



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

34 AMHERST STREET, MILFORD, NH 03055

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9-12 and 1-5pm. Closed at Noon on Friday

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.

Parish Office: 673-1311 Fax: 673-3687

Faith Formation: 673-4797

Website: 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

Christopher Maynard, Music Director

music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com

Jerry Guthrie, Cemetery

672-1254

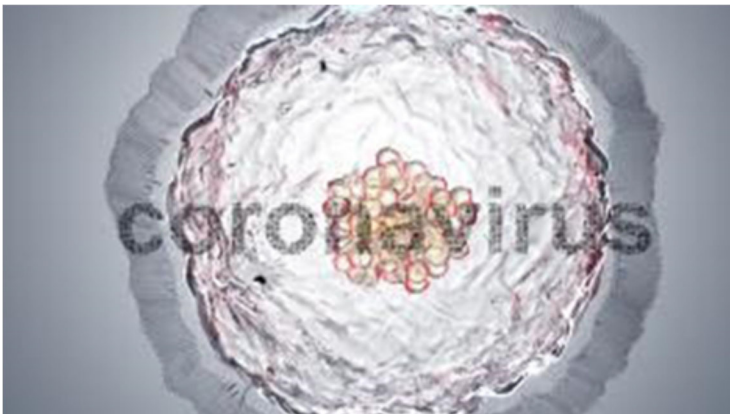
All are Welcome

No matter your present status in the Catholic Church;

No matter your family or marital status;

No matter where you are in the practice of faith;

You are always welcomed here at St. Patrick.



**Visit our website at:
saintpatrickmilfordnh.org
for more information and events
regarding the Coronavirus**



4th SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1988, 1979-CEB

FLP

4th Sunday in Lent – March 22, 2020

Mar 23-29, 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 23-29, 2020

MON - 3/23– St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

7:30AM - All Souls

TUES - 3/24–St. Oscar Romero

7:30AM - NO MASS

WED - 3/25– Annunciation of the Lord

5:30PM—All Souls

THURS - 3/26 - Lenten weekday

7:30AM - All Souls

FRI - 3/27 – Lenten Weekday (Abstinence)

7:30AM - All Souls

SAT - 3/28 - Vigil of the 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00PM - Jan Petrella by her husband, Bob

SUN - 3/29— 4th Sunday of Lent

7:00AM - Mary Cyr by Nancy Vieira & George Whelton by the breakfast group

8:45AM - Members of the Parish

10:45AM - Rose Brooks & Frank Young by Vesta Philbrick

**ALL MASSES WILL BE CELEBRATED BY
Fr. Dennis in private.**

ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES ARE POSPONED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO KEEP INFORMED

Reconciliation: Offered Wednesday 4:30-5:15pm &
Saturday: 2:45-4pm.

VOTIVE CANDLE A Votive Candle is a "silent sentinel," and your representative before our St. Patrick's Shrine. A Votive Light can burn for your special intentions or for someone who is in need of prayers. This is a thoughtful expression of your sentiments and best wishes for any occasion. And your Votive Candle is an act of faith and charity—the flame is a symbol of the sacrifice you have made in behalf of someone else—and it is a silent reminder of your prayers for them.

By burning a votive candle at St. Patrick's Shrine, you are giving true meaning by your intentions. Let it be your presence at the Shrine—your spiritual pilgrimage by which you come to beg the help of the Lord through the intercession of St. Patrick and to thank him for past favors he has granted you. Your candle will be like a prayer in time of need.

Readings: 3-29-2020

Ez: 37: 12-14
Rom: 8: 8-11
Jn: 11:1-45



The winners of the cake contest that was held at our Corned beef & cabbage meal are:

1st place: Kathy Esposito
2nd place: Katherine Pappas
3rd place: Zach Migneault



Thank you to all the volunteers that help make this event a success.

Weekend of March 15, 2020

Parish Offering	Prior Year	This Year
Budget From(92) Envelopes		\$2,792
Loose Offerings		\$1,314
Total Sunday	\$6,840	\$4,106

Facilities Repair \$1,802

E-giving is available to all parishioners. This is a safe and easy way to give to the parish. Go to our website saintpatrickmilfordnh.org under NEWS & EVENTS and scroll to "giving" then follow the instructions. This is very helpful for parishioners who want to give on a regular basis.

GIVE+ONLINE



SACRAMENTS:

Baptisms: We rejoice with parents at the birth of a new child. Parents are encouraged to initiate preparation for baptism prior to the child's birth. Call the Parish Office at 673-1311 for information and pre-baptism instruction.

Marriage: Weddings are a special time of joy and promise for a bride and a groom. Engaged couples are invited to contact the pastor personally (preferably 6-12 months) prior to the desired wedding date to begin their preparation. Couples should not make any commitment with a reception venue prior to the 1st meeting with the pastor.

Reconciliation: Individual confessions are held every Saturday from 3:00-3:45 P.M. in the reconciliation room at St. Patrick Church or during the week by personal appointment with the pastor.

Sacrament of the Sick: If you are anticipating surgery or experiencing health issues and would like to be strengthened with the Church's sacrament of healing and hope, please contact the pastor personally to arrange for the Anointing of the Sick.

