

Mass Intentions

Sat., May 27 **Saint Augustine of Canterbury**
4 pm ... ☩Betty, ☩Ernie, ☩Anna and ☩Ernest Heidenreich
by Al and Barbara Heidenreich

Sun., May 28 **VII Sunday of Easter**
7:30 am ... ☩Jack Healy by Nancy Healy

9:30 am ... ☩Craig Bamberger by Margaret-Ann Moran
5 pm ... ☩Agnes M. Patti by Diane Bolton

Mon. May 29 **Happy Memorial Day!**
9 am ... Mass at St. Joseph Cemetery

Tue., May 30
12 pm ... ☩Francis X. Fraitzl by Dennis & Eileen Smith

Wed., May 31
12 pm ... ☩Marcel A. Vincent by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Thur., June 1 **Saint Justin**
8:30 am ... ☩Shaun M. Keane (9th Anniv.) by Jack & Colleen Byrne

Fri., June 2 **Saints Marcellinus and Peter**
6 pm ... ☩Robert F. Lucci by Elaine Lucci

Sat., June 3 **Saint Charles Lwanga & Companions**
4 pm ... ☩Jack North by Mary Dery

Sun., June 4 **Pentecost Sunday**
7:30 am ... ☩Joan Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ♦Our Parish Family
5 pm ... ☩Jeannette Magarian by Charles Magarian



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩Linda Chapdelaine by Dawn Herman.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of May 21, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$2,676.00
Make-Up Offertory	429.00
Loose Offertory	547.95
Regular Offertory Online	535.00
Total Offertory	\$4,187.95

Stewardship Make up	\$ 277.00
Stewardship Online	25.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 302.00

Last Year: Weekend of May 29, 2016
Total Offertory \$ 3,939.65

Food Pantry \$ 45.00
Thank you for your generosity!



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

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!



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.



Annual Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated **Monday, May 29 at 9 am** at Old Saint Joseph's Cemetery, Donald Street, Manchester. If it rains, Mass will be in Saint Joseph Cathedral. Please bring a lawn chair for seating at the cemetery. Note that there will be **NO MASS at Saint Raphael Parish on Memorial Day and the office will be closed.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., May 29

Food Pantry CLOSED

Tue., May 30

12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

8 pm ... Best Foot Forward rehearsal

Thur., June 1

8 pm ... Best Foot Forward rehearsal



Saint Raphael Food Pantry
On Monday, May 22, the food pantry served 23 families and gave out 57 bags of groceries.



2017 Annual Campaign for Catholic Charities has begun. Our

goal this year is **\$27,500.** We are **\$24,175 away from our goal.** Thank you to those who have contributed to date. Envelopes at the back of the church. Please consider donating to



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.



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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 28, 2017

Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; Jn 16:29-33
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a
Wednesday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 1:39-56
Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25
Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2a, 24, 35c, 27-28, 29bc-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39. Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



Save the date! VBS...

Saint Raphael's ever popular Vacation Bible School is coming! This year, VBS will be **July 17-21 from 9 am-12 pm.** This year's theme is "Maker Fun Factory". We are enlisting

volunteers and participants and applications will be available soon!

Mary's 'Five First Saturdays' just might help save your soul

Most of us who spend any time on the web know how often we are invited to examine the "10 most powerful armies in the world," "**the 12 stars with the most startling secrets**," "the three foods that can save your life," and "the 25 cutest kitten and puppy shots ever."

While all of these kinds of forays into list-making have some informational and amusement value, most of them are a tremendous "time-suck." They act like a **technological drain on free time**, lure us into material that is neither helpful nor refreshing and sometimes send us on wild goose chases as we pursue one half-witted link after another.

Not all lists, however, are so bad – and some are absolutely **necessary for our life in Christ**. The Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes make the cut. The Divine Praises, the various litanies of Our Lady and the saints and the promises associated with the nine First Fridays likewise have an honored place in our spiritual Book of Lists. One more to add are the **Five First Saturdays**, a 20th century devotion that is part of the treasury of practices associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary and her **five apparitions at Fatima from May to October of 1917 on the 13th of each month – 100 years ago**.

Beginning this coming Saturday, June 3, parishioners and friends of Saint Raphael will have the opportunity to make the Five First Saturdays devotion at the parish church at a special 8.30 a.m. to be celebrated from June to October of this year on the first Saturday of each month. This year we celebrate the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima – and one of the surest ways of honoring her is to fulfill her requests for **prayer, conversion of heart and reparation for sin**.

