

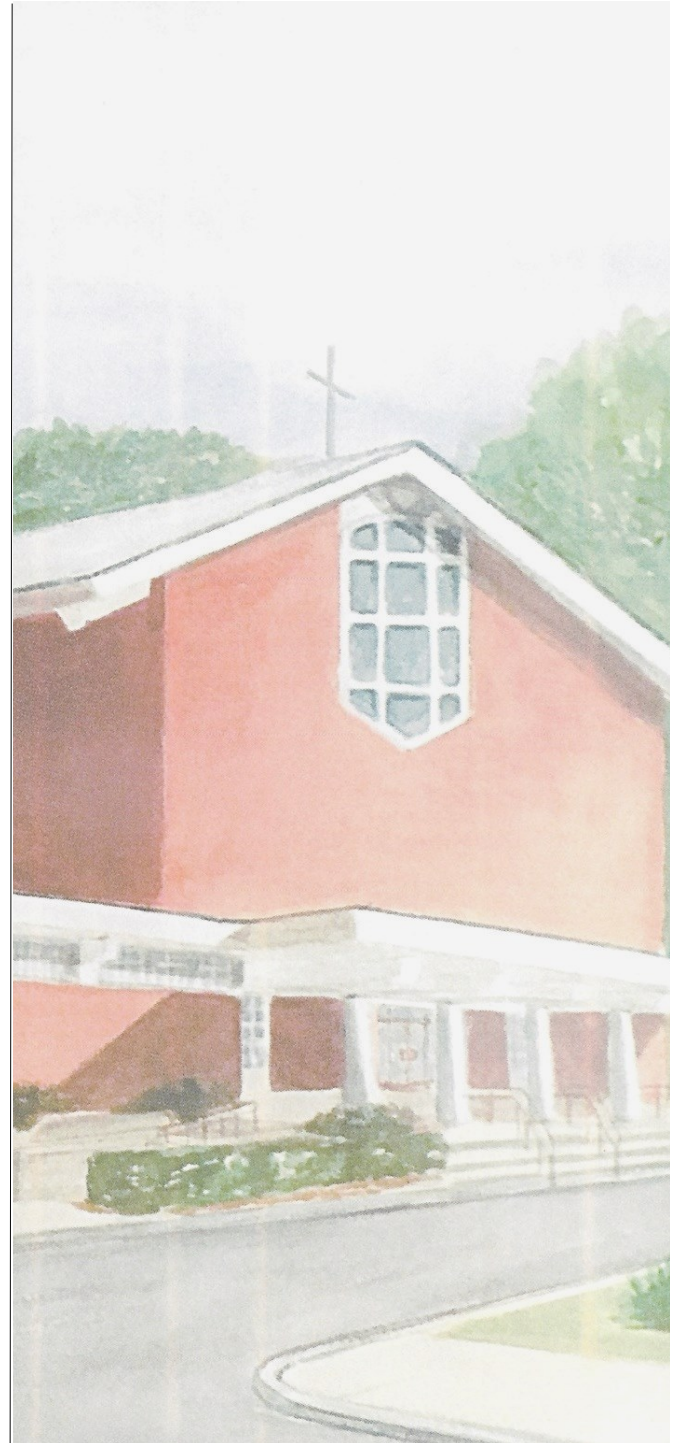
Saint Raphael Parish

103 Walker Street

Manchester, NH 03102

603.623.2604 | www.st-raphael-parish.org

Welcome





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Visit us online at: www.st-raphael-parish.org

Welcome

About Us

Saint Raphael is a Roman Catholic parish entrusted to the care of the Benedictine monks of Saint Anselm Abbey in the Diocese of Manchester. Saint Raphael is the first Benedictine foundation in New England and was established to serve the German and Irish immigrant populations working in the Manchester mills. The parish is a tithing community, endeavoring to return to the Lord treasure and talent 10 percent of the blessings he bestows on us.

