

# Saint Patrick Catholic Church

34 AMHERST STREET  
MILFORD, NH 03055



## *MISSION STATEMENT*

*St. Patrick Roman Catholic Church is a welcoming community in a traditional and Eucharistic setting focused on prayer, service, and life-long faith formation on the values and teachings of Jesus Christ and His Church.*

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Saturday:** 4:00 P.M.

**Sunday:** 7:00 A.M.; 8:45 A.M.; 10:45 A.M. (Choir).

### **WEEKDAY MASSES:**

Monday, Thursday & Friday 7:30 A.M.

Wednesday 5:30 P.M. Mass, unless otherwise indicated.

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:** 7:30 A.M. & 5:30 P.M.

(Except Dec 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas & Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Mary, Mother of God).

**Parish Office: 673-1311**

**Fax: 673-3687**

**Faith Formation: 673-4797**

**Website: [saintpatrickmilfordnh.org](http://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org)**

## **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor**

*daudet52@gmail.com*

**Patti Hendrickson, Pastoral Associate:**

*pattih2015@comcast.net*

**Diane Bergeron, Secretary**

*diane.st.patoffice@gmail.com*

**Sue Pasquale, Faith Formation**

*re@saintpatrickmilfordnh.org*

**Pauline Nepveu, Accountant**

*pbnepveu@myfairpoint.net*

**Henry Kopczynskie, Music Director**

*saintpatmusic@gmail.com*

**Jerry Guthrie, Cemetery 672-1254**



The annual deanery Advent Penance Service is this Sunday, December 16th beginning at 2pm at St. Joseph Parish (777 W. Hollis St. Nashua) Multiple confessors on hand.



## **MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE HOLYDAYS!**

### **The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas**

**December 24, 2018 (Monday—Christmas Eve) 4:00 PM; 7:00 PM; 9:30 PM**

**December 25, 2018 (Tuesday - Christmas Morning) 10:00 AM**

### **The Blessed Virgin Mary - The Mother of God**

**December 31, 2018 (Monday—New Year's eve ) 5:30PM**

**January 1, 2019 (Tuesday - New Year's Day) 10:00 AM**

## *Third Sunday of Advent—December 16, 2018*

### DECEMBER 17-23, 2018

- MON. - 12/17 – Advent Weekday**  
 7:30AM - Francesca Brochu by Shane McGrath
- TUES. - 12/18 – Advent Weekday**  
 7:30AM - **NO MASS**
- WED. - 12/19 – Advent Weekday**  
 5:30PM - Georgina Velis by her daughter, Gisela
- THURS. - 12/20 – Advent Weekday**  
 7:30AM - *Fred Backhaus by Shawn McGrath*
- FRI. - 12/21 – St. Peter Canisius**  
 7:30AM - Julia Zund & Daniel Edwards by Josef Zund
- SAT—12/22 - Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 4:00PM - Laurette Ouellette by Joanne  
 —1st anniversary
- SUN. - 12/23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 7:00AM - Mary Clare Milan by her husband, John  
 8:45AM - All Souls  
 10:45AM - Members of the



### DEC 17-23, 2018

- Mon: 4:30PM—Adult Faith Formation with Fr. Dennis C/H
- Tues: 4:30PM—Faith Formation grades 1-5—SPC  
 7:00PM—Cribbage—C/H
- Wed: 4:30PM—Faith Formation grades 1-5—SPC  
 5:15PM—Evening Prayer—Church  
 5:30PM—Mass  
 6:05PM— Women’s Prayer Group—C/H
- Sat: 7:30AM—Men’s Prayer Group—SPC  
 3:00PM—Reconciliation— Church
- Sun: Coffee & Donut after all Masses  
 Noon—Choir Rehearsal—Church

#### Readings: 12/23/2018

- Mi: 5:1-4a  
 Heb: 10:5-10  
 Lk: 1:39-45



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in memory of Jane Pratt by Bettina Mace

