

## PARISH PERSONNEL

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(603) 788-2083

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Kathi Marshall

Phone: (603) 788-2083 Fax: (603) 788-5553

### FAITH FORMATION COORDINATORS

Susan Tibbetts (802) 892-6170

Diane Caruso (603) 991-4096

E-mail: gohfaithformation@aol.com

### FINANCE COUNCIL CHAIR

Tyler Rancourt (603) 244-6616

### PASTORAL COUNCIL CHAIR

Bob Rutherford (603) 846-9896

### PARISH TABERNACLE SOCIETY

Sandra Doolan, *President* (603) 788-3315

### PARISH CATHOLIC WOMEN'S GROUP

Carrie Morrill, *President* (603) 869-3172

Susan Aste, *Secretary* (603) 837-7043

### MEN OF SAINT JOSEPH

Kurt Hall (*Tuesday p.m. group*) (603) 837-2829

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Ben Pellerin (*Grand Knight*) (603) 244-9858

### RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Susan Tibbetts, *Facilitator* (802) 892-6170

### BOY SCOUTS

Kenneth King, *Scout Master* (603) 636-5150

### CUB SCOUTS

Bill Rutherford, *Cubmaster* (603) 837-9895

### PARISH BOOKSTORE/GIFT SHOP

Ruby Berryman, *Manager* (603) 631-3608

## SACRAMENTS

### RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Saturdays 3:00 p.m. — 3:45 p.m. (*St. Matthew Church*)

Thursdays 5:30 p.m. (*All Saints Church*)

By appointment with the pastor  
(*please call the rectory*).

### BAPTISM/MARRIAGE

Call the rectory for arrangements.

(For weddings please call at least six months  
in advance of planned wedding date.)

### COMMUNION/ANointing THE SICK

Due to privacy laws priests must be asked by family members to visit parishioners in the hospital or nursing home. Please advise us of those in need of the Church's ministry, whether they are homebound or have been hospitalized. We are happy to bring the Eucharist to those who cannot get out and attend Mass. And if someone is ill or declining in health the pastor is happy to come to their home, anoint them and bring them Holy Communion.

Please call the rectory, and we will make these arrangements for you.

### CEMETERY ARRANGEMENTS

You are always welcome to make arrangements for your eventual burial. Three of the parish's four cemeteries have sites to lease. Please call the rectory to ask about end-of-life preparations.

### CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR

Kathi Marshall (603) 788-2083

### CALVARY CEMETERY SEXTON

John Brooks (603) 788-4030

### ST. MATTHEW/ST. MARGARET CEMETERY SEXTON

Don Doolan (603) 788-3315

## Welcome to Gate of Heaven Parish

To every traveler who comes through our towns and stops to visit in one of our churches we say, "Welcome, friend, come and worship with us." You can join us at All Saints Church, Saint Agnes Church, Saint Matthew Church or Saint Patrick Church. We are all one family, and you are welcome at our table. If you plan to move on, we pray you safe travel. If you plan to stay we hope you find peace and fulfillment. Regardless of your situation, we thank you for stopping in to join your hearts and hopes with ours as we pray in our Father's House!

### IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

**All Saints Rectory:** (603) 788-2083

**All Saints Fax:** (603) 788-5553

**All Saints Church Hall:** (603) 788-4277

**St. Matthew Rectory:** (603) 837-2558

**Catholic Charities** (*Berlin*): (603) 752-1325

**Catholic Charities** (*Littleton*): (603) 444-7727

**Pathways Pregnancy**

**Care Center** (*Littleton*): (603) 444-3991

### Parish Website

[www.gateofheavennh.org](http://www.gateofheavennh.org)

### Diocesan Website

[www.catholicnh.org](http://www.catholicnh.org)

### Catholic Charities Website

[www.nh-cc.org](http://www.nh-cc.org)

### PARISH BULLETIN

If you or someone you know is homebound, call the rectory so you can receive the parish bulletin at home. If you head south for the winter, let us know. We can get it there as well!

