

Saint Kathryn Parish

4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH 03051 • Tel (603) 882-7793 • Fax (603) 595-1465



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

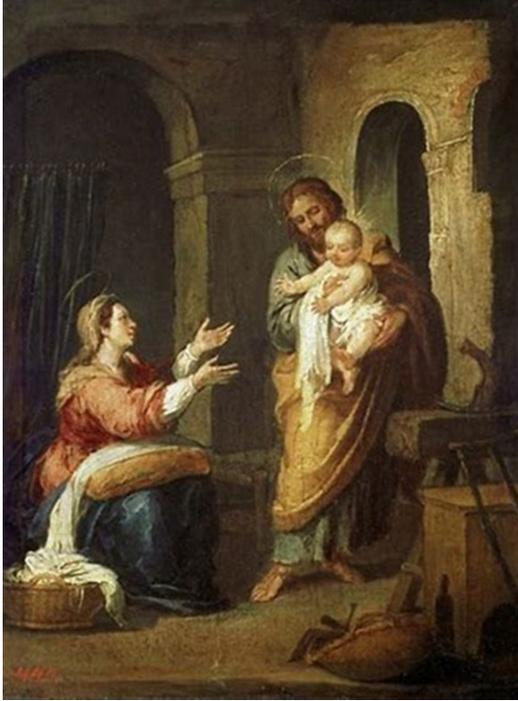
They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

3 January 2021

God Alone!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



As we journey in this holy season of Christmas, we cannot help but think of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This earthly trinity is an image of the eternal Trinity, which as a mystery may seem very far removed from us and our experience. However, if we look to the Holy Family in each of our own nativities, I believe we will discover an important lesson about God: His tenderness!

Theologically speaking, God does not need anything from us; He is self-sufficient. St. Paul speaks about this attribute of God in the Acts of the Apostles, *"The God who made the world and all that is in it, the Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands because he needs anything. Rather, it is he who gives to everyone life and breath and everything"* (Acts 17: 24-25).

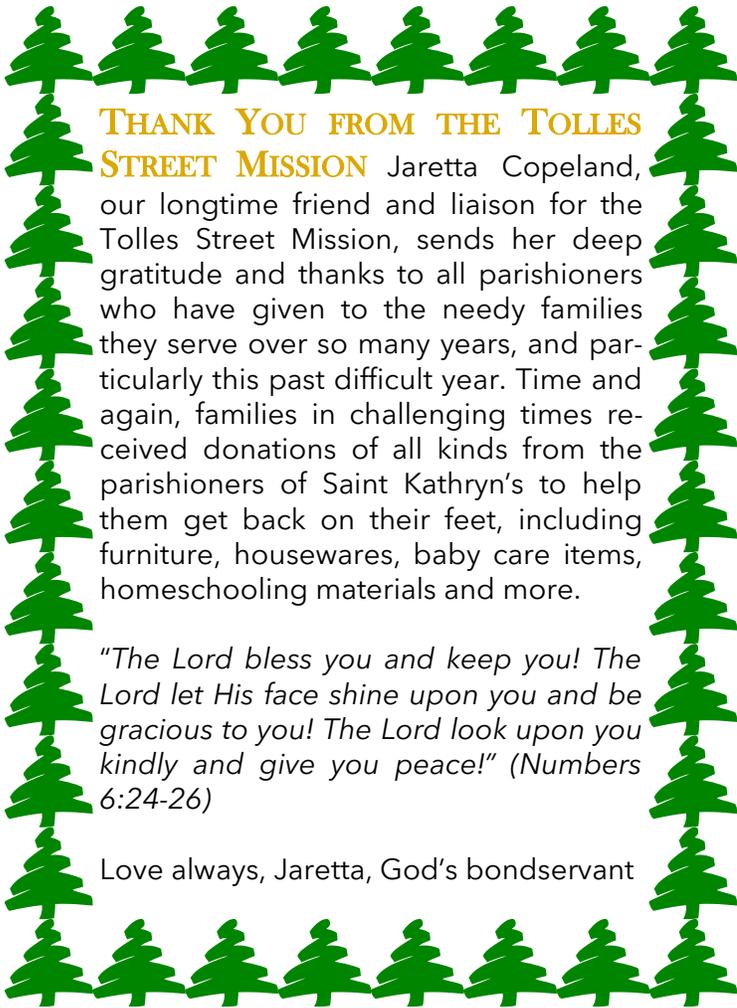
However, Christmas proclaims that God became a child, totally dependent upon our Lady and St. Joseph. He who is omnipotent took on the powerlessness of our human frailty and indeed, He did this in order to redeem us, but also to reveal His tenderness. Caryll Houselander, a lay Catholic writer, reflects in her book, **The Little Way of the Infant Jesus**: *"During Advent Christ rested in Mary – still, silent, helpless, utterly dependent. The Creator trusted Himself to His creature. He trusted to her the expression of His love, the expression of God's love for the world and of His love of His Father, just as the work of His love*

