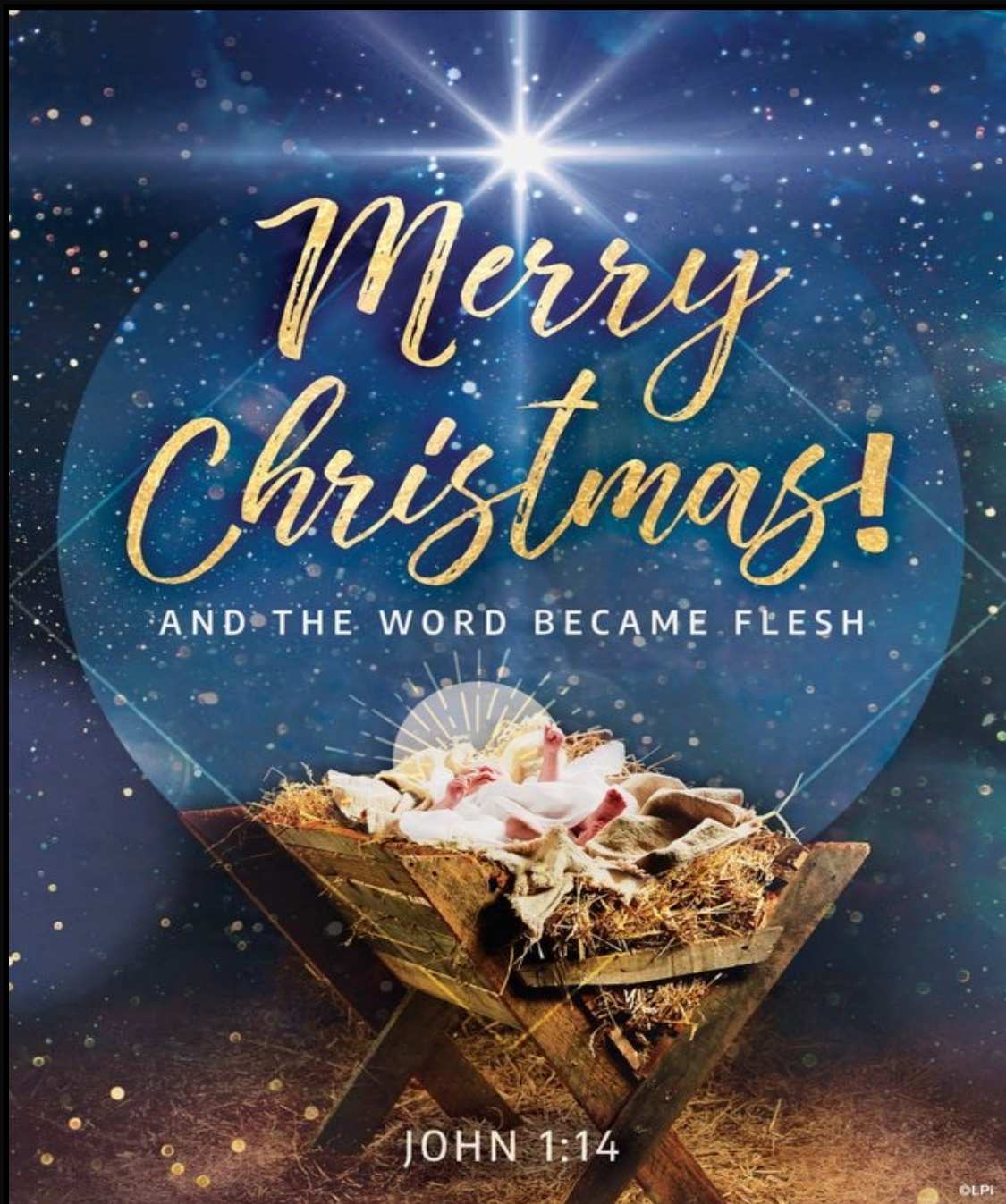


OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST. JOSEPH

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

DECEMBER 24, 2023



Mass Schedule

Weekdays: Our Lady of Lourdes Tues. -10AM & Wed.-Fri.8AM

Saturdays: Our Lady of Lourdes -4PM &

St. Joseph-5:30PM (Memorial Day-Labor Day)

Sundays: Our Lady of Lourdes 8AM & St. Joseph 10AM

Baptism

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

Marriage

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

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 23

4:00pm For Our Parishioners OL

5:30pm No Mass OL

Sunday, December 24

8am Henry Stapleton by the Couch & Hillsgrove Families OL

10am Alfonsas & Apolionija Valatkaitis by the Pauliukonis Family SJ

5pm Christmas Eve Mass Barbara Bailey by Tom & Sue Bosiak SJ

Weekday Masses

Monday 8am Christmas Day Dec.25 For Our Parishioners OL

Monday 10am Christmas Day Robert Dean Poirier by Irene Allen SJ

Tues. Dec.26 10am (TBA) OL

Wed. Dec.27 8am (TBA) OL

Thurs. Dec.28 8am Janice Michaud OL

Fri. Dec.29 8am (TBA) OL

Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 30

4pm Donald Graves by Janet Graves OL

5:30pm No Mass

Sunday, December 31

8am For Our Parishioners OL

10am Intentions of Janet Graves by Ellen Barbasso SJ

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

Immaculate Conception: \$698

December 10: \$3,421

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$1,650

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

Lay Ministries	Dec. 23/24	Dec.30/31
4:00 PM	Dianne Bird	Ben Brown
5:30 PM	No Mass	No Mass
8 AM	Karen Cote	Charlie Hauck
10:00 AM	Jennifer Klingensmith	Teresa Bascom

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John B. MacKenzie Pastor

Jeannie Garcia Religious Ed. Coord.

