

December 10, 2023

Saint Patrick Parish

Living Catholic Tradition in Nashua

Mass Schedule

Daily

Tuesday - Friday 12:05 pm
Saturday 8:00 am

Weekend

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 7:00 am
Sunday 9:30 am

Confessions

Saturday 3:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am
Tuesday - Friday 11:15 am

Office Hours

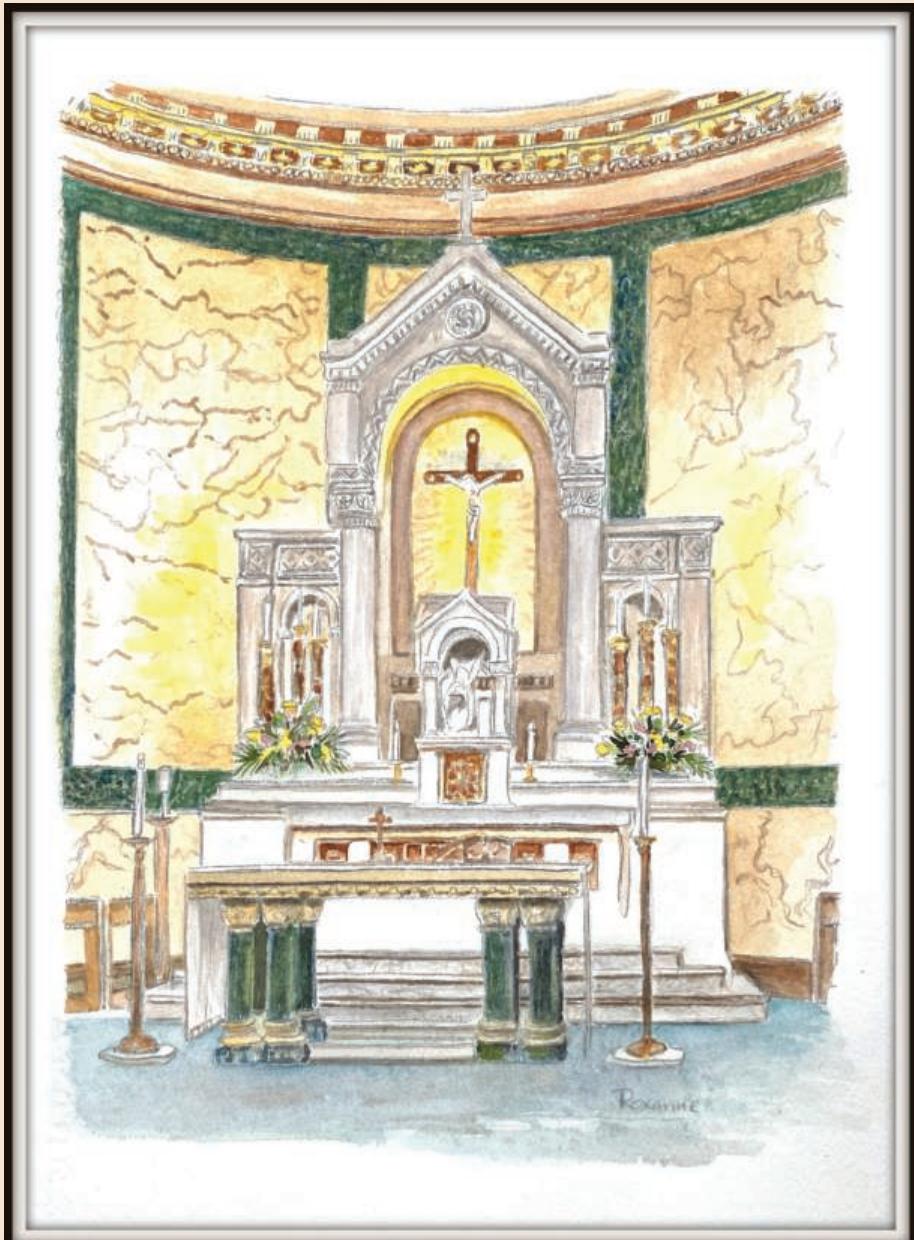
Monday- Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday Closed

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Rev. Michael Kerper
Pastor

Rev. John Healey
Priest-in-Residence

Rev. Edmund Crowley
Priest-in-Residence



29 Spring Street, Nashua, NH 03060

603-882-2262

www.stpatricksnashua.org

office@stpatricksnashua.org

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 AM Deceased members of Fariz Family
By the Family

