

## Mass Intentions

### Sat., April 22

4 pm ... ✠ Marguerite Gamelin by Armand & Kathy Carignan

### Sun., April 23 **Sunday of Divine Mercy**

7:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family

9:30 am ... ✠ Bob McGrail by Sue McGrail

5 pm ... ✠ Dorothy Evelyn O'Brien by Virginia Kelly

### Mon. April 24 **Saint Fidelis of Sigmarigen**

12 pm ... ✠ Vicki Wolf by Lillian LaRoche

### Tue., April 25 **Saint Mark**

12 pm ... ✠ A special intention by Jeannine Cote

### Wed., April 26

12 pm ... ✠ Romain & ✠ Louise Marcoux by Diane Gallant

### Thur., April 27

8:30 am ... ✠ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue

### Fri., April 28

6 pm ... ✠ Edward J. McCarthy by Tally, Joyce & P.J. Guill

### Sat., April 29 **Saint Catherine of Siena**

4 pm ... ✠ Craig Bamberger by Kerri Stanley

### Sun., April 30 **Third Sunday of Easter**

7:30 am ... ✠ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue

9:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family

5 pm ... ✠ Nelson R. Kelly by Virginia Kelly



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for ❖ **Our Parish Family.**

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 23, 2017

**Monday:** Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

**Tuesday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

**Wednesday:** Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

**Thursday:** Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

**Friday:** Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

**Saturday:** Acts 6:1-7; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19; Jn 6:16-21

**Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35

### In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the souls of ✠ **Josephine M. Hoey**, who died April 10, and whose funeral service was celebrated by P. Jerome last week.



**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.



**Thank you!** Thank you to everyone who turned in rice bowls with money they collected during the Lenten season. We collected **over \$537** which went towards the SRP Food Pantry.

## Weekly Collection

### Weekend of April 16, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$3,066.00
Make-Up Offertory	103.00
Loose Offertory	649.30
Online Parish Giving	330.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,148.30</b>

Stewardship	\$ 195.00
Stewardship Online	60.00
<b>Total Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 255.00</b>

Easter	\$7,213.00
Easter Loose	408.00
<b>Total Easter</b>	<b>\$7,621.00</b>

### Last Year: Weekend of April 17, 2016

<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,994.00</b>
<b>Total Easter (3/27/16)</b>	<b>\$8,038.85</b>



—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](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.



**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](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS. All blood donations appreciated!



Join us on **Sunday, April 30** following the 5pm Mass, which will be concelebrated by Fr. John D'Orazio, for a **fellowship dinner** in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Mon., April 24

7:00 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tue., April 25

12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse



### Saint Raphael Food Pantry

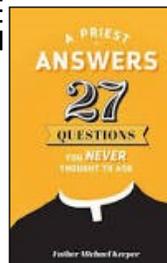
On Monday, April 17, the food pantry served **16** families and gave out **21** bags of groceries.

On **Thursday, April 27, 2017**, Bishop Libasci will celebrate a **Mass for the Healing of Those Affected by Abuse** at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 180 Loudon Road, Concord at **6:30pm**. A brief reception will follow in the church hall. The public is invited to attend this special liturgy. "Through the suffering and mercy of Jesus, every Mass is a healing Mass, since God wants us to be healed through the gift of His Son in the Sacrament of the Eucharist," said Bishop Libasci. "But on this occasion, we come together specifically to ask our Lord for the healing of those affected by child abuse."



### 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, May 6, 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, May 5, from 7am to 5:30pm. Contact [izolkos@trinity-hs.org](mailto:izolkos@trinity-hs.org) with any



**WHAT:** Celebrate release of Fr. Michael Kerper's new book! **Copies of A Priest Answers 27 Questions** will be available for purchase and signing by Father Kerper. Complimentary refreshments provided.

**WHEN:** Friday, April 28, at 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Anderson House, 90 Concord St., Nashua, NH 03064. Please RSVP to Molly Rublee at [mrublee@sophiainstitute.com](mailto:mrublee@sophiainstitute.com) or by phone at [1-800-888-9344](tel:1-800-888-9344).

## Paths we choose, paths we take, sometimes they are one.

It isn't every day that you get to witness a **new life coming into the world**. Not only that, but what are the odds you get to be the one who assists with the delivery, when it wasn't even on the day's agenda? It may not have been on the bucket list of **parishioner Michelle Markey**, despite the fact that she is a cardiac nurse, but she can claim rights to it after having recently helped a woman deliver her second child — on the side of the road.

