



<b>Sat., May 13</b>	<b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>
4 pm ...	†Leo & †Doris Moreau by Elaine Plourde
<b>Sun., May 14</b>	<b>V Sunday of Easter</b>
7:30 am ...	†Mary Marszal by Elaine Wood
9:30 am ...	❖Our Parish Family
5 pm ...	†Christian de Bellerive (6th Anniv.) by the Hunter and Chalifour families
<b>Mon. May 15</b>	<b>Saint Isidore</b>
12 pm ...	†William Carty Jr. by Jack & Colleen Byrne
<b>Tue., May 16</b>	
12 pm ...	†Robert Breault by Flo Breault
<b>Wed., May 17</b>	
12 pm ...	†Robert Lucci by Elaine Lucci
<b>Thur., May 18</b>	
8:30 am ...	†Francis X. Fraitzl by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
<b>Fri., May 19</b>	<b>Sts Nereus, Achilleus &amp; Pancras</b>
6 pm ...	†Arthur Wilson by P. Jerome
<b>Sat., May 20</b>	<b>Saint Bernardine of Siena</b>
4 pm ...	†Dot Dery by Paul & Mary Dery
<b>Sun., May 21</b>	<b>VI Sunday of Easter</b>
7:30 am ...	†Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue
9:30 am ...	†Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux
5 pm ...	❖Our Parish Family



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **†Deceased members of the Bissonnette & Carignan families** by Armand & Kathy Carignan.

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 14, 2017

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26  
**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21; Jn 14:27-31a  
**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8  
**Thursday:** Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3, 10; Jn 15:9-11  
**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17  
**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21  
**Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Ps 66:1-7, 16, 20; 1 Pt 3:15-18 or 1 Pt 4:13-16; Jn 14:15-21 or Jn 17:1-11a



**Ascension of the Lord** We will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on **Wednesday, May 24 at 6:30pm** for the Vigil, and on **Thursday, May 25 at 12pm**. Note that we will not have an 8:30am Mass on Thursday, May 25. The Ascension is a Holy Day of



Congratulations to **Isaac Newton Thomas Cawley**, son of Matthew and Jessica (Brown) Cawley, and to **Jameson Ryan Beland**, son of Robert and Melissa (Gagnon) Beland, who were baptized last week by P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor. *Let us strive, by our word and example, to create an environment for them to come to know the love of God and the meaning of "being church."*

## Weekly Collection

**Weekend of May 7, 2017**

Regular Offertory	\$3,923.55
Make-Up Offertory	482.00
Loose Offertory	715.30
Regular Offertory Online	475.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$4,880.55</b>

**Last Year: Weekend of May 8, 2016**

<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$11,090.05</b>
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**Food Pantry** \$ 2,225.00  
*Thank you for your generosity!*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Mon., May 15

6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry

7:00 pm ... Food Pantry

### Tue., May 16

12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

7 pm ... Best Foot Forward rehearsal

### Wed., May 17

7:00 pm ... Respect Life Committee Meeting

### Fri., May 19

7:30 pm ... Holy League

### Saint Raphael Food Pantry



On Monday, May 8, the food pantry served 17 families and gave out 36 bags of



### Catholic Charities

### 2017 Annual Campaign for Catholic Charities has begun.

Our goal this year is **\$27,500**. To date we have **\$325** pledged. Envelopes at the back of the church. Please consider donating to this worthy charity.



### 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.saintraphael-parish.com](http://www.saintraphael-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.



### The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue

Monday and Tuesday, June 5 and 6, 2017 at 7pm, at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center. Tickets are just \$10 and are on sale following all weekend Masses or at the rectory during regular business hours or by calling the rectory at 623.2604. You won't



### Pentecost Mass and breakfast

Members of this year's First Communion and Confirmation classes will be honored following the 9:30 am Mass on June 4,

**Pentecost Sunday, with a breakfast immediately following the Mass. Please join us and wear RED, to honor the Holy Spirit, at whatever Pentecost Mass you plan to attend!**



### Congratulations!

We welcomed to the "Table of the Lord" the following youngsters who received their First Holy Communion May 7: Anya Rae Blanc, Sarah Elizabeth Donnelly, Erich William Greeb, Jacob Connor Kilrain, Julie Denise Langlois, Levi Emerson Mailloux, Emily Aline Makris, Blessing Meelubari Mawo and Benjamin



### Happy Mother's Day!

To show our

appreciation to all of the mothers, grandmothers and godmothers of our parish, we invite you to take a shopping bag from the ushers



**Have you downloaded our app yet?** It's free and full of info and updates. Enter "Saint Raphael Parish" to find us in the app store.

## Fatima's 'beautiful lady' beckons to world 100 years after first visit

When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, I think, I started reading Soul magazine and learned about the **Blue Army of Our Lady**, and I became fascinated by the apparitions reported to have occurred in the little village of **Fatima** and their connections to so many dimensions of Catholic life and faith. As a newly-minted teenager, I'm pretty sure I did not get the depth of meaning in those accounts, but they never left me, and happily, they've been part of my faith ever since. When I engaged with Soul and the stories it provided, the story of Our Lady of Fatima was already more than 50 years old – and yet it still seemed fresh and significant. This weekend, on **Saturday, May 13, 2017**, the Church will mark the **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions** – and they still seem fresh and significant in ways that would do us all some good to consider.

