



**Saint Patrick Catholic Church**  
34 AMHERST STREET, MILFORD, NH 03055

**Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-Noon & 1-5pm & Friday 9-Noon**

**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**  
*pnepveu54@gmail.com*
- Christopher Maynard, Music Director**  
*music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com*
- Jerry Guthrie, Cemetery**      672-1254

**Welcome!**

We are delighted to welcome each and every one who has come to worship with us. Our parish is here to assist all who wish to know God more deeply.

**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.*

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

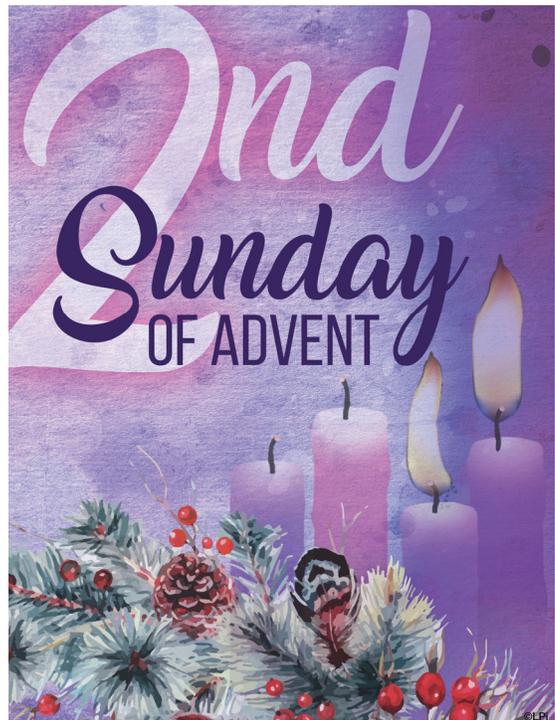
- President: Will McGrath
- Peter Arnoldy, Laura Ilsley, Jerry Guthrie,  
Irene Prunier, Steve Santinelli



Join us for Advent Holy Hours with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which will take place on Wednesday evening following the 5:30pm Mass. from 6:00 to 7:00PM in the church.

December 9, 16 will be led by Fr. Dennis.  
December 23 will be led by Patti.  
This will include intentional prayers which highlight the themes of Advent.

**Prayer Line call: Diane or Patti**  
**603-673-1311**



**DECEMBER 7-13, 2020**

**MON - 12/7- St. Ambrose**

7:30AM: Special Intentions of Lucille Farwell

**TUES - 12/8- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Day of Obligation)**

5:30PM: Members of the Parish

**WED - 12/9- St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**

5:30PM: Bishop Odore Gendron

6-7PM: Holy Hour

**THURS - 12/10- Advent Weekday**

7:30AM: Leon, Bernetta & Joanne Hunsader & Lucille Sinicky by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hunsader

**FRI - 12/11 - St. John Damasus I**

5:30PM: Scott VanderHeyden by Jane Provins, Fred Burbee & Diane Poodiak

**SAT - 12/12 - Vigil of the Third Sunday of Advent**

4:00PM: Eileen Burns by Doris Nolan

**SUN - 12/13 - Third Sunday of Advent —**

Church will remain open from 11:30—5pm

8:00 AM: Robert Holland by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dudley & Deceased members of the Bergeron & Larose families

10:30AM: Richard P. Caveney by his wife, Ida  
25th anniversary

**FACE MASKS  
REQUIRED  
SOCIAL DISTANCING  
PRACTICED**



**READINGS 12-13-2020**

**Is: 61:1-2a, 10-11**

**1 Thes: 5:16-24**

**Jn: 1:6-8, 19-28**

**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!*

For anyone who would like to stop in to Church for private prayers. These are the times when the Church is opened.

Monday - Friday: 9-5pm  
Saturday: 9-3pm  
Sunday: 11:30-5pm

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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](http://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.

**Nov 22** **\$3,918**  
**Camping for Human Development:** **\$1,319**

**Nov 29** **\$4,425**

## NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS

### Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (12/6/2020)

The Jesse Tree is a medieval tradition that was revived in the 1970s. Who was Jesse and what is the significance of the tree and the ornaments placed upon it?

### Answer to last week's question (11/29/2020)

The advent wreath is a traditional sacramental that dates back to the earliest days of the Christian missions to Northern Europe, where both the Germanic and Scandinavian peoples had mid-winter traditions involving lights, circles and evergreens. Christian missionaries were quick to connect the circle and evergreens symbols of eternal life and light in darkness with the message of the Incarnation.

Assigning the liturgical colors to the candles is a much later development: three purple, representing the penitential nature of the season, with a rose candle on the third Sunday when the Liturgy opens with "Gaudate!" (Rejoice!) in anticipation.

