

 *Mass Intentions*

Sat., March 25 The Annunciation of the Lord
4 pm ... ☩ Bob Breault by SRP Bereavement Committee

Sun., March 26 Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday
7:30 am ... ☩ Richard & ☩ Constance Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ☩ Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux
5 pm ... ❖ Our Parish Family

Mon. March 27
12 pm ... ☩ Denis Doorly by Anne Jennings, M.D.

Tue., March 28
12 pm ... ☩ Romain & ☩ Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

Wed., March 29
12 pm ... ☩ Maurice Doucet by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Thur., March 30
8:30 am ... ☩ Edward Bolton by Diane Bolton

Fri., March 31
6 pm ... ☩ Joseph Gamelin (31st) by Armand & Kathy Carignan

Sat., April 1
4 pm ... ☩ Tommy Barnett by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Sun., April 2 V Sunday of Lent
7:30 am ... ☩ Leonard & ☩ Florence Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ☩ Gary Dame by Therese Dame
5 pm ... ❖ Our Parish Family

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Connie Richard** by Flo Breault.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of March 19, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$3,530.00
Make-Up Offertory	269.00
Loose Offertory	491.95
Online Parish Giving	480.00
Total Offertory	\$4,770.95

Norcia Disaster Fund	\$3,535.00
Norcia Fund Loose	804.00
Total Disaster Fund	\$4,339.00

Last Year: Weekend of March 20, 2016
Total Offertory \$7,570.75
Thank you for your generosity!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., March 20
6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry
7:00 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., March 21
12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

Fri., March 24
6:45 pm ... Lenten Soup Supper—Parish Hall
7:30 pm ... Holy League

Sat., March 25
10:00 am ... Lenten Sunday Reading Discussion



Saint Raphael Food Pantry
On Monday, March 20, the food pantry served 23 families and gave out 28 bags of groceries.

Saint Raphael Parish Calendar of Events

Fri., March 31
6:45 pm ... Stations of the Cross

Sat., April 1
10 am ... Lenten Sunday Readings Disc.

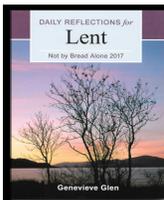
Wed., April 5
7:15 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation Svce.

Fri., April 7
6:30 pm ... Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
6:45 pm ... Lenten Supper w/Guest Speaker

Sat., April 8
10 am ... Lenten Sunday Readings Disc.



Sign up to host Vocation Chalice or Pilgrim Virgin statue
Parishioners and friends of the parish are encouraged to sign up for either or both of these opportunities for one or two-week intervals during Lent. **Call the office at 623.2604** to make arrangements. This is a great opportunity to develop prayer in your home and heart, to honor Mary and to ask God for the gift of new vocations!



Daily Reflections for Lent by Genevieve Glen are available in the Nook for \$2. Only a few copies remain. You may pay for the book by including it with your offertory or leave your donation in the donation box in the Nook. Thanks.



Annual Empty Bowl Project—Thank you!
Thanks to all who attended and donated towards this year's event. Over \$1,275 was raised, thanks to your generosity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Mar. 26, 2017

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 (3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45)



Easter flower remembrance Donations for Easter flowers will be accepted in the name of deceased loved ones and friends, as well as the living. While all contributions are welcome, a \$20 donation per lily per name is recommended. Include name along with the donation and send in your offerings to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket. Look for the Easter Flower envelope in your packet or use your own. A list of the donors will be published during the Easter season. Your generosity is appreciated as the gift is above and beyond your Easter offering. Thank you!



Annual Trinity High School Yard Sale Looking to clean out that "extra" room, attic, basement or reclaim some closets? Maybe you're collecting items to sell on eBay, or you just LOVE a good bargain... Look no further than the **Trinity High School Yard Sale!** Trinity will host its annual event **Saturday, April 1, from 7am – 12pm at 581 Bridge St.** We will gladly accept "gently used" donations (no adult clothing, computers, televisions or nursery furniture please) on Friday, March 31, from 7am to 5:30pm. Contact lzkos@trinity-hs.org with any questions.



Norcia Disaster Fund
Sincere thanks to all those who contributed funds and prayers for the success of our special collection to assist the townspeople and monks in Norcia in the rebuilding of the Basilica di San Benedetto, the monastery and other facilities after severe earthquakes from August to October in Umbria, Italy, last year.



Lost & Found If you attended our St. Patrick Dinner and lost a pin, please call the rectory at 623.2604. If you can describe it, we will be happy to return it to you.



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

Death of IRA operative opens up questions of conversion of heart

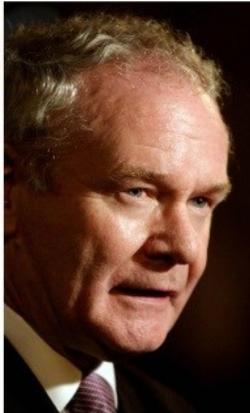
When I was a kid, I grew up on stories of Old Ireland, along with all manner of Americans stories of explorers, colonial settlers, pioneers heading “out West,” cowboys and Indians. The **Irish stories included the IRA** from the 1920s and their exploits in achieving independence for Ireland after 700 years of British misrule. But by the 1980s, we weren’t telling such stories so much – and we weren’t speaking about the IRA of the 1980s except in **rather negative terms**.

