



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

34 AMHERST STREET, MILFORD, NH 03055

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-Noon & 1-5pm &

Parish Office: 673-1311 Fax: 673-3687

Faith Formation: 673-4797

Website: saintpatrickmilfordnh.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor

daudet52@gmail.com

Patti Hendrickson, Pastoral Associate

pattih2015@comcast.net

Diane Bergeron, Secretary

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Pauline Nepveu, Accountant

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Christopher Maynard, Music Director

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MISSION STATEMENT

St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming community in a traditional and Eucharistic setting focused on prayer, service, and life-long faith formation on the values and teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

PLEASE REVIEW COVID ANNOUCEMENT IN PASTOR'S NOTES

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:00 PM; 7:00 PM; 9:30 PM

Christmas Day Mass: 10:00 AM

ALL MASSES LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK!

For those who view Mass at home and would like to receive Holy Communion, they may come to church at the following times to receive Holy Communion only:

CHRISTMAS EVE: 5:15-5:30 PM and 8:15-8:30 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY: 11:15-11:30 AM

DECEMBER 21-27 2020

MON - 12/21- St. Peter Canisius

7:30AM: Mary Clare Milan by her husband, John (4th anniversary)
Special intentions of Lucille Farwell

TUES - 12/22- Advent Weekday—NO MASS

WED - 12/23- St. John of Kanta

5:30PM: Douglas James by Paula James

6-7PM: Holy Hour

THURS - 12/24- Christmas Vigil

4:00PM: George Whelton by the breakfast group and
Richard Mace by the family

4:00PM: George M. Emrich by his mother, Mary

7:00PM: Robert Ordemann by the family (30th Anniversary)

9:30PM: Dot & Francis Lorden by Jane Provins

FRI - 12/25 - The Nativity of the Lord

10:00AM: Members of the Parish

SAT - 12/26 - Vigil of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

4:00PM: Kenneth Winiecki by his wife, Mary

SUN - 12/27 - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph—

Church will remain open from 11:30—5pm

8:00 AM: All families of the parish

10:30AM: Elvio & Denise DelMonte by Marge Kidder
Joy McAntee & Jeffrey Hicks by Kim Hicks

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**

READINGS 12-27-2020

Gen: 15:1-6, 21:1-3

Heb: 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Lk: 2:22-40



The sanctuary lamp will burn this week for the deceased members of the Coté & Caveney by Ida Caveney

Offices will be closed December 25

SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: We rejoice with parents at the birth of a new child. Parents are encouraged to initiate preparation for baptism prior to the child's birth. Call the Parish Office at 673-1311 for information and pre-baptism instruction.

Marriage: Weddings are a special time of joy and promise for a bride and a groom. Engaged couples are invited to contact the pastor personally (preferably 6-12 months) prior to the desired wedding date to begin their preparation. Couples should not make any commitment with a reception venue prior to the 1st meeting with the pastor.

Reconciliation: Individual confessions are held every Saturday from 3:00-3:45 P.M. in the reconciliation room at St. Patrick Church or during the week by personal appointment with the pastor.

Sacrament of the Sick: If you are anticipating surgery or experiencing health issues and would like to be strengthened with the Church's sacrament of healing and hope, please contact the pastor personally to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick.

Your weekly donation can be dropped off in the mail slot near the glass door or E-giving is available to all parishioners. This is a safe and easy way to give to the parish. Go to our website saintpatrickmilfordnh.org under NEWS & EVENTS and scroll to "giving" then follow the instructions. This is very helpful for parishioners who want to give on a regular basis.

December 13, 2020: \$4,675
Retired Religious: \$1,563

GIVE+ONLINE



NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (12/20/2020)

A tradition in many homes is the Empty Manger into which family members place bits of straw each day. How does this emphasize the penitential nature of the season?

Answer to last week's question (12/13/2020)

A candle in the window is a traditional sign of waiting for someone to arrive. Placing candles in the windows during Advent is a sign that the family is waiting to welcome the Christ Child, that there is room in the home for the Holy Family.

Advent: Son of David, Son of God, God saves

During the Advent season the Lectionary readings *look back* to God's promises in Hebrew scripture and *look forward* to their fulfillment in Christian scripture. At Advent's close, the readings ask us to think about Jesus present among us.