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### Advent: preparing the way for discipleship

During the Advent season the Lectionary readings *look back* to God's promises in Hebrew scripture and *look forward* to their fulfillment in Christian scripture. This week's readings ask us to think about our readiness for the newness of Jesus' incarnation.

In the gospel, we hear the beginning of Mark's proclamation about Jesus. Today's introduction has three parts:

**A title.** Mark's first line is actually the *title* of his work: "The beginning of the good news/proclamation of Jesus, messiah, Son of God." This title prepares hearers and readers for the dramatic unfolding of Mark's whole work, which emphasizes Jesus as *messiah* ("Christ") and *Son of God*. The "beginning" doesn't just mean the start of Mark's writing, it also means "hearing this is *when* your salvation ("good news") begins."

**Hebrew scripture citations.** Mark's scripture references foreshadow the gospel's later events. Second Isaiah's prophecy promises a *new action* by God, who will make a *victorious way through the wilderness* (see the first reading). Mark applies this *way* to Jesus: his progress through the world, and his movement toward his death and resurrection in Jerusalem.

**The messenger.** Mark recasts Isaiah's quote to *introduce* John the Baptizer as the one "preparing the way." The Baptizer calls the people to *metanoia* (change of mind/heart), while announcing a *coming one* who is stronger and who will exceed the Baptizer's words and actions. John's baptism *prepares* everyone for the more profound renewal Jesus will offer.

In Advent, the readings ask us to think about Jesus' coming in history, his liturgical and sacramental coming now, and his future return. Isaiah tells the people to prepare for their trip with God who leads them to restoration and to renewal. The Peter's letter author tells his hearers that the *parousia's* delay is an opportunity for personal *metanoia* in preparation for Jesus' coming. Mark announces that God's mighty work of salvation has started, and all must prepare for the greater one's coming. Advent is our opportunity to prepare and to repair our ways. Is the way between God and us straight and level, or indirect and unused? Are we using Advent to grow in holiness, or to recede into self? Are we preparing for the new thing God is doing, or are we waiting to see what happens?

--Terence Sherlock

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



**REMEMBER**  
*in your prayers*

John Hoff, Victor Falcetti, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Julie Dupuis, Shawn Dufraigne, Laura McGettigan, Tracey Lafleur, Jen, , Kim Salem, Fleurette Laquerre, Patti Fay McDonagh, Doris Fay, William Lawson, Lillian Esielionis, Joyce Nelson, Tiffany Brown, Jeanne Jacques, the Staff & Residents of all Milford long term care facilities, Dr. Ray Roberge, Brendan Zubricki, Alison Caiado, John Coleman, Bruce Gade, Dorothy Gates, Eleanor Botelho, Rita Rose, Richard, Paul, Laura, Skip, Betty, Ken Jalbert, Stephen Swallow, Pamela Wood, Sean, Hope Kelly, Rick Corron, Patricia Barrett, Cameron Conley, Lexz Bragdom, Timothy Russell, Maureen Belair, Marty, Leo Barriault, Nancy Moro, Mary Ann Hower, Connor Sillowy, Eva, Carolyn Hassett, Bettina Mace, Thomas Burkardt, Ben, Anne Marie, Jeffrey, Lisa, Susan Yorio, William, JoAnn & John, Gus Dreher, Irene Dion, Eugene Callahan, 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, Scott Dickinson, Jack Daniels, John Knott, Joseph Koprek, Lillie & Damien, Benjamin Smith, Patti Patenaude, 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, John Sullivan, Alice & Lloyd Eskins, and for the men and women who are serving our country.

**Please call the parish office at 673-1311 when someone can be taken off the prayer list.**

**To register for FORMED –  
A gift for you**



Registering for FORMED is easier than ever!

1. Go to our website and follow the instructions or
  2. Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup)
  3. Click I belong to a parish or organization
  4. Enter our zip code 03055
  5. Register with your name and email address
- To make life easy, put FORMED in your computer favorites

**FORMED:**

**Children/Family:**

**Watch:** Francis Xavier and the Samurai's Lost Treasure (Feast 12/3)

**Watch:** Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa (Feast 12/6)

**Youth: Watch:** YDisciple: Advent, Session 2: Trust in God

**Listen:** Come, Lord Jesus - Meditations from a Poor Clare nun

**Listen:** The Virgin Mary Revealed Through Scripture - Dr. Scott Hahn (12/8 Immaculate Conception)

**Listen:** Our Lady of Guadalupe - Luis Soto (12/12 Feast)

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION  
GRADES K-6**

Tuesday: 4:30 - 6:00pm — January 5, 2021  
Wednesday: 5:30 -7:00pm — January 6, 2021

**YOUTH MINISTRY FAITH FORMATION  
GRADES 6-12**

Sunday: 6-7:30pm — December 6, 20

All of these classes will be through Zoom Meeting. Sue, our Faith Formation Director will be sending you a link to invite you to class.

