



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

PASTORAL STAFF

- Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor**
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- Diane Bergeron, Secretary**
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- Christopher Maynard, Music Director**
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- 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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AT OUR PARISH



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.

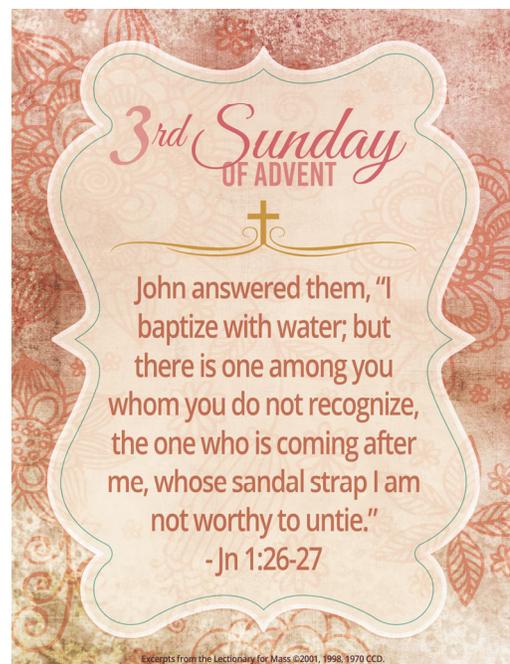
December 16 will be led by Fr. Dennis.

December 23 will be led by Patti.

This will include intentional prayers which highlight the themes of Advent.

Inclement Weather and Weekday Masses

Parishioners are now to be aware that if there is inclement weather there will be no Mass that morning. Official announcements of cancellations and delays will be made on the cancellations ribbon on WMUR -TV CHANNEL 9. This policy is for the safety of parishioners and those who are responsible for snow removal.



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass #2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

DECEMBER 14-20, 2020

MON - 12/14- St. John of the Cross

7:30AM: Members of the Parish

TUES - 12/15- Advent Weekday—NO MASS

WED - 12/16- Advent Weekday

5:30PM: Special Intentions for Tom Hunsader by his wife, Jackie

6-7PM: Holy Hour

THURS - 12/17- Advent Weekday

7:30AM: George Whelton by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Guthrie

FRI - 12/18 - Advent Weekday

7:30AM: Bishop Odore Gendron

SAT - 12/19 - Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00PM: Roy, Jeanne, Sony & Irene Dubay by
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hunsader

SUN - 12/20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent—

Church will remain open from 11:30—5pm

8:00 AM: Members of the Parish

10:30AM: Vera Rasmussen by the Duffy family

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**



READINGS 12-20-2020

2 Sm: 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom: 16:5-274

Lk: 1:26-38

**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 de-
sire 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 prepara-
tion for baptism prior to the child's birth. Call the Par-
ish 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 com-
mitment 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 per-
sonal appointment with the pastor.

Sacrament of the Sick: If you are anticipating sur-
gery 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 ar-
range 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 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.

December 6, 2020: \$5,326.

Christmas Flowers: \$486.

Vanco month of November: \$8,996.

GIVE+ONLINE



NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (12/13/2020)

Window candles are a traditional decoration with an Advent significance. What message do they proclaim?

Answer to last week's question (12/6/2020)

Jesse was the father of King David and so an ancestor of Jesus. In Isaiah 11:1 we read a prophecy of the Messiah "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." This verse was frequently celebrated in paintings of a tree with Jesse, David and Solomon at its base and Mary and Jesus in the crown.

Symbols for a Jesse Tree – may focus on Salvation History, from Eden through the Patriarchs and the Covenant people. Or they may represent the many prophetic symbols of the Messiah, such as the Gate of Heaven, the Passover Lamb, Manna, the blooming Rod of Aaron, Water flowing from the Rock.

See the Facebook page for some fun links.

Advent: the joy of expectation

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 the joy of preparing and anticipating.

John's gospel contains two testimonies about John the Baptizer. The first witness is the gospel's author (John), who explains *who* the Baptizer is (Jn 1:6-8); the second witness is the Baptizer himself, who explains his *relationship to the messiah* (Jn 1:19-28).

How the author views the Baptizer. In this section, the gospel's author reveals that the Baptizer is *sent by God* as part of the divine plan. The Baptizer *gives witness* to the Light so *others might believe*. Although the Baptizer is an important historical figure, he is not the light. Rather, the Baptizer *anchors God's divine plan in human history*.

How the Baptizer views himself. In this section, the Baptizer testifies about himself and the one coming after him. The author introduces his gospels' recurring opponents: religious leaders (Sadducees and Pharisees), priests, and Levites (the leaders' minions). These opponents pose the central question of John's gospel: "*Who are you?*" The Baptizer *admits* he is not the messiah, or Elijah (Mal 4:5), or the prophet (Dt 18:15). Rather, he explains his mission as "*a voice in the wilderness* shouting, 'Make the Lord's way straight!'" (last Sunday's first reading). The Baptizer's water baptism *points to* one who is coming, who is already here but *unrecognized*. This coming one is hidden because he is *outside* Jewish messianic criteria and expectations.

