

5th Sunday of Easter — May 2, 2021



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

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

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.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Will McGrath

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

Parish Office: 673-1311 Fax: 673-3687

Faith Formation: 673-4797

Website: saintpatrickmilfordnh.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor

daudet52@gmail.com

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Christopher Maynard, Music Director

music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com

Jay Duffy, Cemetery Sexton 673-1311

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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT OUR PARISH



**First Friday Adoration
May 7, 6-8pm**

Between the hour of 7:00-8:00pm we will have an intentional hour of prayer. Each month, we pray for a specific intention that affects our universal church. Our goal is to use this most holy time of prayer to call on God's involvement and blessing in these specific areas of need in our Church. There will be special prayers offered during this hour and we ask you prayerfully consider coming to church and participating in this or any portion of First Friday Adoration.

**FACE MASKS REQUIRED AND
SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICED**

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

COMMUNION NOTE

We are going back to forming 2 lines in the center aisle and the front pew goes first. Return to your pew by the side aisles and keeping safe distancing.

MAY 3-9, 2021

MON - 5/3- Ss. Philip & James

7:30AM: Mary Clare, Jack & Kathleen Milan by John

TUES - 5/4- Easter Weekday - NO MASS

WED - 5/5- Easter Weekday

5:30PM: All Souls

THURS - 5/6- Easter Weekday

7:30AM: Frank, Mary & Frank Burbee, Jr.

FRI - 5/7- Easter Weekday (First Friday)

5:30PM: John Spurrier by his parents, Jim & Anne

SAT - 5/8 - Vigil 6th Sunday of Easter

4:00PM: Marian Dougherty

SUN - 5/9 - 6th Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)

The Church closes at Noon on Sundays

8:00 AM: Deceased members of the Bergeron & Larose family
Richard Wagner by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Courage

10:30AM: Members of the parish

11:30AM - 11:45AM HOLY COMMUNION ONLY

READINGS 5/9/2021

Acts: 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

1 Jn: 4:7-10

Jn: 15:9-17

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 April 25, 2021: \$3,478

Adult Faith Formation: \$907

GIVE+ONLINE



**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**

**COVID UPDATE ON MASK WEARING
IN CHURCH — APRIL 16, 2021**

You may have seen that the Governor announced the repeal of the State mask mandate. This is causing confusion because it does not repeal what is in place for guidance for Houses of Worship in New Hampshire which incorporated the CDC's best practices including the continued recommended wearing of masks. From the first days of this pandemic impacting our State, the Diocese has been, and will continue to be, informed by federal and state public health experts and our own local, Catholic health resources.

What the Governor is allowing to expire is separate from the broader and still prudent precautionary measures which remain in place: washing and sanitizing of hands, maintaining a distance of six feet, or twenty for choirs, and other measures the Diocese has had in place since last May. Masks when in close confines, such as when we are at Mass, are still strongly encouraged to be worn by those who are able, according to the guidance we have asked all to follow.

While vaccines are now widely available, they should not give the false sense that no other precautions are necessary or helpful. We ask you, therefore, to continue to follow the guidance of best practices for the Celebration of Mass and other aspects of Parish life.

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.



Weekly challenge from your Faith Formation Team (5/2/2021)

A ship is another ancient symbol, one recommended by the great Christian teacher Clement of Alexandria in a book written at the close of the second century. How does a boat serve as a symbol for Christians?

Answer to last week's question 5/25/2021)

The anchor was already a symbol of safety in the ancient world, so it is not surprising that it would be used by the early church. The letter to the Hebrews says that Christians have hope as "a sure and steadfast anchor" in the unfulfilling promises of God.

The Anchored Cross is a related symbol which emphasizes that the Cross is the reason for our Hope.

Check the parish Facebook page for a link to a lovely rendition of the old favorite hymn "We have an anchor."

Eastertime: remaining in relationship; bearing fruit

In the Easter season, Jesus appears to his disciples and explains his resurrection's meaning; reveals himself as good shepherd, true vine, and one who has laid down his life; and prays for those whom he sends into the world. This week's readings ask us, the believing community, to think about discipleship's ongoing nature.