Today, the parish complex consists of Saint Raphael church, the parish rectory and Saint Benedict Academy. As a community, we strive to be a Catholic community of faith, hope and charity. Rooted in the Living Word of God in Scripture and inspired by the *Holy Rule* of Saint Benedict, we seek to build up the kingdom of God.

As Catholics, we aspire to share in Christ's love to those in need through committed prayer and service. As individuals and as members of the Mystical Body of Christ gathered here in this parish, we desire to follow Saint Benedict's advice, *that in all things, God may be glorified*.

We seek to experience Christ's life in our celebration of the sacraments and especially through the Eucharist which, as the "source and summit," of our faith must always be at the heart of the parish. In our prayer and study, we desire to stand in Christ's light by encountering Him in the biblical Word of God and through the teachings of the Church.

All are welcome at Saint Raphael Parish and we hope that those who come here, always find a warm welcome in our parish!

Office Hours and Contact Information

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9am—12:00pm; 12:30pm—2:00pm

Friday—Sunday: Closed

Pastoral Staff

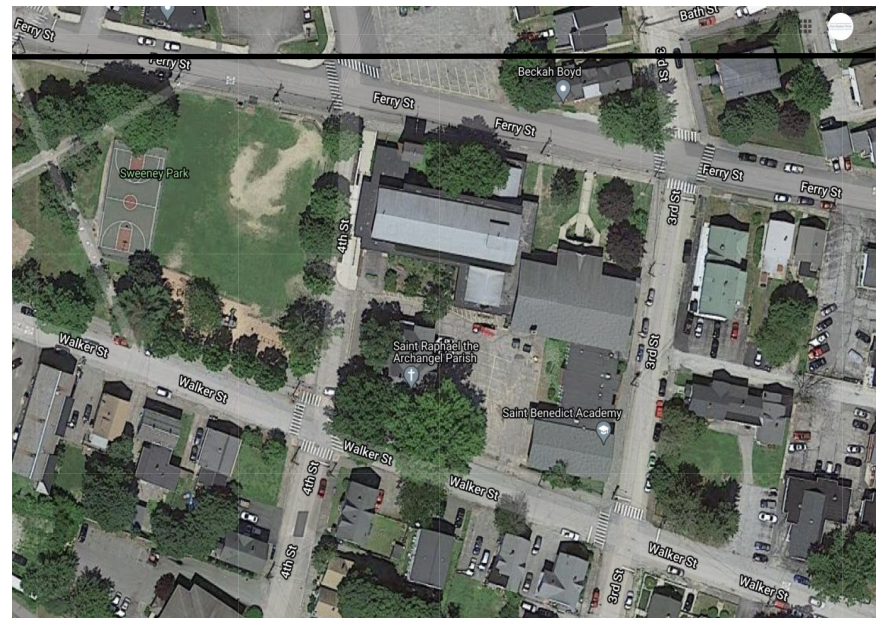
[Rev. Anselm Smedile, OSB, Pastor](#)

[Elizabeth Mikulski, Parish Secretary](#)

[Kate McGrath, Pastoral Associate](#)

[Lyle Hamel, Director of Music](#)

[Stephanie Emmons, Director of St. Raphael Food Pantry](#)



Liturgy & Worship

Liturgical Ministries

There are many areas for parishioner involvement within the liturgy. Even before you get to Mass, many people are involved in preparing for the celebration so that it flows seamlessly. Volunteers help with **Art and Environment**, decorating the church and ensuring it is clean and welcoming for parishioners and guests alike.

When you arrive at church, you are welcomed by **Greeters & Ushers**. Our **Cantors & Musicians** also work hard to prepare before any liturgical celebration. During the liturgy, they lead the community in song. **Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers** are often volunteers who are specially trained for those roles within the liturgy. **Altar Servers** too help by assisting the priest and/or deacon during the Mass. Children as young as 8 serve as Altar Servers during our weekend liturgies and adults serve as Altar Servers for funerals, scheduled during the week.