*Please consider remembering our parish in your will.*



## 3rd Sunday Of Advent

December 17, 2017

### This Weekend

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16**

(3rd Sunday of Advent: Purple vestments)

**4:00 P.M.** (St. Matthew) Mary Elizabeth Maher  
by her daughter-in-law

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

(3rd Sunday of Advent: Purple vestments)

**8:00 A.M.** (St. Matthew) Matthew Houghton  
by the Catholic Women's Group

**10:30 A.M.** (All Saints) Gate of Heaven parishioners

**5:00 P.M.** (All Saints) Charles Merrill MacKinnon  
by Walter J. Barden

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

(Purple vestments)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

(Purple vestments)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

(Purple vestments)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

(St. Peter Canisius, priest and Doctor of the Church: Purple vestments)

**5:00 P.M.** (All Saints) Bill Morgan and Richard Bartashy  
by the Morgan family

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

(Purple vestments)

**7:30 A.M.** (St. Matthew) David S. Dana by the Quigley family

### 4th Sunday of Advent

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

(4th Sunday of Advent: Purple vestments)

**4:00 P.M.** (St. Matthew) Arthur & Dora Bourassa  
by their daughters

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

(3rd Sunday of Advent: Purple vestments)

**8:00 A.M.** (St. Matthew) Kathy Saffian by Judy Monbleau

**10:30 A.M.** (All Saints) Sister Jennifer Nadeau by a parishioner

**NO 5:00 P.M. MASS DUE TO CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**

Advent

### Daily Readings

December 18—December 24, 2017

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Jeremiah 23: 5-8 / Matthew 1: 18-25
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a / Luke 1: 5-25
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	Isaiah 7: 10-14 / Luke 1: 26-38
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Songs 2: 8-14 / Luke 1: 39-45
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	1 Samuel 1: 24-28 / Luke 1: 46-56
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	Malachi 3: 1-4, 23-34 / Luke 1: 57-66
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 / Romans 16: 25-27 / Luke 1: 26-38

### YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING

Weekend of December 9-10, 2017

OFFERTORY:	\$
E-GIVE:	\$
	\$

**\$4,763.00 NEEDED WEEKLY TO MEET OUR BUDGET.**

Figures were not available at print time. Will update next time!

(There is no second collection next weekend, December 23-24.)

Thank you so much for your support of our parish!!

### SANCTUARY CANDLE

During the month of December the sanctuary candle at All Saints Church will burn to designate the place of Christ's repose in loving memory of **Roger & Berthe Choquette** as requested by *their family*. At St. Agnes Church the candle will burn in loving memory of **Sheryl Doolan** and **Daniel Stiles**, requested by *Don & Sandra Doolan*. At St. Matthew Church the candle will burn in loving memory of **Theresa Grimard Belanger Stevens** by her daughter *Pauline Chapman* and *Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Belanger*.



## ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Fr. Matt will be making himself available before and after certain Masses this weekend (December 16-17). In addition to the regular times for Confession, on Saturday, December 16, Fr. Matt will be available in St. Matthew Church at 5:00 p.m. immediately following Saturday's Mass. Sunday morning, December 17, he will remain following the 8:00 a.m. Mass to hear confessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. He will also stay following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at All Saints. While he will not be available **after** the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, he will hear confessions prior to Mass, at 4 p.m.

## DO YOU USE OFFERING ENVELOPES?

This year our parish updated our database of parishioners through a new company. When we made that change ten envelope numbers came through without a name. I want to assure you that your donations came through fine—but now we simply have the envelope number and the annual giving history. In order to make sure you receive your giving statement for tax purposes, please check the following list of envelope numbers. If one of them is yours, please call the rectory to let us know (788-2083), so we can make sure your statement gets to the right place for tax time. Thanks so much for your help!

20 31 37 55 61 63 73 133 136 167

## SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ENVELOPES . . .

This was clearly not a good year for envelopes! In late October this year the computer I use in the office suffered a nervous breakdown and was out of use for several weeks. Due to the down time, the schedule for offertory and second collections for next year went to the printer much later than usual. Unfortunately your offering envelopes won't arrive at your door until the middle of January. I apologize for this inconvenience and hope you put your donation into an envelope and write your number on the front of it. Thank you so much for your patience—I really appreciate it.

## OUR NEW WEEKLY BULLETIN

We are preparing to launch our new weekly bulletin shortly after the beginning of the New Year. We hope you will support this effort by continuing to advertise with us. Now your ads will be in full color, on glossy paper, and your ad will also appear online where the bulletin is posted. Your support means so much to us. Thank you for continuing to help!!