John's gospel is from Jesus' final discourse. In last week's "Good Shepherd" discourse, Jesus instructed *community leaders*. In this week's "vine and branches" discourse, he teaches about *discipleship*. This discourse has many themes (vine, branches, pruning, remaining, asking, glorifying); this reflection offers two discipleship-related ideas:

Remaining in relationship. Only branches that *remain attached* to the vine bear fruit. This "remaining" or "abiding" describes an *ongoing mutuality* of the disciples' union with Jesus and Jesus' union with his disciples. Just as no branch separated from the vine can bear fruit, *no disciple bears fruit apart and alone*. Branches separated from the vine are useful only as fuel for burning. A disciple *enters into an ongoing relationship* with the Father and Jesus, characterized by *love deep enough to lay down one's life*. Jesus' words and actions model both "abiding" or "remaining-in-relationship" as well as "laying down one's life."

Bearing fruit. "Bearing fruit" is not simply *enjoying the oneness* that exists between Jesus and a disciple. Fruitfulness requires that a disciple *do something*. Jesus has already defined that *something* when he gave his commandment: *love one another* (Jn 13:34-35).

Jesus' resurrection has many meanings and many implications. The Easter season lasts six weeks to give us time to reflect on this cosmos-changing event. In Acts, Luke shows Saul remaining in fellowship with the Jerusalem community. John's letter teaches disciples how to know they belong to God and how God remains in them. John's gospel reveals Jesus as the true vine, giving life to disciples who remain in relationship with him. How has the unfolding Easter celebration fed our discipleship? Have we found a deeper appreciation for the fellowship of our believing community? Do we have a greater confidence that God will provide whatever we ask? Are we seeking more opportunities to remain in relationship and deepen our discipleship?

-Terence Sherlock

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



REMEMBER *in your prayers*

Florence Boudreau, Mimi Shrall, Mimi Cuddington, Mark Blamy, Emily Wrzeszcz, Ashley Holland, Janet Ramsdell, Joyce Nelson, Todd Turcotte, Bettina Mace, Jean Moro, Lucille Farwell, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Shawn Dufraine, Laura McGettigan, Jen, Kim Salem, Patti Fay McDonagh, Lillian Esielionis, Conrad Bergeron, 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 Coron, Patricia Barrett, Cameron Conley, Lexz Bragdom, Timothy Russell, Maureen Belair, Marty, Leo Barriault, Nancy Moro, Mary Ann Hower, Connor Sillowy, 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, Anne Ronsov, Scott Dickinson, Joseph Koprek, Lillie & Damien, Benjamin Smith, 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.

FORMED: it's available to all parishioners for use free of charge. An annual second collection helps to defray the cost.

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. If you have any questions registering, contact ParishCare for technical support:

<https://watch.formed.org/contact/support>.

FORMED:

Watch: Grieving with Great Hope (5 part grief support series) <https://watch.formed.org/grieving-with-great-hope>

Read: Ask the Bible Geek by Mark Hart (answers to questions that puzzle Catholics) <https://watch.formed.org/search?q=Ask+the+Bible+Geek+by+Mark+Hart>

Listen: Put Not Your Trust in Princes by Christopher Check <https://watch.formed.org/search?q=Put+Not+Your+Trust+in+Princes+by+Christopher+Check>

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
FOR
WEEKEND OF MAY 8-9

Saturday 4:00PM

Lector	George Lemelin
Eucharistic Minister	Sr. Marcelle
Greeters	Gary McCartney
	Dianne Hamilton
	Irene Prunier

Sunday 8:00AM

Lector	Michael Carter
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Sharkey
Greeters	Steve Santinelli
	Susan Pasquale
	Diane Bergeron

10:30AM

Lector	Jude Lorman
Eucharistic Minister	Joanne Couture
Greeters	Steve Dudley
	Mary Ellen Dudley
	Judy Hohenadel

Saint Christopher Academy Teacher Fair

Saint Christopher Academy is growing and looking for teachers to join their joy-filled community! The Academy will hold its second drop-in Spring Teacher Fair on Thursday, May 13 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM at their upper campus, located at 6 Bartlett Ave, Nashua, NH. The Academy is particularly in need of full-time teachers for grades 4-8, daily and long term substitutes, and after care teachers. During the Teacher Fair, candidates will participate in an informal mini-interview with the principal and meet faculty and staff. Candidates are encouraged to download and complete the Diocesan Teacher Application at <https://www.catholicnh.org/schools/resources/schools-employment/> prior to the Teacher Fair and also bring along supporting credentials such as teaching accreditation, transcripts, and letters of recommendation.

