



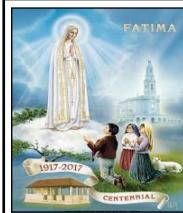
Sat., September 16	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian
4 pm ...	†Charles Richard by Simone Richard
Sun., September 17	XXIV in Ordinary Time
7:30 am ...	†Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue
9:30 am ...	†Edward Bolton (4th Anniv.) by Diane Bolton
5 pm ...	†Heritier N. Bosa Ngbondu by his family
Mon. September 18	
12 pm ...	†William Wisner III by Teresa Greene
Tue., September 19	Saint Januarius
12 pm ...	❖Fr. Matthew Schultz by P. Jerome
Wed., September 20	St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions
12 pm ...	†Aurie Upham by P. Jerome
Thur., September 21	Saint Matthew
8:30 am ...	†Derek Martin by SBA Community
Fri., September 22	
6 pm ...	†Francis X. Fraitzl by P. Jerome
Sat., September 23	Saint Pius of Pietrelcina
4 pm ...	†Robert "Bob" Breault by Dennis & Eileen Smith
Sun., September 24	XXV in Ordinary Time
7:30 am ...	†Clayton Raymond by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ...	❖Christopher & Hannah Brent by Ann-Maria Contarino
5 pm ...	❖Our Parish Family

Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for **†Brian Stanley** by Kerri Stanley.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK of September 17, 2017

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Ps 101:1b-3ab, 5-6; Lk 7:11-17
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, September 11, the Food Pantry served 39 families and gave out 77 bags of food. We could use canned soup and canned baked beans. Thank you!



We continue to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Lady at Fatima ... Save the date for our movie night, followed by discussion. We will watch the movie **Mary of Nazareth**, an epic two-part film on the mother of Christ, on **Tuesday, Oct 3 and 10 at 6:30 pm** in the parish hall classroom.

Holy Cross Fall Fair Saturday, Oct. 14, 9 am—3:30 pm. Join us at Holy Cross Hall, 357 Island Pond Road, Manchester. FREE admission and parking! Theme baskets, a bake sale, raffles, prizes, penny sale and more



Weekly Collection

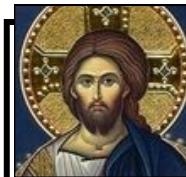
Weekend of September 10, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$11,751.00
Make-Up Offertory	538.00
Loose Offertory	493.55
Online Offertory	475.00
Total Offertory	\$13,257.55
Stewardship	\$ 1,962.00
Stewardship Loose	284.00
Stewardship Online	10.00
Total Stewardship	\$ 2,256.00

Food Pantry	\$ 25.00
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Last Year: Wknd of Sep. 11, 2016

Total Offertory	\$6,708.75
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Got a question? Have an interest? Want to 'come home'?
We'd love to have you back! Our Saint Raphael programs for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) & Catholics Come Home plan a Night of Inquiry! Often, people in our lives seek a closer relationship with Jesus and we are unsure how or when to explain what we believe or why we believe what the Catholic Church teaches. On behalf of Father Jerome, O.S.B., and the staff, we invite you to attend **a Night of Inquiry at Saint Raphael on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at 7 PM** with someone you know who might be interested in learning more about our Catholic faith. This is an opportunity to help you to present information and answer questions that may seem difficult. The Lord makes it easy! Please contact Therese Dame, director of religious education, at 603.647.2283. or at therese.dame@saint-raphael-parish.com to register or if you have questions.



Congratulations to **Ayla Rose LeVeille**, daughter of Brendan LeVeille and Aysen Tan, who was baptized Sep. 10 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."**

	I Kevin Roller & Samantha Webb
	III Mark Fahey & Ashley Vannasse

Altar Servers Needed! Our Altar Server Investiture will take place at the 9:30 am Mass on Sept. 24. If anyone is interested in becoming an altar server, please contact Kerri Stanley at kerri.stanley@st-raphael-parish.org or call the rectory at 623.2604. Any child in Grade 3 and up is eligible to serve.

	Wednesday, Oct. 4, 6:30 PM — Blessing of the Animals
	Sunday, Oct. 15, following the 9:30 AM Mass—AOH Breakfast
	Thursday, Oct. 19—Men's Evening Retreat. Details to follow.
	Saturday, Nov. 4, 5 PM: Oktoberfest!
	Saturday, Nov. 11, 9 AM—3 PM: SRP Craft & Vendor Fair

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., September 18

6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry

7 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., September 19

12:45 pm Parish Nurse

Wed., September 20

7 pm ... Respect Life Committee Meeting

Fri., September 22

7:30 pm ... Holy League



Goal: \$27,500
Raised: \$16,375
Balance: \$11,125

We are close to reaching our goal!
Please consider helping extend
Christ's compassion!