# SCHEDULED EVENTS

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

3:00 P.M. Confessions (*St. Matthew Church*)  
5:00 P.M. Advent Confessions (*St. Matthew Church*)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

9:00 A.M. Advent Confessions (*St. Matthew Church*)  
9:15 A.M. Faith Formation Grades K-5 (*All Saints church hall*)  
11:30 A.M. Advent Confessions (*All Saints Church*)  
11:30 A.M. Pageant Practice (*All Saints Church*)  
4:00 P.M. Advent Confessions (*All Saints Church*)  
6:00 P.M. NO Youth Ministry (*All Saints church hall*)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

(**Rectory Office Closed**)

6:00 P.M. Knight of Columbus Meeting (*St. Matthew rectory*)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

11 A.M.-5 P.M. Eucharistic Adoration (*St. Matthew Church*)  
5:30 P.M. Praying the Rosary (*St. Leo's Church, Lunenburg, VT*)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

(**Rectory Office Closed**)

1 P.M.-2 P.M. Eucharistic Adoration (*All Saints Church*)  
5:30 P.M. COMMUNITY DINNER (*All Saints church hall*)  
8:00 P.M. Alcoholics Anonymous (*All Saints church hall*)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

(**Rectory Office Closed**)

10:00 A.M. Nursing Home Mass (*Country Village, Lancaster*)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

3:00 P.M. Confessions (*St. Matthew Church*)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

9:15 A.M. NO Faith Formation Grades K-5 (*All Saints church hall*)  
4:00 P.M. Christmas Pageant (*All Saints Church*)  
6:00 P.M. NO Youth Ministry (*All Saints church hall*)

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 (Christmas Day)

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER  
(*All Saints church hall*)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

(**Rectory Office Closed**)

6:00 P.M. Catholic Women's Group Meeting (*St. Matthew rectory*)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

11 A.M.-5 P.M. Eucharistic Adoration (*St. Matthew Church*)  
5:30 P.M. Praying the Rosary (*St. Leo's Church, Lunenburg, VT*)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

1 P.M.-2 P.M. Eucharistic Adoration (*All Saints Church*)  
3:00 P.M. Cenacle of St. Monica (*St. Matthew sacristy*)  
5:30 P.M. COMMUNITY DINNER (*All Saints church hall*)  
8:00 P.M. Alcoholics Anonymous (*All Saints church hall*)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

(**Rectory Office Closed**)

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

3:00 P.M. Confessions (*St. Matthew Church*)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 (New Year's Eve)

9:15 A.M. NO Faith Formation Grades K-5 (*All Saints church hall*)  
6:00 P.M. NO Youth Ministry (*All Saints church hall*)



# ADVENT-CHRISTMAS

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## *4th Sunday of Advent Obligation*

Saturday, December 23

4:00 p.m. (*St. Matthew*)

Sunday, December 24

(Christmas Eve Day)

8:00 a.m. (*St. Matthew*)

10:30 a.m. (*All Saints*)

## *Christmas Eve*

Sunday, December 24

4:00 p.m. (*All Saints*)

7:00 p.m. (*St. Matthew*)

9:00 p.m. (*St. Agnes*)

## *Christmas Day*

Monday, December 25

(Christmas Day)

8:00 a.m. (*St. Patrick*)

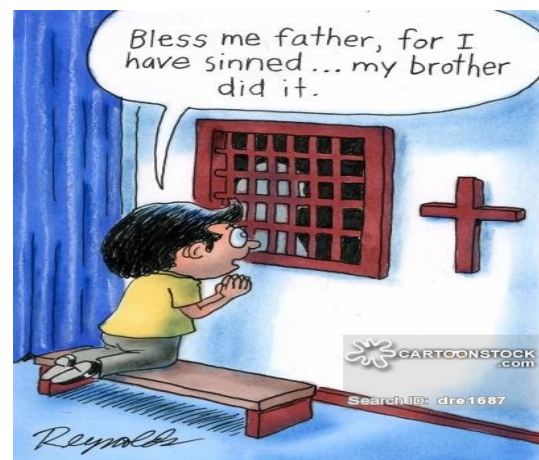
10:30 a.m. (*All Saints*)

Since Christmas falls on a Monday this year, the Masses for your regular Sunday obligation (for the 4th week of Advent) will follow the regular weekend Mass schedule with the exception of the 5:00 p.m. Sunday evening Mass. Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. begins the Christmas Eve worship schedule, so there will be no 5:00 p.m. Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The FREE Gate of Heaven Christmas Dinner is on again for this year! Monday, December 25, all those who are hungry for a great meal, hungry for some company, or just hungry to share the “Good News” with others this Christmas season, are all invited to a delicious treat of turkey, ham, stuffing, potatoes, veggies, desserts and beverages to enjoy!! And there is NO CHARGE! In order to make this incredible meal a success for the whole community (we serve 300 or more!), the Gate of Heaven elves need some help here and there. They need turkeys and hams, and they need you to cook them before you deliver them. They also need green beans, corn, chicken broth, pickles, butter, milk and cranberry sauce. If you’re the baking type, we’d love some desserts—cakes, cookies, pies, etc. That would help a great deal! If you don’t cook, but would like to help by donating toward the cost of the dinner that’s great too! You can send donations to Don & Sandra Doolan at 17 Hill Street, Lancaster,

