

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

December 25, 2022

Christmas BLESSINGS



God bless all military, first responders, health workers, and all those who can't be with their families on Christmas Day.

*May the joy of our Savior's birth be with you,
WHEREVER YOU MAY BE.*

207 Hemlock Street, Manchester, NH 03104 | P 603-622-4966
parishoffice@scsnh.com | www.saintcatherineparishnh.com

Parish Staff

Clergy:

Reverend Christopher M. Martel—Pastor
Deacon Edward P. Munz, D. Min—Deacon

Parish Office: (603) 622-4966

Mrs. Virginia Morris—Office Manager
Mr. Nicholas Eremita—Facilities Manager

K-12 Religious Education: (603) 622-6264

Mrs. Lisa Daugherty—Religious Ed. Director

Youth Ministry: (603) 234-3803

Mrs. Karen Brockway—Youth Minister

Adult Education: (603) 232-7213

Mr. Derick Alexandre—Evangelist

RCIA: (603) 540-7512

Mrs. Norine Calvano

Music Ministry

Mr. David Gocklin—Music Director

St. Catherine Parish School: (603) 622-1711

Mrs. Katie Knight—Principal

Mass Times

Monday—Thursday: 9:00am

Saturday: 8:00am (First 2 Saturdays of month)
4:00pm Vigil

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am

Holy Days: 5:30pm Vigil | 7:00pm

Confession Times

Monday & Wednesday: 6:00pm—7:00pm

Saturday: 2:30pm—3:30pm

Or By Appointment

Baptism

Please call the office to register. Parents are required to attend Catechesis prior to the baptism. Offer both group baptisms on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30pm or other days as requested.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the office for a priest to come and visit you or your loved one.

Adoration

Wednesdays 9:30am—5:00pm

Weddings

Please call the office at least 6 months in advance to begin the preparation for the Sacrament.

CHRISTMAS



Hour of Power Holy Hour

Every Sunday evening, join us for an hour before the Blessed Sacrament from 7 to 8pm. A great way to spend some time with Our Lord, end the Lord's Day in Peace, and start the week with God's Grace. Join us in person or on the Livestream.

December 25—No Holy Hour

January 1—No Holy Hour

Vocation Discernment

"He gave power to become children of God." If you think you may be called to share the Father's love as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at 603-663-0196 or email: mmason@rcbm.org.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

- 4:00** George Bunton by the family
Mike Gordon by his wife, Shirley
Donald J. Albert & Martha E. McNamara
by Kathy Albert
Josephine & Luigi Caruso by Norine Calvano
- 6:00** Norman Champagne by the family
Eleanor Barnes by the Kirby Family
Helena & Albert Widener
by Jay & Deb Camirand

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 ~ Nativity of the Lord

- Midnight** Armand, Alice, & Charlotte Duhaime
by Roger & Susan Duhaime
David J. Royer, Sr. by Diane Royer
- 9:00** All Deceased Family Members
by Claudette & Rob Dachowski
Robert J. & Robert E. Kirby by the family
- 11:00** Joe Bruno & Skip McNamara
by Nancy & Tami
Ben & Stephen Roy by Gloria Roy

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 9:00** Annette & Bernard McQuillen
by Lesley & Steve Goan
Members of the Dept. of Corrections
by Jay & Deb Camirand

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 9:00** Alyssa Skoglund
by Mom & Dad (16th Anniv.)
Charles E. Martel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

- 9:00** Richard Dowd by his wife
Dora & Yvonne Caron by the family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

- 9:00** Helen Carter
by the Mailhot & Stevens Families
Russell Farnham
by Mrs. Claire Lacerte & Marcel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

- 4:00** Richard, Carl, & Edna Miles by Fredda Miles
Ryan Croteau by his Mom (B'day Intention)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 ~ Solemnity of Mary

- 7:30** Parishioners of St. Catherine
- 9:00** Stephen & Ben Roy by Gloria Roy
- 11:00** Alyssa Skoglund by Mom & Dad
Sharon Bonte by the Walsh Family

Tabernacle Candle for the repose of the soul of
Lawrence Laterza by Lorraine Nault

Gospel Meditation

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas!