9:30 AM **Teresa Cahill**
By her Family

Monday, December 11

No Mass

Tuesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

12:05 PM **Gerald Brennen**
By the Family

Wednesday, December 13, St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

12:05 PM **Marie Letendre**
By Don & Terry Pare

Thursday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church

12:05 PM **Joseph A. Fariz (7th Anniversary)**
By the Family

Friday, December 15

12:05 PM **Mary Jo & John H. Duffy**
By their son, Peter Duffy & Family

Saturday, December 16

8:00 AM **People of the Parish**

4:00 PM **Jean, Dolan, Gertrude Walsh, and**
Pauline Goy
By the Goy Family



Contributions

December 2 & 3

Planned Giving

Envelopes	\$ 2,886
E-Giving	\$ 2,609
Cash & Checks	\$ 1,727
<i>Total Collection</i>	\$ 7,552

Christmas Flowers \$ 902

Poor Box Donations

Weekend December 2 & 3 = \$ 358

Thank You!

All funds are used locally to assist people who come to us for help.

Parish Staff

Jean Dickson *Finance Manager*
Sandra Rathbone, *Administrative Assistant*
Ruth Thompson, *Faith Formation*
Diane Duffy, *Cemetery Director*
Adam D'Entremont, *Pastoral Associate*

Musician

Chris Bord, *Organist/Director (9:30 am)*



St. Patrick Cemetery Office

Serving St. Patrick and Holy Cross Cemeteries, Hudson, NH

Pre-Planning

Diane Duffy

Consultation

Cemetery Director

603.881.8131

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday ~ 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Wednesday ~ 9:00 to 12 Noon, Friday ~ Closed

Located in the Rectory

Parish News and Notes

Pre-Christmas Confessions

Saturday, December 23

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

No 8:00 AM Mass

Sunday, December 24

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Monday, December 25

9:00 AM – 9:30AM

Church open @ 8:45 AM



Mass Attendance

December 2 & 3: Sat. 4:00 PM = 112, Sun. 7:00 AM = 96, Sun. 9:30 AM = 212, Total = **420**

Fellowship Time Following 9:30 AM Mass

The Knights of Columbus host our “Fellowship Time” on the **second Sunday of every month** following the **9:30 AM Mass**. The next event will be held on **Sunday, January 14**. Please stop by and enjoy visiting with fellow Parishioners.

Anointing of the Sick

Every **Friday** after the **12:05 PM** Mass, we offer the **Anointing of the Sick**. The Sacrament can be received by people preparing for surgery, recovering, or who suffer from any serious disease or infirmity. The Sacrament is administered in front of the **Blessed Virgin Mary** altar on the left side of the sanctuary.

Prayerful Condolences

Please prayerfully remember **Rose M. Garant** whose **Funeral Mass** was held on **Thursday, November 30**, and **Raymond R. Wiggett** whose **Memorial Service** was held on **Friday, December 1** and **Della Y. Doherty** whose **Funeral Mass** was held on **Saturday, December 2** at St Patrick Church. Please pray for the families and other loved ones during their time of grief.

Please Consider Electronic Giving

As we move toward a “cashless” economy, Electronic Giving is now the *preferred* way of making financial transactions. For the parish, electronic giving is the safest and most cost-effective way of funding our work. If you currently pay most of your bills online, please consider adding St. Patrick to your list of “vendors.” Go to our Online Giving Website <https://www.stpatricksnashua.org/online-giving>.

News from Friends & Neighbors

Knights of Columbus

Our regular business meeting for all knights and those interested in joining our council, 11907, is held **every third Tuesday of the month** at the Parish Center and begins with the rosary at **7 PM**. All meetings are maintained for under two hours. Please join us – we are always looking for a few more good men to join this Catholic Gentlemen's' organization.

More events and activities are always being planned! For any further information or should you wish to contact one of our council members, our current **Grand Knight** is **Kirk Pomeroy**. He can be reached at zipcowed@aol.com

What Sweeter Music: The Polyphony Choir of Magdalen College

The Polyphony Choir of Magdalen College will present a festive concert of sacred music for Advent and Christmas on **Wednesday, December 13, at 7:00 PM** at Saint Patrick Church.

