesus Christ to strip himself of his glory and become man; it led him to give his life on the cross and to rise from the dead. It is the power of service, which inaugurates in our world the Kingdom of God, a kingdom of justice and peace.

For this reason, the birth of Jesus was accompanied by the angels' song as they proclaimed: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" (Lk 2:14).

Today **this message goes out to the ends of the earth to reach all peoples**, especially those scarred by war and harsh conflicts that seem stronger than the yearning for peace. Peace to men and women in the war-torn land of Syria, where far too much blood has been spilled. Above all in the city of Aleppo, site of the most awful battles in recent weeks, it is most urgent that **assistance and support be guaranteed to the exhausted civil populace**, with respect for humanitarian law. It is **time for weapons to be still forever**, and the international community to actively seek a negotiated solution, so that civil coexistence can be restored in the country.

Peace to women and men of the beloved Holy Land, the land chosen and favoured by God. May Israelis and Palestinians have **the courage and the determination to write a new page of history**, where hate and revenge give way to the will to build together a future of mutual understanding and harmony. May Iraq, Libya and Yemen – where their peoples suffer war and the brutality of terrorism – be able once again to find unity and concord. Peace to the men and women in various parts of

Africa, especially in Nigeria, where fundamentalist terrorism exploits even children in order to perpetrate horror and death. Peace in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that **divisions may be healed** and all people of good will may strive to undertake the path of development and sharing, preferring the culture of dialogue to the mindset of conflict.

Peace to women and men who to this day suffer the consequences of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, where there is **urgent need for a common desire to bring relief to the civil population** and to put into practice the commitments which have been assumed. We implore harmony for the dear people of Colombia, which seeks to embark on a new and courageous path of dialogue and reconciliation. May such courage also motivate the beloved country of Venezuela to undertake the necessary steps to put an end to current tensions, **and build together a future of hope for the whole population**.

**Peace to all** who, in different areas, are enduring sufferings due to constant dangers and persistent injustice. May Myanmar consolidate its efforts to **promote peaceful coexistence** and, with the assistance of the international community, provide necessary protection and humanitarian assistance to all those who gravely and urgently need it. May the Korean peninsula see the tensions it is experiencing overcome in a **renewed spirit of cooperation**.

Peace to those who have lost a person dear to them as a result of brutal acts of terrorism, and to those who have sown fear and death into the hearts of so many countries and cities.

Peace – not merely the word, but a **real and concrete peace** – to our abandoned and excluded brothers and sisters, to those who suffer hunger and to all the victims of violence. Peace to exiles, migrants and refugees, to all those who in our day are subject to human trafficking. Peace to the peoples who suffer because of the economic ambitions of the few, because of the sheer greed and the idolatry of money, which leads to slavery. Peace to those affected by social and economic unrest, and to those who endure the consequences of earthquakes or other natural catastrophes.

Peace to the children, on this special day on which God became a child, **above all those deprived of the joys of childhood** because of hunger, wars or the selfishness of adults.

Peace on earth to men and women of goodwill, who work quietly and patiently each day, in their families and in society, to **build a more humane and just world**, sustained by the conviction that only with



peace is there the possibility of a more prosperous future for all.

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Rome Reports

*The following is the Dec. 28 general audience [translation](#) from Vatican.va:*

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Our continuing catechesis on Christian hope leads us in these Christmas days to consider the example of Abraham, who, as St. Paul tells us, **"hoped against hope"** in God's promises.

**Trusting in the Lord's word** that a son would be born to him, Abraham left his home for a new land. Although the fulfilment of God's promise was long delayed and seemed to be impossible, Abraham continued to hope.

Even his discouragement and complaints were a sign of his continuing trust in God. Abraham, **our father in faith**, shows us that **sure trust in God's word** does not mean that we will not have moments of uncertainty, disappointment and bewilderment. It was at such a moment that God appeared to Abraham, called him forth from his tent and showed him the night sky shining with countless stars, assuring him that such would be the number of his descendants.

**Hope is always directed to the future**, to the fulfilment of God's promises. May the example of Abraham teach us to **not be afraid to go out from our own tents**, our limited outlooks, and to lift our eyes to the stars.

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