All Classes are done for this year.



Registrations for next year will be coming out soon.

Hope to see you in Church and in the Fall for the next classes.

Have a great Summer everyone



Knights of Columbus
Father Don Jacques Council #3035,
Milford, NH

St. Patrick's Helpers: Do you have a small project or a list of projects that you need completed around your house? How would you like to have "masked" Knights of Columbus take care of this for you? We are offering handy-man services to the community. Proceeds will be donated directly to St. Patrick Church – Facilities Fund.

If you would like to learn more or if you think that you have the "perfect project" for St. Patrick Helpers, or if you are interested in helping us, please contact Pauline Nepveu at pnepveu54@gmail.com or 603-672-0564. Thank you.



Are you or someone you know interested in the Catholic Faith?

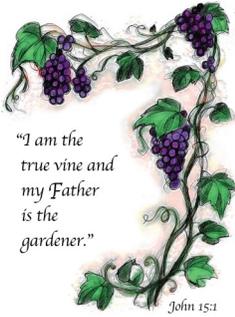
The Catholic Church invites you to the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process for those who are:

- ◆ Unbaptized and recognizes a need for spirituality in their life
 - ◆ Baptized and raised in another Christian tradition but interested in learning about the Catholic faith
 - ◆ Baptized in the Catholic faith or another Christian faith tradition, but never received any formal faith formation.
- Inquirers please contact Patti Hendrickson at 673-1311 or pattih2015@comcast.net.

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.

5th Sunday of Easter



Today and next Sunday, the gospel readings are from the Last Supper discourse of St. John's gospel. Chronologically, the Last Supper took place before Jesus' death and resurrection, yet we hear them after Easter. This is a reminder that we are not remembering and celebrating events in their strict historical sequence, but that we are immersed in a liturgical mix of time and timelessness; we are celebrating the **mystery** that is always and everywhere the **reality** of the resurrection of Jesus.

As we listen to the Gospel of John account of the last meal of Jesus with his disciples, we are, here and now, at the table with Jesus and the community of disciples, interweaving our lives with him, the true vine, and with the branches of all the baptized. We hear much shouting of would-be people of power: fanatical tyrants, political agitators, self-righteous politicians. We may even add to this chorus our own small voices on matters personal, church, or social. But what Jesus speaks about is the power of love and of gentle growth.

He gives us another image of the great intimacy and interdependence that exists between himself, his Father, and his disciples: *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower"*—and we are the branches. So significant was the image of the vine that on one facade of the Jerusalem temple sanctuary was carved an ornamental vine with golden clusters of grapes as big as a human hand. And the early Christian community painted the vine on the walls of the catacombs in memory of Christ, the true vine. The image of the vine represents the people of God, for all the branches are so intertwined that when looking at a vine it is almost impossible to tell where one branch begins and another ends. All intermingle together as they grow from the central vine ... only to bear fruit. Such is the relationship of Jesus to the new community that grows from his death and resurrection. Such communities are also to be branching out, hospitable communities that live by and bear fruit through the life-giving nourishment of Christ's risen life.

To remain healthy and productive, the vine must be pruned by our vine grower God. Those who have been baptized have already been pruned by the words Jesus speaks, but we must continue to accept not only the short, sharp pain of God's pruning from our lives the small and withering infidelities, but also be willing to endure the longer and more drastic pruning that is sometimes necessary. This is not to make of the Vine Grower seem harsh and uncaring ... because what is done is done out of love for the vine. In his passion and death, the Christ who knew no sin was made sin for us, and suffered in faithful hope that most drastic pruning of his passion and death so that the branches of the vine, his community, might thrive through his resurrected life.

Sometimes what needs to be pruned in our lives is the selfishness and individualism that wants to go its own way, or the leech that feeds on self-interest; both draw life away from the vine. At other times, our Vine Grower God recognizes our potential for greater fruit-bearing, and with this the need for heavy pruning. After such pruning, a vine may bear no fruit for several years, but it remains rooted and waiting, confident in the tending of the Vine Grower, until both are rewarded with ripe and delicious fruit. When we yield such a harvest of good works, says Jesus, we give glory to the Father and are confirmed in our discipleship.

Fr. Dennis