Luke's gospel describes the prophecy of Jesus' birth. Ancient peoples were familiar with such stories; both Hebrew scripture (Samson) and Greek myths (Heracles) include annunciations. Luke uses the angel Gabriel (a Hebrew name that means "God's strength") to parallel and to contrast the annunciation to Zechariah about the Baptizer (Lk 1:5-20) with the annunciation to Mary about Jesus (Lk 1:26-38).

Gabriel and Zechariah. Zechariah is a *priest* serving in the *Jerusalem Temple*. Gabriel *appears* to Zechariah *in the Temple*. Gabriel says, "Don't be afraid," and announces that Zechariah and Elizabeth will have a *son to be named John*. John will be *great in the Lord's sight* and will be *filled with the Spirit*. Zechariah *does not believe Gabriel*; as a *sign* his speech is taken away.

Gabriel and Mary. Mary is a *poor teenager* living in *rural Nazareth*. Gabriel appears to Mary in the *private area of her family's house*. Gabriel says, "Don't be afraid," and announces that, because God has found favor in her, she will conceive and will have a *son to be named Jesus* (meaning "God saves"). He will be *great*, and be *the Son of the Most High*, and he will *rule over Israel forever*. Mary *believes Gabriel* and agrees to be the human mother of the incarnate God; as a *sign* Gabriel reveals that Elizabeth is pregnant.

These final Advent readings ask us to think about Jesus' coming in history, his liturgical and sacramental coming now, and his future return. Nathan announces that David's house, throne, and kingdom will stand forever though his heirs. Paul announces that God's saving plan, hidden for ages, is revealed in Jesus. Gabriel announces to Mary that through her faith, God will come in human form to save all nations. This is the mystery of the incarnation. Have we heard and witnessed Advent's promise that God has come in history in Jesus' incarnation? Are we strengthened by God's liturgical and sacramental coming in our own lives? Do we believe we live in God's kingdom now, and will be saved into the kingdom when Jesus comes in glory?

--Terence Sherlock

Read the full reflection and subscribe at: LectionaryInContext.WordPress.com



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Brenda Smith, Lucille Farwell, John Hoff, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Shawn Dufraine, Laura McGettigan, Tracey Lafleur, Jen, Kim Salem, Fleurette Laquerre, Patti Fay McDonagh, Doris Fay, William Lawson, Lillian Esielionis, Joyce Nelson, Tiffany Brown, Jeanne Jacques, the Staff & Residents of all Milford long term care facilities, Dr. Ray Roberge, Brendan Zubricki, Alison Caiado, John Coleman, Bruce Gade, Dorothy Gates, Eleanor Botelho, Rita Rose, Richard, Paul, Laura, Skip, Betty, Ken Jalbert, Stephen Swallow, Pamela Wood, Sean, Hope Kelly, Rick Corron, Patricia Barrett, Cameron Conley, Lexz Bragdom, Timothy Russell, Maureen Belair, Marty, Leo Barriault, Nancy Moro, Mary Ann Hower, Connor Sillowy, Eva, Carolyn Hassett, Bettina Mace, Thomas Burkardt, Ben, Anne Marie, Jeffrey, Lisa, Susan Yorio, William, JoAnn & John, Gus Dreher, Irene Dion, Eugene Callahan, Andrea, Sophia Lamarche, Brundage family, Genie Stone, Coralee Smart, Marie, Frances, Arlene, Georgian, Jeanne, Sue, Dennis Creedon, Paul Golch, John Foss, Rob Erickson, Liz Richer, Luke LaVallee, John, Mike Paxton, Isabelle Miller, Marc Belanger, Helen R., Claudette Blais, Kim Beebe, Anne Ronsov, Scott Dickinson, John Knott, Joseph Koprek, Lillie & Damien, Benjamin Smith, Patti Patenaude, Cheryl Williams, Ken Hower, Jeff MacMartin, Mindy Kane, Linda Lewis, Richard Copeland, Wayne Cormier, Robert Merley, Jeffrey Bryant, Crystal Heaney, Leah Stigliano, Philip McPhee, William Thompson, Sammy Tinaglia, John Sullivan, Alice & Lloyd Eskins, and for the men and women who are serving our country.

Please call the parish office at 673-1311 when someone can be taken off the prayer list.

**To register for FORMED –
A gift for you**

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever!

