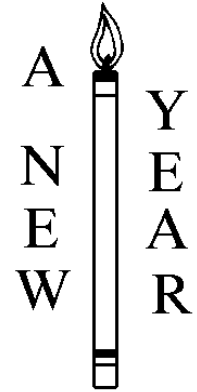


THE PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year! We pray that this year of 2012 will be one filled with joy, peace and the countless blessings of God for you and for your families. It's all too easy to fall into the secular pattern of leaving Christmas behind at midnight of December 26th, but the great joy is knowing that today we conclude the Octave of Christmas and we continue this wonderful season for yet another couple of weeks. We still have plenty of reflecting to do—on the Epiphany of the Lord and His baptism in the Jordan. The mystery we celebrate isn't just a one-day event—it's a whole season full of events! I'm sure everyone has customs that surround your Christmas celebrations. In our home, there were many. Because my oldest sister was born on December 13th, that was the day that the Christmas tree went up; the Nativity always had a prominent place as you entered the front door; the image of the Christ Child was placed near the front door so that the first thing done was a procession with the Child as soon as we came into the house from Midnight Mass; the Three Kings began their annual journey to the crib even before the Baby found His way into the manger; each day of the Twelve Days of Christmas, those Kings moved slowly but surely closer to the manger so that on January 6th (the "old" date of the Epiphany) they reached their destination at the crèche. But the three customs that stand out most in my mind involved both our home and our church.



At some point during the Christmas season, we would visit the manger scene in our parish church. After saying our prayers, we would leave a "gift" for the Christ Child—perhaps a quarter or fifty cents (that was, of course, in the Dark Ages when that amount counted for something!), and we would take a piece of straw from the manger to put in our wallets. My grandmother would tell us to put that straw there as a reminder, not only of the poverty of the Holy Family, but also to remind us that all of the good gifts we received were a result of God's generosity to us in sharing with us His only-begotten Son. To this day, I visit the manger and take for myself a piece of straw. Believe it or not, my grandmother's words echo in my memory, and I remember those important lessons of poverty and dependence on God. The other two family traditions are more in keeping with the Epiphany. On January 6th, we would gather together as a family and mark the front door of our home with the with the first 2 numbers of the year, the letters CMB with crosses separating them, and the last 2 numbers of the year (i.e., 20 C+M+B+12) to bless our home for the year in memory of the Three Kings (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar). We'd share in a festive dinner (even on a school night!) and then proceed to open the last of our Christmas presents. You see, one gift was always set aside on Christmas Day, and we would open that last, coveted gift that had to remain under the tree until "Little Christmas." After that, the tree would come down, and slowly but surely, so too would the decorations. That last gift would often keep us occupied enough through the sadness of seeing the decorations come down.

While I'm sure you have your "Christmas customs," maybe you'd like to think about adopting at least the straw for your wallet. You might be surprised at how often it triggers the thought of Christmas and the great generosity and poverty of God! We wish you all a very happy and blessed New Year!

Until next week...God bless!

Father Joe

Mass Intentions

- Monday, January 2** (St Basil the Great,
St Gregory Nazianzen)
9:00AM - Joan Eppolito, by Family
- Tuesday, January 3** (*The Most Holy Name of Jesus*)
7:00PM - Patty Murphy, by Betty Jane McKenna
- Wednesday, January 4** (*St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*)
9:00AM - Virginia Creteau, by Denis & Diane Ducharme
- Thursday, January 5** (*St. John Newmann*)
7:00PM - Intentions of Kyle Brady, by Ryan Brady
- Friday, January 6** (*St. Andre Bessette*)
9:00AM - Patty Murphy, by Dianne Kane
7:00PM - Carole Haimovitz, by the d'Aleo Family
- Saturday, January 7** (*St. Raymond of Penyafort*)
9:00AM - Virginia F. Ross, by Clare & Arthur Born
Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord
4:00PM - Laurence Burke, by Mary & Family
- Sunday, January 8** (*Epiphany of the Lord*)
8:30AM - Prudence Hudon, by Leo & Lauraine Hudon
10:30AM - Intentions of our Parishioners
6:30PM - Lucille Hebert (3rd Anniversary) by the Iby Family