The acclaimed **22-voice ensemble** will take you on a musical journey from the season of hushed waiting to the joyful radiance of Our Lord's Nativity. Repertoire includes works by Palestrina, Victoria, Gibbons, Britten, Carter, Rutter, Stopford, and others ranging from the 15th century to the present day. It will be capped off by familiar carols for all present to sing. This concert is the last stop of the choir's final tour that is taking place at churches across New England this December. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit magdalen.edu/concert.

Nashua Regional Penance Service

St. Joseph the Worker Church
West Hollis Street, Nashua, NH

Sunday, December 10 @ 2:00 PM

Many priests from Nashua area parishes will be available to hear confessions from 2:00 PM onward. This is a great opportunity to receive the Lord's forgiveness in preparation for Christmas. People may choose to make their confessions anonymously or face-to-face.

Christmas Mass Schedule

2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23

4:00 PM

Confessions

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 24

7:00 AM & 9:30 AM

Confessions

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Vigil Mass of Christmas

Sunday, December 24

4:00 PM

Confessions **3:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

In the past, this Mass has always been the largest and attended by families with children. The Mass will include music and the blessing of the Nativity scene.

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25

7:00 AM Cantor

Church will open @ 6:30 AM

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**9:30 AM Organ & Choir**

Confessions **9:00 AM – 9:30 AM**

Church will open @ 8:45 AM



## *Victims or Martyrs?*

On December 8, 2018, the *New York Times* carried an article about the beatification of 19 Trappist monks killed in Tibherine, a remote Algerian town in the 1990's. Though the article was largely positive, the headline in the *New York Times* was completely wrong. It declared: "Algeria Honors Catholic Victims of Its 'Black Decade.'" These 19 monks were not victims; they were martyrs. The difference is huge.

Victims get killed randomly and involuntarily. For example, people killed in airplane clashes, tsunamis, fires, and epidemics happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. *Martyrs*, by contrast, differ fundamentally from *victims*. Whereas, victims randomly *lose* their lives, martyrs freely *give* their lives. As such, the death of a martyr is always a glorious *victory*, never a *defeat*. Moreover, martyrs never retaliate. On the contrary, they constantly plead the cause of their own executioners. "*Father, forgive them. They know not what they do.*"

Contemporary people, including many Catholics, tend to repeat the error of the *Times* by turning the true meaning of martyrdom on its head. Jean-Luc Marion, the preeminent French Catholic philosopher of our time, pointed to this trend in *Believing in Order to See* (2017). He warned that "*radical testimony — martyrdom*" will retain its power "*provided that it does not amount to a military act but is offered as an effect of the Spirit.*" To many, these martyrs appear as a few more unfortunate casualties in the global war against terrorism. Even worse, others use the death of such martyrs as justification for killing the killers. Such secular responses, however, grossly degrade the beauty and spiritual power of martyrdom; the secular response represents the triumph of "worldly wisdom" over the Spirit of God.

Consider the seven Trappist monks among the 19 martyrs beatified on December 8. Despite pleas from the Algerian security services to leave, and despite the high probability of being killed by terrorists, the seven monks decided to remain in their small and defenseless monastery. They also adamantly refused the Algerian army's offer of armed guards. Was their decision suicidal and insane? Perhaps. But if they had returned to France or had heavily fortified their monastery, they all would have eventually died peacefully in their own warm beds. Not a bad outcome at all. Except that they would have deprived the Church and the entire world of "*radical testimony — martyrdom.*" Who can dare calculate the value of martyrdom as opposed to the temporary security offered by the Algerian state?

The Church's calculation, which became settled in earliest time, is quite clear about this: Within the liturgy, martyrs have always enjoyed the highest rank among the hierarchy of the saints, exceeding every other class of sanctity. (Note: The Blessed Virgin Mary, enjoys the title Queen of Martyrs because of her unique sharing in the Passion of Christ.) Indeed, it took the Church 500 years to accept non-martyrs into the saintly ranks. The *New York Times* unfortunately transformed the holy martyrs into hapless victims.

On May 18, 2010, a movie called "*Of Gods and Men*" appeared. It depicted the agonizing discussions among the monks of Tibherine: Do we give medical care to terrorists? Do we use our bodies to shield Islamic neighbors? Do we remain in a remote Algerian town until brutal killers arrive? During Advent, watch the movie. You will see the vast difference between martyrdom and victimhood, God's ways and our ways.

*Fr. Michael Kerper*

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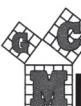
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