Mass & Confession Times:

Saturday: 4:00pm Mass

Sunday: 7:30am; 9:30am; 5:00pm Masses

Confessions are heard before the 4pm Mass on Saturday from 3pm—3:45pm and before the 5:00pm Mass on Sunday from 4pm—4:45pm



Get Involved

We hope Saint Raphael Parish will continue to be an active and thriving community for generations to come. And so we encourage parishioners to respond to the call of stewardship by sharing their time, talent and treasure. The Church is the people working and volunteering behind the scenes to make us the Body of Christ. The gifts each member shares with the community, only enhances and enriches our parish community and the Church as a whole.

Throughout the year, there are a few parish-wide activities and ways parishioners can get involved, such as: **Fellowship (Coffee & Donuts)**: a time for members of the parish community to gather and meet one another after Sunday morning Masses. It helps parishioners to learn more about the many ministries within the parish, to know one another and to grow together as a parish community.

There are many ways you and your family can get involved in the parish. We hope this booklet is a helpful resource to you as a new parishioner. We invite you to take time to read through this booklet and explore the many ways you can be an active parishioners!

Community Care & Helping Others

Parishioners of Saint Raphael Parish are very generous, particularly in the care and concern that is shown for one another and others outside of the parish community. There are several ministries whose goal it is to provide service to others:

Food Pantry: Each week, neighbors from the west side of Manchester come to the parish to seek assistance with groceries and other needs. During the week a team of “baggers” comes in to fill bags with specific items of food listed in the food pantry. Each bag contains ingredients for approximately five meals. The current manager of the Saint Raphael Food Pantry is Stephanie Emmons. Please call the Parish Office at 603.623.2604 for assistance.

Parish Nurse Program: Each Tuesday following the noon Mass, a nurse comes to take blood pressure and weight from those in the community who want to participate in this program. Parish nurses promote wellness by addressing the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of parish members. Contact our parish office at 603.623.2604 for more information about this ministry!

Consolation Ministry: As Christians we are called to support and comfort those who are sick or sorrowing. Saint Raphael Parish maintains a long tradition of mercy meals following funeral Masses held at the parish. A dedicated team of men and women organize food donations and serve a light meal following the Mass, giving those in attendance the opportunity to gather together as they mourn their loved one.

Sacraments

Sacraments of Healing:

- **Reconciliation:** Through this sacrament we receive the grace of God’s forgiveness in light of our own human error and sin. Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3:00pm—3:45pm and Sundays from 4:00pm—4:45pm or by appointment. To make an appointment outside of regular confession times, contact our parish office at: 603.623.2604.

- **Sacrament of the Sick:** Is for anyone who is facing a serious or life-threatening illness. Commonly referred to as Anointing of the Sick, this sacrament should be requested as soon as serious illness is present.

Sacraments of Service:

- **Matrimony:** Programs throughout the Diocese of Manchester are offered for newly engaged couples. To plan your wedding, you must contact our parish office at 603.623.2604 at least 6 months in advance.

- **Holy Orders:** includes not only priests, but deacons, religious men, and religious women. To learn more about programs for those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, visit the Diocese of Manchester Vocation web page at: <https://www.catholicnh.org/worship-and-sacraments/vocations/>. To learn more about the Benedictine spirituality and way of life, contact our Pastor at Pastor@st-raphael-parish.org.

Sacraments

Sacraments are the outward signs of inward grace. The seven sacraments are drawn together into three categories:

Sacraments of Initiation:

- **Baptism:** Usually done as an infant, Baptism is the gateway to all the other sacraments. To schedule your infant's baptism, contact our parish office at 603.623.2604. If you are an adult and seeking to receive the sacraments of initiation and become Catholic, contact: Kate McGrath at 603.623.2604 or by e-mail at kate.mcgrath@st-raphael-parish.org.