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 22-23

- 4:00PM **Altar Servers:** Olivia & Jonathan R.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Laura D., Al B.  
**Lector:** Scott B.  
**Greeters:** Paul D., Bert D., Joanne O., Pauline N.
- 7:00AM **Altar Servers:** Jerry G.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Jeanne D. Kathy N. Sally W.  
**Lector:** Amy G.  
**Greeters:** Skip G., John M., Joe Z.
- 8:45AM **Altar Servers:** Morgan & Erin P., Stiles C.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sr. Marcelle, Sr. Juanita,  
 Jude L.  
**Lector:** Randy L.  
**Greeters:** Steve S., The Migneaults, Pat K.
- 10:45AM **Altar Servers:** Ron C.  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Kathy M., Joyce N.  
**Lector:** Vincent M.  
**Greeters:** Mark H., Mary L., MaryGrace D.

#### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Our Parish Community depends upon the participation of all our parishioners so that we may continue the mission of our parish and pay our expenses. The total weekly operating expense in our current budget totals 8,000.00 per week. Your regular weekly contribution to meet the budget is greatly appreciated.



#### WEEKEND OF: December 9, 2018

Parish Offering	Prior Year	This Year
From(160) Envelopes		\$4,816
Loose Offerings		\$2,150
<b>Total Sunday</b>	<b>\$7,709</b>	<b>\$6,966</b>

**Retired Religious: \$3,308**  
**Immaculate Conception: \$1,540**

# Faith Formation Ministry

## Faith Formation Classes Grades 1-5 from 4:30-5:30PM

**CLASSES WILL RESUME IN  
JANUARY**

## Grades 6-12 from 6-7:30PM



Look what's new with the Youth Group. Teens grade 6 and up including their parents are invited to join the group page on Facebook. Log into Facebook and look up Saint Patrick's Youth Group, Milford NH.

## **NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS**

– a weekly challenge from your Faith Formation team (12/15-16)

On Monday the Church begins the ancient tradition of praying the "O Antiphons," calling for the Lord to come to us under a different Old Testament title or image each day until Christmas Eve. Most of us know the O Antiphons from the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Can you remember (or find) the other six?



## Answer to Last Week Question:

The Immaculate Conception teaches that Mary was preserved by grace from Original Sin. That Jesus was conceived without a human father and that she remained a virgin all her life are also true but have nothing to do with the Immaculate Conception. And she is, of course, not a divine person.



Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola & fruit

**Can be dropped off at the SHARE office or in the Church Hall.** Thank you for your donations.

**The clothing barn is in need of children's sleepwear.**

## Envelope offering donations.

If you are not using the offering envelopes and would like to, call the Parish office and we will be happy to send you some.

## Pastoral Council Members

Chairperson: Chris Conard  
Peter Arnoldy, MaryGrace Duncan,  
Jerry Guthrie, Jude Lorman, Will  
McGrath, Irene Prunier, Tony Varga.

## **DAILY MASS**

Parishioners are now to be aware that if there is a weather-related cancellation or 2 hour delay announced by the Milford School System, there will be **no** Mass that morning. Official announcements of cancellations and delays will be made on the schools cancellations ribbon on WMUR - TV Channel 9. This policy is for the safety of parishioners and those who are responsible for snow removal.



If you would like to receive the weekly bulletin in an email. Send your email address to the parish office's email address: di-ane.st.patoffice@gmail.com and you will be added to our mailing list.