1. Go to our website and follow the instructions or
 2. Go to formed.org/signup
 3. Click I belong to a parish or organization
 4. Enter our zip code 03055
 5. Register with your name and email address
- To make life easy, put FORMED in your computer favorites



**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
GRADES K-6**

Tuesday: 4:30 - 6:00pm — January 5, 2021
Wednesday: 5:30 -7:00pm — January 6, 2021

**YOUTH MINISTRY FAITH FORMATION
GRADES 6-12**

Sunday: 6-7:30pm — December 20

All of these classes will be through Zoom Meeting. Sue, our Faith Formation Director will be sending you a link to invite you to class.

FORMED:

Listen: There is Life in the Womb - Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Youth: Watch: YDisciple: Advent, Session 4: The Gift

Family: Watch: O Holy Night - Brother Francis

Family: Listen: Glory to the Newborn King - Lindsey Todd (Traditional Christmas carols)

Read: The Blessings of Christmas by Joseph Ratzinger
Writings by Alfred Delp

**Prayer Line call: Diane or Patti
603-673-1311**

For anyone who would like to stop in to Church for private prayers. These are the times when the Church is opened.

Monday - Friday: 9-5pm
Saturday: 9-3pm
Sunday: 11:30-5pm

INCLEMENT

**WEATHER POLICY
& Weekday Masses**



Parishioners are now to be aware that if there is inclement weather there will be no Mass that morning. Official announcements of cancellations and delays will be made on the cancellations ribbon on WMUR -TV CHANNEL 9. This policy is for the safety of parishioners and those who are responsible for snow removal.



Join us for Advent Holy Hours with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which will take place on Wednesday evening following the 5:30pm Mass. from 6:00 to 7:00PM in the church.

December 23 will be led by Patti. This will include intentional prayers which highlight the themes of Advent.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Will McGrath

Peter Arnoldy, Laura Ilsley, Jerry Guthrie,
Irene Prunier, Steve Santinelli

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed cake Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola **These items can be dropped off at the SHARE office.**

PLEASE CALL FIRST: 673-9898. Thank you for your donations.



The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas 2020

St. Luke's Christmas story was, and still is for many, a great puzzle! Jesus' birth takes place during the reign of Caesar Augustus (27 BC to AD 14), who rules over "the whole world" and was known for bringing peace after years of civil strife. An ancient inscription celebrates the birthday of Augustus as "good news for the whole world." Yet Jesus, whose parents are from the little known town of Nazareth ... on the fringe of Augustus' empire, and who is laid in a manger, is Messiah and Lord and will bring peace to those "on whom his favor rests". His birth is not announced in city squares throughout the empire but to lowly shepherds, a group often scorned by the religious elite of the day.

The beauty of St. Luke's Christmas story and its influence on Christian art, literature, and music remind us that through the incarnation (God becoming a man), the human condition is now bathed in God's beauty. Still, our society's marketing of the wonder of Christmas so often overshadows this blessed event of the birth of the Savior of the world. So many great Saints have taught us that, when contemplating the nativity of Jesus, we are to see how the persons in the scene are laboring so that, in the words of St. Ignatius: "*Jesus may be born in greatest poverty; and that after so many hardships of hunger, thirst, heat, cold, injuries, and insults, he may die on the cross.*" Luke may be hinting at this by his use of the same term for the "inn" that had no room to welcome Mary and Joseph and for the "guest room" where Jesus celebrates his Last Supper and speaks of his body, which will be given "for you" and his blood shed "for you." The shadow of the cross falls even upon the crèche of Bethlehem (the wood of the crib to the wood of the Cross).

Taken together, Luke's Christmas story that we read this Christmas Eve and the gospel reading from St. John on Christmas Day ... John's hymn emphasizing the puzzle that Jesus is truly human and truly divine ... eternal Word made flesh ... which some have used to reduce Jesus to a compassionate social prophet or innocent martyr. One last thing! When Catholic Christians gather to pray at Christmas, they must recall that Jesus' life and death are not only "for us" but "for the whole of the human race". All of humanity has been changed by the coming of Christ, and this is cause for—to borrow the words of the angel in Christmas Eve's gospel reading—"good news of great joy."

Merry Christmas to all!

Fr. Dennis

Pope Francis' Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen!*