

## Mass Intentions

**Sat., December 30**  
4 PM ... ❖ Our Parish Family

**Sun., December 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
7:30 AM ... ✚ Mary Marszal by Elaine Wood  
9:30 AM ... Presider's intentions

**Sun., December 31 The Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary**  
6:30 PM ... ✚ Deceased members of Saint Raphael Parish

**Mon. January 1, 2018 The Solemnity of Mary**  
9 AM ... ✚ Ed & ✚ Peggy Moran by Margaret-Ann Moran

**Tue., January 2 St Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen**  
12 PM ... ✚ Walter & ✚ Clara Pictrowski by Diane Pictrowski

**Wed., January 3**  
12 PM ... Presider's Intentions

**Thur., January 4 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
8:30 AM ... ✚ Robert Murphy (3rd Anniv.) by his family

**Fri., January 5 Saint John Neumann**  
6 PM ... ✚ Joseph Handy by Gregory Handy

**Sat., January 6 Saint André Bessette**  
4 PM ... ✚ Agnes Smet (41st Anniv.) by Cynthia Hobbs

**Sun., January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord**  
7:30 AM ... ❖ Our Parish Family  
9:30 AM ... ✚ Joe Dambach (2nd Anniv.) by Christine and Jack Dambach  
5 PM ... ✚ Lorraine de Bellerive (6th Anniv.) by the Hunter and Chalifour families

 **Sanctuary candle** The sanctuary candle burns this week for **Michelle Morency (living)** by Dawn Herman.

## Weekly Collection

**Weekend of December 24, 2017**

Regular Offertory	\$2,844.00
Make-Up Offertory	130.00
Loose Offertory	332.00
Online Offertory	485.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$3,589.00</b>
Stewardship Make Up	\$ 140.00
Holy Day	\$8,444.00
Holy Day Loose	812.00
<b>Total Holy Day</b>	<b>\$9,256.00</b>

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**Food Pantry \$ 37.75**  
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**Last Year: Wknd of Dec. 25, 2016**

Total Offertory	\$5,125.00
Total Holy Day	\$8,987.00

 **Saint Raphael Food Pantry** The food pantry was closed on December 1, 2017 and will be closed on January 1, 2018.

 **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](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.

 We will celebrate the **Solemnity of Mary at a Vigil Mass on Sunday, December 31, 2017 at 6:30 PM (No 5 PM Mass), and at Mass on Monday, January 1, 2018 at 9 AM.** This is a **Holy Day of Obligation** and we welcome and encourage all to attend.

PRAYING GOD GIVES YOU A  
**year of favor**  
FULL OF HIS UNENDING LOVE.  
May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us...  
PSALM 90:17  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

 Please note that the rectory will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018 in observance of the holiday. Happy New Year!

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK of December 31, 2017**

**Monday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 1:43-51  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38  
**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

 Congratulations to **Evelyn Rose Landry**, daughter of Ryan & Maria (King) Landry, who was baptized Dec. 24 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."**

 Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Nora Paris**, who died Dec. 24, and whose funeral was celebrated by Fr. Patrick Sullivan, O.S.B., on Saturday. Please keep her and her family in prayer.

 **The Pastor's Reception** for volunteers and those serving in ministry or in a volunteer role at Saint Raphael Parish will be **Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 from 6—9 PM at the rectory.** If you volunteer or are in a ministry and have not received an invitation, please call the office at 623.2604, and we hope you can join us! Thank you!

 **SPECIAL EXHIBITION** If you have any artifacts from the World War I-era that you would be willing to loan us for a two-week exhibit planned for February, 2018, please call the rectory at 603.623.2604.

 **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.

**Sincere Thanks** Our pastor, **P. Jerome, O.S.B.**, thanks all those members of the Saint Raphael community and friends who remembered him at Christmas with Masses, prayers, cards, visits, baked goods, gifts and other forms of kindness. May the Lord bless you and your loved ones abundantly during this beautiful Christmas season and throughout the New Year of 2018! Thank you again!

## What is 'Discovering Christ'?

Many parishioners have been asking this question over the past few weeks. "What is *Discovering Christ*?" This column is an attempt to shed some additional light on that subject.

