

Mass Intentions

Sat., January 21 **Saint Agnes**
 4 pm ... ✠Ronald Robichaud by Mary Robichaud

Sun., January 22 **III Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 7:30 am ... ✠Sylvia Hobbs (38th Anniv.) by Cynthia Hobbs
 9:30 am ... ✠Jack Healy by Linda Beland
 5 pm ... ✠Deceased members of Clement & Lively families by Ray & Pat Clement

Mon., January 23 **Day of Prayer for Unborn Children**
 12 pm ... ✠Scott Joubert by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Tue., January 24 **Saint Francis de Sales**
 12 pm ... ✠Colette Turmel Roy by Hyekyong & Tom Collins

Wed., January 25 **Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle**
 12 pm ... ✠Don Gosselin by Marge Gosselin

Thur., January 26 **Saints Timothy & Titus**
 8:30 am ... ✠Connie Richard by Don & Esther Leclerc

Fri., January 27 **Saint Angela Merici**
 6 pm ... ✠Romain Marcoux (7th Anniv.) by Diane Gallant

Sat., January 28 **Saint Thomas Aquinas**
 4 pm ... ✠Leo & ✠Doris Moreau by Elaine Plourde

Sun., January 29 **IV Sunday in Ordinary Time**
 7:30 am ... ✠Jack Healy by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
 9:30 am ... ✠Robert Lucci by Diane Bolton
 5 pm ... ✠Ruth (Parmenter) (Costello) Mulcahy by P. Jerome

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠**Bill Cowles** by Kerri Stanley.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 22, 2017
Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30, or any of the readings for the Day of Prayer
Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:21-35
Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

 **Parish Pastoral Council** We have four openings on the Parish Council. If you are interested in serving one of these 3-year terms, **please call the rectory by January 27.** If more than three parishioners express interest, parishioners will vote during the

 **Home Heating Raffle!** The Knights of Columbus Council #5112 will be selling raffle tickets following all of this weekend's Masses for a chance to win \$250 towards winter heating. **Only 100 tickets will be sold!** \$10 per entry.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of January 15, 2017

Regular Offertory	
\$3,214.00 Make-Up Offertory	
225.00 Loose Offertory	
529.00 Online Parish Giving	
350.00 Total Offertory	
\$4,318.00	
Stewardship	\$ 460.00
Online Stewardship	60.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 520.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 75.00
Christmas	\$
10.00	
Total Christmas	\$14,046.00
Food Pantry	\$
50.00	

 **WINTER WEATHER POLICY** If the Manchester Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions, all parish facilities are closed. Classes and practices are also canceled. Check WMUR and our Facebook page to see if Masses are canceled.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., January 22
 9:15 am ... Religious Ed—Parish Hall
 10:30 am ... Coffee & Donuts

Mon., January 23
 6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry
 7-8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., January 24
 12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Rm

 **Parish Giving** eGiving ... 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) 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 your parish.

 **INCOME TAX** If you would like to obtain a statement for your 2016 contributions, please contact Kerri at 623.2604 / kerri.stanley@saint-raphael-parish.com.

 Planning is under way for our annual **Saint Patrick's Dinner** on **Saturday, March 11, 2017.** We are accepting donations or monetary / gift card donations for our raffles. Items can be dropped off at the rectory M—F between 9 am and 4 pm. Tickets will be \$15 each and will be available next month for purchase. Further information? Watch the bulletin!

Wanted: Sacristans, lectors & altar servers
 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, indicating when and for how long you might be available. Please contact the office at 603.623.2604 if interested. Thank you!

 **GO, PATS!**

 **The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue** Save the date! **Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6, 2017,** at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center. These are tentative dates for our 3rd Annual Follies & Revue! More details will follow. In the meantime, who's going to perform this year?

Constitution, oath of office tell President Trump his job; what's ours?

While a great many Americans will cheer the inauguration of **Donald J. Trump** as the **45th president of the U.S.**, a great many others, Republican and Democrat, will feel their stomachs churn. **Traditional GOP members** are likely to be gulping and gasping for air with each pronouncement from the White House, while **Democrats** will be gnashing their teeth and watching their knuckles turn white. It is a sign of the complexity of the American body politic that these divisions are to be found in many communities, families and, we should acknowledge, parishes – **even Saint Raphael.**

When U.S. Supreme Court **Chief Justice John Roberts** administers the presidential oath of office, the new president will be told what to do. The oath will tell him – and the fact that he will swear to uphold the Constitution of the U.S. with his hand on **the same Bible President Lincoln, and President Obama, used,** will underline what is at stake. But what are we, men and women of Catholic faith and American citizenship, to do?

