



## 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](http://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org)**

#### **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor**

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**Visit our website at:  
[saintpatrickmilfordnh.org](http://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org)  
for more information and events  
regarding the Coronavirus**

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.

#### **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:**

**SATURDAYS 2:45—3:45 PM**



### 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live."

- Jn 11:25

**MARCH 30—April 5, 2020**

**MON - 3/30— Lenten weekday**

**Intention:** Margaret McGettigan by the family & Lillian Cullinan by Betty Barnard

**TUES - 3/31—Lenten weekday—NO MASS**

**WED - 4/1— Lenten weekday—Intention:** All Souls

**THURS - 4/2 - St. Francis of Paola—Intention:** George Whelton by the Breakfast Group

**FRI - 4/3 – Lenten Weekday (Abstinence)**

**Intentions -** Mary Clare Milan by her husband, John & Janos Kover by Vesta Philbrick

**SAT - 4/4 - Vigil of Palm Sunday—Intention:** Leonardo Carlo Lidgiane by Matthew Pare

**SUN - 4/5— Palm Sunday**

**Intention -** Grover Farwell by his wife, Lucile; Members of the Parish; Helen Marchocki by her daughter, Kathy

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

**FORMED**

First, go to our website [www.saintpatrickmilfordnh.org](http://www.saintpatrickmilfordnh.org) and register. Follow the directions given on the front page

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Study: Lectio: Salvation – Not Just a Legal Transaction

Kids: Brother Francis – Let's Learn about Lent

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scam Alert**

With the COVID-19 crisis, many fraudsters are taking advantage of our fears, creating fake job and donation sites as well as sending emails that appear to be from the CDC, WHO, or other organization. Some important things to remember and be aware of:

Never give out your online banking credentials via e mail or texts. No legitimate company will ever ask for this info, and you risk fraudulent deposits or losses for which you could be liable.

Be very wary of emails or texts asking to click on links or open attachments.

Any job that deposits or sends you money and asks you to withdraw or send the funds elsewhere is likely a scam. Recent scam jobs include receiving funds to act as liaison for donations, buying items from grocery/ pharmacy to test price gouging, assisting with bitcoin purchases, and telling you to keep the info secret.

**FROM “FORMED” OUR FAITH FORMATION WEB SITE**

**This is a difficult and unprecedented time for all of us.** As Catholics, we are suddenly faced with our parish doors being locked and limited access to the sacraments. This can be very disheartening. Now more than ever, we must hold fast to the great virtue of Hope. In the words of Pope St. John Paul II “Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.” We must open the doors of our hearts to Christ and trust in the Lord who will give us everything we need.

**GO TO OUR PARISH WEBISTE AND CLICK ON THE GREEN BLOCK “FORMED” FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you are a parent with children home from school, make sure to utilize our faith formation curriculum..

As we are gathered together in our homes, this can be a tremendous opportunity to watch something as a family that will inspire hope and remind us all that the Lord will provide for us even through these difficult times.

Watch live on [CatholicTVLIVE.com](http://CatholicTVLIVE.com)

[www.catholictv.org](http://www.catholictv.org) and by consulting local cable providers or network listings

As a reminder the faithful is invited to participate in the daily and Sunday Mass [www.WatchtheMass.com](http://www.WatchtheMass.com) , viewers can watch the Mass in English every day from Sunday to Friday and the Mass in Spanish every Sunday.

March 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I'm sure that we all are feeling this time as one of the most surreal moments we have ever lived through! In 41 years, I have never experienced a weekend like this last weekend. The parking lot EMPTY during Sunday Mass hours. But this is what we are asked to and need to do to fight this pandemic.

