

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

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



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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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.

The Church is opened daily 9-5pm

Prayer Line call: Diane or Patti

MAY 4-10, 2020

MON - 5/4 - Easter Weekday—Mass Intention: In Thanksgiving for Rick Corron by Jane Provins

TUES - 5/5 - Easter Weekday — NO MASS

WED - 5/6 - Easter Weekday—Mass Intention: _____

THURS - 5/7 - Easter Weekday - Mass Intention: Ed Gartland by his wife

FRI - 5/8 - Easter Weekday - Mass Intention: _____

SAT - 5/9 - Vigil of the 5th Sunday of Easter— *The Church will be open from 9-5pm*

Mass Intention: _____

SUN—5/10 - 5th Sunday of Easter —*The Church will be open from 9-5pm*

Mass Intentions - Members of the Parish, Mary Anne Roy by her husband Marcien (1year anniversary)

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

Please remember in your prayers:

The Staff & Residents of Crestwood Nursing Home, Jean Duffy, Brendan Zubricki, Rita LaJeunesse, Alison Caiado, John Coleman, Leo Ouellette, Bruce Gade, Dorothy Gates, Eleanor Botelho, Rita Rose, Connie Gonzalves, Richard, Paul, Laura, Skip, Betty, Ken Jalbert, Bill Loscocco, Maureen Yergeau, Stephen Swallow, Pamela Wood, Sean, Jonathan Niquette, Janine Hartwell, Hope Kelly, Thomas Martel, Donna Thomas, Nancy Salisbury, Rick Corron, Patricia Barrett, Cameron Conley, Lexz Bragdom, Timothy Russell, Maureen Belair, Marty, Leo Barriault, Nancy Moro, Mary Ann Hower, Connor Silloway, Eva, Carolyn Hassett, Lyn, Bettina Mace, Thomas Burkardt, Ben, Anne Marie, Jeffrey, Lisa, Susan Yorio, Donald Labonte, William, JoAnn & John, Gus Dreher, Irene Dion, Eugene Calahan, Andrea, Sophia Lamarche, Brundage family, Genie Stone, Coralee Smart, Marie, Frances, Arlene, Georgian, Jeanne, Sue, Dennis Creedon, Paul Golch, John Foss, Rob Erickson, Dan Nelson, Liz Richer, Luke LaVallee, John, Mike Paxton, Isabelle Miller, Marc Belanger, Helen R., Claudette Blais, Kim Beebe, Anne Ronsov, Jack Long, Barbara Powers, Scott Dickinson, Jack Daniels, John Knott, Joseph Koprek, Lillie & Damien, Benjamin Smith, Patti Patenaude, Blanche Belanger, Cheryl Williams, Ken Hower, Jeff MacMartin, Mindy Kane, Linda Lewis, Richard Copeland, Wayne Cormier, Robert Merley, Jeffrey Bryant, Crystal Heaney, Leah Stigliano, Philip McPhee, William Thompson, Sammy Tinaglia, Joseph Sherlock, John Sullivan, Alice & Lloyd Eskins, and for the men and women who are serving our country.



Please call the parish office when someone can be taken off the prayer list.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY

Pancake Mix & Syrup, Condiments, Cooking Sauces & Seasonings, Cooking Oil, Jelly, Cold Cereal
These items can be dropped off at the SHARE office. PLEASE CALL FIRST: 673-9898. Thank you for your donations.

Your weekly donation can be dropped off in the mail slot near the glass door.

or

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



Discipleship: changing minds/hearts, transforming, listening always

During the Easter season the readings ask the believing community to examine the meaning of Jesus through his teachings and post-resurrection appearances. This week's readings focus on discipleship's roles and responsibilities.

John's gospel is from Jesus "good shepherd" discourse, his ongoing criticism of the religious leaders. Jesus uses the images of communal sheep pens and shepherding practices familiar to his first century hearers.

Entering a sheepfold. In first century Palestine, every family kept sheep for milk, food, and clothing. Large families or small villages had *communal sheepfolds* that held several flocks, watched by a family member (the gatekeeper). The gatekeeper knew all the shepherds (probably cousins) who had flocks in the sheepfold. A thief would be a *stranger* to the gatekeeper; the thief couldn't enter the pen through its gate, but would have to climb the wall to get to the sheep. In this figure of speech, Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are *thieves* rather than shepherds, because they are *misleading God's people*. Jesus' words and actions *reveal* he is the messiah, but the Pharisees *reject* Jesus and those who would follow him ("recognize his voice").