Michelle wasn't even supposed to be traveling that particular road. She had some extra time on her hands while on her way to pick up her stepchildren from school, and **chose to take a different route**. And as Robert Frost observes, "and that has made all the difference." Michelle noticed the woman's husband standing on the side of the road, looking frantic and distressed, and rather than pass on by, she pulled over. A healthy baby boy was born into the world, sharing his birthday with his father.

I'm sure we all have experienced a story where it seemed like the **circumstances evolved due to the path we chose**. If we hadn't done this, then we couldn't do that. It happened for a reason. But what, exactly, is that reason?

In today's world, where there seems to be so much darkness, violence and uncertainty, we want to know the reasons for things. Why do people do bad things? **Why do we suffer?** What path did we take and how is that choice then connected to these effects now? What can we do to change the bad to good?

It is interesting how the Lenten season seems to awaken

so many of us from our routine slumber. We put a little more effort in our everyday acts, striving to be kinder, **striving to remember the path Jesus took and that he died for us on the Cross** so that our sins could be forgiven. We will even fast and practice abstinence, and make sacrifices. People who have been absent from weekly Mass attendance return to worship. They receive the spiritual nourishment they sought and hopefully go out and live by the lessons they heard and the Eucharist they received. It is all Jesus would ask of us, **to live our lives to the fullest, with honesty and integrity**, and with Him by



every day and it can wear us down. **We lose our way**, and in our fight to soften the blows for ourselves and loved ones, we sometimes misstep and find that we've distanced ourselves from God and our faith. Suddenly, the path we were on that had a small manageable fire has become an inferno, and **we are tempted to just turn around and run**. We think we've made the right choice, because we are now not at the front line of destruction, but far enough away only to feel limited effects. We are not contributing to the problem, but we are not really helping to put out the fire either.

Some people want to "leave their mark" in the world. Many will not, but some will, while still others will do so without, are times ever having realized their impact. They took the path less traveled, or because they were willing to stand at the front line. Life is full of choices, many made on the whether the alternatives were morally right or wrong. We make choices every day. **But how many of us can say our choice was made**

our side.

But life challenges us. We confront darkness, uncertainty, even violence

**with Christ in mind?** Lent, and now the Easter season when Christ should be uppermost in our minds and hearts. Is he?

Lent is a time of self discipline. But it is more than that. It is not just about giving something up for Lent. It is the practice of attaining God's blessing by

making the sacrifices we do, whether it is abstaining from eating meat on Fridays or fasting, or giving up some indulgence. **This does not mean our grace can be earned.** Grace is "the gift of righteousness" (Romans 5:17). And while we are devout in practicing the Lenten traditions, we should be striving to open ourselves to God's grace all

year long. When faced with the bad and the ugly, we should challenge ourselves to do what we can to suppress it in making our world a better place. It may not leave the mark we want others to see, **but whatever good we do will most definitely leave a mark on our own heart.**

It's a simple request. Verses in a Tim McGraw country song resonate especially today: *Hold the door, say please, say thank you. Don't steal, don't cheat and don't lie. I know you got mountains to climb, but always stay humble and kind. When the dreams you're dreaming come to you, when the work you put in is realized. Let yourself feel the pride, but always stay humble and kind.*

The next time you have some extra time on your hands, and you're driving down a familiar road, think about taking a different route. Challenge yourself to face the unknown. **Challenge yourself to better your best.** Pay a kindness forward. Help to put out a fire. **Feel undone by the mercy of Jesus and the goodness of the Lord.**

**Count your blessings**, not just during Lent, or because it's Easter, but every day. For all of the struggles and storms you have weathered, realize

you have the strength, will and faith to endure even more. **Realize you are loved.** Have faith in the path you choose and in the path you may have to take.

Michelle Markey witnessed a miracle because she took a different path one day. Her training as a nurse kicked in, and she had the instinct not to drive by the crisis, leaving it for somebody else to handle. Instead, she stopped and helped. She had the belief, the confidence and the conviction that she could. That is faith. **Faith is at the core of Lent, Easter and, in fact, of every day we live in Christ.** "With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? ... He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your god?" (Micah 6:6,8)

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Janelle White, front left, and her husband Orion White with their son Kelhin, and Michelle Markey, rear left, and Adrian Feldhusen, rear right, at Milford Medical Center in Milford, NH, on Mar. 28, 2017. Photo: The Boston Globe

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