Sanctuary Lamps in Church
In Memory of Laurence Burke
by Mary Burke & Family

Divine Mercy Shrine (January)
In Memory of Tina Luminoso
by her husband, Liborio

OUR REFLECTION OF GOD'S GENEROSITY
Due to Early Printing the Christmas Offertory
will be published next week

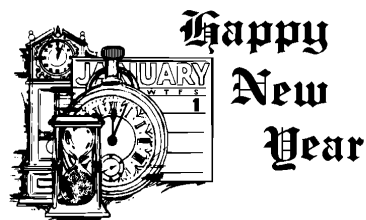
Vocation Birth Stone Rosary

This week *Karen Dill* will be praying with the traveling rosary for our five parish seminarians.
Next week *Janice Arcaro* will receive it.
Thank you to all who are part of this ongoing spiritual support for our men in formation for the priesthood.



Happy New Year

In the name of Father Joe and Deacon Ray, the pastoral staff, the pastoral and finance councils, and all who call Saint Kathryn's "home," we wish you a blessed New Year filled with God's richest blessings!



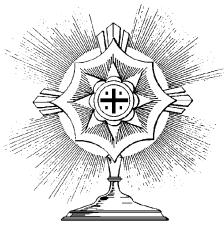
The Week At A Glance ...

- Sunday - January 1st**
Happy New Year!
No Coffee & Donuts today!
- Monday - January 2nd**
Rel Ed/RMs 2-5 (5 - 6:15 PM)
RCIA/RM 1 (7 PM)
- Tuesday - January 3rd**
RCIC/RM 3 (5:45 - 6:45 PM)
Cub Scouts/RMs 4, 5, 6, Hall A (6 - 8PM)
Boy Scouts/Hall B (7 PM)
- Wednesday - January 4th**
Adoration/Chapel (5:30-8:45 AM, 1-7 PM)
Vespers & Benediction/Chapel (7 PM)
K of C Business Mtg/Hall B (7 PM)
- Friday - January 6th**
Cursillo/Ultreya/RM 2 (8 PM)
- Saturday - January 7th**
RCIA Enrichment Day/Hall A, RMs 1,2,3 (9AM)
9th & 10th Gr Rel Ed Sign-up/Chapel (after Mass)
- Sunday - January 8th**
Coffee & Donuts/Hall (after AM Masses)
9th & 10th Gr Rel Ed Sign-up/Chapel (after Masses)
Rel Ed, Grp 2 (Rms 1-6 (10AM -12N)
Baptismal Catechesis/RM 1 (12:15 PM)
1st Communion Prog/Hall & RMs (1:30 - 4PM)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Did you know that each week we have an opportunity to spend some quality time with the Lord present to us in the Blessed Sacrament? The Blessed Sacrament is exposed from 5:30-8:45 a.m. and from 1:00-7:00 p.m. each Wednesday. Whether you come for a few minutes or make a weekly holy hour, the more important point is that we make some time for the Lord. Come on down and give the Lord a moment at the beginning of



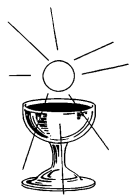
your day or before the 9:00 a.m. Mass; maybe the evening is more conducive, so join us for Vespers at 7:00 p.m. and Benediction. Whatever you can do, please come in and be refreshed by your time with the Lord!

First Friday Adoration

This Friday, January 6th, is the first Friday of the month. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. as usual and again at 7:00 p.m. followed by adoration throughout the night. The Rosary will be recited at 8:30 a.m., followed by Benediction and Holy Mass at 9:00 a.m. *Adorers—please remember to keep your scheduled hour!* What a great way to begin our new year!

Low Gluten Hosts

We are hearing about more people who struggle with Celiac-Sprue disease – an intolerance to the gluten found in wheat products. We do have low-gluten hosts (0.01% gluten) available for those who would have this need. Please speak with Father Joe or Deacon Ray to determine if these hosts would be helpful for you.



Siena Singles

Attention Siena Singles! Our new book club is forming as we look forward to reading and studying *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. The Siena Singles will meet on Saturday mornings beginning on **January 21** in Room 1 following the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Pre-registration is required. Contact Karen Dill if you are interested in joining (603.560.3416 or dmkdill@aol.com).

