

V Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

Sat., April 30 **Saints George and Adalbert**

Acts 13:44-52; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 14:7-14

4 pm ... ☩ Bob McGrail by Linda Beland

Sun., May 1 **V Sunday of Easter**

Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-13; Rv 21:1-5a; Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

7:30 am ... ☩ Charles Young by Linda Beland

9:30 am ... First Communion Recipients

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... Our Parish Family

Mon., May 2 **Saint Athanasius**

Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a

12 pm ... ☩ Mary Duval by Lionel & Lillian Coulon

Tue., May 3 **Saints Phillip and James**

1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14

12 pm ... ☩ Fred Gunther by The Pereira family

Wed., May 4

Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15

11:30 am ... Penance & Reconciliation / Rosary

12 pm ... ☩ Priscilla Canty Graham by Jack & Colleen Byrne

7:00 pm ... Ascension Vigil Mass

Thur., May 5 **The Ascension of the Lord**

Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23

****NO 8:30am MASS****

12:00 pm ... ☩ Robert "Doc" Reel by his family and friends

Fri., May 6

Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23

5:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

6 pm ... ☩ Patricia Hume by Suzanne Roy

6:45 pm ... Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat., May 7

Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28

3:35 pm ... Rosary

4 pm ... ☩ Bob McGrail (1st Anniv.) by Sue McGrail

Sun., May 8 **VI Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7:55-60; Ps 97:1-2, 6-7, 9; Rv 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; Jn 17:20-26

7:30 am ... ☩ Mary Marszal by Richard Bienvenue

9:30 am ... ☩ John & ☩ Theresa Grady by Fred & Marie Melvin

4:30 pm ... Penance & Reconciliation

5 pm ... ☩ Robert J. Kirby by Talley, Joyce & PJ Guill

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mon., May 2

6:30—8 pm ... Youth Ministry/Gr 6-12

7—8 pm ... Food Pantry

Tue., May 3

12:30 pm ... Parish Nurse



Saint Raphael Food Pantry On Monday, April 26, the food

pantry served **26** families and gave out **41** bags of groceries. We need Spaghettios, fruit, macaroni, and



Pentecost Mass and breakfast Members of this year's

First Communion and Confirmation classes will be honored during the **9:30am Mass on the Pentecost Sunday, May 15**. Following the Mass, they will be guests of honor at our parish **continental breakfast immediately**



Congratulations to **Kerri Aramini** who was confirmed on Sunday, April 24, by the Most Reverend Francis J. Christian, D.D., Ph.D. at Saint

Joseph Cathedral.

Weekly Collection

Weekend of April 23-24, 2016

Regular Offertory	\$3,326.20
Make-Up Offertory	330.00
Loose Offertory	719.00
Online Parish Giving	318.00
Total	\$4,363.20

Stewardship	\$19.00
Online Stewardship	6.00
Total Stewardship	\$25.00

Food Pantry \$ 817.50

Weekend of May 2-3, 2015

Total Offertory \$3,893.00

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinth 9:7



Catholic Charities

The 2016 Annual Campaign has begun. Please consider moving lives forward with

a gift this year. You'll provide comfort, education, mentoring, and most importantly, hope for those who are facing difficult times. Our Parish Goal: \$26,000.

The New Saint Raphael Follies & Revue



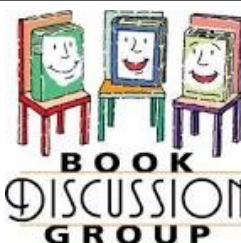
Save the date!
Friday, June 3, 2016, at Saint Anselm College's Dana Center. Tickets are now on sale this weekend after all Masses!



Sanctuary candle The sanctuary candle burns this week for ☩ **Joseph A. Levasseur** by Robert & Carmelle LaRochele.



Ascension of the Lord We will celebrate the Ascension of the Lord on **Wednesday, May 4 at 7pm** for the Vigil, and on **Thursday, May 5 at 12pm**. Note that we will not have an 8:30am Mass on Thursday, May 5. The Ascension is a Holy Day of Obligation.



"It was the best of times": Please join the Parish Book Discussion Group as they continue its consideration of the Works of Mercy this month with a reading of Edith Wharton's Ethan Frome, a short novel that explores the delicate relationship between human compassion and resignation. Please join us upstairs in the church conference room on **Thursday, May 19th, at 7:00 P.M.** Books containing Ethan Frome and some of Wharton's short stories are available at the parish office for \$8.

Gone 400 years, William Shakespeare still touches the heart and soul

This past Thursday, I had the opportunity to visit the **Currier Museum of Art** in Manchester for a special treat. For several weeks, the Currier has been the New Hampshire home to one of the rarest books in the world, a copy of the **First Folio** of the plays of William Shakespeare on the occasion of the **400th anniversary of his death**. Shakespeare is thought to have been born in 1564, and to have died in 1616, on the same day, April 23. "Folio" is a printer's term referring to the folds of a page of paper in any given book, but it has come to be associated with Shakespeare's drama.

After getting the ticket and wandering about the first floor a little bit, I found the special exhibition. Given the significance of the event and the volume on display, the exhibition was rather modest. The Folio was surrounded by **large panels** citing the importance of the volume, its origins and history and the contributions of Shakespeare to English language and literature. Without the Folio, posterity would not have 18 of Shakespeare's nearly 40 plays.

