

## Mass Intentions

**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

**Mon. June 5 Saint Boniface**  
12 pm ... ✠ Phillip Beland by Linda Beland

**Tue., June 6**  
12 pm ... ✠ Antoinette & Joseph Grandmaison by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

**Wed., June 7**  
12 pm ... ✠ Kay Cochran by Tally, Joyce and P.J. Guill

**Thur., June 8**  
8:30 am ... ✠ Patricia Lencki by Rod & Diane Cheney

**Fri., June 9 Saint Ephrem**  
6 pm ... ✠ Joseph Handy by Gregory Handy

**Sat., June 10**  
4 pm ... ✠ Charles Richard by Simone Richard

**Sun., June 11 The Most Holy Trinity**  
7:30 am ... ✠ Mary Marszal by Elaine Wood  
9:30 am ... ❖ Our Parish Family  
5 pm ... ✠ Jack North & ✠ Dot Dery by Paul & Mary Dery



**Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **Denny & Eileen (Byrne) Smith**, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 10. Congratulations to them both!

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 4, 2017

**Monday:** Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8; Ps 112:1b-2, 3b-6; Mk 12:1-12  
**Tuesday:** Tb 2:9-14; Ps 112:1-2, 7-9; Mk 12:13-17  
**Wednesday:** Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Ps 25:2-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mk 12:18-27  
**Thursday:** Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 12:28-34  
**Friday:** Tb 11:5-17; Ps 146:1b-2, 6c-10; Mk 12:35-37  
**Saturday:** Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20; Tb 13:2, 6efgh, 7, 8; Mk 12:38-44  
**Sunday:** Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9; Dn 3:52-55; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18

### In Sympathy

Please pray for the repose of the soul of ✠ **Stephanie Schehl**, who died May 30 and whose funeral was celebrated at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church, Bedford, Saturday, June 3. Please keep her and her family in prayer.



**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.



**Respect Life Committee The 7th Annual Baby Bottle fundraiser** to benefit CareNet Pregnancy Center is under way. Please limit bottles to one per family and don't forget to **return your bottle on Father's Day weekend June 18/19.** Thank you for your help!

## Weekly Collection

### Weekend of May 28, 2017

Regular Offertory \$2,741.00  
Make-Up Offertory 290.00  
Loose Offertory 677.60  
Regular Offertory Online 230.00  
**Total Offertory \$3,938.60**

Stewardship Make up \$ 40.00

Ascension of the Lord \$ 951.00  
Ascension Loose 149.00

**Total Holy Day \$1,100.00**

### Last Year: Weekend of May 29, 2016

**Total Offertory \$ 3,939.65**  
**Total Ascension: \$ 3,638.75**



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.

### 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!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Mon., June 5

6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry  
7—8 pm ... Food Pantry  
7 pm ... Follies at Saint Anselm, Dana Center

### Tue., June 6

12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse  
7 pm ... Follies at Saint Anselm, Dana Center



**2017 Annual Campaign for Catholic Charities**

### has begun.

Our goal this year is **\$27,500.** We are **\$24,055 away from our goal.** Thank you to those who have contributed to date. Envelopes at the back of the church. Please consider donating to



**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. Available at the door too! You won't want to miss it!



### 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!

### THANKS & GOOD LUCK, MRS.



**CONNORS!** Take a bow, Mrs. Judy Connors! After 11

years of teaching Kindergarten at Saint Benedict Academy, Mrs. Judy Connors is moving to the Seacoast area. We wish her and her family all the very best!



Like us on Facebook and get updates and information about Saint Raphael Parish!

## Apse of San Clemente, Rome, shows the workings of the Spirit

Last month, my Benedictine confreres and I undertook **our annual retreat** at Saint Anselm Abbey, and it is always a good time for prayer, reflection and some thought-provoking talks by the retreat master. This year, **the Rev. Albert Brueckner, O.S.B., of Conception Abbey** in Missouri, provided a series of inter-related talks that drew on a wide range of topics. Usually, presentations focus on some element of Sacred Scripture or the Holy Rule of Saint Benedict, or some feature of monastic spirituality or doctrinal theology. But with Father Albert, a mathematician, astronomer, seminary administrator and soon-to-be pastor, we heard an appealing blend of personal experience, good sense and country humor. But I never expected to be moved by a discussion of the **decoration of an apsidial dome** in a church in Rome!

First off, I have to admit, I love saying “apsidial dome.” It makes people think you know what you’re talking about, even if you yourself aren’t entirely certain. When was the last time you heard someone discuss the engineering or the decoration of an apsidial dome? The very rarity of the topic all but **guarantees you safe passage** through the discussion! In fact, the apse is the roundy back part of a church roof, usually with a dome-like top. The apsidial dome has both an interior face and an exterior one, and the art of such an interior surface can be impressive and enlightening.