**Please remember in your prayers:**

Wendy Boucher, Mary Ann Hower, Jean Duffy, Ronald & Jean Rood, James Lyons family, Kathy Knowlton, Ron Lockwood, Connor Sillowy, Eva, Carolyn Hassett, Lyn, Bettina Mace, Vera Rasmussen, Karen Jarest, Marie Roccio, Donatella Fugaza, Thomas Burkardt, Ben & Anne Marie Yorio, Christina Ferguson, Donald Labonte, William, JoAnn & John, Gus Dreher, Dorothy Calogero, Tiffany Brown, Raymond Coté, Irene Dion, Eugene Callahan, Andrea, Sophia Lamarche, Janice, Brundage family, Genie Stone, Coralee Smart, Marie, Frances, Arlene, Georgian, Jeanne, Sue, Dennis Creedon, Paul Golch, John Foss, Rob Erickson, Jenny Ciotti, Maureen Corron, Dan Nelson, Denise Bergeron, Alice Creighton, Liz Richer, Luke LaVallee, John, Mike Paxton, Isabelle Miller, Marc Belanger, Alice De-necker, Helen R., Claudette Blais, Kim Beebe, Anne Ronsov, Jack Long, Beth Powers, Scott Dickin-son, Nenad Opjac, Jack Daniels, John Knott, Joseph Koprek, Bobby Holland, Lillie & Damien, Benjamin Smith, Patti Patenaude, Jeffrey Yorio, Lisa Yorio, Blanche Belanger, Cheryl Williams, Ken How-er, Jeff MacMartin, Margaret Nelson, Mindy Kane, Linda Lewis, Susan Yorio, Richard Copeland, Wayne Cormier, Robert Merley, Jeffrey Bryant, Crystal Heaney, Leah Stigliano, Philip McPhee, Wil- liam Thompson, Sammy Tinaglia, Ed Gartland, Joseph Sherlock, John Sullivan, Alice & Lloyd Eskins, Mary & Dick Almy, Steven Perez, Elda Paduano, Meaghan Pezze, and for the men and women who are serving our country.

**Join us for Advent Evening Prayer**

We will be celebrating Advent Evening Prayer on the Wednesday's of Advent at 5:15PM in the church on Dec 19..

**Gaudete! Rejoice! The Lord is near!**

During the Advent season the Lectionary readings present prophecies and exhortations about the Lord's coming. This week's readings ask the believing community to once again prepare the way for Jesus' incarnation.

Luke's gospel continues from last week. John the Baptizer gives specific instructions about *metanoia* (change of mind/heart) and describes the coming anointed one (messiah).

**“What should we do?”** The Baptizer's injunctions restate the Hebrew prophets' definition of true religion: *justice and charity proved by actions.*

— To the *crowds*, the Baptizer says, “Share what you have with those in need.” In the first century, a tunic or coat was not just clothing, but also shelter and a bed. Only a wealthy person owned more than two tunics, but John implies that even those who owned two tunics needed only one. From everyone the Baptizer demands *metanoia* proved by radical charity.

— To *tax collectors*, the Baptizer says, “Collect only your assigned share.” Tax collectors were universally hated, especially in Judea by religiously committed Jews, who viewed them as collaborators and sinners. The empire assessed taxes and regional tax-gatherers hired local agents to collect local taxes. If a local agent collected more than his assessed goal, he kept the difference. From those with financial authority, the Baptizer demands *metanoia* proved by justice.

— To *soldiers*, the Baptizer says, “Don't extort, don't blackmail; be satisfied with your pay.” In Jesus' time, Rome did not have a legion permanently stationed in Palestine. These “soldiers” were probably Judean men serving as Herod Antipas' military police. The Jewish people saw these soldiers as the most visible form of foreign occupa- tion and influence. The soldiers' position of power allowed them to shake down citizens and extort bribes to supple- ment their pay. For those with temporal authority, the Baptizer demands *metanoia* proved by charity and justice.

**A coming greater one.** Like many Jews of the first century, the Baptizer may have expected a messiah who would be a powerful political or military leader. In any case, he understands that the messiah will come to *judge every- one*. His extended image of winnowing (separating the wheat and chaff), saving the wheat in barns, and burning the chaff in “unextinguishable fire” underlines his urgent call to *metanoia*.

