

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mass Intentions

Sat., April 15
7:30 pm ... ❖ Easter Vigil Mass for our Parish Family

Sun., April 16 **Easter Sunday**
8 am ... Family, friends, deceased and living, of P. Jerome
10 am ... ☩ Cecelia (Gwozdz) Kaluza

Mon., April 17
~ NO MASS ~

Tue., April 18
12 pm ... ☩ John Daly & ☩ Ron Huot by Jane Daly

Wed., April 19
12 pm ... ☩ Eileen Marie (Fenton) Jacques by P. Jerome

Thur., April 20
8:30 am ... Bartholomew Sheehan (living) by Marge Drobot

Fri., April 21
6 pm ... ☩ Wm. F. Haley (10th anniversary) by Patricia Haley & family

Sat., April 22
4 pm ... ☩ Marguerite Gamelin by Armand & Kathy Carignan

Sun., April 23 **Sunday of Divine Mercy**
7:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family

Weekly Collection

Weekend of April 9, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$4,087.00
Make-Up Offertory	181.00
Loose Offertory	531.40
Online Parish Giving	475.00
Total Offertory	\$5,274.40
Stewardship	
\$1,848.00 Stewardship Loose	
362.75	
Total Stewardship	\$2,210.75
Last Year: Weekend of April 3, 2016	
Total Offertory	\$5,386.35

Mon., April 17
6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry
7:00 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., April 18
12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

Wed., April 19
7 pm ... Respect Life Committee Meeting

Fri., April 21
7:30 pm ... Holy League



Saint Raphael Food Pantry
On Monday, April 10, the food pantry served 21 families and gave out 40 bags of groceries.



Many thanks to **Jeff & Lynn Photiades**, who attended the Chrism Mass at Saint Joseph

Cathedral April 9 to receive the oils for our parish. The oils were presented at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday. Thank you also to **Jeff Photiades, Lynn Photiades and Dorene Turner** for presenting the oils to P. Jerome, O.S.B., our pastor, and to the 12 "disciples" who participated in the foot-washing ceremony: **Michael Alukonis, Xiorli Bernazzani, Corey Gillooly, Stu & Denise Harnden, Justin Kaminski, Aidan Miller, Jeff Photiades, Darrell Royter, Joy St. Pierre, Xiomara Santamaria and Cristina Valente.**



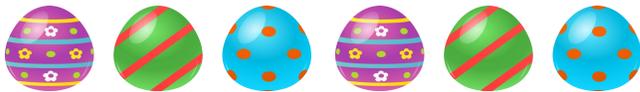
Easter flower remembrance Thank you to everyone who donated flowers in memory and in honor of loved ones. A complete list of donations is included in this week's bulletin.



The Rectory will be **CLOSED Monday, April 17, Easter Monday**, and will reopen Tuesday, April 18. There will be **NO NOON Mass Monday**. You are invited to attend the 8:30 am Mass at Saint Anselm Abbey.



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Linda Paris** by Bill Paris.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 16, 2017

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31



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, including a date for tryouts and rehearsals.



Knights of Columbus Blood Drive Mark your calendar for

Saturday, April 29, 9am—3pm, in Saint Raphael Parish Hall. The Knights of Columbus will host a blood drive. For appointments, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. All blood donations

Faith & Fun Day for Scouts!

All Cub Scouts & Girl Scout in grades 1-5 are invited to "Faith & Fun Day", put on by the Diocesan Catholic Scouting Committee, on **Sat. April 22 from 9am-3pm** at Camp Carpenter, 300 Blondin Rd. in Manchester. Cost: \$5. Info & Registration: www.catholicnh.org/scout and: www.facebook.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. Thank



We have an App!

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

In the 'defeat' of the Cross, we discover the victory of Easter morn



Last Sunday we recalled Jesus' entrance in Jerusalem, between the festive **acclamations of the disciples and a great crowd.**

Those people placed many hopes in Jesus: so many expected miracles and great signs from Him, manifestations of power and even of freedom from the occupying enemies. Which one of them would have imagined that from there shortly Jesus would instead be **humiliated, condemned and killed on a cross?**

The earthly hopes of those people collapsed in face of the cross. But we believe that precisely **in the Crucified our hope is reborn.** Earthly hopes collapse in face of the cross, but new hopes are reborn, those that last forever. It is a different hope from those that collapse, from those of the world. But what kind of hope is this? What hope is born from the cross?

What Jesus said, in fact, after entering Jerusalem can help us understand it: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"* (John 12:24). Let us try to think of a grain or a small seed, which falls into the earth. If it remains closed in itself, nothing happens; instead, **if it is broken, it opens and then gives life** to an ear, a bud, then a plant and the plant will give fruit.