**In the Diocese of Manchester, Mass is no longer available
to the general public until further notice.**

**FROM FR DENNIS – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020
REGARDING WEEKEND LITURGIES
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MARCH 21-22, 2020**

We are all monitoring the events and information regarding the *COVID-19 Virus*. The Bishop, the President our Governor have now all requested the cooperation of the American people that gatherings of more than 10 people are to be suspended so as not to spread this very contagious virus.

People have been asking for Bishop Libasci's personal directive regarding Sunday Mass attendance. Here is his answer as announced on Tuesday, March 17 ... St. Patrick's Day: *"Given the serious nature of the pandemic and the fact that Mass will not be available to the general public, the obligation is impossible to fulfill and so it is automatically lifted and cannot be binding. This is the official teaching of the Church."*

With that in mind, St. Patrick Staff has met and we have determined that our focus is first and foremost, the health, and well-being of all our parishioners.

Beginning this Saturday, March 21, I will continue to celebrate Masses but they will not be opened to the public (I will be celebrating Masses on your behalf at times of my choosing) in order to satisfy the intentions that have been requested and to meet my obligation to say a Sunday Mass for the People of the Parish.

While this is a drastic and unprecedented move, it will serve to allow all pastors to fulfill the directives of the Bishop that Masses and the Eucharist continue to be celebrated for the intentions of all the faithful and especially for the sick, while also remaining compliant with the firm directives set forth by our Bishop, the President and the CDC to suspend gatherings of more than 10 people.

ALSO

Beginning this Saturday, **THE CHURCH WILL BE OPENED FROM 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM DAILY – SUNDAY THRU SATURDAY** for people to come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. We ask all who come into the Church to practice "social distancing" so as to keep each other healthy. With this notice, I am publishing *PRAYERS BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE TABERNACLE* to help you pray in solidarity with our sisters and brothers throughout the world. St. Patrick, pray for us!

PRAYERS BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT IN THE TABERNACLE

“When we visit our churches outside of Mass and see the red glow of the sanctuary lamp we know that Jesus is there with us. The presence of the Eucharist in the tabernacle and during times of Adoration is a sign that Jesus silently and lovingly waits for us, always ready to receive and console us. May our prayers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament be a source of strength and peace until we can safely resume the celebration of Mass for all members of the Catholic community in our Archdiocese and all who would wish to join us at that time.”

*Cardinal Sean O’Malley
Archbishop of Boston*

TEXT OF POPE FRANCIS’ PRAYER TO MARY DURING THE CARONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you always shine our path as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the Cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to fasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our suffering and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the Cross to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace. We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good. In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you: Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana. Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

4th Sunday of Lent (A)



The Fourth Sunday of Lent in Cycle A gives us the second gospel reading from John in as many weeks. Last week, we read about the woman at the well.

Next week, is the raising of Lazarus from the dead. But this week, we have Jesus healing the man born blind. The story is masterfully and artfully complex yet succinct. Drama abounds and intrigue develops with each verse. Fundamental themes and metaphors such as light versus darkness, sight versus blindness, knowing versus not knowing, and more, including willful ignorance in the face of demonstrable evidence, all are woven together in this gospel passage that is the source of tremendous in-sight and wisdom.

The story opens with popular wisdom of the day expressed by the disciples. Basically, they ask, “Whose fault is it?” that the man is blind. Jesus rejects such attribution, which parallels the attitudes he expresses in the Gospel of Luke. It is not that bad things happen to bad people. Such thinking, which infects many religious and non-religious people, is not new in our day. Jesus is far removed from any “prosperity gospel” (good things happen to those who are good), as it might be understood today.

After Jesus heals this blind person, those who knew him could not believe their own eyes! Indeed, they said it was not the same person. Only when the man who was formerly blind says that he is one and the same do the onlookers ask how this happened. The situation escalates quickly to the Pharisees when the reader is informed that all of this took place on a Sabbath, a holy day on which no work is to be done. This theological riddle puzzled the Pharisees, who viewed Jesus as a sinner because he did not keep the Sabbath. Yet how could a sinner make the blind see? When faced with such testimony from the man who had been blind, who proclaimed Jesus a prophet, it seems best to deny the testimony! The story continues unfolding, as those who are considered learned deny straightforward evidence that is presented to them. Believing in Jesus would upend the worldview of those who profess to know the Scriptures and the ways of God.

Rather than see this only as an account of a sign that Jesus performed (Jesus performs “signs” rather than “miracles” in the Gospel of John), we would do well to ponder its application to us. How often do we reject plain evidence because it does not reconcile with what we “know” to be true? It is difficult to change one’s mind, especially if that means changing many other attitudes and thoughts as well.

In today’s gospel story, as in so many, Jesus takes the initiative. He creates cognitive dissonance in the minds and hearts of many, demanding that they make a decision for or against him. When do we face such encounters with Christ? What is our response? Do we deny what everyone can plainly see? Or do we undergo a change and enter into a new life with Christ? Giving up habits and ways of thinking can be difficult — especially when we change a way of thinking about something as central as religion, meaning, and purpose. With God, everything is possible!

Fr. Dennis

CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Lent is the most appropriate time to celebrate this sacrament of God’s merciful healing, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession)

WEDNESDAYS 4:15 - 5:15 PM

SATURDAYS 2:45—3:45 PM