**Advent at the Intersections**

**A Virtual Retreat for Young Adult Catholics  
Friday December 11, 2020, 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**There is no cost**

**To register contact Sue:**

**re@saintpatrickmilfordnh.org Or go to the  
Diocese website: Catholicnh.org**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FR. DENNIS**

It has become increasingly clear that we are seeing a serious spike in covid-19 cases here in NH and cases are **exploding in the country**. And with the holidays upon us, we are concerned to continue to keep everybody safe and for everyone to feel safe in church. Given the guidelines of the State of NH for large gatherings, we will continue **as long as we can** to welcome people inside the church at 50% capacity. This will be a challenge especially at Christmas time. Beginning on November 29<sup>th</sup>, people coming to church (when our **90 PERSON CAPACITY** is reached here in church) will be directed to the parish hall where Mass will be livestreamed. The **CAPACITY FOR THE PARISH HALL IS: 60!**

As I announced a few weeks ago, we have now made arrangements to live stream our Masses so that people can participate from home on your computer. . You can now view our Saturday and Sunday Masses at the regularly scheduled times live streaming on **FACEBOOK** by simply going to the homepage page of the parish website ([saintpatrickmilfordnh.org](http://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org)) and click on the green block that says **LIVE STREAMING. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH FACEBOOK** to view our Mass. If you get a pop up to subscribe, just click **NOT NOW** and scroll the pictures until you see the sanctuary.

I will be sending a Christmas letter to all registered parishioners with this announcement so that everyone planning to come to Mass on Christmas will know what to expect as we continue to live through this pandemic.

Finally, I would remind you that the Bishop continues to excuse all Catholics from the Sunday and Holy Day obligation to attend Mass. Anyone who is sick, or understandably does not feel comfortable gathering in church, should not personally attend Mass at this time.

**NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY**

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed cake Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola **These items can be dropped off at the SHARE office.**

**PLEASE CALL FIRST: 673-9898. Thank you for your donations.**



## *December 8 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Some 700 years before the Archangel Gabriel's visit to Mary, Isaiah prophesied, "*The young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel*" (Isa 7:14). This name is repeated in the Gospel of Matthew's story of Jesus's nativity where Matthew cites Jesus as the fulfillment of Isaiah's words, adding in the meaning of the name Emmanuel as "God is with us". The Archangel Gabriel greets Mary in a similar way, greeting her as "*full of grace! The Lord is with you!*" Within Mary, God finds the perfect human partner in bringing about his plan of redemption, in which God himself takes on human flesh to truly be "God with us" in the person of Jesus.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception developed in the history and life of the church, not simply from Scripture, but from the reflections of the faithful in the church on Mary and her role in salvation history. It was the lived faith of the church that led to the understanding of the Immaculate Conception of Mary in the womb of her mother, Ann, and, secondarily, the writings of theologians reflecting on Scripture and the tradition of the church. These reflections took place over many centuries before being promulgated as a "doctrine of the church". The doctrine arose from this lived faith, already accepted within the church by numerous faithful, and contemplation of the required holiness necessary for the task to which Mary had been chosen, her sinlessness, and the challenge her sinlessness posed to the doctrine on original sin (that all human beings are born into the sinful situation of the world).

The key line perhaps in all of Scripture regarding Mary's unique status is in Luke 1:28, where the Archangel Gabriel's greeting to Mary as "*Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.*" This traditional version has understood that Mary had already been graced, that is, the Archangel Gabriel is acknowledging something about Mary's unique nature. Even though the word "grace" appears in the greeting, it is still fair to ask, what does "full of grace" mean? It does not clearly indicate that Mary was born free of the stain of original sin.

But it is precisely here where the church—especially reflecting on the theological reality of Mary in the teachings of the ecumenical council at Ephesus (431 AD) that Mary was the *theotokos (Mother of God)*, and the theological developments throughout the church's history—claims the authority to pronounce on the truth of Mary's sinlessness. The teaching of Mary's Immaculate Conception developed in the living tradition of the church as it reflected on the holiness necessary for the task to which Mary of Nazareth had been called and the Scriptures that prompted this reflection. We should continue to reflect on Mary's holiness, too, for it was through her "Yes" and being prepared to receive the Son of God – that the Second Person of the Trinity became fully a man. In order for her to do so, it was necessary that she be "full of grace," free from all stain of sin, open to be the Handmaiden of the Word so that all the world could encounter the Word in the flesh, Jesus.

Fr. Dennis