Saplings in an abbey courtyard remind us of Cross as Tree of Life

I was up at the abbey the other day, and I was delighted to notice that in the eastern end of the central courtyard, the tree people on the physical plant staff of Saint Anselm, had planted **two sizeable young trees**. Whenever a tree is planted, we see a sign of hope – hope for the tree itself and hope that the family, community or institution that has occasioned its planting will see it grow, blossom and contribute to the life.

Several years ago, we lost two beautiful old trees, an oak and a pine, I think, that had stood on the Hilltop, one of the several nicknames for the Saint Anselm campus, **since before the abbey church was constructed**. To the credit of the designers and builders, the abbey and the monastery were **built around the trees** so that monks and visitors could avail of their shade and beauty.

Far too often, in my opinion, we, as a society, decide we want to construct something, then proceed to level everything on the site without due regard for the history, topography and ecology. I suppose **my tree-hugging sensibilities** are evident here, but, yes, I believe strongly that some genuine attention to the natural environment is essential to well-being and success of the human environment. A winter ice-storm brought several major limbs down a couple of years ago. Inspection of the trees revealed that they were badly hollowed out and ready to fall. **I've missed those two old oaks in the courtyard**, and I am grateful and happy their successors have arrived.

When I was growing up at home in North Adams in the northern Berkshires of western Massachusetts, we had some great trees around our lawn and in the woods surrounding the house. One was a **beautiful and graceful weeping willow**. She and I had a love-hate relationship. I loved to see her sway in the wind with her green foliage or covered in snow and a little ice, but I hated to have to rake up those same leaves. Still, my eyes were more than moist when she came down in the wake of another damaging storm. Happily, **the two big pine trees at home** are still part of a beloved landscape. I used to climb the biggest one – though only on the lower limbs – and so did my sister and, before our time, so did my dad.

The ability of trees to dazzle us with their growth and their beauty is well known by poets and artists, singers and composers. Trees can draw up the eye, and with it the soul, in remarkable ways. When they fall to the blade, they give us fuel, building materials, wood for art, furniture and housing. Their resins help in everything from paint thinners to pharmaceuticals. And don't forget maple syrup!

Like the mountains or the sea, trees, individually or gathered in a grove, copse or forest, can inspire, console, shelter, protect, inspire and humble us. We would do well to remember that we share this earth with many living



Crucifix showing cross and tree of life design

things – and we have been given the **responsibility to steward them all** for the glory of God, the good of our brothers and sisters now and yet to come – and that means **we must care for the whole of the earth**.

Some years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the **Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art**, housed in several old sprawling textile mills and now one of the leading contemporary art museums in the world. One of their exhibits displayed a series of some half-dozen **buckets filled with earth and saplings** – only the buckets were lifted up and were positioned **upside down**! I never quite understood the artist's point in this piece, but it certainly attracted attention. Several years later, I returned to Mass MoCA, and discovered that those saplings were still in place – but they had grown – not down, but up! Their trunks had **turned upwards toward the light** so that photosynthesis would occur. The sun's light, in other words, would enable the two saplings to make the nutrients they need for nourishment and growth. It is a general truth in this world that all living things need light to survive, prosper and be fruitful. It is an easy step to see the spiritual point here: to grow, prosper and give life, we need to draw our strength from the Son of the Eternal Father, the **Light of the World** – and, whatever our circumstances, to turn and grow in his direction. The MoCA trees show the **relentless inner desire of living things for light**. As men and women in a world where so much darkness can cloud our days and minds, we need the light that shines forth from the Crucified Jesus, from the Risen Christ.

This past week, the Church celebrated the **Feast of the Triumph of the Cross**. We acknowledge the historical event when the **Empress Helena**, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, found what is believed to have been the True Cross, the very cross to which Jesus of Nazareth was nailed and upon which he died to achieve the redemption of mankind from the lasting effects of sin and death and lead us to everlasting happiness in Heaven. Saint Helena's

expedition to and discovery in Jerusalem gave us a **devotion to the True Cross**, not as an instrument of a torturous death, but as a **sign of hope and resurrection**. Christians took the cross, a way of public execution in pagan Rome, and re-imagined it, reassigning it another meaning. What was meant to hurt, humiliate and terrify became something that would speak of love, light and life simply because the One who died upon it rose on Easter morning.

The Fathers of the Church often spoke of the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil** in the Garden of Eden. From that tree the serpent took the fruit that tempted Eve, who fell with her first bite and then tempted Adam, who likewise fell. But the Cross is an entirely different tree, the Tree on which Jesus won **forgiveness for our sins and redemption for the whole world**. Whenever we open our hearts to that Tree through mercy, forgiveness, love, encouragement, sacrifice and solidarity, we find not sin, loss and death but light, life and love.

Seen from this perspective, discovering those **new saplings — they're Princeton elms, highly resistant to disease** — in the monastery courtyard means a whole lot more than simply saying, "Hey, they just planted a couple of trees over there." When those trees are as mature as their predecessors, what will they have seen and discovered about who we were in 2017? © Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B.



Upended trees at Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, North Adams, MA