would be trusted to us, in His life in us. He was dumb; her voice was His voice. He was still; her footsteps were His journeys. He was blind; her eyes were His seeing. His hands were folded; her hands did the work of His hands. His life was her life; His heartbeat was the beating of her heart. This was a foreshadowing of what the Incarnation would mean for us; for in us, too, Christ rests as He rested in Mary." The fact that the God who made the entire universe wanted to be cared for, loved, looked after, cherished, fed, rocked to sleep is in itself also a powerful theological statement. Although God needs nothing from us, He shows in the mystery of His birth, as a tiny babe, that He wants us to love Him, because it is in loving that we open ourselves to this mystery of God's tenderness. At every moment of His life: in His Incarnation, His Passion, His death, and His Resurrection, Christ placed Himself in our hands so we might learn how to grow in the tenderness of God.

As we look back over the past year, it is more than evident that human beings have lost sight of this lesson. In place of tenderness, man has once again allowed his heart to become callous, tough, filled with sharpness, criticism, and animosity. This can only happen when we lose sight of the infant Christ. However, Christmas is that beautiful season, which calls us back to the manger to care for, love, look after, cherish, feed, and gently rock the Mighty God, "Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, and Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:5). Caryll Houselander continues her reflection: *"From the moment when the Christ-life is conceived in us, our life is intended for one thing, the expression of His love, His love for God and for the world. Our words are to be the words that He wants to speak; we must go to wherever He wants to go, we must see and look at whatever He wants to see and look at; the work that our hands do must be the work that His hands want to do; our life must be the living of His life, our loves the loving of His heart."*

This Christmas, let us all take the time to pause and pray in front of the Nativity. Let us ponder with awe the mystery of God's tenderness and let us take up a resolve to imitate this tenderness in our own lives as we encounter Jesus in the person in front of us. Christ is inviting us to love Him in each other so that we may learn to love Him forever face to face in eternity. May the tenderness of God, which is the way of the infant Jesus, also become our way!

In Jesus and Mary,
Fr. Michael



THANK YOU FROM THE TOLLES STREET MISSION

Jaretta Copeland, our longtime friend and liaison for the Tolles Street Mission, sends her deep gratitude and thanks to all parishioners who have given to the needy families they serve over so many years, and particularly this past difficult year. Time and again, families in challenging times received donations of all kinds from the parishioners of Saint Kathryn's to help them get back on their feet, including furniture, housewares, baby care items, homeschooling materials and more.

"The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6:24-26)

Love always, Jaretta, God's bondservant

VOCATIONS "They offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Is God calling you to give Him the gold of your freedom, the incense of your prayer, and the myrrh of your love through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Father Matthew Mason at 603.663.0132, or write: mmason@rcbm.org.

ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Have you recently lost a spouse, family member or friend, and are struggling with grief and loss? Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Bereavement - Experiencing Loss, Being Lost and Finding your Way Again," a six-series program helping participants learn about the dynamics of grief, discover new ways to cope while healing and gain the opportunity to be supported and support others also sharing a painful journey. Sessions will be held on Thursdays (January 28 - March 4) from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/bereavement. You may also call 603-752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.org.

ADORATION We are in need of a volunteer to cover the 10:00-11:00 a.m. weekly Wednesday adoration time slot. If you are available for this time, or to sign up for **any** hour of your choosing, please call Charlene in the parish office at 603.882.7793, ext. 10. Adoration drop-ins are always welcome and encouraged, but If you know you are going to be at adoration for a certain hour each week (or monthly on First Friday), it helps us tremendously to be able to put your name on the adoration schedule to ensure there are at least two adorers per hour. Thank you!