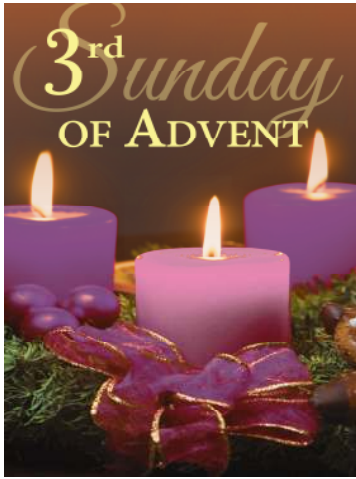
The *Gaudete Sunday* readings call the believing community to continued preparation and *metanoia* with a sense of joy: *The Lord is near*. Jesus has come in history and saved us. But as Paul and the Baptizer suggest, we still have work to do. Are we generous with those in need? Do we treat everyone fairly and honestly? Do we temper our authority with kindness and justice? Only then is our joy complete.

---Terence Sherlock

Read the full reflection and subscribe at: [LectionaryInContext.WordPress.com](http://LectionaryInContext.WordPress.com)



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent



“Shout for joy.” “Sing joyfully.” “Be glad and exalt with all your heart” (Zep 3:14). “Cry out with joy and gladness” (Is 12:6). “Rejoice” (Phil 4:4). “I shall say it again...” Paul adds helpfully, in case we haven’t gotten the picture by the second reading, “Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4).

Some of us may have an easier time with this list of imperatives than others. We may be celebrating the birth of a child, have found fulfilling work, feel God’s love and care, be surrounded by friends and family or simply be in a good mood. Today’s reading might confirm how we already feel, or give us the slight nudge we need into an emotion that seems natural.

Others might feel just the opposite. Separation from friends or family through death, absence or conflict; anxiety about health, finances or current events; a difficult prayer life; or mental health challenges such as anxiety or depression could make it seem nearly impossible to express or even feel any measure of joy or gladness.

How can we believe the first reading’s claim that God has defeated our enemies and we “have no further misfortune to fear” (Zep 3:15) or sing with the psalmist that we are “confident and unafraid” (Is 12:2)? How can we obey Paul’s instruction to “have no anxiety at all” (Phil 4:6) in the midst of the suffering and strife that is an inevitable part of life and that can sometimes be overwhelming?

Even the Advent season, with its general mood of longing, anticipation and hope, seems to bear out the intuition that rejoicing is premature. While the season is not depressing, as we look forward to Jesus’ birth and his second coming there is a definite feeling of unfulfillment and an understanding that we are still waiting, holding off on the celebration until Jesus arrives.

We are sometimes encouraged not to decorate until Christmas Eve and not to follow the secular trend of extending Christmas earlier and earlier, remembering that the festivities only start with Jesus’ birth.

Of course, the whole thing might seem a little silly from a certain point of view. It is absurd to be anxiously waiting for our Savior’s birth when we know it happened over 2,000 years ago. It is nearly as bad to excitedly anticipate the second coming as if it is imminent when we actually have no idea when it will be.

But that state of knowing Jesus is already here, even as we wait for him to arrive on Christmas, while recognizing in a sense that we will still be waiting even when December 25 arrives, embodies Christian life. It is only thrown into a little extra relief during Advent.

Jesus’ incarnation happened 2,000 years ago. He is always with us, and he has already conquered sin and death. Salvation, forgiveness and the power to live out God’s love toward others are already available to us.

Yet Jesus can feel distant or nonexistent. Jesus does not prevent suffering, sin and death. That is why we need the reminder to rejoice no matter how we are feeling. Whatever is going on in our lives, we still have reason for hope and joy.

In a very real way, we are still waiting to be released from evil and to experience the fullness of the kingdom of God. And so we also mourn, if not for ourselves than for others that are suffering, sorrowing or in the grips of sinful behavior.

But this week’s readings tell us that joy has the last word. In the Gospel, John the Baptist helps us prepare not for Jesus’ absence but for his coming. We should also remember that even John did not realize how close that joy was and had not recognized in fact that he already knew the Messiah. Maybe the same is true for us.

Fr. Dennis