Everyday Stewardship

Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Weekly Readings

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: Is1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Saturday: Jn 2:18-21/Jn 1:1-18

Next Sunday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Formed—A Gift for You

St. Catherine has gifted you with unlimited access to video-based study programs, feature films, audio presentations, and eBooks from the Church’s foremost presenters. The content includes topics like: Explaining the Faith, Catholic Answers, Saints of History, Men and Women of Faith, Popes, and the Life and Witness of Mary. There is even content for youth. Register at FORMED.org and type in parish name.



Saint of the Week

St. Stephen

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin. Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God’s abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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Stewardship

Weekly Offering

December 10/11, 2022

Checks: \$ 4,709.00

Cash: \$ 2,371.00

e-Give: \$ 1,915.00

Total: \$ 8,995.00

Immaculate Conception: #1,074.00

Average November Collection: \$9,310.31

Budgeted Weekly Collection: \$9,710.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity to our parish.

Planning Your Will

Remember St. Catherine of Siena

A bequest is a wonderful way to express gratitude to God for a lifetime of blessings! The gift you give establishes a lasting legacy of love for others by helping the Church to continue our Catholic heritage through its many ministries. For more information, questions, or wish to consider a gift annuity or trust for St. Catherine of Siena Church, give us a call at the office.

Traveling? Mass Times

Nationwide Mass times and locations may be found online at www.Masstimes.org or by calling 1-800-627-7846.

Votive Candles

You might have wondered why there are votive candles in front of Saints Mary, Joseph, and Catherine. We light a votive candle as part of our prayer, whether it's a prayer of thanksgiving, intention for someone both living or deceased, or a prayer of praise to God, and that light represents our prayer that will continue long after we have left the Church and we have gone back to our daily routine. We state our prayer, and the candle represents our prayers being sought on behalf of the saint that we light the candle to. As we make our prayers, many people make a small donation for the prayers. All are welcome to use these candles, as a way to keep their prayers alive.

Q & A

Christmas Gifts

Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

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Prayer Line

The number to call for prayer requests, or if you wish to pray with us, is 603-622-2094.

Gluten-Free Hosts Available

Please note that we have gluten-free hosts for anyone allergic to gluten. Please come to the sacristy before Mass and notify the celebrant of your need for a host.



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Christmas • Luke 2:1-14



GOSPEL

Imagine how the Christmas story may have happened today: Joseph drove Mary in their jeep through sleet and snow to the city of his birth to be counted. No motels had rooms. A homeless shelter attendant said, "We have no beds, but you can sleep in the broom closet." Jesus was born the next day in a sleeping bag in a closet with three mice, a couple of cats and a dog. God and his angels were happy.



PRAYER

Lord, thank you for my bed. Give others a place to sleep.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



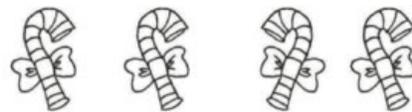
DRAW

Draw Jesus, Mary, and Joseph with mice, cats, and a dog in a closet.



PUZZLE

Circle the picture that is facing the **wrong** way. Then color in all the pictures.



MISSION

I will give canned food, sheets, blankets, or money to help a homeless shelter.



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Faster Family Support Group

(Families Advocating for Substance Treatment, Education, and Recovery) for adults with a loved one dealing with substance use. You don't have to face this alone. Call Susan or Patrick 603-668-4859 for more information.

Servants of the Beatitudes

Servants of the Beatitudes is a young adult bible study and service ministry for ages 18-35. They meet the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays** of each month. Meeting will be held at 7pm at Ste. Marie Parish in Manchester.



Keep Kids Safe—Technology Tips: Gaming Guidelines

Gaming is a popular pastime, especially for many boys. Most video game platforms have internet connectivity, meaning that kids can go online while playing games. This allows for chatting and website browsing. Here are some tips to help make gaming safer:

Before allowing your child to play a new game, check ratings and reviews

Use parental controls to restrict use to the ratings and features you approve

Keep gaming systems in a public area of the home

As with any technology, remind your child not to give out personal information

Check out www.esrb.com, which provides additional tips and ratings information

For more information about child safety, visit www.catholicnh.org/safety

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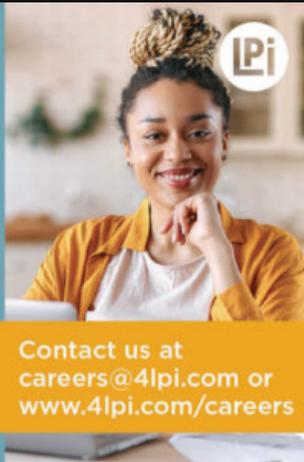
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