

OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST. JOSEPH

20 RIVER RD. PITTSFIELD, NH 03263/844 FIRST NH TRNPK (RT4) NORTHWOOD, NH 03261

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT, DECEMBER 12, 2021



"HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE."
- LK 3:16

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays Our Lady of Lourdes:
Tue. 12 PM, Wed. - Fri. 8 AM

Saturdays
Our Lady of Lourdes: 4 PM

Sundays
Our Lady of Lourdes: 8 AM
Saint Joseph's: 10 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. John MacKenzie, - Pastor
Jeannie Garcia - Religious Ed Coord.
Ellen Barbasso - Secretary

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8AM-12PM

PHONE LISTING

Rectory 603-435-6242
Religious Ed. Ctr. St. Joseph
603-942-8716

Fax 603-435-5531

Email Parish
ololstjoseph@metrocast.net
Website

ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org

Email CCD stjgar@outlook.com

NH Catholic Charities
1-800-562-5249



READING

3rd. Sunday in Advent
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WELCOME TO OUR PARISH !

We pray that you enjoy celebrating with us this weekend. Whether you are new to the community or live here, know that you are invited to join our Parish family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Father after Mass. You may register with us by dropping in or calling our rectory during the week at 435-6242.

If you are just visiting for the weekend, we hope you enjoy your visit with us and consider us your "home away from home".

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 11

4PM Ralph & Marie Capotosto by Steve Noguera OL

5:30PM No Mass

Sunday December 12

8AM For Our Parishioners OL

10AM Donald Graves by his Loving wife Janet SJ

WEEKDAY MASSES

Mon. Dec. 13 8AM No MASS

Tues. Dec. 14 Noon Rev. George Majka OL

Wed. Dec. 15 8AM Marilyn Riel OL

Thurs. Dec. 16 8AM Stephen Downs (living) OL

Fri. Dec. 17 8AM Healing for Janice Riel OL

Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 18

4:00PM Krystal Barbasso by Eric Barbasso OL

5:30PM No Mass SJ

Sunday, December 19

8:00AM For Our Parishioners OL

10:00AM Janice Michaud by Fr. John and
David Miner by Gloria Hartgen SJ

Month of December altar candles at St. Joseph are in honor of Baby Jesus by the Little Blessings Pre-School.

Lay Ministries	December 11/12	December 18/19
4PM	Ellen Barbasso	Donna Brown
5:30 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM	Charlie Hauck	Karen Cote
10 AM	Jennifer Klingensmith	Rob Rodler

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 3 PM

BAPTISM

Families must be registered parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Joseph's. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Couples must contact the rectory at least six months before intended date to fulfill preparation requirements.

Parish Ministries

Serving God, Our Parish and

Our Parish Community

Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Joseph's Church Parish Center

- **Interfaith Community Kitchen**
- **Monday Meals** – Drive up take-out
- dinners are offered every Monday at 4:30
- **The Clothes Closet** – Free clothing for men, women, and children. Open: on Mondays 3:30-4:30, Thursdays 11:00-Noon, and during food pantry hours or by appointment
- **The Northwood Emergency Food Pantry** – Please stop by for our monthly schedule.

**Weekly amount needed to meet
Budget Requirement: \$ 4,000**

**Weekend Dec. 5: \$3,580
Snow Plowing: \$1,166**

We are, as always, very grateful for all who share, in a generous way, their Time, Talent and Treasure.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!” (Phil 4:4)

Question of the Week

Can you recall an experience of God's presence that made you especially joyful?

His Word Today

What makes you happy? Where do you find your joy? In what do you rejoice? These are serious questions, and for many people today they are not easy to answer. Much in our culture promises joy but fails to deliver. According to the Bible, the origin and object of true joy is God. The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, from *gaudeo*, one of the Latin words for “rejoice.” The title comes from the first word in today's reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

In the Old Testament reading for Gaudete Sunday, the prophet Zephaniah (seventh century B.C.) proclaims that God will show mercy to the faithful among his people and deliver them from the day of judgment and doom. He urges these people to shout for joy and to sing joyfully in response. The reason for their joy is that “the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.”

Today's New Testament readings look to even greater occasions of joy in connection with the various comings (or advents) of Christ. In Luke 3, John the Baptist points forward to Jesus' coming on the public stage as the one mightier than he is, as the one who will bring a baptism with the Holy Spirit and will represent a new phase in the full coming of God's kingdom. In Philippians 3, Paul urges joy at the first coming of Christ (“rejoice in the Lord always”) and looks forward with joy to the second coming of Christ (“the Lord is near”). Here the origin and object of joy are found in God's action for us through Jesus the Son of God.