Father Albert was telling us that one of his favorite churches in Rome is **San Clemente**. It is among the most historic churches in the Eternal City. The **early 12<sup>th</sup> century structure** was built over a 4<sup>th</sup> century church, which, in turn, was built over a 1<sup>st</sup> century Christian church that had been superseded by a pagan sanctuary. The original building on the site appears to have been a home later expanded to an apartment complex. The Irish Dominicans have cared for the current minor basilica since the early 17th century. The **mosaics** adorning its apsidial dome (photo above) are nothing short of magnificent – and, as we celebrate **the Solemnity of Pentecost** this weekend, it is worth seeing the connection between that decoration and the power, love and beauty of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

The central decorative element of the dome is a massive mosaic that spills out onto the adjoining walls. **At the center is the cross**, which hovers over the altar in the sanctuary. The connection between the cross and the Eucharist is obvious for most Catholics. On the cross, Jesus Christ offered himself to the Father as **a sacrifice of love and obedience in atonement for the sins of mankind**. On the altar, by repeating the Lord’s ritual of the Last Supper, we receive that same Christ, our redemption and salvation, in his Eucharistic Body and Blood. Reception of the Eucharist not only gives us **the Real Presence of Christ**, but it transforms us ever more and more into the kind of men and women God desires, real members of **Christ’s Mystical Body**. All of this happens

because Jesus has bestowed on his Church the gift of the Holy Spirit, bond of love between Father and Son. In San Clemente, however, the cross is not depicted as we



women of every race and nation. **Mary, the Mother of God**, and **John the Beloved Disciple** flank the Cross. From the base of the tree, amid arcanthus leaves, spring roots, vines or saplings that spread

conventionally see it, the cross atop Calvary, intended as an instrument of torture and death, but rather **as it works spiritually in the divine plan of salvation – as the Tree of Life**.

In **Genesis 2:17**, God commands Adam and Eve to avoid ever eating the fruit of the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**, whereas **the Tree of Life**, as mentioned in **Genesis 3:22**, bestows every blessing on those who seek shelter in its shade and nourishment from its fruit. As Father Albert described it, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil puts **the self at its center**. It relies on conditional love. It manipulates and exploits others. It is characterized by deceit and duplicity. It exults in self-indulgence and addiction. And it produces only fear, shame and revenge. The Tree of Life, on the contrary, puts **Christ at the center**. It operates with unconditional love. It relies on generous service to others through self-giving. It is rooted in truth and honesty. It embraces self-mastery and discipline, producing peace and joy for all.

The Genesis account, of course, is the deep background for **the story of redemption** in Christ. The fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that the serpent persuaded Eve to sample and which she gave to Adam didn’t turn out well for anybody. The Genesis account is a lyrical parable that tells us the truth that **somehow, at the beginning of human experience, we rejected the plan – and the love God offers us**. As Father Albert reminded us, much of the history of Israel is the promise that the curse of Adam and Eve will be “reversed” by another Tree of Life – and the Cross of Christ on Calvary is that tree!

The San Clemente depiction shows a tree rich in color, life, and drama. **Christ’s Tree of Life surges with the life of the Holy Spirit throughout all creation**.

As depicted, the cross, upon which the Crucified Jesus is impaled, takes its inspiration from Revelation 22:2: “On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” **Christ’s redemptive death opens the possibility of grace and salvation** to men and

throughout the apsidial dome. As they curl and curve over the entire surface, they bud forth symbols of life, faith, healing and hope for all mankind – **all of it given life by the Spirit** who extends Christ’s Cross around the world.

Within the vine, images of feudal lords, servants and peasants depict life in a world Christ has redeemed. They are joined by images of the Doctors of the Church and other figures, all engaged in the life of the Church. Adorning the cross are 12 doves, symbols of the apostles, who were filled with peace and the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The apostles, **empowered by the Spirit**, bring the fruit of the Cross to the whole world. Underneath the cross, four streams of water burst forth, representing the four rivers of Eden. Two deer drink for the waters flowing from the Tree of Life and they echo **Psalm 42-43 (my favorite!)**: “As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O my God!” (v.1) Two peacocks, symbols of the Resurrection, display themselves nearby, while at the foot of the Cross, the Tree of Life, a stag, another symbol of the Lord, refreshes himself from the water while a serpent coils nearby. The serpent, a symbol of evil in Genesis, reminds us that although Christ won the definitive victory, his **disciples still must struggle against evil**.

Telling the story of the impact of the Holy Spirit is a never-ending challenge. In the same way, the rich detail of the San Clemente mosaic in the apsidial dome could constitute a book. Suffice to say that as we celebrate the gift of the Spirit this weekend, San Clemente reminds us of just **how marvelous a gift the Spirit is!**

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