Ellen Barbasso Secretary

OFFICE HOURS MON.—FRI. 8AM-12PM

PHONE LISTINGS

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

Catholic Charities: 1-800-562-5249

DIVINE MERCY MILITIA

Please join us every Thursday evening beginning at 5:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church as we pray for our nation, our Church, our parish, and our world.

Concludes with Benediction.



**Parish
Online
Giving Code**



READINGS

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

41

“The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father” (Luke 1:32)

How has God's promise to David been fulfilled in Jesus? What remains to be fulfilled?

HIS WORD TODAY

But you promised!" Most parents have heard this lament from their children more than once. A promise is a declaration that something will (or will not) happen. A promise indicates what may be expected. A promise demands and elicits trust.

The Scripture texts for the Fourth Sunday of Advent concern God's promise to David and its fulfillment in Jesus the Son of David. They feature two great Advent figures—King David and Mary the mother of Jesus, two persons who can be called "people of the promise." The theme of promise runs through the Bible from God's promises to Noah and Abraham in Genesis to the promise of the New Jerusalem in Revelation. In the development of this motif, God's promise to David that his "house" will endure forever is one of the high points.

The most obvious referent of God's promise to David was his son, Solomon. And we can easily imagine that Solomon and his successors pointed to the promise to David now in 2 Samuel 7 as the divinely guaranteed warrant for their rule. In this covenant God made a promise to David, "Forever I will confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations." God further promised to maintain his covenant fidelity ("kindness") and make the covenant with David stand firm.

At the heart of the narrative of the announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary is a reminder of God's promise to David, "The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of this kingdom there will be no end." The unlikely recipient of this promise is Mary of Nazareth, a young Jewish woman without a husband. She has to overcome her initial turmoil and confusion. She asks, "How can this be?" Given the sign of Elizabeth's, Mary accepts her pregnancy with John the Baptist mission with trust, "May it be done to me according to your word." Her willing response makes her a person of the promise to David.

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Advent remind us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings or even great kings like Solomon but rather in those, like Mary, who in the midst of turmoil and confusion trust in God's promise.

***Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace . . .***

***These words begin the third and final stanza of what is perhaps the most beloved Christmas hymn of all time.
Silent Night.***

Masterfully composed, yet simply put, it captures the "essence" of Christmas. In the radiance of an infant's holy face, all that the world needs and has longed for has been revealed; has been given.

May those "radiant beams" of "love's pure light," shine gently yet brightly on you this new night. And with Mary and Joseph, the angels and shepherds too, we sing with joyful hearts redeemed and made new:

***Jesus, Lord at thy birth. ..
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.***

***Merry Christmas to you all
Father John***

Parish Ministries

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-Noon, and during food pantry hours or by appointment.
The Northwood Emergency Food Pantry—Please stop by for our monthly schedule.

Serving God, Our Parish and Our Community.
Our Lady of Lourdes-St Joseph's Church Parish Center

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY
JOSEPH
HOLY SPIRIT

WEDDING
ANGEL
DREAM

BABY
JESUS
VIRGIN

V I R G I N T H W I S
J C S H U J O S E P H
D R E A M R W I D A O
S O B Y A O N U D G W
M E N G R W E A I S D
T B A B Y B M O N A E
R E N D R O I T G J O
S P G O H F J E S U S
K A E I V N A G M D L
H O L Y S P I R I T Y
S R H N E D L S E H A

MISSION

Saying "yes" to God takes practice. When your parents ask you to vacuum or set the table or take the garbage out, say "yes" to them.



GOSPEL

Mary and Joseph put all their trust in God. Once they found out what God wanted, they did it. God wanted Mary to have a special baby, and she said "yes" to God. God wanted Joseph to be a good husband and father, and Joseph said "yes" to God. When that special baby from God was finally born, Joseph named him Jesus. One day God would ask Jesus to save the world from sin on the cross, and Jesus would say "yes" to God.

PRAYER

God, help me to trust you and say "yes" to you.

GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE B

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



DRAW

Draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus.



**God needs priests. Is He calling you?
If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.**

First Friday Visits, 5:00 PM

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
558 South Ave., Weston, MA

January 12, 2024

Join the Seminary community either **virtually** or **in person**
for prayer & fellowship
Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

In Person: Dinner with the seminarians and a tour of the Seminary

RSVP or receive more information
Msgr. William Fay at 781-899-5500 ext. 134
msgr.fay@psjs.edu

www.psjs.edu

