

## Mass Intentions

**Sat., February 4**  
 4 pm ... ✠ Jeannette & ✠ Thomas Ptiman by Maureen Houle

**Sun., February 5** **V Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7:30 am ... ✠ Mary Marszal by Elaine Wood  
 9:30 am ... ✠ Jack Kilroy (25th Anniv.) by Diane Bolton  
 5 pm ... ✦ Our Parish Family

**Mon., February 6** **Saint Paul Miki & Companions**  
 12 pm ... ✠ Bobby Annan by Jack & Colleen Byrne

**Tue., February 7**  
 12 pm ... ✠ Barbara Leclerc by Don & Esther Leclerc

**Wed., February 8** **Saint Jerome Emilani**  
 12 pm ... ✠ Marie Rotolo by P. Jerome

**Thur., February 9**  
 8:30 am ... ✠ Daniel Garrity by Matthew

**Fri., February 10** **Saint Scholastica**  
 6 pm ... ✠ Don Gosselin by Marge Gosselin  
 6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Sat., February 11**  
 4 pm ... ✠ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

**Sun., February 12** **VI Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7:30 am ... ✦ Our Parish Family  
 9:30 am ... ✠ Robert Lucci (1st Anniv.) by Elaine Lucci  
 5 pm ... ✠ Brian McGorry by Sharon & Colin Glennon

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠ **Wanda Pike** by Mr. & Mrs. Warren Guptill.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Feb. 5, 2017**  
**Monday:** Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56  
**Tuesday:** Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13  
**Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23  
**Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30  
**Friday:** Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37  
**Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10  
**Sunday:** Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 (20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37)

**Feast of Saint Blaise** In honor of the feast day St. Blaise of Sebaste, which was February 3, we will celebrate the Blessing of Throats following all of this weekend's Masses.



## Weekly Collection

**Weekend of January 29, 2017**  
 Regular Offertory \$4,258.00  
 Make-Up Offertory 387.00  
 Loose Offertory 588.85  
 Online Parish Giving 175.00  
**Total Offertory \$5,408.85**

Stewardship \$  
 40.00 Christmas \$  
 30.00 Solemnity of Mary \$  
 12.00

**Last Year: Weekend of January 31, 2016**

 **Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, Jan. 30, the food pantry served 21 families and gave out 29 bags. We need fruit, peanut butter and cereal. We can always use plastic and brown paper bags. Thank you!

 **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](mailto:kerri.stanley@saint-raphael-parish.com).

**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. If interested or if you have questions, please contact Kerri at the office at 603.623.2604.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sun., February 5**  
 9:15 am ... Religious Ed—Parish Hall  
 10:30 am ... Coffee & Donuts

**Mon., February 6**  
 6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry  
 7-8 pm ... Food Pantry

**Tue., February 7**  
 12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse—Church Conf Rm

 **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.

 **SAVE THE DATE** *Saint Valentine's Brunch following the 9:30 am Mass on Sunday, Feb. 12. Please join us for brunch of eggs, pancakes, sausages, and pastries. Feel free to bring a dessert! We hope you and your loved ones will join us!*

 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 following weekend Masses or at the rectory during regular business hours. 

 **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](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 your parish.

 **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 the working dates for our third annual show! More details will follow. In the meantime, who's going to perform this year? We already have some groups — and we need you!

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

## There's a certain kind of culture in the Catholic school.

This year's national Catholic Schools Week comes on the heels of the most contentious and divisive presidential election any of us has seen in a long time. It comes when many Americans, both left and right, fear that they may be **losing their country to a new reality they cannot recognize.**

The two marches last month on the streets of Washington that captured national attention help illustrate how far various constituencies have drifted from each other. In one, the **Women's March, demonstrators railed against President Trump and his anti-immigrant stands,** demanded full reproductive rights, including government funding for abortion, denounced threats to national health care and proposed tax reforms that will favor big corporations and the rich, and insisted on safeguards for First Amendment rights and raised questions about a political system in which the winner of the November election took 2322 electoral votes and the loser won nearly 3 million more popular votes. A week later, the **March for Life,** endorsed by the Church, reminded us that the most dangerous place in the U.S. is the womb of a woman with a problem pregnancy, **focused on the deaths of more than 58 million unborn children** and questioned the values of American society.