The Advent readings ask us to think about Jesus' coming in history, his liturgical and sacramental coming now, and his future return. Third Isaiah rejoices because God is coming to be with and to renew the people. Paul tells the Thessalonians to rejoice because God is faithful and will bring salvation. The Baptizer announces the coming one is already here; we must come to know him. Advent's anticipation is nearly done and Christmas' joy is almost here. Are we prepared to be renewed, or have we put off *metanoia*? Are we already rejoicing in Incarnation's salvation, or do we have miles yet to go? Have we encountered the coming one with thanks, or are we still searching?

--Terence Sherlock

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



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Brenda Smith, Lucille Farwell, John Hoff, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Julie Dupuis, Shawn Dufraine, 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 Coron, Patricia Barrett, Cameron Conley, Lexz Bragdom, Timothy Russell, Maureen Belair, Marty, Leo Barriault, Nancy Moro, Mary Ann Hower, Connor Silloway, 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, 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
 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:

Watch: Angels: The Touch of Your Hand: Caring: Bishop Fulton J. Sheen - Compilation of 3 talks

Read: Married Saints and Blesseds through the Centuries by Ferdinand Holbrook

Youth; Watch: YDisciple: Advent, Session 3: Watch & Pray

Read (age 10 and up): Golden Legend of Young Saints

Read: Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison

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

**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 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.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Will McGrath

Peter Arnoldy, Laura Ilsley, Jerry Guthrie,
Irene Prunier, Steve Santinelli

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 29th, 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) 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.

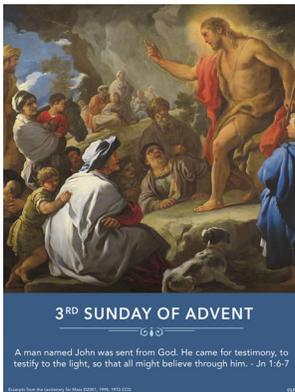
A Christmas letter has been sent with this announcement so that everyone planning to come to Mass on Christmas will know what to expect as we continue to live through this pandemic.

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.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Christians read the Old Testament in light of Christ's fulfillment of the promises and prophecies found there. It is a simple thing to do, since the early church read the Old Testament in the context of Jesus' becoming one of us in the flesh and his death and resurrection at Easter, and then formalized the books of the New Testament.

But what if you were a Jew in the 1st century, eagerly hoping for the Messiah, a successor to the great King David? These hopes had been growing since the Chosen Peoples' return from the Babylonian exile. As you searched through all the teachings of the prophets, you began to wonder, when will these hopes be fulfilled? Who do you look for and where do you start looking? It would be like reading a mystery novel, knowing every clue, studying every sign, but seeing only in retrospect how the whole fits together.

Isaiah 61, for instance, is most often dated to the period just after the Jews return from Babylonian exile, and the author of the passage is generally considered to be the speaker in the text. This prophetic passage emerged, therefore, some five centuries before the birth of Christ. In it, the speaker says, *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, / because the Lord has anointed me; / he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, / to heal the brokenhearted, / to proclaim liberty to the captives / and release to the prisoners."* In its original historical context and literal meaning, the author speaks of the conditions that the returning Babylonian exiles found, especially when he promises that those returning exiles *"shall rebuild the ancient ruins, / the former wastes they shall raise up / And restore the desolate cities, / devastations of generation upon generation"*. It also seems that the prophet is speaking of his own role in the restoration of Jerusalem when he says, *"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me."*

Yet there is also a far-reaching edge to the hopes imagined, especially in the proclamation of *"a year of favor from the Lord,"* an event still to come. Christians see the spiritual fulfillment of these proclamations in the person and ministry of Jesus, centuries after they were first spoken. The reason is simple: **Jesus himself read this passage**, according to Luke 4, **in the synagogue in Nazareth**. In the Gospel of Luke we heard Jesus say: *"Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"*.

This is why the questioning of John the Baptist in today's gospel reading by some representatives of the Pharisees makes historical and theological sense. The Pharisees, like most Jews of this period, were awaiting the promised Messiah. Because so many people were embracing John's prophetic message of repentance, and his popularity, he was someone who had to be examined. They asked, *"Who are you?"* In response, John confesses that he is not the Messiah, not Elijah, not the prophet and cites a passage dated to the end of the Babylonian exile: *"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, / 'make straight the way of the Lord.'"* John identifies himself not as the Messiah, but as the fulfillment of ancient prophecies, as the one who prepares the way for the coming Messiah.

But the questions still remained, even for John. Who ever thought that it would happen through a young, unmarried woman, that God would look with favor *"upon his lowly servant,"* Mary? God asks that as we wait for fulfillment, we be prepared for God to do new things, unexpected things, and be ready for the unlikeliest of answers. Jesus was indeed ... the unexpected Savior!

Fr. Dennis