Jesus brought a new hope to the world, and he did so in the way of a seed: He made Himself small — small, like a grain of wheat; He left His heavenly glory to come among us: He "fell to the ground." But this was not enough yet. To bear fruit **Jesus lived love to the end**, letting Himself be broken by death as a seed lets itself be broken under the earth. There, in the extreme point of His abasement — which is also the highest point of love — *hope sprouted.*

If one of you asks: "How is hope born?" "From the cross. Look at the cross, look at Christ Crucified and from there hope will come to you that no longer disappears, which lasts to eternal life." And **this hope sprouted precisely by the strength of love:** because a love that "hopes all, endures all" (1 Corinthians 13:7), love that is God's life, has renewed everything it has reached. Thus at Easter, Jesus, taking our sin upon Himself, transformed it into forgiveness, our death into resurrection, our fear into trust. See why there, on the cross, our hope is born and is always reborn; see how **with Jesus every darkness of ours can be transformed into light**, every defeat into victory, every disappointment into hope — every, yes, every.

Hope surpasses all, because it is born of the love of Jesus who made Himself like a grain

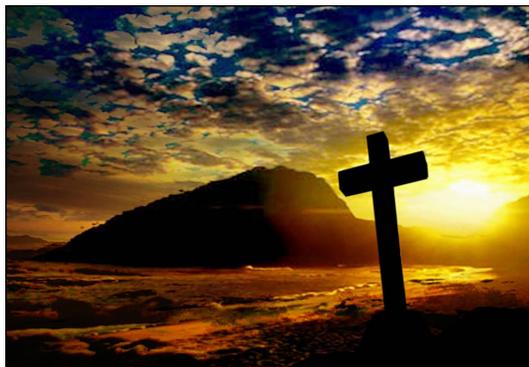


Detail, early 14th century crucifix, newly restored at Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome

of wheat in the earth and who died to give life and from that life full of love hope comes.

When we choose Jesus' hope, little by little we discover that **the winning way of living is that of the seed**, that of humble love. There is no other way to overcome evil and to give hope to the world. But you might say to me: "No, it's a losing logic!" It would seem so, that it is a losing logic, because one who loves loses power. Have you thought of this? One who loves loses power, one who gives, dispossesses himself of something and to love is a gift. In reality the logic of the seed that dies, of humble love, is the way of God, and only this way gives fruit.

We see it also in us: to possess always pushes us **to want something else:** I have obtained something for myself and I



immediately want something greater, and so on, and I am never satisfied. That is an awful thirst! The more you have, the more you want. One who is voracious is never sated. And Jesus says it clearly: "he who loves *his* life loses it" (John 12:25).

You are voracious, you want to have so many things but . . . you will lose everything, also your life, that is: one who loves *himself* and lives for his interests is puffed up with himself and loses. Instead, **one who accepts, is available and serves lives God's way:** then he is victorious, saves himself and others; becomes *seed of hope* for the world.

But it is good to help others, to serve others . . . perhaps we will get tired! But life is like this and the heart is filled with joy and hope.

This is love and hope together: to serve and to give.

This true love certainly passes through the cross, sacrifice, as it did for Jesus. **The cross is the obligatory passage but it is not the aim, it is a passage: the aim is glory**, as Easter shows us. And here another very beautiful image comes to our aid, which Jesus left His disciples during the Last Supper. He says: "When a woman is in travail she has sorrow,

because her hour has come; but when she is delivered of the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a child is born into the world" (John 16:21). See: to give life, not to possess it. And this is what mothers do: they give another life, they suffer, but then they are joyful, happy because they have given birth to another life. It gives joy; love gives birth to life and even gives meaning to sorrow.

Love is the engine that makes our hope go on. I repeat: **love is the engine that makes our hope go on.** And each one of us can ask himself: "Do I love? Have I learned to love? Do I learn every day to love more?" — because love is the engine that makes our hope go on.

Dear brothers and sisters, during these days, days of love, let us allow ourselves to be enveloped by the mystery of Jesus that, dying as grain of wheat, dying gives us life. He is the seed of our hope. Let us contemplate the Crucified, source of hope. Little by little we will understand that to hope with Jesus is to **learn to see already the plant in the seed, Easter in the cross, life in death.** I would now like to give you a task to do at home. It will do us all good to pause before the Crucifix — all of you have one at home — and look at Him and say to Him: "With you nothing is lost. With you I can always hope. You are my hope." Let us now imagine the Crucifix and all together let us say to Jesus Crucified three times: "You are my hope." All: "You are my hope." Louder! "You are my hope." Thank you.

Translation from general audience in Italian April 12 by Zenit's Virginia M. Forrester.