

THE PASTOR'S MUSINGS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When we were kids growing up, our family observed the custom of opening the last of our presents on the feast of the Epiphany. In those days, Epiphany was always celebrated on the “12th Day of Christmas,” or January 6th, and was a day that we greatly anticipated. Even though we were back in school, there were a lot of different things that happened on that day. The statues of the Three Kings finally moved from the furthest end of the foyer into the actual Nativity scene; the Christmas lights burned in the windows and on the tree from the night before until midnight of January 7th; the front door of the house was marked with the year and the letters, CMB to bless our home and remember Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar; I’m not sure why, but we always had a leg of lamb for dinner on that night with a special “Three Kings” dessert; after all of the dishes were cleaned up, we gathered in the living room, drank the last of the egg nog for the season, and opened the last, coveted Christmas gift that beckoned to us from Christmas Day. Those have been such fond memories for all of us, but it also reminded us that on the next day, the tree and decorations would come down, and we returned to “normal.” I wouldn’t trade those memories for anything, and, believe it or not, one present remains unopened at the rectory until January 6th.



Well, here we are at January 8th, and the Church invites us to celebrate the Epiphany today. Why transfer the date when January 6th remains the “12th day of Christmas”? The Epiphany is such a major feast in the Church that, being a good Mother, she wants as many of the faithful to be able to participate in this liturgy. Transferring the day to the nearest Sunday allows us to remember the great revelation of the Christ to the Gentiles and to really spend the day in joyful meditation and celebration. It’s not a bad idea—giving us the opportunity to reflect on the idea that the coming of Christ is not limited to a singular group of people, but that He comes for us all. It’s a great moment of rejoicing for us and a wonderful opportunity to bless our homes and our hearts with the Christ who lives among us. Perhaps you’ll want to mark this day in a particular way as well. Take some of the blessed chalk home with you and pray the house blessing in your own home (the prayers are found right here in the bulletin). If you happen not to have holy water in your house, please feel free to take one of the bottles that are available in the back of the church. As you mark the door, bless it with the holy water. I’ll guarantee, people will ask you about the marking when they visit. Wouldn’t it be a great time to share the faith with those who enter your home? Tell the story; share the custom; invite your family and friends to think about the faith which has become so important to you!

At the same time, remember that this is the last week that our Christmas decorations will be up, so this is the last opportunity for photos and the last chance to leave a gift for the poor near the Christ Child and the last chance to take a piece of hay for your wallet. From the poverty of the straw surrounding the Infant, we remember not only the humility of God-made-man, but also the provident care of God who will make sure we are never “without.” Merry “Little Christmas” to you all. May Christ, the Light of the Nations, fill your homes with His light and love.

Until next week....God bless!

Father Joe

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9 (Baptism of the Lord)

9:00AM - Patricia Mullen, by Pat & Barry McGuane

Tuesday, January 10 (Weekday)

7:00PM - Joseph Jacoppi, by Family

Wednesday, January 11 (Weekday)

9:00AM - Memorial Enrollments

Thursday, January 12 (Weekday)

7:00PM - Edward Tighe, by Jennifer Betts-Cantara

Friday, January 13 (Weekday)

9:00AM - Conrad Berube, by Jeannette Chaput, Ruby Forsyth and Barbara Ryan

Saturday, January 14 (Weekday)

9:00AM - Intention of our Parishioners

Vigil: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00PM - John Pietrowski (24th Anniversary) by his Parents

Sunday, January 15 (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

8:30AM - Ovide & Anna LaPierre, by Family

10:30AM - Evelyn Kirste, by the Columb Family

6:30PM - William Souza (12th Anniversary) by the Iby Family

Sanctuary Lamps in Church

Intentions of Liz & Walter Martin

OUR REFLECTION OF GOD'S GENEROSITY

Offertory for Christmas: \$34,836.70

Christmas Flowers: \$ 3,263.00

Thank You

Offertory for 1/1/12 will be posted next week due to early printing!

Vocation Birth Stone Rosary

This week *Janice Arcaro* will be praying with the traveling rosary for our five parish seminarians.

Next week *Lena Lajoie* will receive it. Thank you to all who are part of this ongoing spiritual support for our men in formation for the priesthood.



HS Religious Education Sign-Ups

Sign-up for 9th and 10th grades Religious Education classes will take place **this weekend** in the Transept Chapel **after all the Masses**. Classes will begin Tuesday, **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.

The Week At A Glance ...