The sheepfold's gate. For security, sheepfolds have only one gate. The gate *protects* the sheep from thieves and robbers, and *allows them to go to pasture* with their shepherd to eat. Jesus again tells the Pharisees they are *misleading God's people*. Jesus contrasts their ("thieves") actions ("steal, slaughter, destroy") with his own actions ("save," give "pasture" and "life"). Scripture scholars note that Jesus is criticizing *his present-day religious leaders'* actions, not all of Hebrew scripture's patriarchs, prophets and righteous people.

Jesus' resurrection has many meanings and many implications. The Easter season lasts six weeks, allowing us time to reflect on this cosmos-changing event. Peter calls his hearers to *metanoia*, a change of heart/mind, and baptism. The author of Peter's letter reminds his hearers that through baptism they share in the power of Jesus' transformative death. Jesus warns religious leaders that they must hear his voice to be good shepherds to God's people. Jesus' resurrection calls every disciple to change, to transform the world, and to recognize Jesus' voice. What are we being called to change about our lives? How are we building a world that glorifies God? Are we listening to the stranger's voice, or the shepherd's?

---Terence Sherlock

Read the full reflection and subscribe at: LectionaryInContext.WordPress.com

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!*

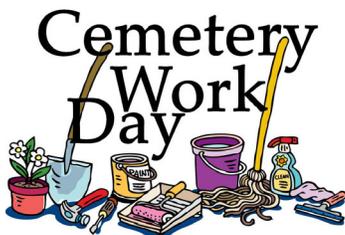
NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (5-3-2020)

Unlike Mark, Matthew was a disciple and eyewitness to most of Jesus' ministry. What was his profession before Jesus called him to follow Him?

Answer to last week's question (4-26/2020)

Mark was probably a teenager at the time of Jesus' ministry. His mother was the owner of a house in Jerusalem, possibly the one where the Last Supper and the Pentecost descent of the Holy Spirit took place. He was in the Garden of Gethsemane at the time of Jesus' arrest (he is believed to be the "young man who ran away naked" Mark 14:51-52. Later he accompanied Paul and Barnabas on one of their missionary journeys, and angered Paul when he bailed out and went home. He was reconciled with Paul, however, and was at Rome with Peter for some time before being sent to Alexandria as bishop. His Gospel is based on Peter's testimony and was reportedly.



"The Knights of Columbus will be leading a "Clean Up the St. Patrick Cemetery Day" on May 16. The cemetery is located on Merrimack Road in Amherst. We will start at 9am and should be wrapped up by noon for lunch. Please bring and only use your own collection of spring clean up tools and supplies. In the interest of maintaining safe distances, please work in small independent groups. If you plan to work until lunch and would enjoy a pizza for your group, please email your pizza request to

jturner@myteamengineering.com. Please also direct any questions to John Turner at the same email or 493-6036. Thank you for your help. If you cannot join us, please pray that our project is productive and fun!"



Saint Patrick Catholic Church

Reverend Dennis J. Audet, Pastor
E Mail: daudet52@gmail.com

04/27/2020

Monday of the Third Week of Easter

Dear Parishioners,

St. Paul says it well. *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”.* Philippians 4:6-7

What I fear, more than COVID-19, is that we will forget who we are and to whom we belong. As a Church, we need to BOTH take preventive measures to stay healthy and commit ourselves to prayer. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice and entrust our lives to Christ. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered and remember and remind each other that *we belong to Christ.*

Know that I am praying for you and yours and for the whole community. I am praying for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. I am praying for our parish congregation and for God’s Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to protect us as a Church. I am praying and I will continue to pray until the coronavirus is over, and beyond, but I am not afraid. We should be concerned. The coronavirus is real. But we cannot and we will not be afraid. We are the Church and, together, *we belong to Christ.*

On a more mundane level, **I am pleased to inform you that the parish received \$35,400.00 from the United States Small Business Administration Payroll Protection Program to help us continue to fully pay our employees!** Once again THANKS to the many individuals and families that continue to support the parish financially by mailing in or on line giving their weekly offering to the parish. We depend on weekly income for survival. Anything you can do to help us by mailing in your weekly/monthly donation or donating online would be appreciated and very helpful.