Although the “new” IRA still was fighting for a free and united Ireland, they were **deep in terrorist tactics** and had the blood of hundreds of innocent civilians on their hands. Unlike the “old” IRA, the newer crowd, along with their multiple splinter groups, seemed to have **little or no compunction about indiscriminate violence** in Northern Ireland, which they wanted to wrest away from British control and unite with the Republic of Ireland to the south. We understood what the **American bumper sticker “26 + 6 = 1”** meant. It was a reference to the fact that the island of Ireland was meant to be one nation comprised of all her 32 counties. Ever since 1920, however, Northern Ireland had been a statelet united to the United Kingdom to keep the Loyalist, and largely Protestant, majority happy.

Martin McGuinness, an IRA leader from Derry, the second largest town in the North after Belfast, died this past week at age 66 from a rare heart disease. The outpouring of respect and affection by many Catholics and Nationalists in the North is not surprising, but it is something that many Loyalists, Protestants and British find hard to take.

For them McGuinness and **Gerry Adams**, the leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, are nothing other than an unrepentant terrorists who simply stopped using the methods and means of murder and mayhem to achieve their political ends when the “men of violence” no longer had any cachet. Instead, McGuinness played a pivotal role in the Northern Ireland peace process that led to the **Good Friday Belfast peace accords of 1998**. The readiness McGuinness showed to sit down with the Loyalist community and the British, Irish and U.S. governments has the end of violence and the beginning of shared government in Northern Ireland.

While it is true that **one man’s terrorist sometimes is another man’s freedom fighter**, a world of difference lies between the old and “new” IRA that dominated Irish



Martin McGuinness, Northern Ireland political leader and former IRA operative, died March 20. Top left, with Ian Paisley, Free Presbyterian minister and fiery Unionist; below, as a young IRA member; center, leading Nationalists in Northern Ireland Assembly; top right, with Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams; below, with Queen Elizabeth II.

headlines from the ’70s through ’90s. While both had similar objectives, the old IRA was at war with the British government and its military presence in Ireland. The new IRA likewise warred upon the British government and its military in the North, but also with any aspect of civil society that opposed its objectives.

Threat, intimidation, assassination, crime, beating, bombing, kidnapping and other forms of terror were rife in the Six Counties. Often, innocent individuals, with no connection to the political, police or military establishment, were targets. The 30-year conflict, euphemistically labeled “**The Troubles**,” claimed more than **3,500 killed** and more than **47,000 injured** between the late 1960s and the late 1990s. Nearly 2,000 of those killed, in a population of only 1.5 million, were civilians.

Through the efforts of the Clinton administration, the U.S. pushed for a settlement. **Former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine**, played a pivotal role in helping the parties come together. The accords, signed in 1998, led to the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly, representative government, a civil administration in which both Catholic Nationalist and Protestant Unionists cooperated, police reform under the Police Service of Northern Ireland and continuing efforts at reconciliation. Amid political rapprochement, **the economy** of Northern Ireland has improved dramatically.

Many, on both sides of the political issue, have had their doubts about Martin McGuinness. As we Catholics continue **our Lenten journey**, McGuinness provides a striking example of **conversion of heart**.

Maybe. His critics, and there are many, insist that he was an unrepentant terrorist who simply abandoned the military and insurgent path for a political one. They dismiss his change as merely a change in tactics. Others argue that McGuinness worked hard to make the Belfast Accords succeed, and he served as

deputy first secretary in the Northern Ireland administration until only a few weeks before his death. The fact that many former political opponents attended his funeral Mass this past week underlines the degree of reconciliation, fragile though it be, achieved so far. Among the mourners was the first secretary at Stormont, seat of the NI Assembly, and a member of the Democratic Unionist Party.

Repentance, whether we are Irish politicians or terrorists, British paramilitary troops or government officials, American negotiators or ordinary civilians, involves three elements:

- ▶ **Recognition** of our sin, as we “own” our sin and take responsibility for it;
- ▶ **Expression** of sorrow and regret, as we give voice to our contrition; and
- ▶ **Restitution** and reform of our lives, as we seek to give back, even if only symbolically, what we have stolen, exploited or destroyed.

Publicly, Martin McGuinness began anew – and that made a **world of difference** for his society and his country. There were not a lot of words about regret, not much in the way of apology. The depth of McGuinness’ contrition, if indeed there was any, **was known perhaps only by God** – who is always enough. Let us pray for McGuinness and all the men and women of violence in Ireland and around the world, whether we call them terrorists, jihadists, insurgents, clandestine operatives, government troops or even politicians that **the call to conversion** may be theirs and **their renewal of life** may be shared by us all!

© Rev. Jerome

Joseph Day, O.S.B.