I hope to write to you every Monday with the assurances of my prayers for you. I hope to include a few thoughts that I would have shared with you in the Sunday homily. I continue to offer Masses in my private chapel in the rectory. I know that you all miss the Eucharist very much. There has been a tradition that, when people are not able to receive there is something called **Spiritual Communion**. I share with you Pope Francis' prayer for **Spiritual Communion**:

*My Jesus,*

*I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and desire to receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.*

*Never permit me to be separated from You.*

*Amen*

Also, Pope Francis announced two prayer events:

*"In these days of trial, as humanity trembles at the threat of the coronavirus pandemic, I would propose that all Christians join their voices together to heaven. I invite the heads of the churches and the leaders of all the Christian communities, together with all Christians of the various confessions, to invoke the Almighty, the All Powerful God, by reciting contemporaneously the prayer that Our Lord Jesus has taught us. I therefore invite everyone to recite the **Our Father at midday on March 25** on the day when many Christians recall the annunciation to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation of the Word, so that the Lord may listen to the unanimous prayer of all his disciples that are preparing to celebrate the victory of the Risen Christ."*

**Additionally, Pope Francis will preside over "a moment of prayer" from the steps of the Saint Peter's Basilica at 6:00 p.m. Rome (1:00 p.m. Eastern), Friday, March 27. He invited people across the world "to participate spiritually" in this prayer which will include readings from Scripture and Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of the prayer service he will give a blessing "Urbi et Orbi" with the Blessed Sacrament. Pope Francis said "the possibility of receiving a plenary indulgence" would be linked to the prayer service.**

What follows, are a few things that could be helpful to feed your spirits during these days of separation. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones. I look forward to the day when we can once again pray together in person.

Gratefully,

Fr. Dennis

PS I am including in my announcement and statements this week a **Finance Statement** that concerns us all!

**A Virtual Retreat with Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston**  
**Christ, Our Light in the Darkness**

We will remember this Lent as one "in quarantine." Social distancing the new norm as daily social interactions are suddenly unavailable to us. Schools are closed. We can't go out to restaurants. Even public Mass has been suspended to curtail any further spread of this coronavirus. Many people feel alone. Many are scared. And people are thirsting for something good.

The Lord appoints shepherds to lead his flock, to be beacons of light in darkness, and to be instruments of hope to his people in times of despair. This Virtual Lenten Retreat with Cardinal Seán is a means for our shepherd to feed us, to comfort us, and to give us the hope we need right now.

Join Cardinal Seán on this five-part retreat, using this opportunity to enter more deeply into Lent and grow in your relationship with Christ.

**Virtual Lenten Retreat Schedule**

Monday, March 23, 7:00 PM – *Prayer*

Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 PM – *Mercy and Forgiveness*

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 PM – *Faith: The Key to Meaning and Call to Friendship*

Thursday, March 26, 7:00 PM – *Who is My Neighbor? The Good Samaritan*

Friday, March 27, 7:00 PM – *The Seven Last Words*



## *Saint Patrick Catholic Church*

Reverend Dennis J. Audet, Pastor

E Mail: [daudet52@gmail.com](mailto:daudet52@gmail.com)

Dear Parishioners,

In these times of uncertainty, I write to assure you that I continue to say Mass privately and fulfill the intentions of Masses for you and our people ... especially for those who are sick. Even though the operations and administration of the parish have been seriously reduced (**Office Hours Monday – Friday 9:00am-12:00 noon**), we unfortunately still have our bills to pay. Even though I truly would rather have our community here, I must still work to pay the utility bills of the church, pay the salaries of the employees, and all the other obligations of the budget.

According to national studies, the average Catholic gives to his/her parish 40 out of 52 weeks per year, when you count all the times they're on vacation, home sick, unable to attend Mass due to weather, traveling for work – which doesn't even take into account our current situation of being homebound. Even if no one increased the amount they normally give per Sunday by a cent, but began to give intentionally through online offertory, we would have 30% more funds to get us through these difficult weeks.

I hesitate to bring money up during this national crisis. But like you, we depend on weekly income for survival. The bottom line is this: the parish cannot withstand weeks and weeks of no income. As you well know, the parish requires about \$8000 a week to break even. Anything you can do to help us by MAILING IN YOUR WEEKLY DONATION or DONATING ONLINE would be appreciated and very helpful. We will do everything we can to be prudent with our expenses.