FORMED.ORG Merry Christmas! We have renewed our parish subscription to formed.org. Why not take advantage of this great resource? Formed has a wealth of Bible studies, movies, and even children's activities. Read weekly meditations and listen to audio while you're traveling. You'll hear top speakers like Archbishop Fulton Sheen and Dr. Scott Hahn, and also many stories and videos written for children. Simply visit formed.org and use our parish code, 748649, to enter. Enjoy!

THANK YOU Thank you to all who helped us to decorate the church for Christmas. It is an enormous task, and with your time and dedication the church looks glorious during this joyful Christmas season!



REFLECTING GOD'S GENEROSITY TO US

Due to an early publishing deadline, the offertories for December 26-27, for Christmas, and for the flower fund will be printed in the next bulletin.

Offertory, December 19-20:	
In Church:	\$ 2,457.25
Online:	\$ 5,896.82
Mail:	\$ 1,414.00
Total:	\$ 9,768.07

Our weekly parish budget is \$11,900.00.

Thank you for giving, whether online (sign up for automatic giving at stkathryns.org/donate), in the offertory basket, or mailed to **4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH 03051!**

BE A STAR Thank you for the OVERWHELMING re-



sponse for the Be A Star program!!! St. Kathryn's was able to help 68 families this year with food and gifts for their families!!! Your generosity was truly a special blessing to them as quite a few left in tears with our outpouring response. So THANK

YOU!!!

A huge thank you to the Hudson Police Department, Deacon Ray, Fantastic Sam's that collected extra items, and ALL the volunteers for all your help with organizing, sorting, lifting, tagging, packing up, pickups, deliveries, along with the great conversation and laughs!! Another thank you to some of our anonymous donors of cranberry sauce, gravy, a loaf of bread and a stick of butter for each family were contributed too!! We are SO blessed to be a part of an amazing community!!



Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire (formerly known as Anne-Marie House) has renovated and moved into the former Infant Jesus School in Nashua. In this new facility, they will be able to help more families than ever in their mission to "end homelessness one family at a time." We have a wish list from FPSNH. Are you able to donate any of the following items that they will need as families soon begin moving in? If so, please call them at the number below. Thank you!

- 20 Twin sheets (new)
- 20 Twin Blankets (new)
- 10 Full Sheets (new)
- 10 Full Blankets (new)
- 10 Crib sheets (new)
- 10 Crib blankets (new)
- 30 Pillows (new)
- 30 Towels (new)
- 10 Hand towels (new)
- 20 Wash cloths (new)
- 20 Padded Fabric Mattress Covers Twin (new)
- 10 Padded Fabric Mattress Covers Full (new)
- Glassware, Plates, and Bowls to support 10 families (approximately 35 individuals)
- Pots and Pans
- 10 toilet bowl brushes
- 10 toilet bowl plungers
- 20 Small trash barrels
- 10 Shower Curtains
- 10 Bathroom rugs
- 10 first aid kits
- 10 cleaning buckets
- 10 Brooms and dust pans
- 10 mops
- 10 individual bottles of multi purpose cleaner
- 60 rolls of paper towels
- 100 rolls of toilet paper

PHONE FRIENDS and PEN PALS for SENIORS

Do you like talking on the phone?

Do you like getting letters?

It may not be easy these days to make new friends in person, but we can help you meet some new people through phone calls or letter exchanges!

United Way of Greater Nashua is working on a project to bring people together! If you'd like to receive calls or be paired up with a local pen pal, contact us at (603)438-2173 or sceaser@unitedwaynashua.org.

Family Promise of Southern New Hampshire
3 Crown Street
P.O. Box 450 Nashua, NH 03060
phone: 603.883-7338
www.familypromisesnh.org



'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the church
Was the fragrance of incense, of balsam and birch;
The wreaths were hung upon the walls with care, in hopes that they would condescend to stay there;
And the people were nestled all snug in the pews,
In clothes decked out with holiday hues.