Sunday - January 8th

C&D Host: Cub Scouts (Stephanie Izzo)

9th/10th Gr Rel Ed Sign-up/T 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)

Monday - January 9th

Rel Ed/RMs 2-5 (5 - 6:15 PM)

JH Rel Ed/RM 1 (5 - 6:15 PM)

RCIA/RM 1 (7 PM)

Tuesday - January 10th

RCIC/RM 3 (5:45 - 6:45 PM)

Cub Scouts/RMs 4, 5, 6, Hall A (6 - 8PM)

TOB/RM 1 (6:30 - 8:30 PM)

Boy Scouts/Hall B (7 PM)

Wednesday - January 11th

Adoration/Chapel (5:30-8:45 AM, 1-7 PM)

Vespers & Benediction/Chapel (7 PM)

3 Beliefs Seminar/Hall (7:45 PM)

Friday - January 13th

Holy Hour Young Adults/Chapel (7 - 8PM)

Holy Hour/Men of St. Joseph/Chapel (9 - 10PM)

Saturday - January 14th

RCIA Enrichment Day/Hall a, RMs 1,2,3 (9AM)

CDA Officers Mtg/Conf. RM (9AM - 4PM)

Sunday - January 15th

Pancake Breakfast - VSA/Hall (8:30AM - 1PM)

9th & 10th Gr Rel Ed Sign-up/Chapel (after Masses)

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Children's Ministry

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

Attention 1st grade students:

Grp 2 meet **today, Jan. 8th** at 10AM

Grp 1 meet Jan. 22nd, at 10AM

New Year's Resolution

to Learn More About Your 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 the narthex for a free will offering of only \$3!

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).

Tax Statements

As we enter a new year, we are happy to provide a statement of contributions for tax purposes if you call in to make a request. Be sure to leave your name and envelope number for Lauraine. 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 (another benefit to being a registered member of the parish!).



Want to Learn More About Your Faith?

The LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA kiosk in the narthex contains some great CDs to help you better understand Catholic teachings and grow your Catholic faith. Be sure to check out CDs from Jeff Cavins ("15 Things To Do in the Midst of Suffering"), Matthew Kelly ("Building Better Families"), Kimberly Hahn ("Dating and Courtship"), and Blessed Mother Teresa ("Mary, Handmaid of the Lord"). There are also CDs from Patrick Madrid, Dr. Scott Hahn, and Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

There are also "A Walk Through the New Mass Translation" CDs by Dr. Edward Sri, along with an accompanying booklet. Enjoy!

The Lighthouse Catholic Media display is sponsored by Hudson Monument and Presentation of Mary Academy. For more information about sponsoring this display of which a portion of the sale allows Saint Kathryn's to purchase certain materials for free, contact Dan Goddu at dan.goddu@stkathryns.org.

Weekly Offering Envelopes

The boxes for 2012 have been brought back to the office. If you currently have a box, but didn't pick up your new one from the narthex tables, and are not able to pick it up in the office, please call Lauraine with your name and envelope number and she will see to it that your box is brought over to the church for pick-up in the vestry. *Remember that all envelope users need to complete the Initial Offering envelope that starts the box to link your name/number for the coming year.* Anyone who currently does not have envelopes and would like a box for 2012 should see Father Joe or Deacon Ray after weekend Masses.



Thank You, Thank You, and Thank You

A deep, heartfelt thank you to all of you for your well wishes on my birthday. I was humbled not only by the amount of cards that I received at the Rectory and at Seminary, but by the warm, encouraging, and thoughtful words that they contained. Thank you also for your warm, gracious, and loving welcome you have given to me over the past several months. I truly feel at home here at Saint Kathryn's. Thank you!

-Deacon Michael

...Thank you to all of the parishioners at Saint Kathryn's for remembering me with cards and gifts for Christmas. The generosity of the Vocation Support Association and the prayerful support of the people of Saint Kathryn's is so deeply appreciated. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and holy New Year.

-Sister Miriam McLean, RSM

A Local Thank You

To all who made our Christmas celebrations so beautiful, reverent and dignified, thank you! Our church is beautiful because so many volunteers helped to clean and decorate; our sacristans provided the "best" for our newborn King; our servers added dignity and solemnity to our celebrations and helped Deacon Ray, Deacon Michael and Father Joe beyond measure; to Seminarians Michael Sartori and Brian Shook, thank you for being home with us and sharing your particular gifts with the community; our musicians, choir members and cantors who raised our minds and voices through sung prayer; our lectors who reminded us, through God's Word, of the presence of Christ among us; our extraordinary ministers of Communion who shared with us the Lord's Body and Blood and helped us to realize that He is, indeed among us; our children who participated in the Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy; to our greeters who ensure that all are received as we would receive Christ Himself; and to those who quietly and behind the scenes always make sure that our church is presentable and clean, welcoming and safe—thank you! You have made our Christmas celebrations nothing less than perfect!

House Blessing for Epiphany



There is a beautiful tradition of blessing chalk on this Epiphany day to be used in blessing the homes of our parish. We invite you to take a piece of chalk and a bottle of hol water from the table before the altar. Gather your family in your home at the most frequently used door. Using the chalk, inscribe the following on the top of the door, on the wall above, or on the trim, wherever it will stand out:

20 + CMB + 12

The initials represent the legendary names of the three Magi, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. The members ask the Lord's blessing on the year ahead, with the crosses asking blessing on those "coming and going" through the portal. *After inscribing the above at the door, someone reads the prayer of blessing below, then all join in praying the Our Father.*

Heavenly Father, bless this home, all who dwell here and all who visit here. As the Magi found Christ on their arrival, may all our guests see Christ in us and in the life we share. Be our protector as we leave this house and our comfort and joy as we return. We ask this through Christ our Lord, the Word made flesh, who lives forever and ever. Amen.