*Discovering Christ* is a seven-week process or course that provides a setting where members of our parish will come together to enhance or begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This will take place while listening to weekly teachings based on a theme for each evening, followed by group discussion around questions which will be asked regarding important life based questions, such as "Do you ever wonder about the meaning of your life?" or "What does Jesus have to do with the purpose of life?"

*Discovering Christ* has two major goals:

- To help participants enter or renew a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to experience the love of the Father, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live as his children and serve as his disciples in the Catholic Church.
- To help participants begin to receive the relational support necessary to live for Christ within the parish.

The course consists of seven sessions and a retreat day, usually a Saturday, held after the fifth session. Each session includes four components after.

- Dinner
- Welcoming and prayer
- Teaching
- Group discussion

The themes and teachings for each of the sessions and retreat are as follows:

Session 1: Talk 1 - What is the Meaning of Life?

Session 2: Talk 2 - Why Does Jesus Matter?

Session 3: Talk 3 - What Does Jesus Want Us to Know?

Session 4: Talk 4 - Why Do I Need a Savior?

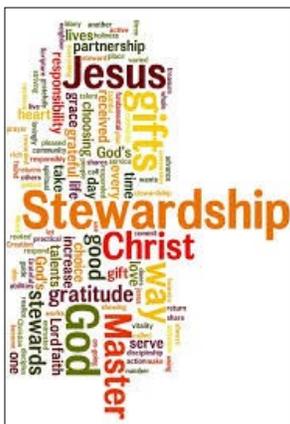
Session 5: Talk 5 - Why is the Resurrection Important for Us?

Retreat: Talk 6 - Who is the Holy Spirit?; Talk 7 - The Holy Spirit and You!

Session 6: Talk 8 - New Life in the Spirit: Being a Catholic Disciple

Session 7: Talk 9 - Believing and Belonging: Why Do We Need the Church?

The purpose of *Discovering Christ* is to expose seekers, fallen away Catholics, or regular Catholics to the "one simple thing," that is Jesus Christ – who he is, what he did, the good news. ***"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



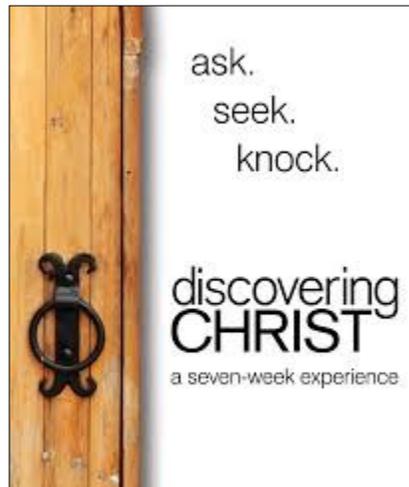
As we experience *Discovering Christ*, people will grow in relationships with one another during the course, and in that context enter into personal relationship with God. For many, belonging comes before believing. Personal relationships are critical to knowing and growing in the Lord. It is the way he has made us!

So you see *Discovering Christ* is more than a program or a course. It is

about experiencing life affecting opportunities to share faith and building our parish Eucharistic community. People long for community, for authentic Christian personal relationships.

***"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*** (Acts 2:42)

If you are unable to attend the



*"Discovering Christ"* sessions, but would still like to take part in this beautiful parish opportunity, please consider the following: Pray for our efforts and weekly sessions, and/or become a volunteer to help with food items for weekly dinners. Are you able to offer a salad, soup, pasta, bread or dessert for one of the weekly dinners? If you feel called to do this, please sign up for your choice on the chart at the front doors of the church. Donations are being accepted currently for the nights of Tuesday, January 16 and 23. Your help with this part of the sessions is much appreciated!

***"Discovering Christ"*** is an invitation to take part in an experience which offers great opportunity to do something for ourselves as well as for others. **How will you respond to this invitation?** © Eileen Smith

Registration forms are available at the back of the church, or go online to our website at [www.st-raphael-parish.org](http://www.st-raphael-parish.org) to access registration forms and info. **The program starts January 9, so register soon!**