

Mass Intentions

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

Mon. April 3
12 pm ... ☩ Bernadette C. Lortie by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Tue., April 4 **Saint Isadore**
12 pm ... ☩ Louis E. Zocchi by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Wed., April 5 **Saint Vincent Ferrer**
12 pm ... ☩ Fr. Robert Lily, M.M., by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Thur., April 6
8:30 am ... ☩ John Campion by Anne Jennings, M.D.

Fri., April 7 **Saint John Baptist de la Salle**
6 pm ... ☩ Joseph Handy by Gregory Handy

Sat., April 8
4 pm ... ☩ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., April 9 **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
7:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family
9:30 am ... ☩ Bob Kohler (11th Anniv.) by Armand & Kathy Carignan
5 pm ... ☩ Agnes M. Patti by Margaret-Ann Moran



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



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, March 27, the food pantry served 47 adults, 18 children, and gave out 36 bags of groceries.

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!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 2, 2017

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday: Mt 21:1-11 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 (27:11-54)



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

Weekly Collection

Weekend of March 26, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$3,107.00
Make-Up Offertory	648.00
Loose Offertory	520.50
Online Parish Giving	240.00
Total Offertory	\$4,515.50
Norcia Disaster Fund	\$ 715.00
Total Disaster Fund	\$5,054.00

Last Year: Weekend of March 27, 2016
Total Offertory **\$5,096.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

Wed., April 5

7:15 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation Service **Fri..**

April 7

6:30 pm ... Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Sat., April 8

10 am ... Lenten Sunday Readings

Holy Week Schedule

Mon., April 10

11:30 am ... Diocesan wide day of reconciliation

Tue., April 11

6 pm ... Chrism Mass @ St. Joseph's Cathedral

Thur., April 13

7 pm ... Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Fri., April 14

3 pm ... Stations of the Cross

3:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

7 pm ... Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Sat., April 15

7:30 pm ... Easter Vigil

Sun., April 16

8 am ... Easter Mass

10 am ... Easter Mass



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!



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 to follow. In the meantime, who's will perform this year? We already have some groups, and we need you! Time to organize

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., April 3

6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry

7:00 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., April 4

12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

Wed., April 5

7:15 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation Service

Fri., April 7

6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat., April 8

10:00 am ... Lenten Sunday Reading Discussion

KEEP CALM AND LIVE LENT

Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity High School

All are welcome to participate on Saturday, April 8 from 10am to 12pm., 581 Bridge Street, Manchester. Prizes and more!



The Cathedral Chamber Singers will lead the *Office of Tenebrae* (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness") on **Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**, Cathedral of St Joseph's Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 145 Lowell Street (corner of Pine and Lowell Streets), Manchester, NH. For additional information, please contact Mr. Eric Bermani, Diocesan and Cathedral Director of Music, [603-622-6000](tel:603-622-6000)

Parish Giving

SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC 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.

Old custom of 'Passiontide' makes a good prompt to renew our Lent



This weekend, we join the whole Church in marking the beginning of **Passiontide**, the final two weeks of Lent.

Technically, under the 1968 revision of the liturgical

calendar, Holy Week and Passion Week are the same time period, and Palm Sunday is properly called Passion Sunday. But in practice, many Catholics and many parishes note **the old two-week Passiontide**. For those of us who have made a mash of our Lenten observance, or for those who never even started, this is an opportunity to begin again so that we have something real to offer to the Lord when we celebrate his **suffering, death and resurrection in the Paschal Mystery**. And for those who have taken Lent seriously so far, Passiontide gives us a chance to renew and deepen our efforts – even as we remember that our “efforts” are themselves prompted and sustained by God’s mercy and grace.

The **statuary in our church is covered**, a reminder that for a time before his Passion, Jesus of Nazareth disappears from sight. The readings take on a more urgent tone than we have heard to date. And behind the scenes, all manner of preparations are under way. The new paschal candle has arrived. Tapers for the Easter vigil have to be uncrated and their paper guards to prevent burns from dripping wax have to be affixed. Orders for lilies and other flowers are placed. Choir members, altar servers and lectors are reviewing special tunes, rituals and readings for upcoming liturgies. **In the homes** of many, invitations and preparations for a big Easter dinner, Easter egg hunts and special chocolate and other sweets are on the list of tasks requiring action. Amid all this, it can be easy to forget **the spiritual urgency of Passiontide**.

