

## Mass Intentions

**Sat., February 25**  
 4 pm ... ✠Ronald Robichaud by Mary Robichaud

**Sun., February 26** **VIII Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 7:30 am ... ❖Our Parish Family  
 9:30 am ... ✠Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux  
 5 pm ... ✠Romain & ✠Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

**Mon., Monday, February 27**  
 12 pm ... ✠Vicki Wolf by Lillian LaRochele

**Tue., February 28**  
 12 pm ... ✠Napoleon & ✠Marie Boisvert by Lionel & Lil Coulon

**Wed., March 1** **Ash Wednesday**  
 12 pm ... ✠Daniel Garrity  
 6:30 pm ... Donald Perkins by Kathleen Perkins

**Thur., March 2**  
 8:30 am ... ✠Robert Sullivan by Margaret-Ann Moran

**Fri., March 3**  
 6 pm ... ✠Joseph Handy by Gregory Handy  
 6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Sat., March 4**  
 4 pm ... ✠Leo & ✠Doris Moreau by Elaine Plourde

**Sun., March 5** **I Sunday of Lent**  
 7:30 am ... ✠David & ✠Anne Foley by Connie Raymond  
 9:30 am ... ✠Joan McGorry Dimick (3rd Anniv) by Ellen McGorry  
 5 pm ... ❖Our Parish Family

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠**Bob Margaritis** by Mikki Margaritis.

**Ash Wednesday**  Ashes will be imposed on Wednesday, March 1, at the 12 pm and 6.30 pm Masses.

 **Annual Empty Bowl Project** The Friends of Quota International will again host its annual Empty Bowl Project at Saint Raphael's on **Saturday, March 4, from 5:15—6:30 pm** in the parish hall. There is no cost; however, a good will offering will be gratefully accepted. Donations will be shared between the NH Food Bank, as well as our own Food Pantry / Hope Chest. Checks can be made payable to either Saint Raphael Parish or to the NH Food Bank. Please join us!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Feb. 25, 2017**  
**Monday:** Sir 17:20-24; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 10:17-27  
**Tuesday:** Sir 35:1-12; Ps 50:5-8, 14, 23; Mk 10:28-31  
**Wednesday:** J1 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32  
**Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

## Weekly Collection

**Weekend of February 18, 2017**  
 Regular Offertory \$2,691.00  
 Make-Up Offertory 506.00  
 Loose Offertory 516.00  
 Online Parish Giving 480.00  
**Total Offertory \$4,193.00**  
 Stewardship \$ 302.00

**Last Year: Weekend of February 14, 2016**  
**Total Offertory \$6,943.30**

 **Saint Raphael Food Pantry** On Monday, February 19, the food pantry served 23 families and gave out 35 bags of groceries.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Mon., February 27**  
 7-8 pm ... Food Pantry

**Fri., March 3**  
 1—6 pm ... K of C Blood Drive—Parish Hall

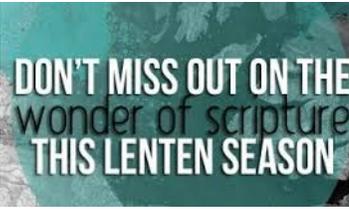
**Sat., March 4**  
 10 am ... Gospel Reading discussion—Parish Hall Classroom  
**5:15 pm ... Empty Bowl Soup Supper**

 **Knights of Columbus Blood Drive** Mark your calendar for **Friday, March 3, 1-6 pm**, in Saint Raphael Parish Hall. The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive. All blood donations appreciated!

**FAST and ABSTINENCE** Days for fast and abstinence are Ash Wednesday, March 1, and Good Friday, April 14. Fridays during Lent are also days of abstinence. **FASTING** is observed by all 18 years of age and older, who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and juices, are allowed. **ABSTINENCE** is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the

 Our annual **Saint Patrick's Dinner** will be **Saturday, March 11, 2017. Have you purchased your ticket yet?** Tickets will be \$15 each and are available following weekend Masses or at the rectory during regular business hours.

**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. Thank you!

 **DON'T MISS OUT ON THE wonder of scripture THIS LENTEN SEASON**

**Looking for something to do for Lent?** Is giving up chocolate no longer satisfying enough? Looking for something more meaningful and fulfilling? An opportunity is coming our way. Spend an hour Saturday mornings during Lent sharing the message of our Lenten Sunday Gospel readings with parishioners and friends.

**WHO: Everyone is welcome!**  
**WHEN: Saturday mornings during Lent at 10am, beginning March 4**  
**WHERE: Church Conference Room**  
**WHAT TO BRING: Bible** (preferably a Catholic version) and an open heart! Weekly info and reflection sheets are available at the rectory. Please contact parishioner Eileen Smith at [eileensmith1@comcast.net](mailto:eileensmith1@comcast.net) or 603.668.4837 with questions or interest!

## Woman behind *Roe v. Wade* shows power of conversion of heart

Anyone who has ever taken one of my **American journalism courses** at Saint Anselm can tell you pretty quickly that I have no patience with fraudulent stories, make-believe news and fictional quotes. Use something like those elements in a story in my class, and you likely will discover how quickly the Riot Act can be read to you, how dicey it feels to be in the hot seat and how fast a zero can appear on the top of your paper. Happily, I don't experience much cheating in my courses, and that's because I believe most of our students aim to **do good and honest work**. Because their assignments require them to write a real-life story derived from some dimension of the college community, it is not easy to plagiarize or fabricate a story from the St. A's.