If you haven't already transitioned to online giving, please consider doing so as soon as possible. Online giving will really help our parish right now. Because it is automatic, even when you are not here, you can continue your weekly support of the parish. A couple of years ago, it seemed every weekend was another big storm that prevented a lot of people from getting to Mass on Sunday and our parish was financially affected. I hope to avoid that situation for our parish now.

St Patrick Church offers online donations and giving opportunities directly from our website via a company called **VANCO**. Easily make a secure donation via electronic check or debit/credit card by visiting: [saintpatrickmilfordnh.org](http://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org) When you get on the website, see the green bar at the top – right – of the webpage: click on NEWS and EVENTS ... scroll down ... then click on: GIVING. You can even take care of a missed gift immediately from a cell phone, or set up an online donor account for regular automatic giving. Online giving has been a proven success for many parishes, schools, and dioceses. Plus, it makes for safer record-keeping, faster processing, and more efficient communication at the parish office. I ask you to prayerfully recommit to the desire of sharing your gifts with greater ease and convenience.

I miss being with you at Mass! Thank you for your continued generosity, prayers, and participation in the ministry and mission of St Patrick Church. Your efforts make so many things possible for our parish, community, and Church. Every day, I pray and hope that you and your family are all doing well and staying healthy.

Gratefully,

*Fr. Dennis*



## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent (A)

Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Gospel, this church year, presents us with the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead. We are reminded that two weeks ago we heard about the woman at the well. Last week Jesus made the man born blind to see. And today we have a sign of Jesus' identity par excellence: the raising from the dead. In the Gospel of John, Jesus performs signs rather than miracles, and there are precisely seven. The signs point to his true identity as incarnate Word of God, Light of the World, and the Author of Life. And the seventh and final sign, the raising of Lazarus is a fitting note on which to conclude the public ministry of Jesus. After this, the gospel story moves quickly to Holy Week and the events surrounding the Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Exaltation.

Today's gospel is filled with misunderstanding, and one nearly has the sense that Jesus is getting frustrated with the disciples. But the misunderstanding is a narrative device that the evangelist uses to illustrate how Jesus' thoughts and ways of knowing are so much more than the disciples'. For example, even though Jesus was talking about Lazarus's death, the disciples took him literally in thinking that Lazarus was only asleep. Jesus tells them plainly that "Lazarus has died." He expresses gratitude that he was not there so that the disciples can believe (when he raises Lazarus from the dead). But even this is misunderstood by Thomas, who believes they are going to die with Jesus.

The misunderstanding continues with Martha's gentle scolding of Jesus when she claims that had Jesus been present, Lazarus would not have died. We recall that Jesus waited for two days after hearing the news of Lazarus being sick before he even went to see him! Jesus does not take the bait. He instead proclaims himself the resurrection and life. Martha, in another case of misunderstanding, says she knows that Lazarus will rise on the last day. She does not understand that Jesus will raise him shortly.

Even the crowd does not understand the identity of Jesus, for they wonder why the one who made the blind to see could not have prevented the death of Lazarus. It seems everyone is wholly unprepared for what Jesus has in mind, a resurrection from the dead, even though he proclaimed himself to be the resurrection and the life. Jesus' prayer to the Father is fundamentally one of thanksgiving and gratitude for the opportunity for those gathered to believe that Jesus is sent by God the Father.

With a command to come forth, Jesus speaks, and Lazarus rises from the dead. The author of life has power over death. And now many believe in him. Such fundamental expressions of life and death are at the heart of today's gospel. Jesus deliberately was not present with Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus. It seems Jesus wanted to be sure Lazarus was understood to be dead, not merely sleeping or sick, so that Jesus could raise him from the dead. As a result, many began to believe in him—that he had been sent by the Father.

What do we believe about Jesus? Do we believe he is the author of life with power over death? Are there any people like Lazarus in our own lives who need to be raised to new life? Lazarus was a prefiguring of the resurrection. And yet, even Lazarus died again. Jesus' own resurrection is not a mere resuscitation, but a raising to new life, different in every way. Jesus will never be subject to death again. When we live with the promise of renewed life for eternity, we are living the promise of the paschal mystery.

*Fr. Dennis*