

Mass Intentions

Sat., December 2
4 PM ... ✠Dot Dery by Paul & Mary Dery

Sun., December 3 **First Sunday of Advent**
7:30 AM ... ❖Our Parish Family
9:30 AM ... ✠Luke Dambach (8th Anniv.) by Christine and Jack Dambach
5 PM ... ✠Jack North by Mary Dery

Mon. December 4 **Saint John Damascene**
12 PM ... Katherine (Day) Corriveau by P. Jerome, O.S.B.

Tue., December 5
12 PM ... ✠Connie Richard by Mary Schehl

Wed., December 6 **Saint Nicholas**
12 PM ... ✠Carol McAluff by Kerri Stanley

Thur., December 7 **Saint Ambrose**
8:30 AM ... ✠Irene Narkey by Teresa Greene
6:30 PM ... Aurel Stuart (Living—100th birthday) by P. Jerome

Fri., December 8 **Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.**
12 PM ... ✠Bob Breault (1st Anniv.) by Flo Breault

Sat., December 9
4 PM ... ✠Charles Richard by Simone Richard

Sun., December 10 **Second Sunday of Advent**
7:30 AM ... ✠Joan Foley by Connie Raymond
9:30 AM ... ❖Our Parish Family
5 PM ... ✠Barbara L. Parkhurst by Virginia Kelly

Weekly Collection

Weekend of November 26, 2017
Regular Offertory \$2,847.00
Make-Up Offertory 445.00
Loose Offertory 495.05
Online Offertory 230.00
Total Offertory \$4,017.05

Stewardship Make Up \$ 50.00
Holy Day Make Up \$ 20.00

Last Year: Wknd of Nov. 27, 2016
Total Offertory \$8,734.60



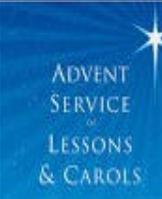
Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, Nov. 27, the Food Pantry served 20 families and gave out 43 bags of food.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	
Sunday, December 3	9:30 AM ... Religious Education
Mon., December 4	6:30 PM ... Youth Ministry 7 PM ... Food Pantry
Tue., December 5	12:45 PM ... Parish Nurse 7 PM ... Lessons & Carols
Sun., December 10	10:30 AM ... Saint Nicholas visit



Goal: \$27,500
Raised: \$21,650
Balance: \$ 5,350

Please help us bridge the gap and reach our goal! Envelopes are located at the back of the church. We will wrap up this year's campaign Dec. 10.



Saint Raphael Parish will celebrate its annual candlelight **Advent Concert of Music and Reflection** on **Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 PM**. Musical performances will include our own choir, Aksara, soloist Marie-Line Morin, The Saint Anselm String Ensemble, and the Ukeladies. We promise you will be moved, inspired and joyous! Come and **bring your friends** to this beautiful tradition of Saint Raphael.

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for the **Las Vegas shooting victims** by Mikki Margaritis.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 3, 2017

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sat.: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-10,

WOMEN'S RETREAT—Ladies, here's a special chance for some Advent prayer and fellowship. Join our Advent Day of Recollection on **Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017, from 9.30 AM to 1 PM** in the parish hall. Please register by calling the office, 623.2604



 Saint Raphael Parish is excited to announce the opportunity for high school age boys to play CYO basketball this coming winter season. All basketball talent levels are accepted. Contact John Ryan at john-ryannh@gmail.com or 264.2334 to register. Registration deadline is Dec. 7. Games take place on Sunday afternoons or evenings. First game is Dec. 10 so act quickly! Let's go Avenging Archangels!

 **The Angels are here!** Our Christmas Angel Tree appeal has begun. You will find angels hung on the tree located at the back of the church. We appreciate your assistance in helping to **make Christmas brighter for those in need**. Please return items as soon as you can and leave them under the tree. Thank you for your support!

 **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES**
We will celebrate a **Vigil Mass on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 6:30 PM**, and a **Mass on Friday, Dec. 8 at 12 PM**. Note that confessions are moved to 6 pm before Thursday vigil Mass.

 **SAINT NICHOLAS VISIT!** Mark your calendar and please join us on **Sunday, Dec. 10** following the 9:30 AM Mass in the parish hall, when Saint Nicholas will stop by to visit with the children.

 **Nursing Home and Homebound greetings**
Remember our SRP parishioners and friends in nursing homes or homebound. Send them a holiday greeting card. Green pamphlets with names and addresses are in the Information Nook at the main en-

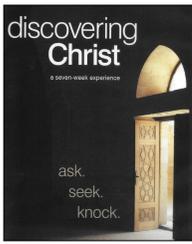
Calling all high school youth! Check out the things we are doing in December!

- Monday, Dec. 4 (6:30-8) Discussion/Project on Advent.
- Monday, Dec. 11 (6:30-8) Making Christmas cards for seniors.
- Monday, Dec. 18 (6:30-8) Youth Group Christmas party with a Yankee Swap. Please bring a miscellaneous wrapped gift with a value of \$5 if you want to join the Yankee Swap.

