



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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- Christopher Maynard, Music Director**
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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

THE CHURCH WILL BE REOPENED ON JANUARY 18TH for anyone who would like to stop in for private prayers. These are the times when the Church is opened.

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

JANUARY 4-10, 2021

MON - 1/4- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7:30AM Katherine Schaeffer by Jane Provins

TUES - 1/5- St. John Neumann—NO MASS

WED - 1/6- St. André Bessette

5:30PM: Gary Robert by Paula James

THURS - 1/7- St. Raymond of Penafort

7:30AM: Julie Dupuis by John Milan

FRI - 1/8- Christmas Weekday

7:30AM: All Souls

SAT - 1/9 - Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord

4:00PM: Melody Charbonneau by her husband, Denis

SUN - 1/10 - Baptism of the Lord —

Church will remain open from 11:30—5pm

8:00 AM: Intentions of Cleo Robert by Paula James

10:30AM: Members of the parish

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**

More Christmas flowers by:

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Small

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gonsalves

Mr. & Mrs. Pierre Desrosiers

And in memory of:

Deceased family members of Henry & Barbara Perras

Deceased members of the Rolanti & White families & Mary Zawistowski by Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rolanti

READINGS 1/10/2021

Is: 55:1-11

1 Jn: 5:1-9

Mk: 1:7-11

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.

Weekend of December 20, 2020	\$2,977.
Christmas	\$23,283.
Facilities Repair	\$1,455.
Weekend December 27, 2020	\$1,937.

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 (1/3/2021)

In 1 Corinthians 13, the famous “love chapter,” St. Paul writes that “Faith, hope and love remain” (meaning that, unlike other spiritual gifts these three are not limited to this life). Over the next few weeks, we’ll look at those three gifts.

For this week, consider that word “faith.” It seems to have many different meanings/uses. List as many as you can. (For example, in religious education we teach “the faith,” which use of the word does not seem to fit into St. Paul’s use in 1 Cor 13.)

Answer to last week’s question (12/27/2020)

One fun tradition is to have the figures of Mary and Joseph progress through the house throughout Advent (if they move at night, children can hunt for them every day) and to have the Magi begin the journey (preferably from the East) and arrive at the scene on Epiphany – Matthew’s Gospel records that they came not to the stable, but to a house, and found not an infant but a little boy.

Christmastime: Epiphany’s meanings

During the Christmas season, the Lectionary presents us with the events of Jesus’ early life. This Sunday celebrates the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The readings ask us to consider our own epiphanies.

Matthew’s gospel is the story of the magi’s visit. The Greek word *ἐπιφαινω* (eh-pee-fah-EE-noh), which gives the Epiphany feast its name, can mean either “to show,” “to appear,” or “to give light to, to illuminate.” Matthew’s story *reveals* Jesus and *enlightens* his hearers.

The magi and the story’s source. The Greek word *magos* (singular) or *magi* (plural) refers to Persian priests with special abilities to interpret dreams. Here the magi appear as astrologers/astronomers who *study the stars* as a guide to important events. Matthew may be connecting the magi to the seer Balaam’s prophecy in Nm 24:17: “A *star* shall advance from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel.” First century Jewish thought identified a *star as a symbol for the messiah*.

The meaning for Matthew and his community. Matthew’s *ekklesia* in Antioch included both Jewish Christians and gentile Christians. Matthew uses the magi’s quest for the new king to prefigure his community’s gentile believers’ *search for Jesus*. The magi story’s point is not that the *magi are gentiles*, but rather that *Jesus is manifested* (or revealed) *through specific signs*: the star, Herod’s reaction, the magi’s search, the magi’s gifts and worship. These signs reveal the incarnate God to the world.

This week’s readings, and all Christmas season readings, ask us to consider the meaning of Jesus’ self-revelation. Isaiah describes God’s shining glory revealing God’s presence and giving light to all people. The Ephesians’ author reveals that God offers salvation equally to both Jews and gentiles. Matthew reveals God-with-us in the magi’s words and actions. Epiphany reminds us that God reveals the Godself to those who actively seek illumination. Do we notice God’s presence shining out from the created world? Can we look beyond tired commercial images and see the real meaning of lights and stars? Do we continue to search for God’s enlightenment and our own epiphanies despite the modern Herods’ cynicism?