Vocation Support Association Donations

Thank you to all those who joined the Vocation Support Association and are committed to prayerful and financial support. If something has changed and you need to change your offering, please let us know for the purpose of budgeting (whether you donate monthly, quarterly, bi-annually or annually). You can always drop us a note, c/o VSA to let us know. Thank you to all who have been so faithful in prayer, financial support, and in sending notes to our seminarians and Sisters in formation.

Face book

Did you know that Saint Kathryn's has its own Face book page? The page is updated daily with a reflection, a musical selection, a piece of artwork, or an updated schedule of events in the parish. In just a few weeks, we already have more than 100 "likes." We all like to be liked, right? Why not "like" us today at Saint Kathryn's Church? You'll enjoy our parish tidbits!



And Speaking Of the World Wide Web...

Visit our website often for information about our parish programs and activities, the parish schedule, our photo galleries, and Sunday homilies. We're even going to look at putting some of our adult education sessions online. Keep us active—visit www.stkathryns.org!

Comfort Shawl Ministry

Did you know that we have a comfort shawl ministry in the parish? Shawls are knitted and crocheted for the members of our parish who are dealing with health issues and need the support of the prayers of the ministry. These shawls are created while the knitter prays for the one who will receive it. Before the shawls are distributed, Father Joe blesses them at a morning Mass and they are given with the prayers of the knitter and the community gathered together at Mass. For information on how to become a part of this ministry or to receive a comfort shawl, please contact Michele at the parish office.

Thank You!

We would be remiss if we overlooked all those who gave so much of themselves to make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. Our choirs and instrumentalists surpassed every and all expectations with their prayerful, beautiful musical leadership; to our lectors who proclaimed the Scriptures with such conviction; those who decorated the church and transept chapel gave us, not only a festive setting for our worship, but also that “quiet place” where we could sit and reflect



on the mystery of the Lord’s birth; to our sacristans who, day after day, ensure that the liturgical books are prepared, linens are washed and ironed, vestments readied, and sacred vessels clean and dressed appropriately; to those who ensure that our church and chapel are spotless and welcoming; our extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion lovingly and graciously offered the Body and Blood of the Lord to the throngs who were with us; to the parish staff who ensured that every detail was covered – to all, *Thank you!* This was a fitting and joyful celebration of the Lord’s coming and together, it was made all the more wonderful. Thank you!

Epiphany of the Lord

Next Sunday, the Church marks the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, marking the day when the Three Wise Men were brought to the Christ Child by the star of Bethlehem and the revelation of the God-made-man was made for the first time to the Gentiles. Keep your Christmas lights burning brightly through this feast. We will have the traditional blessing of chalk at all Masses next weekend and the bulletin will have the blessing prayer you can use to mark the main door of your home with the blessed chalk. Continue this ancient tradition in the Church and among the members of our parish community.

New Year’s Resolution

To Learn More About Your Catholic Faith

This year, consider making a New Year’s Resolution to learn more about your Catholic faith. We as Catholics are not used to investing in ourselves in this way like other Christian faiths. Through a special book purchase program from The Dynamic Catholic Institute, we have been able to purchase 500 copies of some great Catholic books to help you in your faith journey. Choose from the following titles: [A Father Who Keeps His Promises](#) by Dr. Scott Hahn; [Rediscovering Catholicism](#) by Matthew Kelly; and [The One Thing](#) also by Matthew Kelly. These titles are available in narthex for a free will offering of only \$3!

Welcome to the Parish!

Having recently registered, these folks are the newest members on our parish family, and we extend a warm welcome to *Kelly, Madison and Jacob Champagne; John and Linda DiFazio; Roger and Paula Hubert.*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Coming Home to Catholicism

On Thursday, **January 19th**, at 7:00 p.m., we will begin another 7-session series geared at turned-off, turned-away, or fallen-away Catholics. These informal and information packed evenings help participants come to a renewed appreciation of the Catholic faith and provide an atmosphere of healing and discussion that can help inactive Catholics begin the regular practice of their faith life again. Sometimes there are issues; sometimes folks just got busy...whatever the reason, this is a great way to take another look, and ask questions and question answers. Spread the word! Invite someone you know! Brochures are available at the church doors. Give them to friends; mail them anonymously; show them this announcement; come with them! Start praying now about whom to invite!