- **Holy Communion:** Is the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ. Usually received for the first time when children are in Grade 3. If you have a child that will be prepared to receive this sacrament, contact: Kate McGrath at 603.623.2604 or by e-mail at kate.mcgrath@st-raphael-parish.org

- **Confirmation:** Is the sacrament that seals the gift of Baptism and strengthens us for the journey of faith. In the Diocese of Manchester, Confirmation is received at the same time children receive Holy Communion for the first time (in Grade 3). At Saint Raphael Parish, we also have an Adult Confirmation program. If you are over the age of 18 and are interested in becoming fully initiated in the Catholic Church, contact Kate McGrath at 603.623.2604 or by e-mail at kate.mcgrath@st-raphael-parish.org.



Growing in Faith

One of the most important activities in our parish is the formation of our children in their encounter with the Incarnate Crucified, Risen Christ. Essential to parish life is knowing what we believe as Catholics and how we express that belief in love.

The model for our religious education is *Generations of Faith*, a concept that recognizes and encourages the involvement not only of classroom teachers but parents and guardians, grandparents and other family members, as well as parishioners in general. Our class program runs from Catechetical Sunday through Pentecost Sunday.

Elementary Religious Education:

At Saint Raphael Parish, we envision Lifelong Faith Formation as a partnership between the parish and the parents whose families we are here to serve. Children in Grades K through 5 meet for Children's Liturgy of the Word as part of the 9:30am Mass. Parents are asked to bring their children downstairs before Mass begins.

Middle School Youth Group & High School Youth Ministry:

Youth in Grades 6, 7, and 8 and Adolescents in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 meet on Monday evenings from 6:30pm—8:00pm in the parish center. A variety of materials are used, centering around four pillars including *Pastoral, Intellectual, Human* and *Spiritual*.

Volunteers have an important and central role in both Elementary Religious Education and the Middle and High School Youth Groups. **Contact:** Kate McGrath by phone at 603.623.2604; or by e-mail at: kate.mcgrath@st-raphael-parish.org.

Growing in Faith

Our faith journey begins with our baptism and continues throughout our life. Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to learn and grow deeper in faith.

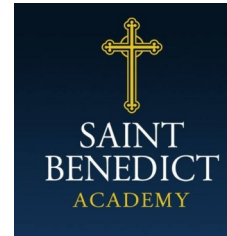
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Each year, new adult members are welcomed into Saint Raphael Parish through our parish RCIA program. For more information about the RCIA process, **Contact:** Kate by phone at 603.623.2604; e-mail: kate.mcgrath@st-raphael-parish.org.

Women's Fellowship: Our Women's Fellowship Group meets once a month on Saturdays at 9am in the church hall. The group uses a program called *Opening Your Heart*. All women are invited to join this group that is grounded in fellowship, friendship and journeying together in faith. **Contact:** Cheryl Abel at cheryl.abel23@gmail.com

Book Discussion Group: The Book Discussion Group is facilitated by Ann-Maria Contarino, a Lecturer in English Literature at Saint Anselm College. The group meets on the third Saturday of the month. Each selected reading presents important religious themes that have relevance for our lives today, whether through a novel, poetry, or historical work. **Contact:** Ann-Maria by e-mail at acontari@anselm.edu for more information about the Book Group!



Saint Benedict Academy



Established in 1888 by the Benedictine monks who founded Saint Raphael Parish, Saint Benedict Academy is a Catholic elementary school serving children from grades Pre-K through 6. The school has been part of the consolidated Catholic Schools system in the Diocese of Manchester since 1978.

The faculty, staff and administration of Saint Benedict Academy are committed to the spiritual intellectual and social development of each child in a Christ-centered environment that nurtures Christian values and fosters academic excellence.

Aware of the dignity and uniqueness of all students, faculty, staff and administration strive to cultivate the talents, personal dignity and social responsibility of each student. Academic excellence, integrated with the message of the Gospel, is at the heart of the school. All the school does is rooted in the values and traditions of the Catholic faith.

For more information about Saint Benedict Academy, please call: 603.669.3932 or visit their website at: www.stbenedictacademy.org