Questions? Please call Lynne at 603.533.4574 or email jlphotiades@comcast.net.



First Sunday of Advent—December 3, 2017



Discovering Christ begins Jan. 9, 2018! Where can one bring family, friends, and acquaintances who are searching for meaning in life? Where can we go to encounter or come closer to Jesus our Lord? Right here at Saint Raphael Parish an initiative will begin early in the new year where men and women will be invited to come together in order to **develop or deepen a personal relationship with Christ** and live as members of his family. *“Faith is above all a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus, and to experience his closeness, his friendship, his love; only in this way does one learn to know him ever more, and to love and follow him ever more. May this happen to each one of us.”* - Pope Benedict XVI (Registration forms will be available beginning next weekend as seating will be limited.)

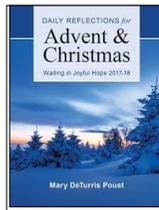


Poinsettias in memory of loved ones Donations for poinsettias will be accepted in the names of deceased loved ones and friends. A \$20 donation per poinsettia is recommended. Please write the names to be included along with the donation and send your offering to the parish office or drop it in the collection basket. Those who receive offertory envelopes will find floral donation envelopes in your recent package as well. Special thanks to those who donate flowers, as we ask you to maintain your generous Christmas giving to maintain parish services during the winter months.

Called to *Serve*

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. We especially have a need at our 7:30 am and 9:30 am Masses for lectors, and at the 4 pm and 5 pm Masses for altar servers. If interested or if you have questions, please contact Kerri at 603.623.2604. Thank you!



Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas Booklets are available in the Info Nook for \$2.



WINTER WEATHER POLICY If the Manchester Public Schools are closed due to weather conditions, all parish facilities are closed. Classes and practices are also canceled. Check WMUR and our Facebook page to see if Masses are canceled.

Did you know there are lots of programming options on **Boston Catholic TV**? You can access it in NH on cable channel 268. They had great coverage on Our Lady of Fatima this summer!

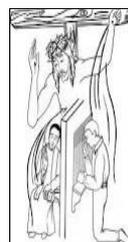


NEW Website We've moved! You can find us at www.st-raphael-parish.org.

Calendar Our thanks, once again, to **Kevin Marchand of Durning, Bykowski & Young Funeral Home, Manchester**, for providing our 2018 calendars. Please help yourself to a calendar from the box in the Info Nook.

SAINT BENEDICT ACADEMY Christmas Concert! Please join us for Saint Benedict Academy's annual Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 13 at 6pm. All are welcome!

FREE! We are replacing our existing metal chairs and 8' wooden tables with new ones; Please contact the rectory at 623.2604 if you would like any of the tables and chairs.



Advent Penance Service—Please join us on **Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:15 pm** for our annual penance service. Monks from Saint Anselm Abbey will be available to hear confessions. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare spiritually & sacramentally for Christmas!



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. 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.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Envelopes are located at the back of the church. Your gift to Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medications, and other necessities. SRP contributes through our Stewardship Fund, but you may wish to add to it through these envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

It's a century since the Russian Revolution changed the world for ill

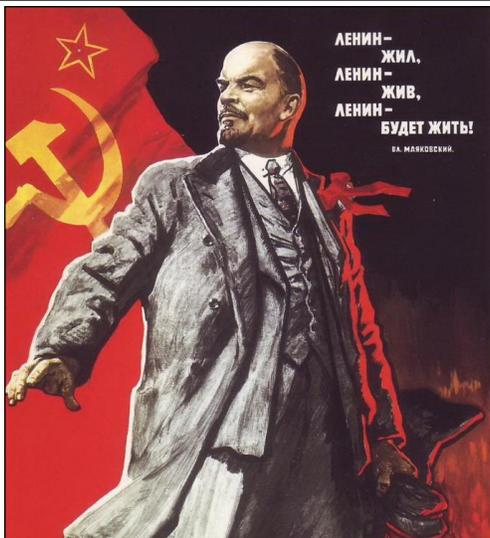
It has been well said that “success has a thousand fathers, and failure is an orphan.” Perhaps that’s why **one of the most significant anniversaries this past year went largely unnoticed** in much of the world, and yet the centennial of this event ought not pass by without acknowledgment and assessment. After all, another well known saying, by **philosopher George Santayana** certainly applies in this case: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” The event is the Russian Revolution a century ago this past month, and the fact that it introduced the world to communism in its raw, brutal and totalitarian form.

With only slight change until **its demise in 1991**, Soviet communism managed to get some of the key elements in human affairs wrong in ways that would have deadly impact not just on Russia but on much of the world. In that sense, it is easy to see why many people would like to forget more than eight decades of oppression and suppression, and yet the impact of Soviet rule continues in the authoritarianism of **Vladimir Putin’s Russia** and in the **communist regimes in China, North Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cuba**, as well as in several other nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America which have copied a feature or two of communist life.

