

 *Mass Intentions*

Sat., September 30 **Saint Jerome**
4 pm ... ☩Peggy Moran by Margaret-Ann Moran

Sun., October 1 **XXVI in Ordinary Time**
7:30 am ... ☩Anne & ☩David Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 am ... ☩Edward Heroux by Bridget Heroux
5 pm ... ☩Sylvia M. Hobbs by Cynthia Hobbs

Mon. October 2 **The Holy Guardian Angels**
12 pm ... ☩Maire O'Connor by Michael & Michelle Browne

Tue., October 3
12 pm ... ❖Souls in Purgatory by Anita Gagnon

Wed., October 4 **Saint Francis of Assisi**
12 pm ... ☩Michael Joyce by Talley, Joyce & P.J. Guill

Thur., October 5
8:30 am ... ❖Our Parish Family

Fri., October 6 **Saint Bruno**
6 pm ... ☩Gene Mackie by Barbara Mackie

Sat., October 7 **Our Lady of the Rosary**
8:30 am ... Fatima at 100: First Saturday Mass
4 pm ... ☩Robert Breault by Joan Bissonnette

Sun., October 8 **XXVII in Ordinary Time**
7:30 am ... ❖Our Parish Family
9:30 am ... ☩Gertrude Doherty, ☩Lucille M. Kelley, ☩Lucy Kelley by the Kelley family
5 pm ... ☩Brian McGorry by Bridget Heroux



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩**Christopher Margaritis** by Mikki Margaritis.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK of October 1, 2017

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 18:1-5, 10
Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Ps 87:1b-7; Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Ps 137:1-6; Lk 9:57-62
Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Ps 19:8-11; Lk 10:1-12
Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Ps 79:1b-5, 8-9; Lk 10:13-16
Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Ps 69:33-37; Lk 10:17-24
Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



Welcome to Oktoberfest at Saint Raphael Parish! No need to put on your Lederhosen or Dirndl—come join us for an evening of good German food and conviviality with authentic oompah music! Oktoberfest at Saint Raphael will be **Saturday, Nov. 4, from 5-8 PM**. OK, maybe we should call it Novemberfest, but Oktoberfest is a state of mind, not just a calendar date. Want to bring a dessert? We'll be grateful! More info at www.st-raphael-parish.org. There are no tickets, but a suggested donation of \$8 per person/\$16 per family would be appreciated.



Saint Raphael Parish Christmas Fair: **Saturday, Nov. 18, 9 AM—2 PM**. Go to www.st-raphael-parish.org for details!

Weekly Collection

Weekend of September 24, 2017

Regular Offertory	\$3,137.00
Make-Up Offertory	359.00
Loose Offertory	482.00
Online Offertory	385.00
Total Offertory	\$4,363.00
Stewardship Make Up	\$ 105.00

Food Pantry	\$ 30.00

Last Year: Wknd of Sep. 26, 2016
Total Offertory **\$4,778.65**



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, September 25, the Food Pantry served 26 families and gave out 56 bags of food. We could use canned soup and canned baked beans. Thank you!



III
Kevin Roller & Samantha Webb



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.



Blessing of the Animals In honor of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate this great saint's love "for all creatures great and small" Bring your family pets to the parish, where P. Jerome, O.S.B., pastor, will bless the animals during a short service **Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 PM** at the church entrance. Please have your animals on a leash or in a restrainer. *Crocodiles OK but only with a muzzle and explicit permission!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., October 2
6:30 pm ... Youth Ministry
7 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., October 3
12:45 pm ... Parish Nurse
6:30 pm ... *Mary of Nazareth* film

Sat., October 7
9:30 am ... Scripture study following 8:30 am Mass



Catholic Charities
Goal: \$27,500
Raised: \$16,575
Balance: \$10,925

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



Reminder—The "Mary: Virgin, Mother and Queen" Scrip-

ture sharing for October, the final month in our series, will take place in the parish hall classroom following the 8:30 aAM Mass on **Saturday, Oct. 7**. Everyone is welcome!

Calling all high school youth! Check out the things we are doing in October!

Monday, Oct. 2—6-8 PM: Movie Night (We'll bring the popcorn!)

Monday, Oct. 16, 6:30—8 PM: Discussion—Making Choices

Monday, Oct. 23, 6:30—8 PM: Jeopardy Game

Friday—Sunday, Oct. 27-29: Youth Retreat

Questions? Please call Lynne at 603.533.4574 or email jlphotia-des@comcast.net

ENTER THE YOUTH CORNER

NH Right to Life will have its **Annual Benefit Banquet Thursday, Oct. 12 at 5:30 pm** at the Executive Court Banquet Facility, Manchester. Tickets are **\$65 per person**. This year's speaker is **Janet Morana**, executive director of "Priests for Life" and co-founder of the "Silent No More" Awareness Campaign. If you would like to attend and sit at Saint Raphael's table, please call Kerri at the office at 623.2604.

'Taking a knee'? Disrespecting the flag ... or using our freedom?



Early version, "Freedom of Speech," by Norman Rockwell

My relationship with the National Football League (NFL) is not especially robust. I've been known to watch a few games on a Sunday afternoon or Monday evening. I certainly cheer when the **New England Patriots** win critical games, and I've rung church bells when they've become Super Bowl champions. I can even tell you

about a few of the players, though a discussion on their stats is not ever going to be likely. But mostly, the NFL does its own thing, and I do mine. Over the years, however, I have had a **relationship with the First Amendment** – as a citizen of the U.S., as a Catholic priest, as a teacher and as a journalist. So when players "take a knee" or stand locking arms during the **National Anthem**, they attract my attention and get me thinking.

