



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

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Jerry Guthrie, Cemetery 672-1254

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.

INCLEMENT

**WEATHER POLICY
& 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.

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.

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Will McGrath

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

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

DECEMBER 28-JANUARY 3, 2021

MON - 12/28— The Holy Innocents

7:30AM Special intentions of Lucille Farwell

TUES - 12/29— St. Thomas Becket—NO MASS

WED - 12/30— 6th day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30PM: Paul Robert by Paula James

THURS - 12/31— Vigil of Mary, Mother of God

5:30PM: Robert N. West by the family

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**

2021

FRI - 1/1- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00AM: Members of the Parish

SAT - 1/2 - Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

4:00PM: Intentions of Lucille Farwell

SUN - 1/3 - Epiphany of the Lord —

Church will remain open from 11:30—5pm

8:00 AM: Members of the Parish

10:30AM: Leo Calhoun by Donna Philbrook

Offices will be closed January 1st

READINGS 1/3/2021

Is: 60:1-6
Eph: 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt: 2:1-12

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!

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.

Collection for December 20, 2020 will be posted in next week's bulletin

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.

NON-TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (12/27/2020)

Did you set up a Nativity Scene with an empty manger and place the Infant in it on Christmas Eve?

On this Feast of the Holy Family, take a minute to pray and ask Mary, Joseph and Jesus to guide your family in the year ahead. (Hopefully the Magi have not yet arrived. Why?)

Answer to last week's question (12/20/2020)

Advent is a "little Lent" – shorter and less intense than the weeks before Easter, but still meant as a time for self-discipline. Placing a straw into the manger when one has done an act of kindness or made a small sacrifice is a visible representation of preparing our hearts to welcome the Presence of Jesus at Christmas.

Christmastime: all in the family

During the Christmas season, the Lectionary presents us with the events of Jesus' early life. The first Sunday after Christmas celebrates the feast of the *Holy Family*. The readings ask us to consider the joys and challenges of family life.

Luke's gospel is the story of Jesus' presentation and the family's return to Nazareth.

Celebrating religious rituals. Luke shows Mary and Joseph as devout Jews who *faithfully observe* the Torah. As a family, they go to the Jerusalem temple to *complete Mary's purification* (Lv 12:2-8) and to *consecrate their firstborn son* (Ex 13:2, 12).

Encountering prophets. Anna and Simeon suggest the challenges that the parents and child will encounter: Jesus is the *consolation* (salvation) of Israel; but he is also a *contradictory sign*; and his words and actions will cause the family *personal anguish*.

Living a family life. When Mary and Joseph fulfilled all the Torah's rituals, the family *returned home* to live a typical first-century Palestinian life among their relatives. Jesus grows to maturity within the context of *an extended human family*. Daily life in his observant Jewish family prepares Jesus for his *saving ministry*.

This week's readings, and all Christmas season readings, ask us to consider the meaning of Jesus' human and divine natures. Sirach and the Colossians' author center the family in a community of faith. Genesis and Hebrews identify faith as the beginning and basis of family. Luke reveals Jesus at the center of his deeply faithful extended family. Families are both biological (like Abraham's family in Genesis) and socially made (like the *ekklesia* in Hebrews). Human families are wonderful, complex, loving, and frustrating collections of people where God is also present. How do we experience family life? Do we honor all our family members, even the most personally challenging? How do we believe together in joys and difficulties? Where do we find God's favor in our families?

--Terence Sherlock

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



REMEMBER
in your prayers

Jean Moro, Brenda Smith, Lucille Farwell, John Hoff, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Shawn Dufraine, Laura McGettigan, Tracey Lafleur, Jen, Kim Salem, Patti Fay McDonagh, Lillian Esielionis, Tiffany Brown, 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, 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, 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, Joseph Kopek, 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:

Feast of the Holy Family (12/27)

Read: My Brother, the Pope by Georg Ratzinger

Read: Why Humanae Vitae was Right by Janet E. Smith

Read: On the Family by Pope Francis

Audiobook: The Universal Letters: Faith, Hope and Love - St. James, Peter and John

Listen: The Treasure of Our Soul - Dr. Scott Hahn (The Apostles Creed)

**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 — January 3, 24

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.