One might think that the two marches were diametrically opposed to each other, and without question there are some issues, such as abortion, where finding common ground seems an impossible task. But, in fact, **pro-lifers,** including this one, **rely on the defense of our rights** to free expression in speech, press, religion, assembly and petition guaranteed by the First Amendment. Likewise, many Americans of all political and philosophical perspectives, worry that our middle class is being eroded badly while our upper and lower classes are growing. That certainly is a worry I have, and among other things it is a recipe for serious political unrest.

With this as the current national background, what on earth is Catholic Schools Week doing in the middle of such contentious issues? I would suggest that the **fundamental approach of Catholic schools,** including our own Saint Benedict Academy, **represents precisely the kind of education in content, values and behavior** that is glaringly absent in so much of U.S. talk-and-squawk. I would like to say our "national conversation," but a conversation implies a kind of mutual attention, give and take and good will, all ordered to finding a solution for a common problem.

By design, education, training, experience and procedure, **Catholic schools seek to build up a particular kind of culture** that we desperately need these days. Some of the key

elements of this culture include:

A culture of respect – Catholic schools excel in teaching youngsters and young men and women that other people, even those with whom we disagree, **deserve to be treated with polite behavior,** with attention to their words, with concern for their well-being and with recognition that their gifts, whatever they might be, are available to **enrich the whole community.** Most important of all, **students learn that respect is due to others** because it is a manifestation of our love for all our brothers and sisters, each of whom is created by God and endowed with an eternal soul. Their dignity and presence is a given, not dependent upon an executive order, a green card, visa, diploma or degree.

A culture of informed discourse – students in first grade, I am willing to bet not just nine dimes to the dollar but all 10, never use the term "informed discourse." They do learn, however, that **they need to read, learn, remember and review.** We are free to have our own opinions, but we are not entitled to have our own facts, as the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., used to say. **Curriculum in a Catholic school stresses mastery of both skill and content.** Whether the subject is religion, specifically our Catholic faith, or mathematics or civics, social studies and history, or English language and literature, our students are expected "to know stuff," and happily they demonstrate that all the time. In addition, our teachers are skilled in helping students see **connections between perspectives** and to recognize areas where people's views overlap. Having that ability is a huge advantage in finding common ground and building consensus.

A culture of expression – How many times do we depend upon our **First Amendment rights for the freedom of worship,** including the establishment of Catholic schools, for the right to know in and through a free press, including Catholic newspapers, magazines, blogs and even bulletins; for the right to speak out on issues that concern us, including the Rosary rallies and anti-death penalty speeches so many Catholics give, and the right to assemble with like-minded fellow citizens and believers to

advocate for or protest against government policies, such as the annual March for Life; and for the right to petition the government, including the many church leaders who sought to end U.S. use of water-boarding? In a Catholic school, where so often debate and speech programs of superior quality are



organized, where literature and rhetoric are often studied, students grow in their ability to listen, formulate arguments, employ persuasive techniques and to communicate with fellow citizens and sometimes galvanize public opinion in ways

that **lead to a change in direction and new policies.**

A culture of authority and responsibility – Those of us who went to school with the sisters, remember well that rarely was there any doubt about who was in charge and what our responsibilities were. Authority, rightly established and properly used, is a gift, one that enables us to live in an ordered environment where our **freedoms are respected and our duties fulfilled.** Amid all the social change since the 1950-70s, Catholic schools have maintained a culture in which students learn what is expected of them and discover that there are consequences when they fail to perform. That is a formula for good order in a school, but it also an important insight for **good citizenship in life.** We have our rights, and we should know and use them. We can find, create or receive opportunities, and we should avail of them. But we also have responsibilities to ourselves, families, employers, communities, nation and, indeed, to the world. Moreover, we are summoned by God himself to help **build up the Kingdom of God,** which gives responsibilities to our parish specifically and to the Church broadly. When we reject or ignore such responsibilities, the consequences fail to do that, we create serious problems for ourselves and each other. We are not here simply for our amusement, entertainment or pleasure.

When we lament the way our politics and social environment seem to be going, we should remember that there are long-term antidotes. There are places where our children can **encounter Christ** and discover the **wonders of God's love,** where they can learn about the world and themselves and where they can gain the skills and insights that can help renew our world. Those places are called Catholic schools!

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