I would love it if everybody at athletic, cultural or social events, lustily sang "**The Star Spangled Banner**." It may be a tough song to sing, but it certainly expresses some of the deepest and most important elements of what American life is meant to be. Ever since last year, when **Colin Kaepernick**, former quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers and now a free agent, sat during the anthem to protest police violence against black Americans, the protest has spread.

When President Trump entered the fray in September by denouncing the protest and calling upon NFL owners to discipline unruly players, the issue spread. **Bob Kraft**, owner of the **Pats** and a supporter of the Trump campaign, sharply rebuked the president and defended free speech for his players. Within hours, the internet was crackling with commentary, defending or rebutting the president, the players and just about anyone else who enters the fray.

The fact of the matter, as far as I can tell, is whether we are willing, not simply as fans but as fellow Americans, to **defend citizens exercising their First Amendment rights**. Now, it is true that when a player is on the gridiron, he's often playing on private property, a ball park owned by somebody else. Moreover, he is at work. Employers have some freedom to restrict speech on the premises they own and by the people they employ. The **individual owner**, or even the **team collectively**, can indeed restrict speech and behavior they consider inappropriate for the moment, the space or the clientele. Their freedom to determine what happens, of course, is limited to the zone they control, and their control is further restricted by the public nature of their events and venues. Nonetheless, in the NFL case, **the players are employees and the gridiron is private property**. It seems that it would be legal for owners to impose restrictions, as President Trump has recommended.

The bigger questions move beyond law to **justice and wisdom**. Most Americans know that

we have a problem with violence in the home, in the workplace and on the streets. One serious aspect of this problem is the **widening gap between African-Americans, many in urban centers, and police**. For the past several years, there has been a steady stream of news stories – all of them quite real – about unarmed young black men shot and killed by police officers.

Sometimes, there have been extenuating circumstances, where police believed they were threatened only to discover too late that the perceived would-be assailant was unarmed. Black communities have found it difficult to understand why so few convictions result from those cases brought to trial.

From this distress, the Black Lives Matter movement was born. From the **police perspective**, however, the danger of encounters with young black men is real and made life-threatening by the presence of guns and knives. It is easy to see why each group wants to "pack a little heat" and why some have itchy fingers.

We have all heard heated rhetoric: **black lives matter, police lives matter, all lives matter**. Each phrase embodies a dimension of the truth, but the **central problem is the violence on the streets of our cities and the racial divide**.

The protest Kaepernick ignited has spread to many teams in the NFL, including the Pats. Critics of the protest, including President Trump, have suggested that these players, who enjoy high-paying and status-laden positions in U.S. sports, have manifested disrespect for the American flag and for U.S. veterans who fought for the flag. To see these young men on the sidelines sink to one knee during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" shows **no disrespect that I can observe**. In Catholic life, we call what they are doing a genuflection, and it is a sign of deepest respect for the Blessed Sacrament. They are not turning their back, they are not making rude gestures, they are not ignoring the anthem. **They are adopting, through posture, a position that challenges the rest of us to think about something deep and important in our land – justice and fair play for all citizens**. They are trying to capture our attention for a few moments.

Instead of turning a moderate protest into a firestorm of recrimination, President Trump still has the opportunity to summon a national commission to explore that extent of the problem of violence in and on the black community and on police. **What if** such a commission, with members chosen for insight, balance and courage, helped promote efforts to calm, protect, educate and develop improved police-community relations? **And what if** we realized that our flag represents us all – and we have a responsibility to use our freedoms to promote the good of all?



Baltimore Ravens members 'take a knee,' as one has hand over heart

Not long ago, I was asked to give the invocation and blessing at a veterans event. The featured speaker was a winner of the **Medal of Honor**, a man whose courageous and

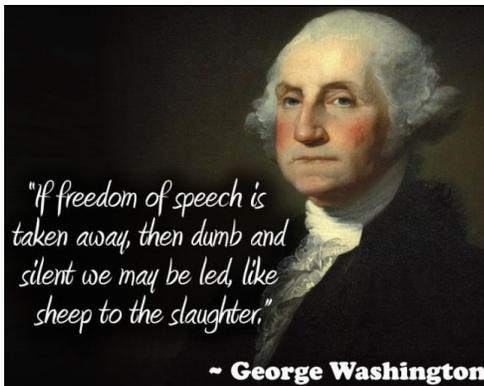
sacrificial service is both impressive and humbling. In his remarks, however, he expressed dismay with educators who dismiss loyalty and patriotism, preachers who ignore such virtues and by journalists who run down the country and the flag. The rights and freedoms such people enjoy, he said, came to them because of veterans. He was correct, I thought, but not complete.

Before the benediction, I joked with him and the crowd that **I needed to gulp**, because, after all, I wasn't a vet, but I was a teacher, a preacher and an editor – all the types he had just roasted!

I acknowledged the importance of our veterans, but reminded listeners that **no vet goes into battle as a blank slate**. If a young man or woman puts on the uniform, he or she usually does so because parents – and teachers, clergy, journalists and others have inspired or instructed him or her about the nature and history of our nation and her freedoms, needs and challenges. The crowd began to nod – and then the Medal of Honor winner started to smile, and nod too.

Veterans serve and sometimes die for the values embodied in **freedom of speech, worship, press, assembly and petition** in the First Amendment and represented by the flag. Those freedoms are not meant to be restricted by race, color, national origin, religion, sex or economics. One of the great signs of American freedom is our willingness to let others express sentiments and thoughts with which we ourselves disagree. Freedoms sometimes expressed by sinking to one knee during our National Anthem!

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- George Washington