Historically, **revolutionary thought was rife** in Russia throughout the end of the 19th century and the start of the 20th. Three hundred years of **Romanov tsars** had left Imperial Russia’s growing middle class and intelligentsia hungry for change. Many favored British-style constitutional monarchy with a parliament, the far left wanted a complete overthrow of the established order. **Karl Marx**, the German theorist of dialectical materialism and class warfare, gave them an ideological core that called for the ultimate dictatorship of the proletariat: factory workers and peasants.

Defeat in 1905 in the **Russo-Japanese War** at the hands of an upstart Tokyo, newly modernized and determined to establish a world presence, left Russia humbled and shaken. When **World War I erupted in August of 1914**, Russia, like all the belligerents, bumbled her way into a massive conflagration. Russia had the world’s largest army, but she was no match for Imperial Germany’s discipline and technology. Again defeat followed defeat.

To break the stalemate on the Western Front, Berlin enlisted the aid of the exiled **Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov**, otherwise known as **Lenin (1870-1924)**, one of the fieriest Russian Bolshevik leaders and most prolific writers, to bring his communist revolution into Russia. **Tsar Nicholas II (1868-1918)**, a well-intentioned leader, was ill-suited to negotiate the complex political machinations, worker strikes, military mutinies and food shortages, as well as the hemophilia of his own son, around him. Wedded to the idea that only by preserving absolute power for the throne could Russia be saved, his moves toward a Duma, or parliament, were



fitful. Conditions worsened, and he was persuaded to **abdicate**. The tsar did so on March 15, 1917, both for himself and his young son, Alexei, thus passing the throne to Nicholas’ brother, Michael, who would not accept it until called to power by a constituent assembly. Thus, **Romanov rule** ended, leaving a nation spanning eight time zones, to the **Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky**. Kerensky assured Britain and France – the U.S. would not enter the war until April of 1917 – that Russia would continue to fight.

Military reverses continued under Kerensky, and with Lenin smuggled back into the capital, Saint Petersburg, the possibility of democracy was evaporating. Orchestrating strikes and insurrections, **Lenin and his Bolsheviks** seized the central government and worker “soviets,” or councils, in key cities. By 1918, Lenin was in charge. Shrewd and calculating, he consolidated power, eliminated rivals and pushed the Red Army to beat back “counter-revolutionaries” and foreign troops in the Russian Civil War.

It is now clear, that Lenin ordered **the murder of the imprisoned Imperial Family** – Nicholas II, the Empress Alexandra, their four daughters and their son, along with several retainers. **Their fate on July 17, 1918**, would await hundreds of the Russian aristocracy, and they would be only a shadow of the millions of lives extinguished by Soviet communism until its collapse. In any event, **by 1922, the modern Soviet Union** was established with Lenin as its master and Soviet communism as its only political option. How the course of history might have changed, and how many millions of lives saved, **had the Soviet Union not allied herself with Nazi Germany** to invade Poland in 1939, starting World War II. Only when **Adolf Hitler** turned on his Soviet allies and invaded them did Moscow value of the Allies. How it might have changed had there been no **Iron Curtain** locking up Eastern Europe for nearly half a century.

Economically, Soviet communism held that **all wealth belongs to the people**, and the state

represented the people, and the Communist Party controlled the state. Individual wealth was seen as corrupting, contrary to the common good. **Central planning** was necessary for progress in every area of the economy. True, the Soviet Union advanced in heavy industry, transportation, medical care, social services, agriculture, mining and scientific technology, but advancement came at great human cost. Russia and the “autonomous” republics of **the Soviet Union lagged. Individual aspiration, ambition, improvement and enlightened self-interest were dismissed** as hallmarks of a degenerate bourgeoisie. Only in military might, armaments and aeronautics, including space flight, did the Soviet Union rival the West, and in that she was a superpower. The human toll of communism worldwide approaches 100 million, according to Harvard researchers.

Far more important than economics is **the question of human rights**. In its constitution and founding documents, the Soviet Union looked like a model democracy. In practice, however, atheism was foundational, oppression routine. With nothing higher than the will of the people, expressed in the decisions of party leaders, it was easy to restrict freedoms Americans and citizens of many Western nations take for granted: religion, press, speech, assembly and petition. Churches, synagogues and mosques were closed or destroyed. The magnificent Russian Orthodox **Cathedral of Christ the Savior in Moscow**, opened in 1883 to commemorate Imperial Russia’s victory over Napoleon was **dynamited in 1931**, and when plans for a parliamentary palace collapsed, a swimming pool was constructed on the site.

The press was muzzled. Music, theater, art, athletics, architecture and film all were bent to the will of the party. **Elections were staged**; there was never any doubt that Kremlin candidates would win. Indeed, rarely were there any choices other than communist candidates. For political activists, writers, filmmakers, religious leaders and others who dared defy the Soviet system, the communist government had its gulag system of prison camps in Siberia. Often, dissidents went into **internal exile** never to be heard from again. Under Lenin and Joseph Stalin, periodic purges of political rivals cleaned house for the existing leadership. What was regularly authoritarian and occasionally despotic under the tsars became **routinely brutal** under Soviet leadership. © Rev. J. Day, O.S.B.