A Christmas Message from Bishop Peter Libasci

My Very Dear Friends,

As I begin my first weeks as Bishop of Manchester, I am overwhelmed at the wonderful gifts of welcome and hospitality I have received since arriving in New Hampshire. As many of you know, I am a Long Islander; I have lived my entire life on Long Island. When the Holy Father called me to come to New Hampshire I accepted gladly, but also with some anxiety. I was headed for a new home, one about which I knew little. Yet any anxiety I had about the people was laid to rest upon arriving. New Hampshire's people are warm and devout, full of integrity, justice, and joy. I have received a great gift this Advent season, and it is the gift of all of you.

Now I want to share a Christmas gift in return. It is the Living Word of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As Pope Benedict once wrote, "The Word of God is no longer solely a commandment but also a gift of love, incarnate in Christ. We can really say thank you, Lord, for giving us this gift of knowing you."

One of the most joyous evidences of the glory of the gift of knowing Jesus can be found in the hearts and actions of those who truly embrace this gift. I think of all the devout priests, the dedicated, wonderful lay people, and, of course, the tireless men and women religious. These latter, for instance, who take vows of poverty, are people who have few possessions, but you will find they are among the happiest souls on earth. They know that if one embraces the gift of the Living Word of God, then there is no jewel or toy that can supplant it. It is a gift that is given with very great love and with attention and grace it grows within you.

Receive, then, this gift. Receive the gift of Our Lord Jesus and his love. Come to know and love Our Lord! I can think of no better gift to offer on my first Christmas with all of you that this most wonderful gift. And believe me, it is the one gift that is made all the more precious the more it is "re-gifted" over and over again.

A blessed, a happy, a holy Christmas to you all!

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester

Newly Returned Catholic?

Have you been away from the active practice of your Catholic faith for a while? If so, you might want to think about participating in a seven part series called *Coming Home to Catholicism* that is offered at St Kathryn's. You can come to any or all sessions. You'll gain new insights and a deeper understanding and appreciation of your Catholic faith. Many say, "if I had realized all this, it would not have been so easy to drift away." Come and see for yourself! Bring a friend who may be an inactive Catholic now, or a "Christmas and Easter Catholic" who may be open to taking a deeper look or with questions that they may have about the faith. Maybe someone was hurt, turned off or felt turned away is looking for a way back. This has been a great source of healing for many in our parish. The process is directed by a team of folks who, each at one time or another, walked away for a variety of reasons and have found their way "home." Show this to someone you know! Place to come yourself! The next program begins on Thursday, Jan 19, and continues on Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 and March 1. All sessions begin at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation of Mary Academy

There will be an open house at PMA today, January 8, from 2 -3 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. For more information, please contact June Nolet in the admissions office at 603.889.6054 x203 or visit the school's webpage at www.pmaschool.org.

Open Houses at Infant Jesus School

Are you looking for a school dedicated to educating children through academic achievement, spiritual growth, and community service? Check out Infant Jesus School - offering Pre-K through 6th grade. Drop in on Sunday (1/29) from 2:30 - 4:00 PM. We will also host a Pre-K and Kindergarten "Mommy & Me" session on Wednesday (1/25) from 9:30 -10:30 AM) Please call our office at 889-2649 or visit our website at: www.ijschool.org.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

DEBT STATUS

The outstanding balance on our loan with the Diocese as of December 29th stands at \$106,954.14. The balance on hand in our savings account from which we withdraw monthly mortgage payments of \$10,000.00 is \$28,706.67.



Keep In Mind

If you, or someone you know, has been sexually abused as a minor by a priest, deacon, member of a religious institute, or Church employee or volunteer, we encourage you to report the matter to the Division for Children, Youth and Families at (800) 894.5533. The Diocese of Manchester's Office for Healing and Pastoral Care offers support, outreach and professional assistance to persons and families of those who report such abuse. This office can be reached at 603.668.0014 x233 or 800.475.5585 x233.

Blessing of Vehicles

Since this is the day we recall the "trip" of the Three Kings, it is appropriate day to bless the "camels" that carry us from place to place. Barring a blizzard, we'll bless the cars in our parking lot this weekend after the Masses—both new and old—that they may continue to bring us to the places we need to be. And guess what? If you left early, you missed an extra blessing!

Used Christmas Trees

Christmas is over, the decorations are put away ... what to do with your Christmas tree? Let Troop 20 take it off your hands! On Jan. 7 & 14th the Boy Scouts of Troop 20 will be making the rounds in Hudson picking up used Christmas trees. For a \$7 suggested donation (cash or checks made payable to BSA Troop 20) our crew will remove your tree for you. To arrange a pick-up call or email Stacy at (603) 321-9249 or cunniffstacy@yahoo.com and leave your tree on your front yard on the date you specify, with the donation taped to your front door. The boys will do the rest!

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

03-0779

JANUARY 8, 2012 – Week 6