Online Bereavement Support Group from Catholic Charities NH

Have you recently lost a spouse, family member or friend, and are struggling with grief and loss? Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Bereavement – Experiencing Loss, Being Lost and Finding your Way Again," a six-series program helping participants learn about the dynamics of grief, discover new ways to cope while healing and gain the opportunity to be supported and support others also sharing a painful journey. Sessions will be held on Thursdays (January 28 – March 4) from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/bereavement. You may also call 603-752-1325 or email efrenette@nh-cc.org.

Pope Francis announces "Year of St. Joseph"

On the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Dec. 8, 2020, Pope Francis issued an apostolic letter, *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), for the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. To mark the occasion, the pope proclaimed a year dedicated to Mary's husband, Joseph, foster father to Jesus. The special "Year of St. Joseph" will be held through Dec. 8, 2021.

In his apostolic letter, Pope Francis explains that the aim of this special year is "to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal," describing St. Joseph as a "beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows." **Read *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart")** Log on to Parish Website and Click on Pastor's Notes



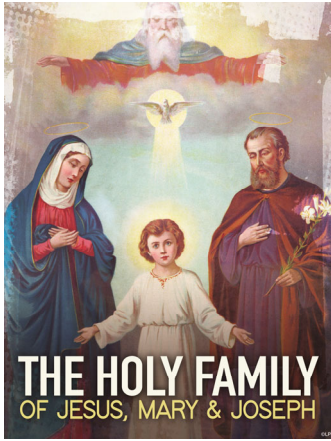
Plenary indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

In its Dec. 8 decree, the Apostolic Penitentiary said that, "to reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph's patronage in the Church," it would grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics who recite any approved prayer or act of piety in honor of St. Joseph, especially on March 19, the saint's solemnity, and May 1, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

Other notable days for the plenary indulgence are the feast of the Holy Family on Dec. 27 and St. Joseph's Sunday in the Byzantine tradition, as well as the 19th of each month and every Wednesday, a day dedicated to the saint in the Latin tradition.

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.



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

“The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him.” (Luke 2:33) The truth of the clichéd phrase “every child is a miracle” hits home for most people when a child is born to them or an adopted child is welcomed into the family. The instantaneous recognition of the child never before seen is a spiritual experience made so real as a mother takes the newborn in her arms and a father gazes at an infant who evokes on sight the deepest of loves.

We tend to think of childbirth, especially today, as something that is simple and straight-forward. It is certainly natural; and for many people, both in conception and at delivery, it poses no problems. Yet, there are many others for whom having a child is a struggle. We have no idea why some couples have no children and other families have one, why some women have miscarried numerous times or had difficult pregnancies that threaten the lives of mother and child. We should never judge the size of a family, for we have no knowledge of the hidden burdens that many women and men carry. Many of the model families throughout the Bible were overjoyed that God blessed them with one child, a child they had long desired.

The miraculous nature of conception and child-birth is a theme that runs through the Old Testament and is often seen in families that have only one child. Numerous women who were considered “barren” give birth to a child of hope, often when it seemed such hope was out of reach. In this number, we count Rebekah, Hannah, and the mother of Samson, all blessed with children when it seemed it could never happen. But the preeminent example is the first one we see in the very 1st Book of the Bible, in Genesis ... her name was Sarah.

Sarah was too old, as was Abram, to have and raise a child. But God gave them Isaac, a child of promise and hope for Abram, now called Abraham, and Sarah and for the future of a promised nation. The promised Messiah, Jesus, would come from this lineage and be given miraculously to Mary, which reveals another part of the equation: never having relations with a man, she was given a child by God—a child given to this new mother and her husband-to-be, but a child of hope for the whole world.

Yet the stories of the Biblical matriarchs and Mary, and their unique children indicate to us the miraculous nature of every birth. True, our children will probably not be patriarchs of a nation, as Isaac was for Israel; and certainly, none can be Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior, both God and man. But the mothers were real mothers, just like women today, who raise many children or one child, or yearn for a child. And their children were real children, who had to be loved and raised. God chose to work his miracles not in opposition to nature but through the most natural of ways: childbirth.

But every family, whether gifted with many children or none or one, has a role to play in God’s dramatic story of salvation and shares in the miraculous gift of hope children represent. Each child has been willed by God to serve a unique purpose. And it was through the birth of one child that all of us share in the hope of salvation. As Simeon Canticle says in Luke’s gospel of the newborn baby boy Jesus, *“my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”*

Mary and Joseph were *“amazed at what was said about him,”* for he was the fulfillment of all our hopes. But in the reality of the Holy Family, we see the miraculous nature reflected in every child of every family.

Blessings on your family!

Fr. Dennis