The other night the **Saint Raphael Book Discussion Group** met to discuss **Niccolò Machiavelli's** famous 1532

treatise on power, ***The Prince***. Machiavelli instructs a ruler on the most effective ways to obtain, maintain and wield power. Many of his principles are ruthless, violating moral principles, although history shows that they have been effective – at least in the short term. The problem comes in what such principles do to those who use them. **What kind of people do we become, and what kind of society do we create?** If our lies and tricks are discovered, and rebellion erupts, we have no one to blame but ourselves. ***The Prince*** is addressed to a ruler. What should citizens do?

First, let me suggest that we follow the advice of two rather prominent Democrats: outgoing President Barack H. Obama, who advised fellow citizens **not to “underestimate”** the New York City billionaire real estate mogul, and Trump's presidential campaign rival, former **Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton** “**to give him the chance**” to bring his ideas to bear on government policies. Such open-mindedness is a hallmark of the best in American politics, and I hope it applies during the next few months, the so-called “first 100 days.” Once the direction and impact of the Trump administration is clear, then legal and legitimate avenues of opposition, protest and resistance can be applied by those who disagree. Some may not want “the Donald” as “their” president, but he was elected legally. Concerns about **Russian influence** must be investigated fully, but none of the members of the **Electoral College** reported to the Kremlin as far as we know. During a contentious campaign with faults on both sides, and during a long career in the public eye, **Trump's comments and behavior** have been justly criticized. Citizens have every right to “call him out” if he fails to



President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington before inauguration. (Courtesy of ABC-News)

adhere to a standard they respect.

Second, as citizens, we should make a genuine effort to read and know more about the activities of our government. We can hardly be effective in advancing or opposing a cause unless we have a good working knowledge of the issues. That means a **regular diet of news** from multiple, credible sources so that we can weed out propaganda left or right. We do not need our biases confirmed. We need our understanding deepened, and that comes, in part, by the challenge of diverse perspectives. Moreover, citizenship, no less than government, by **Twitter and other**

forms of social media is no substitute for mastery of the facts, informed opinion and reasoned debate ordered to the common good.

Third, most impartial observers acknowledge that one of the difficulties in treating with Trump's statements, tweets, interviews and claims is the fact that they change frequently. It is difficult to know what the new president actually holds or thinks about many policies. Likewise, in questioning before the Senate, many of his proposed cabinet secretaries gave **evasive or contradictory answers**, some even clashing with their new boss. Citizens rely on the press to provide the “first draft of history,” but that draft is meaningless unless journalists hold office-holders, elected and appointed, to account and unless citizens engage such drafts through competent and reliable media outlets.

Fourth, a great many of Trump's campaign promises will be difficult to achieve but are not, therefore, unworthy. Some are necessary. For example, maintaining a **good relation with Russia is a good idea**, but that relationship must be based on **mutual respect and safeguarded by the ability to monitor and evaluate**. Moreover, the U.S. can have working relationships with a great many nations, but it should be friendly only with those whose values and policies we can respect. Likewise, the new president is right that our NATO allies should shoulder more of the cost of the alliance that has played a major role in helping secure the post-World War II peace, but **scrapping NATO is foolish**. Improving the cost, coverage and service options of the Affordable Care Act, “Obamacare,” may be a good idea and it may be possible, but **leaving 20**

million without basic health care is not. As Catholics, all of us, right and left, should recognize the importance of peace and social justice, as the Church teaches and the U.S. bishops have long emphasized.

Fifth, many Catholics did not vote for Donald Trump. Many others did. But his acceptance of the Republican pro-life position should win support. Those who value the **sanctity of life at every stage**, especially the most

vulnerable, little ones in the womb, should **never lose an opportunity to insist** that the “life-factor” shapes and conditions legislation and appointments of judges and other officials.

The president was inaugurated Friday of this past week. Saturday, **tens of thousands of American women took to the streets** of Washington, state capitals and major cities in our country to express their anxieties over a Trump presidency. Some of us will share their concerns. Yet when pro-life women offered to march in Washington with them, they were excluded, because the pro-life movement was judged to be out of step with the way a “majority” of Americans feel.

That exclusion underlines **how challenging it is to renew a sense of national unity** in this land. Ironically, studies show that most Americans, when asked, oppose the practice of abortion, usually on the grounds that it kills the innocent unborn child. When asked if they approve legal abortion, however, most say they accept the procedure. This past Saturday, the very day of the March, is the **44th anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision** in the U.S. Supreme Court. A 7-2 decision is hardly a “majority” decision by the American people.

Sixth, and most important, **we should pray**, pray that President Trump succeeds by keeping us all equal under the law, free in our expression, just in our decisions, peaceful and secure at home and throughout the world and rich in opportunities for freedom and advancement. Those are his tasks, but they are ours as well. We pray that he be safe, wise, compassionate and just. And we might pray that we never mistake the political order, even in the land we love, for the **Kingdom of God.**

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