NH 03584. If you have questions call them at 788-3315. If you’d like to help serve Christmas Day, or help set up the hall, or take down tables afterward, we’d love the help. You can either show up on Christmas Day and we’ll put you to work, or call Sandra to see where they need the most help. Thank you all!

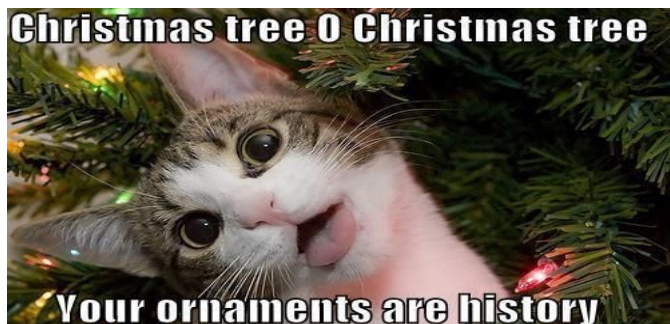


### A NOTE TO E-GIVE DONORS

Your weekly contributions to the parish are kept track of automatically once you describe your giving instructions to the E-Give web site. E-Give contracted a separate company to keep its donor records. This year they opted to keep those records themselves. Due to this change, which occurred at the end of June, the company that had the list of donor records, forwarded them to the parish. That means you will be receiving two statements of your 2017 giving history. In January you will go online as you ordinarily would and print out your donations. That list will only reflect donations you made beginning July 1, 2017. You will be receiving a giving statement from the rectory office in the next couple weeks that will have your giving history for January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Those two statements, added together, will give you your total giving sum for the year. Next year everything should go back to normal!

### ADVENT REFLECTION

The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas). On this, the third Sunday of Advent we celebrate "Gaudete" Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice." And so how do you rejoice? Is it the quiet moment you have to yourself before the kids come home from school? Is it finding that perfect gift for someone you love—the one you have been searching for ever since you can remember? Is it the joy you feel knowing you live in a country that is free and allows you to worship God as you choose? Perhaps you find joy in the quiet moments following Holy Communion at Mass—the moments you get to reflect without being interrupted. Whether it's the warm hug from a spouse, the "thank you" from a teenager, or the quick kiss of a child, rejoice in it! And rejoice in God's promise, the promise that John the Baptist points to by announcing the coming of Jesus Christ!



### WEEKLY READINGS

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

Psalm Luke 1: 46-48, 49-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8, 19-28



Today's readings continue the preparation theme we heard in the previous two weeks of Advent. But now the focus shifts somewhat to the joy that awaits us in God's coming Kingdom. This Sunday is Gaudete (Latin, "rejoice") Sunday or, as Pope Francis calls it, the Sunday of Joy.

In today's first reading the prophet writes about the mission conferred upon him by God—to bring glad tidings to the lowly and to heal the broken hearted—and about the joy he experiences in God who clothes him in justice and salvation. Early Christians appropriated this text to describe Jesus mission (see Luke 4: 18-19). By virtue of our Baptism in Christ, this ought to be our mission as well. As the prophet suggests, there is no greater joy than doing God's work.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist as the one who testifies or gives witness to the Light who is coming into the world (John 1:8). We can rejoice because he is the Light that darkness cannot overcome! As the story unfolds we see John testifying on Jesus' behalf before the priests and Levites of Jerusalem and declaring that Jesus is already among them, though they do not recognize him. John declares he is lower than the lowest household servant by comparison to Jesus, the revealer of God. This is cause for great joy!

On the theme of joy the Church has wisely paired these two readings with a reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. Paul admonishes us to always live in joy, praying and giving thanks because this is God's will for us. Everything we do and say should be inspired by this Spirit as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Carefully read and reflect on today's First Reading. What makes the prophet's call to mission and the work it demands a source of joy? How does this reading relate to your own sense of mission?
2. Where do you see Jesus already in our midst today? Describe the joy that this knowledge brings to you.
3. What does it mean to you to always live in joy?