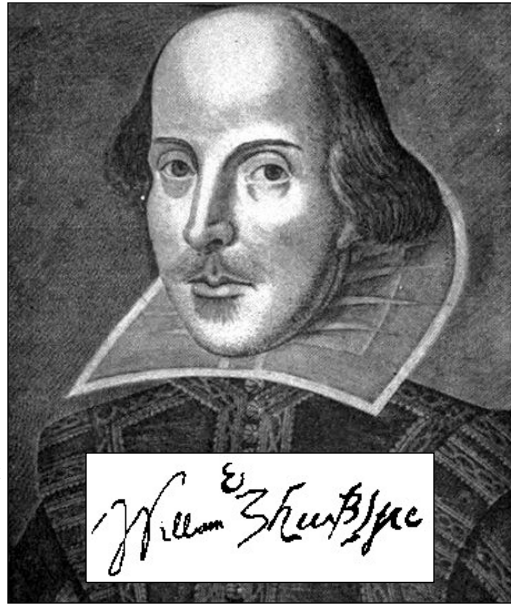
Friends of Shakespeare gathered together his work and published them for him in 1623, seven years after the Bard's death. Of the approximately 750 Folios printed, only 233 still exist, 82 of them, amazingly, in the **Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington**. The Folger, which maintains one of the largest collections of Shakespeare material in the world, has arranged this year to send some of its Folios **on tour to each of the 50 states**.

When my turn came to go up to the display case, I naturally leaned forward and used my hands and arms to steady myself as I peered down upon the open page. That earned me a **sharp and immediate rebuke** from the guard nearby, although she was certainly polite. Yes, I had read the sign just before one approached the display case. Yes, the sign told spectators in no uncertain terms to avoid touching the display case. And yes, alas, that thought stayed with me for all of 10 seconds.

The print was light on the worn page, but it was **still quite legible**. The Folio was opened to the famous speech by the protagonist in *Hamlet*, Act III, Scene 1, verses 56-89.

Perhaps the most famous lines in Shakespeare, in all English literature, right there in one of the most famous books in the language that **some 400 million share** in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, parts of Africa, the Caribbean and India and millions more have learned to speak!

"To be, or not to be, that is the question." In the soliloquy, Hamlet, the tormented young prince of Denmark, questions the point of human existence, asking **whether action or thought is preferable**. As in so many cases, Shakespeare shows that his drama, on one level, all imagination, all pretense on stage,



can capture the truths, dilemmas, issues, emotions, behaviors, motivations and spirit that can make human life triumphant, tragic, compelling or comic. Shakespeare's rhetoric in some respects creates reality! The "This England" and the Saint Crispin's Day (or "band of brothers") speeches in, respectively, *Richard II*, Act II, Scene i, 40-50, and *Henry V*, Act IV, Scene iii, 58-67 rank among the most stirring ever written.

In *Othello*, we see what **jealousy, bias and bigotry** can do to human love. In *King Lear*, we discover the importance of responsibility and the depths of **selfishness**. In *Macbeth*, we find the consequences of a **lust for power** that violates every law and human bond. In *Richard III*, we see what **greed and flattery** can do to the human soul, while in *Henry V*, we see how **nobility of character** can save a nation, bind men together as brothers and bequeath a legacy. There is virtually no end to the **wisdom and beauty** readers and audiences can glean from Shakespeare's artful arrangement of words and actions, tragedies, comedies, histories, sonnets and other works.

Over the years, I've taught some of Shakespeare's work and a little of his late 16th early 17th century world to **high school and college students** at Pinkerton Academy, Acton (MA) Regional, Brattleboro (VT) Union and Saint Anselm, as well as to adults here at Saint Raphael and elsewhere. The teachers I've had myself for Shakespearean studies were tremendous, beginning with **Sisters Mary Olivia, Mary Gregory and Patricia James of the Sisters of Saint Joseph**. At Saint Anselm, I had Shakespeare with Professors **John McDiarmuid** and **Ted Comiskey**, the legendary force behind the **Anselmian Abbey Players** for many years. I've borrowed some of the Bard's words for editorials and

columns. I've participated in the annual Shakespeare's birthday celebration at Saint Anselm for a number of years, and this past Monday, had the privilege of reading **Sonnet 88** right after Erik Clevon, a politics professor, read Sonnet 87 in Norwegian! We had them in Spanish and Chinese too. Gary Bouchard, chair of the Department of English, and Landis Magnuson, director of theater at Saint Anselm, the founders of the celebration, recommended that I stick with English!

I've even seen a performance of Shakespeare in the **recreated Globe Theatre** on the banks of the Thames in London. I'm pretty sure the play was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but I was a little preoccupied by trying to avoid the pouring rain. When I'm home in the Berkshires during the summer, I usually catch at least one performance at **Shakespeare & Co.**, a nationally respected theater group in Lenox, MA. From time to time, Shakespeare even finds himself **recruited for my homilies**. I am always pleased when our parish book discussion group tackles a Shakespeare play. And I nourish the hope, sustained by many literary historians, that **Shakespeare, born a Catholic, died one**, despite religious strife under Queen Elizabeth I.

Each time I teach or read Shakespeare, I feel a little **like a tour guide**. Sure, I can point out this or that in Shakespeare's dramatic technique, artistic achievement and historical context, but getting into **the heart of the relationship** between his imagination and his reader or audience member is a deeply personal matter. Shakespeare, like all great writers, demands not just technical skill and verbal ability but emotional honesty and humility. Insights can come from first-time readers of the plays or from old pros. A single performance can shine lights on aspects of character, plot or theme never before noticed.

A remarkable teacher of English and the Greek and Latin classics once told me, in great literature, it's not just the reader who judges the text, but rather the text which judges the reader! If readers and spectators are willing to give Shakespeare that, he can carry us to remarkable heights of appreciation, amusement and insight. Students often groan when they first approach Shakespeare, but once they've entered the fray, they usually love it. His language is ours, with a little historical dust. But it is fun to learn and, after all, "the play's the thing."

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