Traditionally, we Catholics emphasize three activities during the 40 days of Lent: **prayer, self-denial and generosity**.

The value of prayer should be obvious to us, but how often we allow things of less significance to eat away at the time we devote to our communication with the Lord! When we **set aside 10 or 15 minutes** of our morning or evening for prayer, we lift up our heart to the very God who made us and who loves us so much that he wants to share his own life in eternity with us. The sacrifice of his only-begotten Son on the Cross is both **the revelation of that love** and **the means to such everlasting happiness**. Jesus Christ is pre-eminent in prayer, who both teaches us how to pray and models prayer in every context and situation, as in Mk 1:35. Our prayer

can be formal or spontaneous. We can lift up our worries and concerns, review our



in the life of Christ, Mary or the saints – and consider what they say to us. We can be silent and still, simply experiencing our own breathing as a sign of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Our **communication** – where we express what is in our heart and mind and where we listen for God’s word to us in our thoughts, conscience or memory – seeks to become genuine **communion** with him.

Self-denial is the second area where our Lenten disciplines can play an important role in developing our spiritual lives. We live in an excessively indulgent society. We seek every pleasure, want every gadget and crave every experience. We are bombarded by advertisements in the media that **make us the center of the world**, and, of course, we are for firms that want us to spend our time, cash and credit for their goods and services. But, of course, we are not the center. We are simple men and women, blessed by God with many gifts, but wholly dependent upon his permissive will. When we fast or abstain from certain foods or deprive ourselves of certain pleasures, things that may be good in themselves, but need to be consumed, practiced or enjoyed with restraint, **we reposition our mental compass**. The Lord tells his critics in Lk 5:35 that his disciples will fast once he has departed from this world. We discover that God and the things of God are rightly seen at the center of the world.

The right of God to our gratitude, the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters, the care of our families and friends, the mission of the Church, the call of justice and peace, the care of our environment and the beauty of our world comprise only the beginning of a long list of concerns that **self-denial can help us see with increasing clarity**. Often priests, ministers and other spiritual leaders suggest that we undertake positive actions, such as helping clean a park, visiting people in a nursing home or making calls to encourage the home-bound. These are fine practices, and they often require us to deny ourselves time doing things we might prefer, but they can sometimes have the unfortunate effect of making us think that, again, we are at the

center of the world of charity. Self-denial, on the other hand, has a clarity about it that helps us get our spiritual priorities in order. Moreover, undertaking such positive activities has more to do with generosity. **Almsgiving** provides the third element of traditional Lenten practices. The term “alms” comes from the Old English *almesse*, itself derived from the Greek term *eleemosyne*, which means “pity” or “mercy.” In other words, almsgiving is meant to be an act of mercy or love toward those in need of support. Usually, almsgiving comes in the form of grants of money or food, but certainly some of the activities listed above for the benefit of others might legitimately be seen as acts of mercy. Frequently, we speak of our obligation to **share with others** from the gifts of **time, treasure and talent** the Lord has given us. Jesus himself commends almsgiving in Mt 6:1-4 and elsewhere in Scripture. As a result, many ways exist for us to give alms, and Lent is an important time to do so, although Christian life impels us to generosity throughout the year.

Two weeks ago, parishioners, friends and visitors at Saint Raphael generously contributed to a special collection to assist the **townspeople and monks in Norcia**, the birthplace of Saint Benedict in Umbria in central Italy, which had been devastated last year by a series of earthquakes. The October quake, one of the worst, destroyed the monastery and Basilica di San Benedetto in Norcia, as well as many homes and public buildings. **The more than \$5,000 we collected** at Saint Raphael will be part of the worldwide response from Benedictine monasteries, convents, schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and parishes to assist in the rebuilding of lives and communities and the preservation of our Catholic heritage. The Norcia collection is just one example of the many ways the parish endeavors to give alms as part of our tithing and stewardship program.

The Lord’s call to practical charity extends to us as individuals and families, as well as a parish community. Whether we are able to give a lot or only a little is not really the point. What matters is that we **extend ourselves sacrificially** to share our gifts out of love for Christ with mercy toward others.

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