High School Religious Education Sign-Ups

Sign-up for 9th and 10th grades Religious Education classes will take place during the weekend of **January 7-8** in the Transept Chapel after all the Masses. Classes will begin on January 10th! Mark your calendars for this sign-up weekend!

Saint Gianna's Closet

Donations of gently used children's clothing sizes birth to teen are being accepted during the month of January. Clothing may be dropped off in the hall near the coat rack after all Sunday Masses. Saint Gianna's Closet supplies needy children with free clothing through the established outreach programs at both Blessed Sacrament Church in Manchester and CareNet, a crisis pregnancy center. Please call Liz with questions: 603.437.6678.

Presentation of Mary Academy

There will be an open house at Presentation of Mary Academy next Sunday, **January 8, 2012** from 2:00-3:00 p.m. at the school at 182 Lowell Road in Hudson.

PMA is a private Catholic school, owned and operated by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary since 1926. Known for its challenging academic environment and rooted in the tradition of the Catholic faith, PMA provides a nurturing co-educational environment for students in grades Pre-K through Junior High School. For more information, please contact June Nolet in the admissions office at 603.889.6054 x203 or visit the school's web page at www.pmaschool.org.

Free Throw Challenge

The Knights of Columbus, Council 5162 will be sponsoring a Basketball Free Throw Challenge on Saturday, **January 14th** at the Community Center (old Lion's Hall) on Lion's Ave. in Hudson. The Free Throw Challenge is a basketball free throw contest where boys and girls compete against their age level to see how many free throws out of 25 they can make.



The competition is open to boys and girls ages 10-14 and will be broken up as follows:

Girls (ages 10-11) 4:30 PM registration
Boys (ages 10-11) 5:00 PM registration
Girls (ages 12-14) 5:30 PM registration
Boys (ages 12-14) 6:00 PM registration

Trophies will be awarded to the winner of each group listed above. Pre-registration is NOT required. For more information, please contact Dave Wilder (dwilder@juniper.net, or 603-566-5873).

Christmas Collection

If you haven't yet used your Christmas envelope to make a special offering toward debt reduction, please consider doing what you can as soon as possible. We rely on the Christmas and Easter collections to help us meet our monthly mortgage payments, especially since we do not take up a monthly debt reduction collection. We thank all who are able to do a little extra to help us get ever nearer to our mortgage burning which, please God, will take place this year!

Children's Ministry

Opening program for First Communion preparation is next Sunday, January 8th from 1:30 - 4PM in the hall. children are reminded to bring their books. **Parents stay for this program!**

Reminder - Monday night religious ed classes, Grades 3-6 **will be held on January 2nd** from 5 - 6:15!

Attention 1st grade students:

Grp 2 meet Jan. 8th
Grp 1 meet Jan. 22nd

Tax Statements

As we enter a new year, we are happy to provide a statement of contributions for tax purposes if you call the office to make a request. Please be sure to leave your **name and envelope number** for Lauraine when you call in. It may take a few days to process your request, so please don't wait until you need them 'yesterday'!



Note: We can only give statements for 'contributors of record', that is, those who use the envelope system.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

TITHING UPDATE

During the month of December we shared our parish tithes, 10 percent of what is offered in the offertory collection, with the following charitable needs:



Anne Marie House
St. Vincent dePaul
School Subsidies
St. Marguarite D'Youville Parish,
Groveton
St. Vincent Star Program

TOTAL SHARED: \$2,041.83

New Envelope Boxes

As you begin using your new boxes, please be sure to use the Initial Offering envelope that starts the box and print your name and address clearly on it. This renews the link between your name and number for the coming year and helps avoid glitches when it's time to look up info for you or get your new box ready. After the initial envelope there is no need to put your name on the envelopes. They are recorded confidentially by number each week after that. Those who would like to use the envelopes for consistent support of the parish, and who currently do not have a box, can see Fr Joe or Deacon Ray in the vestry after Mass to get one.



***ST. KATHRYN PARISH
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE***

03-0779

JANUARY 1, 2012 – Week 6