Joy is an emotion evoked by good fortune, success or well being. But emotions need direction and follow-through, if they are not to pass as quickly as they come. Today's New Testament readings remind us that the joy evoked by God's presence in Christ demands a response. In the reading from Luke, John the Baptist urges various groups to put their joy at the coming kingdom of God into practice by sharing their possessions with others (the crowds) and by treating people fairly and honestly (tax collectors and soldiers). Paul urges his beloved Philippians to give thanks to God, to offer prayers and petitions to God and to find their peace and confidence in God. He reminds them that God's peace, which surpasses human understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Father John's Jottings

It seems to many that the true spirit of Christmas disappeared from American life some time ago. The traditional manger, with shepherds and angels adoring the infant Savior, is no longer seen in department store windows, and when one appears in a public space, it quickly becomes an occasion for litigation. Offering the traditional greeting “Merry Christmas” has become an affirmative act of Christian self-identification. In advertising and casual conversation it has been replaced by “Happy Holidays.” All the religious feasts of the season are being swallowed up in a consumerist frenzy of holiday shopping. The biblical Christmas stories have been replaced by “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” and “Frosty the Snowman.” It would be comforting, of course, if the wider culture re-enforced our faith and if pious Christian customs, like manger scenes and caroling, had broader appeal.

Knowing that every person shares in the grace of the Incarnation, how should we celebrate? Let us rejoice that God is with us, not just at Christmas but at all times, and that there is no corner of the world in which Christ is not present. Our hearts will tell us what to do next. It is in our service of the world, in our defense of human rights, in the promotion of forgiveness and the fostering of unity among peoples that the power of the Incarnation courses through today's world.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve :

4:00 pm Saint Joseph

6:00 pm Our Lady of Lourdes

Christmas Day

8:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

10:00 am Saint Joseph

New Years Day

8:00 am Our Lady of Lourdes

4:00 pm Our Lady of Lourdes



GOSPEL

Today John the Baptist is visiting your church. You ask him, "What should my family do to serve God?" He answers, "If you have two winter coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." You tell him, "I can give away a coat and a pair of shoes that's too small for me. I can share a can of carrots from our shelf at home."

PRAYER

Help me share what I have with others, Lord.

GROWING WITH THE *Gospel* CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



3rd Sunday of Advent • Luke 3:10-18



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Our Parish Knights of Columbus Council wishes to thank everyone who donated to our recent , K of C Money for Food Gift Cards Drive..

Your generous support raised \$3,000.00 to purchase gift cards for four local food pantries . . . Your kindness is making a difference to people in need. Again THANK YOU!

Little Blessings Learning Center at St. Joseph's Church in Northwood is seeking a nurturing, caring, patient, and dependable Assistant Preschool Teacher. Full or part time. No experience necessary. Training and optional tuition assistance available for those who are interested in furthering their education in the early childhood education field. Pay rate is \$10-\$12 per hour based on education and experience. Your child age 2+ may attend with you at no cost. Northwood bus transports to/from our Center. Please contact Gina for additional information at 603-817-3571.





Holy Family Bookstore

Advent candles, wreaths, calendars, and activities for children, are available in the Holy Family Bookstore located in the Parish Center. Please stop by after the 10:00 Sunday Mass or shop at our gift table in the entryway of St. Joseph's

Religious Education

Jeannie Garcia, Coordinator.

Contact Phone: 942-8716 / 269-4143

Email: stjgar@outlook.com

Our Lady of Lourdes/St Joseph's Faith

Formation: ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org.



Pray for Healing::

Lord Jesus Christ , Our Divine Physician

We ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus Covid 19 and all its variants and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those who are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace.

May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin far more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen Pedro de la Cruz



Christmas Cheer! Cookie Project!

The Interfaith Community Kitchen invites holiday bakers to donate two dozen of their favorite homemade Christmas cookies for our Christmas Cheer Cookie Project. We are hoping to make 25 containers for our dinner guests with 15 festive cookies per container for a total of 375 cookies!

**Cookie drop off time: Sat and Sun,
Dec 11 & 12, 10-noon**

**Cookie wrap up time: Sunday, Dec 12,
11:15-12:15** (a few volunteers are needed to package cookies)

A sign-up sheet to donate, or volunteer, will be available at both churches.