The message of Our Lady of Fatima, although first conveyed to three youngsters **herding sheep in the hills of Portugal**, still matters to us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century because Jesus Christ still matters, his holy mother matters and the essence of Fatima still matters. **Pope Francis**, who is scheduled to canonize the three youngsters in Fatima this Saturday, will say as much in his address to the millions who will hear him at the shrine, one of the most visited in the Catholic world, and around the world.

Fatima's story, very briefly, is as follows: Three youngsters – Francisco Martos and his sister, Jacinta, and their cousin Lucia Santos – in the poor rural region of Fatima, **about 85-90 miles north of Lisbon**, the Portuguese capital, reported to their families and local parish and diocesan authorities that they had seen and heard a beautiful woman speak to them about her son, Jesus, and what he asked of them.

On the **13<sup>th</sup> of six consecutive months**, from **May to October, in 1917**, the apparitions continued. They followed several encounters with what the children said was an angel, who taught them about prayer. On the last apparition, a crowd estimated at 100,000 marveled at what has been called "**the miracle of the sun**," when the sun seemed to spin, whirling with multiple colors and dance toward earth. People more than 20 miles from Fatima who had no knowledge of the impending miracle or even of the apparitions themselves saw the phenomenon.

In many ways, the message of Fatima is **consistent with other reported apparitions** of Mary – and this consistency is something the Church seeks when investigating reports. The Portuguese youngsters insisted that a "**beautiful lady**" told them to pray, especially for sinners; to recite her Rosary; to seek out her son, Jesus, in the Eucharist; to make sacrifices out of love for God and sinners so that war would end; and to ask that a church be built to mark her visits.

Mary's requests are, in a central way, a **summation of the Gospel** – that we turn to Christ, the Son of the Living God and the



redeemer and savior of mankind, live our lives in love of our brothers and sisters, find Jesus in the Mass and come together as a Christian community make God's presence known in our world.

In addition, the Fatima apparitions have some **specific elements**. The children reported

that the lady, whom they quickly understood to be the Blessed Virgin Mary, asked them to pray the Rosary daily so that **the Great War (World War I)** might end quickly. Interestingly, the first Portuguese units headed to the front shortly before the first apparition. She warned them of the dangers and terrors of hell and that many souls were lost because there was **an absence of prayer**. She asked that reparation in prayer and sacrifice be made for the many offenses in the world to God and to her Immaculate Heart. Mary also predicted that **without prayer and reparation** for the love of God, mankind would fall into an **even worse conflict**. Most historians say that injustices of World War I led to the rise of Nazism and World War II.

Our Lady's message also included a request that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart and that the world pray for its conversion. Only two months earlier, in **March of 1917**, the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty had collapsed in Imperial Russia as **Tsar Nicholas II** abdicated and a Provisional Government would take over after riots, insurrections and desertions in **Saint Petersburg, Moscow and elsewhere**. By the end of the year, the Bolsheviks would topple the Provisional Government and establish the communist Soviet Union. Mary reminded the children that without prayer and conversion Russia would spread her errors throughout the world.

One further dimension of Fatima connects it to the news of our own time. The name "Fatima" comes from a Moorish princess, who, in turn, was named with the Arabic "Fatimah," the **daughter of the Prophet Muhammad**, founder of Islam. Fatimah (604-632) was the Prophet's youngest daughter and remained close to him throughout his life, caring for him, as well as her husband and children. Through her, the male line of descent from Muhammad continued. She is revered as a model of goodness throughout the Muslim world. For many Catholics, Orthodox, other Christians and

Muslims, the figure of **Mary, revered in both the Bible and the Koran**, holds potential as a point of reconciliation and hope. That one of Mary's chosen sites of apparition should be named after a daughter of the Prophet opens eyes in both the Christian and Muslim worlds.

Francisco died in 1919, Jacinta in 1920, both claimed by the influenza pandemic in the wake of the war. Lucia entered the convent, and died as a Discalced Carmelite in 2005 at the age of 97. **She remained faithful to promoting the message** she first heard from "the beautiful lady" in the Cova da Iria. In due course, the apparitions received the approval of the Church, though **no one is required** to believe in such personal spiritual revelations.

Over the years, Lucia articulated and explained the "secrets" Our Lady is said to have revealed at Fatima during her apparitions. The first was her confiding **a vision of hell and damnation** to the children so that its real terrors might impress on them a desire to avoid it by turning to Christ and calling all mankind to conversion. The second was the sobering prospect that, without such conversion, **a new and more terrible war** would break out and that the Holy Father would suffer much. The third secret, subject of continuing debate, the last to be revealed, deals with **persecution of and dissension within the Church**, including persecution of priests, bishops and pope. This took on particular force when **Pope John Paul II** was seriously wounded in a failed assassination attempt on the anniversary of the first Fatima apparition **May 13, 1981**, in Saint Peter's Square. Some critics are not satisfied that the full message has been revealed, while others argue that the Church shows prudence by emphasizing the fundamental spiritual lessons of prayer and conversion in the so-called secret.

One thing is certain. **Fatima continues to exert its influence over the world**. Mary's central message remains as fresh and as pertinent today as it did a century ago: repent of sin, convert the heart, turn to Christ in



**From left, Lucia Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Martos with tower of Fatima basilica in rear.**

the Eucharist, pray the Rosary, look to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and remain close to God and each other in the community of faith, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. **Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.**