The priest donned his cope; he tightened the clasp,
and composed himself, for a midnight Mass;
When out on the lawn, there was heard such a patter,
The deacon sprang from the vestry, to see what was the matter.
Away to the doors he flew like a flash, and tore them open, with a muffled crash.

Upon the breast of the new-fallen snow, was the luster of midday, a heavenly glow;
When, what to his wondering eyes should appear, but the Holy Family themselves,
in peace, standing near;
And a Baby in a manger, afflicted with sneezes, who, through loving dignity, showed He was Jesus.

The deacon stood still, but overcome with peace, and exuberant joy, and desire to please.
More rapid than eagles, his thoughts they came, but he found his voice, and called the people by name:
"Now Browns and Joneses!; Dickensons too,
On come on, Yes, all of you!"

He moved his head; was turning around, when he did hear another soft sound;
Our Mother came forward, holding the child,
The one to be mocked, scourged, and reviled;
To save mankind from his sin and guile.
Through all that, our Lord gave us a present,
One for us all, rich man and peasant.
A gift of love, a gift of light;
One to make our dark world bright;

The gift was himself!! Not all would accept it,
Many would turn, and many neglect it;
But with each Mass, he gives it anew, he gives himself, to me and to you.

He now looked everyone, in a loving gaze,
One that dispelled all doubting haze;
And a look in his eye, and a nod of his head,
Soon gave them to know, that sin, was all they need dread;
And using three fingers to bless his people,
Then he rose, up past the steeple;
But they all heard him say, in a voice in their heart:
"A blessed Christmas to all, and may you and I never part!"

-Anonymous

SAINT KATHRYN PARISH

4 Dracut Road, Hudson, New Hampshire 03051-5006

Telephone: 603.882.7793

Fax: 603.595.1465

Website: www.stkathryns.org

Facebook: Saint Kathryn's Church

Store: 603.595.4463

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Michael R. Monette, Pastor

fr.michael@stkathryns.org

Deacon Raymond V. Marcotte, Permanent Deacon

deacon.ray@stkathryns.org

Sister Janice Rooney, SNDdeN, Director of Religious Education

sr.janice@stkathryns.org

Charlene Maniotis, Parish Secretary

charlene.maniotis@stkathryns.org

Tina Decoeur, Religious Education Secretary

tina.decoeur@stkathryns.org

Peter Krauss, Bookkeeper

book72worm@aol.com

Larry Franchitto, Music Director

lfranchitto@panam.com

Rick Balboni, Religious Goods Store Manager

rick.balboni@stkathryns.org

Greg Chagnon, Facilities Manager

greg.chagnon@stkathryns.org

Pat Grenier, Custodial Assistant

grenierpat@hotmail.com

Christopher Maynard, ANMSM, Staff Organist

music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com

Jeanette Cassidy, Safe Environment Coordinator

jnet62@comcast.net

PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Closed Friday/Weekends

SAINT KATHRYN RELIGIOUS GOODS

603.595.4463

Our religious goods store is located in the back of the parish office building and has its own parking.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 9:00 a.m.—Noon

Friday and Sunday Closed

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. (also livestreamed on our website); 6:30 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Thursday: 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Saturday: 9:15-10:00 a.m. and 3:00-3:45 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Catechesis takes place with the parents prior to scheduling a date for the baptism. For more information, please contact Deacon Ray in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Engaged couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance of the proposed date of the wedding. Please refer to the marriage policy as found on the parish website.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK/COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Arrangements may be made for Communion to the Homebound or for the Sacrament of the Sick by calling the parish office. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should be celebrated at the outset of an illness or when there is a change in the person's condition. The Sacrament should also be received prior to surgery.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The diocesan policies are available by calling the parish office or by consulting the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org.

OPEN FOR YOU!

We invite you to use our church, the transept chapel, or the Emmaus Chapel (in the office building) for personal prayer. Our sacred spaces are open daily from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (closed Saturday after the 4:00 p.m. Mass).

Welcome! If you are new to our community, we hope you have felt welcome! If you are a visitor - occasional or frequent - we're glad you joined us! If you're considering parish membership introduce yourself to the pastor after Holy Mass to get the process underway!

**ST. KATHRYN PARISH
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

03-0779

January 3, 2021 – Week 6