

Mass Intentions

Sat., August 19	Saint John Eucles
4 pm ...	✠Richard Taylor by Jack & Colleen Byrne
Sun., August 20	XX in Ordinary Time
7:30 am ...	✠Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue
9:30 am ...	✠Monica Celeste Morin by Claude & Irene Morin
5 pm ...	❖Our Parish Family
Mon. August 21	Saint Pius X
12 pm ...	✠Mike Buckley by Ronnie Schlender
Tue., August 22	The Queenship of the B.V.M.
12 pm ...	✠Rocco Ricci, Sr., by his family
Wed., August 23	Saint Rose of Lima
12 pm ...	✠Theresa L. Bourque by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
Thur., August 24	Saint Bartholemew
8:30 am ...	✠Donald J. Carrier by Lionel & Lillian Coulon
Fri., August 25	Saints Louis & Joseph Calasanz
6 pm ...	✠Stephanie Schehl by Margaret-Ann Moran
Sat., August 26	
4 pm ...	✠Charles Richard (3rd Anniv.) by Simone Richard
Sun., August 27	XXI in Ordinary Time
7:30 am ...	✠Laurent Cote by Jeannine Cote
9:30 am ...	✠Leo Bedard by Diane Bolton
5 pm ...	❖Our Parish Family

Weekly Collection

Weekend of August 13, 2017	
Regular Offertory	\$2,525.00
Make-Up Offertory	400.00
Loose Offertory	386.00
Online Offertory	380.00
Total Offertory	\$3,691.00
Stewardship	\$1,726.00
Loose Stewardship	180.00
Online Stewardship	60.00
Total Stewardship	\$1,966.00
Last Year: Wknd of Aug. 14, 2016	
Total Offertory	\$3,854.55
Total Stewardship	\$4,199.70
Food Pantry	\$ 150.00

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., August 21
7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., August 22
12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse

Fri., August 25
7:30 pm ... Holy League



Saint Raphael Food Pantry
On Monday, August 14, the food pantry served 24 families and gave out 45 bags of food.



Catholic Charities

Goal: \$27,500
Raised: \$10,605
Balance: \$16,895

We are still quite a bit away from reaching our goal. Please consider donating!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ✠**Patricia Proulx** by her family.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 20, 2017

Monday: Jgs 2:11-19; Ps 106:34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44; Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a; Ps 85:9, 11-14; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15; Ps 21:2-7; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51

Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Ps 146:5-10; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Ps 128:1b-5; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

Thank You

We want to extend our appreciation to the following individuals:
Fr. Stephen Lawson for his help in the office and during VBS week;
Diane Bolton, Linda Beland,

Kathy Toomey and Patricia Mack for helping to cover the office during vacations, **Norm and Angela Courchesne** for maintaining our courtyard garden, and **Beth and Hailey Gravel** for helping to paint the rectory during our summer renovation project. Also, many thanks to **Fr. Patrick Sullivan, Abbot Matthew Leavy, Fr. Iain MacLellan and Fr. Benedict Guevin** for covering Masses during Fr. Jerome's vacation.



eGiving ... Did you know you can use your credit card or electronic check to support the mission of Saint Raphael Parish? This is especially helpful when you are on vacation. 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.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION Bishop Peter A. Libasci of Manchester invites all couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or beyond Wedding Anniversary (anytime during 2017), to attend a **Special Anniversary Mass**. This celebration will be **Oct. 15, 2017 at 2 p.m.**, at Saint Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. If you are celebrating one of these major anniversaries, please contact the Saint Raphael Parish office **by Sept. 22, 2017**. We will need your **last names, first names and mailing address**. Please also indicate your special anniversary year. By providing your name to your Parish Office, you will be registered and receive an invitation. **There is no need for the couple to RSVP.**



Book Discussion Group Save the date: Come help the Book Discussion Group celebrate its 13th anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 28. We'll have supper in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm, followed by a discussion of Diane Ackerman's *The Zoo Keeper's Wife*. Based on a true story, the novel tells of a woman who used her husband's profession to help Jewish people escape from Poland during World War II. Books are available at the rectory for \$10. Please join us!



Join us at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 111 Island Pond Rd., Manchester for our 2017 Greekfest! Homemade Greek cuisine and pastries, Greek dancing, **free admission and parking**. Live Greek music by Matoulamusic Sunday at 2:30pm. Dates: **Sat., August 26 11am—9pm and Sun., August 27 11am—7pm.**



We've moved! We are now at www.st-raphael-parish.org.

Bestowing His blessing on the sea

As part of our parish celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, a group of parishioners accompanied Fr. Jerome to the shore at Rye Beach for the blessing of the ocean water on the Holy Day of the Assumption. ‘What is this all about,’ one might ask? If asked of a group of Catholics of Irish or Italian descent, you may receive many stories of the age old tradition. In parishes which are located near the shore, it is a common custom for pastors and parishioners, after celebrating Mass together, to process to the water for a prayer service and blessing of the water.

Many of us remember our mothers saying there is a blessing in the ocean water on that feast day. My parents often brought our family to the beach on the day that Our Blessed Mother was assumed, body and soul, into heaven, as they believed there was a cure and a blessing for us if we just stepped into the water and said a prayer. Others have told me they remember their loved ones removing their shoes and socks and walking into the water up to their ankles in order to receive a blessing, and saying, “Some



Above: Fr. Jerome with parishioners. Below: Everyone removes their shoes and socks before venturing into the sea to toss the flowers.



priest along the shore surely has blessed the water today.” Blessing of the ocean water on the Holy Day of Assumption is a

custom of long standing. It is said to have originated off the shores of Venice, Italy in the 15th century,

when a bishop was traveling on turbulent waters, prayed over his blessed ring, tossed it in the sea and a calm came over the water.

The pictures you see here are memories of our parish trip to Rye Beach on Tuesday to celebrate this feast. We spent time in prayer together while standing in the water, then tossed flowers into the ocean, an opportunity to give homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As we stood in the water, we prayed, “All you fountains of waters, bless the Lord. All you seas and waves, bless the Lord. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

The Catholic practice of celebrating together like this has the ability to turn us away from the worldly, the everyday and direct us toward the sacred and the eternal, even if just for a little while. All beliefs about Mary enlighten our beliefs about her Son, and illustrates to us the truth about Christ’s promise of eternal life and the resurrection of the faithful. It is a beautiful sight to see people living out their faith together!

Our day of parish prayer, fellowship and fun continued with a scenic drive along the shore road through New Castle and into Portsmouth, concluding with a little sightseeing, shopping and dinner in Market Square. Our group of “seafaring pilgrims” returned home with grateful hearts!

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