While the Church requires no one to believe private revelations to individuals, the visions of the three children at Fatima in Portugal have stood the test of time. They have been recommended by competent Church authorities as **worthy of veneration and belief**.

In an apparition in December of 1925 in Pontevedra, Spain, to one of the visionaries, **Lucia Santos**, the only seer who survived through adulthood, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have requested the Five First Friday devotions. Lucia was only 14 at the time of the vision and had just entered the convent. Eight years earlier, she had seen "the beautiful Lady" in the **Cova da Iria** in the hills above their hometown of Fatima. She experienced this vision with her cousins, **Francisco and Jacinta Marto**, canonized this months as saints. Within two years of the vision, the Marto children had been called home to the Lord, and Lucia was left to explain and defend the message they had received while tending sheep.

Lucia later recorded what the Virgin Mary had told her in Pontevedra: "Look, my



to me, will, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to confession, received Holy Communion, say five decades of the [Rosary] beads, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary."

In our time, the spirit of reparation seems remote. Apologies and efforts to make amends are often mumbled and breezy affairs, when they should bring us to **genuine sorrow and real effort to fix the consequences our offense**. To offend the Immaculate Heart of Mary is, of course, to offend God himself, for she is the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, and therefore the Mother of God. **Mary is the perfect human response to the Eternal Father's invitation to have eternal life in Christ, son of the Living God**. To ignore her, belittle her, reject her or insult her not only repudiates her choice but casts the choice for God each one of us can, and should, make into the dust. We insult our mother and betray our future.

The five elements of Mary's request are ...

► **A spirit of reparation for sin**, our own, our country's and the world's, particularly in regard to the offenses hurled at Our Lady's sorrowful and immaculate heart. Only Christ makes full reparation for human sin, but in his mercy God invites each of us, in our freedom, to attempt to amend and repair what sin has sullied, corroded and destroyed in our world.

► **Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation**, so that confession of our own sins in union with a spirit of reparation, puts us as individuals in the right relationship with the Lord. While confession on the First Saturday is highly recommended, confession within the next eight days, or even within the month is acceptable, provided the intention of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is included.

► **Receive the Eucharist on the First Saturday**. Here, we are joined to Christ through his own sacrificial act of reconciliation between God and mankind, the unique sacrifice of Calvary re-presented to us in the Mass when we receive the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. As Catholics we understand that **the Eucharist is the "source and summit"**

daughter, at my Heart encircled by these thorns with which men pierce it at every moment by their **blasphemies and ingratitude**.

You, at least, strive to console me, and so I announce: **I promise to assist at the hour of death with the grace necessary for salvation all those who, with the intention of making reparation**

of our faith, the point where God's gift of himself comes directly to each of us to transform us and enable us to help transform the world, to help build up the Kingdom of God in the Lord's grace.

► **Recite the Rosary aloud while meditating on the mysteries of the life of Christ and his holy Mother**. The recitation of the is undertaken in reparation for offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Rosary, which comes directly from the biblical page, is one of the most beloved forms of prayer in the Catholic world.

► **Meditate for 15 minutes on any one of the mysteries, any group of them or all of them**. Because Mary promises to be present to "those who keep me company," this meditation can be especially rich in understanding, prayerfulness and devotion.

In another vision, one of the Lord Jesus himself, Sister Lucia reported in 1930 that Christ found **five types blasphemy** against the Immaculate Heart of his Mother. These offenses include blasphemies against her Immaculate Conception; her virginity; her divine maternity (as well as her role as mother of mankind), offenses by those who seek to sow among children indifference, scorn or hatred of Mary; and finally, offenses against images, icons, statues and other representations of Mary. At the time of these visions, such outrages were common in the **Soviet Union and among fascist and communist movements elsewhere**.

Tragically, **extreme secularism in the West and the rise of ISIS and similar radical Islamists** in the Middle East with its attacks on Christian communities continue such blasphemies.

As recorded by Sister Lucia, who died in 2005, Mary's promises that those who make the First Five Saturdays for five consecutive months and who fulfill the conditions requested **would receive at the time of their death her assistance with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls**. In world of so many evils and distractions, what a magnificent promise for those with good intentions and a good heart! Likewise, Mary promises the salvation of sinners through "this little devotion." Finally, Mary assured Sister Lucia that peace in the world would come with the practice of this devotion and the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Special thanks to Fr. Richard Heilman, whose column on Jan. 3, 2017, in the blog "Roman Catholic Man," was a most helpful source of information.