So, patiently, we all continue to keep one another in prayer and we continue to help keep each other safe by following the directives of healthcare professionals remembering that ... *we belong to Christ!*

Blessings!

Fr. Dennis

4th Sunday of Easter 2020 Fr. Dennis' Reflection – St. Patrick - Milford

This weekend's readings are about SECURITY. How appropriate for a world dealing with so much INSECURITY. Every day is not normal! The future remains uncertain! And now, we wonder if we're going to go through this all over again this winter!! The Bible tells us: *real security comes to us in the Lord Jesus and in Him alone.*

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus uses two images to tell us about the security that He offers us. Jesus says that He is the GATE OF THE SHEEPFOLD. Nothing can get to us to do us harm forever as long as we are protected by Him. Jesus also describes himself as the SHEPHERD of the sheep. When the sheep are with the shepherd, they are confident and at peace because they know that the shepherd is going to take care of them and lead them to what they need in order to stay alive and well. Jesus offers us the security we need in order to be ourselves ... even during a pandemic ... so that we can become what God meant us to be.

However, the safety and security that Jesus offers us is NOT a material kind of security. Jesus is NOT a dead-bolt lock that will keep the Covid Virus out of our homes. Jesus is not a meal ticket that ensures us we will always have food on the table. Jesus is not a tranquilizer that takes away all anxiety. All those wants and needs are understandable and have their place, but that's not the level that Jesus primarily works on. The kind of security that Jesus offers is better! He guarantees us that a life lived in Him is a life that has deep down ... real ... eternal significance. No one who lives in Jesus is going to be thrown away. A life in Jesus is a life that is safe and secure. Notice, though, that in talking about security in Jesus, we are NOT talking about a worldly insurance policy. The security that Jesus offers us is NOT something we can buy. On the contrary, Jesus' security is FREE. It is a gift from Him. The only way we can get it is to be faithful and accept it from His hands by living in Him in the good times and in the bad times.

But living in Jesus is more than clinging to some kind of supernatural blanket which we only have to hang on to. We do have our part to play in the security that Jesus offers us. That's what the second reading is about. The text says: *Jesus did no wrong --- no deceit was found in His mouth. When He was insulted, He returned no insult. When He was made to suffer ... He did not counter with threats. Instead, He delivered Himself up to the One who judges justly.* Jesus left us an example St. Peter reminds us. We have to follow in His footsteps.

Jesus' life was not an easy life. He spent it looking for the glory of the Father and caring for the needs of others. Basically, Jesus lived his life in giving it away. And that's what we are ALL called to do ... especially in these weeks of trial and suffering. We are not called to be comfortable or to live passively without effort. Rather, we are called to give ourselves away as Jesus did. In practice, this means lots of EXTRA LOVE and FAITHFULNESS and SELF-SACRIFICE in our homes. It means caring for our neighbor by keep our distance. It means being faithful to the community of the world to beat this virus. Jesus teaches us that real security ... real safety ... consists in forgetting about our wants and wishes as He did. We can only find security in our lives by forgetting about our security and handing ourselves over to Him so that He can give us what we can't possibly earn.

Today, we believe and we pray: ***The Lord is my Shepherd!*** He leads us IN real security. He leads us TO real and everlasting security.

Fr. Dennis

FORMED

First, go to our website www.saintpatrickmilfordnh.org and register. Follow the directions given on the front page – this is a free gift for you!

Discover all the best Catholic content in one place. Entertaining movies, programs, talks, audio dramas, and ebooks - just a click away!

For the Month of May you may want to explore Fatima, Hope for the World SHADE THE SERIES The Search MANIFESTO of FAITH The Wild Goose
Liturgical Calendar - Pick of the week

Saint Joseph the Worker: Watch: On Pilgrimage with Father Emil Kapaun Listen: Saint Joseph - Patron of the Universal Church
Saint Athanasius : Listen: Lessons from the Early Church Fathers Listen: Holiness is Always in Season