--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 Dufraime, 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:

Listen: Unlocking the Book of Revelation - Dr. Michael Barber

Listen: Hearing God's Voice through Scripture - Dr. Tim Gray

Watch, Ready Reasons: Is Mary the Mother of God?

Study, YDisciple: Living the Creed, Session 10: Catholic Social Teaching

Children: Watch, Cat Chat: Season 1, Episode 4: Building the Kingdom

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
GRADES K-6**

Tuesday: 4:30 - 6:00pm — February 9, 2021
Wednesday: 5:30 - 7:00pm — February 10, 2021

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

Sunday: 6-7:30pm — January 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.



To the Family and Friends of

**Frederick Jepson
Benny Beebe
Julie Dupuis**

You are in our prayers.



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

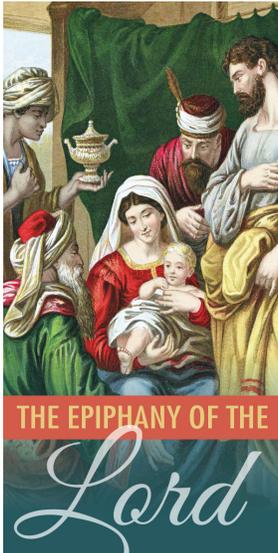
Plenary indulgence for the Year of St. Joseph

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

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.



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

The first human word spoken in Matthew's gospel is the one the wise men address to Herod: "**Where . . . ?**" It is also the response of Herod when he summons the chief priests and scribes of "all Jerusalem" when he asks: "**Where . . . ?**". But the two questions are spoken from very different hearts. Herod is panic-stricken at the thought of losing his power to another ... this "king of the Jews," and is desperate to know "where" this threat lurks. It is some of the same crowd that Matthew will later describe Herod as summoning to help him to plot the death of Jesus, and who will mock him on the cross. In contrast, the wise men, the Gentile seekers and aristocratic scholars, have no concern with status or ethnicity; their question "Where . . . ?" is a sign of their genuine search for the new king so that they may come to pay him homage. They also have the humility to come to Jerusalem to add to their foreign

and pagan wisdom the wisdom of the Hebrew Scriptures to help them in their search. In the company of Herod and his cohorts, Matthew sees the wise men as witnesses to the later call of Jesus for all his disciples to be "*shrewd as serpents and simple as doves*".

The search of the wise men from the East begins with a sign in the skies and the guiding wisdom of pagan astrology ... a star ... and it ends with a Child of earth to whom they are led by both the star and the light of the Hebrew Scriptures. Whether Matthew intended it or not, later tradition has seen in the gifts the magi bring a hint of the paschal mystery: the myrrh for embalming, the frankincense for fragrancng of sacrifices and burning before the holy of holies, the gold a fitting gift for a king. Their human "dreams" fulfilled by their visit to the Child, God touches their spirit in a dream that warns them of Herod's hypocrisy so that they do not return to Jerusalem to tell him the answer to the question ... the "where" of Jesus ... but return to their own country by another way.

When we place the magi in our Christmas crib, they are usually dressed in opulent robes and, in most renditions, they have different colored faces. For in the number or the physical appearance of the wise men we have no biblical foundation, the truth that their visit declares, and the symbolism that their presence in the crib proclaims, is the gospel truth **that Jesus is king for all the nations of the earth**. This is what we pray for in the words of the responsorial Psalm (72): the establishment of God's kingdom of justice and peace throughout the world so that the rights of the poor and helpless are respected and the cries of the needy are answered.

In the story of the revelation of Jesus to the magi, we may ask: what is revealed to us about our own eagerness or reluctance to seek God? What is our own ability to listen to the Word of God, our own discernment of hypocrisy and hunger for power, in ourselves, our world, our church? What is our own attitude to strangers and our appreciation of their wisdom? Do we make the refugees and asylum-seekers as neighbors, or do we regard them as a threat to jobs, property values, national security, our own comfortable spiritual wisdom? How do we respond to the young people who are searching for their own stars to guide them in their "where" and "when" of something more in their lives? Where and when must there be both a "birth" and a "death" in our Christian lives as we gaze on the Christmas Child and recognize the mystery of the adult Christ for adult Christians?

Fr. Dennis