My point, I guess, is that I have a visceral disgust for "**fake news**." But something is "fake" not just because a president so labels it or because I don't like it or because it doesn't agree with some agenda or fixation an individual has. News reveals itself to be fake when it can be demonstrated to **have failed in these three key areas: a.) accuracy, b.) context and c.) intention**.

First, it is worth remembering that a split exists between purveyors of "news."

The members of the **Fourth Estate**, the old-fashioned journalists – reporters, editors, photographers and commentators – who are the professional arm of the press **routinely strive for accuracy, context and intention**. That is to say, they want their reports to be correct and truthful. They want to convey the real situation from which their story emerges so that the reader, viewer or listener understands the political forces, social circumstances and economic realities affecting the issues, players and decisions in their report. Often, journalists hit it spot on, though sometimes it takes them several stories before they have **covered all the bases**. When such journalists misunderstand or get it wrong, they have an ethical obligation to set the record straight – and they usually do. Mistakes are not "fake news," but rather indications of human fallibility, the same weaknesses and frailties their subscribers and audiences share.

**Fake news, I believe, is news that is deliberately inaccurate in whole or in part**. When significant parts are false, so much so that it negates the overall truth of the story, then it richly deserves the adjective "fake." When a writer **chooses to distort, truncate or omit the context** of a story in ways that materially affect the reader's understanding, then "fake" is

the appropriate adjective.

When one knowingly uses or plants news that is faulty or distorted, then that too is "fake."

Sometimes, through no fault of their own, journalists run stories which are **wrong, back-end-to and off base**. Those who are

professionals, correct their mistakes as quickly as they can – and there is ample evidence of that in most of the mainline press. That's not what an "enemy of the people" does.

Meanwhile, however, more than a few **publications, blogs and web sites with strong ideological axes to grind, right and left**, do put forth "news" that is nothing if not fake and fraudulent, **designed to mislead and confuse**. By throwing an opposing candidate or a rival group seeking different public policies off base and forcing them to spend time and money in defending themselves and clarifying a situation, they can make points with the public and force opponents to lose time and resources.

One of the most famous "fake news" stories in recent years long predates the controversies surrounding President Trump's administration. When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in the ***Roe v. Wade* case in 1973**, the justices writing the majority opinion that led to legalization of abortion in all 50 states did so on the basis of "facts" in the case of an alleged rape victim.

**Norma Leah (Nelson) McCorvey** was the plaintiff in the famous case. Her early life was troubled. Born in Louisiana, grew up in Texas. Father split, and parents divorced when she was 13. Mother a violent alcoholic. Norma had brushes with the law, and became a ward of the state. Sent to a reform school. For her, the school was the **happiest time in her childhood**, she later declared. She repeatedly got into trouble after her release so she would be returned to the school. Later, she lived with a cousin, who allegedly raped her repeatedly. At 16, she married Woody McCorvey. After he assaulted her, she left him and returned to her mother.

She had her first child in 1965. She developed a drinking problem of her own. She identified herself as a lesbian. **Her mother abducted her daughter** and then arranged for her to sign papers giving custody of the child to her mother and she was kicked out of the house. Her second child was put up for adoption. She became **pregnant with her third child in 1969**. She claimed rape, but there had been none. She later admitted that she did so only to secure an abortion under Texas law. Her efforts were frustrated, however, due the absence of



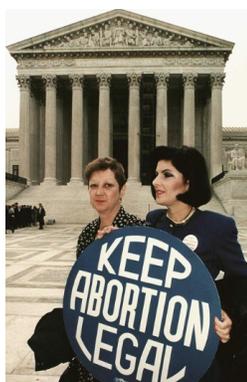
McCorvey and friend at a pro-life march.

evidence or documentation. Eventually, McCorvey's case was taken up by **Linda Coffee** and **Sarah Weddington**, lawyers looking for pregnant women willing to pursue legal action and bring down restrictive Texas abortion laws. **She was identified as Jane Roe**, and the rest is, of course, the story of legalized abortion in the U.S. But it is not the whole story.

**McCorvey became a Christian in 1994**, quit her job at an abortion clinic and she began to work for Operation Rescue, a controversial but highly publicized anti-abortion effort. **Four years later, she entered the Catholic Church**. She said that she had given up lesbianism. She continued her efforts to repudiate the cause with which she had been so closely associated, and, instead, **work for the sanctity of life**. In 2005, she sought to have the Supreme Court review and overturn the 1973 decision. She endorsed pro-life candidates. She went on protest marches, operated computers and answered phones. She wrote several books and articles. She appeared in a documentary film describing her change of heart. And she even made her acting debut in the film *Doonby* (2011).

**Norma McCorvey died Feb. 18 at age 69**. Her life surely had moments of joy and happiness, but its raw outline is distressing. May God receive her now into the arms of his mercy! **Without a fair start in life, poor choices and bad luck**. But her story also includes the element of "fake news," the deliberate lie that helped destroy laws protecting life throughout the U.S. **Much of the pro-abortion argument denies the facts of conception and life**, so it is no surprise that its founding legal document is rooted in deceit and fraud.

Given the pressure for a change in the abortion laws at the time, it is likely another case, if not Norma's, would have found its way to the Supreme Court. Norma McCorvey's case underlines **two unshakeable realities**, however. First, as readers, viewers and listeners, we need to enrich our diet of news and commentary from a diversity of reputable sources and carefully evaluate charges that "this" is fake and "that" is true "because I say it is." Second, and even more important, we need to recognize, as Jane Roe's **conversion of heart** demonstrates, the power of God's love to bring light into the midst of darkness and joy into the sense of loss and emptiness. © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



Norma McCorvey (left) and Attorney Gloria Allred outside U.S. Supreme Court just before 1973 case is argued.