



**Dear Parishioners, Friends and Visitors:**

Lent hands us an opportunity we should welcome, use and celebrate. It is a time for us to come to know, love and serve God, who reveals himself fully in Jesus Christ. As we spend the 40 days of Lent in prayer and reflection, self-denial and service to others, we can come to a clear and sharp understanding of who we are before God, what we must become to please him and how we can get there.

## **Tuesdays with Jesus**

Our redemption from sin and death is possible only because Christ has done the work of the Cross. His suffering and death reveals the depth of divine love and the extent of human sin. All the work is Christ's – and yet in the mystical algebra of divine grace, our freedom remains and our responsibility to accept that grace provides us a role in redemption. That role begins in and depends upon faith, itself a gift. In turn, faith is neither lip service nor intellectual assent. Faith is meant to be expressed in a loving response to God's offer of salvation. The practices of Lent – prayer, self-denial and service – are ways to make our response and grow in it. To steal an advertising phrase, Lent delivers! If we actually choose to undertake it, live it and love it!

The "Tuesdays with Jesus" program we have arranged for you at Saint Raphael should help that choice become real. It should deliver a change of heart for each of you - for all of us! Four key words will recur in our prayer, readings, worship, reflection, fellowship and service. Those words are repentance, reparation, rediscovery and renewal. May they permeate, enrich and transform your experience of Lent this year!

**With every good wish and blessing,**

**P. Jerome, O.S.B.**

**Pastor, Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish**

For the next five weeks, Saint Raphael the Archangel Parish will provide you with five evenings when you will have a chance to be deliberate and conscious in thinking about Christ – and opening your heart to his challenge, forgiveness, mercy and power. His love for you fuels the grace he provides – and that grace enables us to return his love. Come, meet Jesus again – and discover your best self! Lent 2019.

**Repentance**

*Reparation*

**Rediscovery**

**Renewal**

**Repentance** – We begin on Ash Wednesday acknowledging that we are sinners. We have turned away from God, our brothers and sisters and even our own best interests through sin. That sin may be in our attitudes, thoughts, words or actions. We may sin privately or with others, but it remains sin that each individual must claim. Repentance, rooted in regret for having offended or denied God and all those we should love, is not only sorrow for the sin we commit, but also a desire to change our ways. It is conversion of heart.

**Reparation** – Sinners cannot just say “sorry,” and move on. Justice requires that we pay back, return or restore what we have taken, hurt or rejected. Lent also calls us to make reparation for sinners – our brothers and sisters – who have rejected God and his divine Son, have spurned his Mystical Body, the Church, or who have wounded that Church through their behavior. More broadly, a spirit of reparation makes us want to do that on behalf of all men and women who have lost their way or spurned it.

**Rediscovery** – Each of the prayer services in our Lent 2019 program employs a different form of worship. While each of them – Vespers, or the Evening Prayer of the Church, the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a service of the Word of God, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Stations of the Cross – is a practice esteemed in the Church but not employed as often as once was the case. Lent is a good time to rediscover our Catholic heritage.

**Renewal** – Lent’s disciplines prepare us to be renewed in the grace of the Risen Christ at Easter. Christian life is all about “life and having it more abundantly” in Christ (John 10:10). We become “new” men and women who recommit to what is important to us. We feel new energy and enthusiasm for the life and work of faith – opening the heart to God in prayer, worshiping with joy, sharing in the sacrifice of the Mass, contemplating the mystery and dynamism of the Lord, keeping silent and still sometimes, serving others by acknowledging their dignity and assisting them with love, sharing the light of faith with those in darkness – and acknowledging we all sin, fail, stumble and struggle with confusion and doubt. We recognize that we are not alone, that we have a destiny in Heaven and that Mary, the holy Mother of God, and all the saints and angels want us to succeed and intercede before God for his grace – even when we fail to seek it.



## **Lent 2019: Repentance, Reparation, Rediscovery and Renewal**

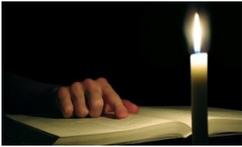
Each Lenten program will begin at 7 p.m. in the parish chapel. It will include a service of prayer, a talk, distribution of a service challenge and end with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. After each chapel program, we will have the opportunity for fellowship and refreshment in the parish hall. It is our hope that guest preachers will be joining us each week.



**Tuesday, March 12,** we will celebrate Vespers and consider the appalling wounds inflicted in, on, to and from the Church, and what a contrite, converted and renewed Church might look like.



**Tuesday, March 19,** we will recite the Scriptural Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. We will consider the challenges and problems in the family.



**Tuesday, March 26,** we will gather for a biblical celebration of the Word of God. We will confront the emptiness of the culture of death as we reflect on the sanctity of life at every stage.



**Tuesday, April 2,** we will spend time before the Blessed Sacrament in silent adoration, then consider the sins of our nation and examine the requirements of life as “one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



**Tuesday, April 9,** we will gather in the chapel, then move into the main church for the Stations of the Cross. We will examine the self, “myself,” who each one of us is and can become.

The following week, we join the whole Church in praying and celebrating Holy Week, the most sacred week of the year. We will commemorate the Last Supper, recall the Passion and Death of Jesus on Good Friday and wait at the tomb for the glory of the Resurrection.

**Palm Sunday** – (Second Sunday of the Passion) - April 13, at 4 PM; April 14, at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 5 PM – At Saint Raphael, we join the Church around the world as she enters into Holy Week, the most sacred period of the Christian calendar. At this Mass, we recall the triumphal entry of the Lord Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem, where the crowds hail him as King and Messiah ... only to betray him a few days later and call for his death. As we wave palm fronds, we pray that we will remain loyal and committed to Christ. We hear the reading of the Passion narrative – and realize that Jesus comes to save each one of us from the eternal consequences of sin and death.

**Chrism Mass**—Tuesday, April 16, at 6PM – Catholics from throughout New Hampshire join Bishop Peter A. Libasci, tenth bishop of Manchester, to celebrate Christ’s gift of the priesthood and to consecrate chrism, the sacred oil mixed with spices that the Church uses in the anointing at Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders.

**Holy Thursday** – On April 18 at 7PM, we celebrate the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, commemorating in particular the institution of the Holy Eucharist, the establishment of the holy priesthood and the gift of the Great *Mandatum*, the command of Jesus that we “wash one another’s feet,” that is, that we serve one another in love.

**Good Friday** – April 19, 2019 at 7PM — On this most solemn day, the Church remembers the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus on a cross outside Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago. That death atones for our sin, and leads to the promise of the Resurrection. Join us for the Word of God, prayers for the world, veneration of the Cross and Communion.

**Holy Saturday** – April 19, 2019 at 7:30 PM—Easter Vigil — This most beautiful night in the Church year sees Catholics symbolically waiting at the tomb of Jesus. Through reading, we discover the promise of life and hope received by ancient Israel and its fulfillment in Christ. We ignite new fire and light the Paschal Candle, we proclaim the Exsultet and greet Christ’s resurrection, we bless the water of baptism and we turn to celebrate the Eucharist.

**Easter Sunday** – April 20, 2019 at 8 AM & 10 AM—Like the women first at the Empty Tomb, we too rejoice at the wonder of the Risen Christ as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord.

**Easter Monday** – April 21, 2019 — No Mass at Saint Raphael. Join the Benedictine community at Saint Anselm Abbey for Mass at 8:30 AM.