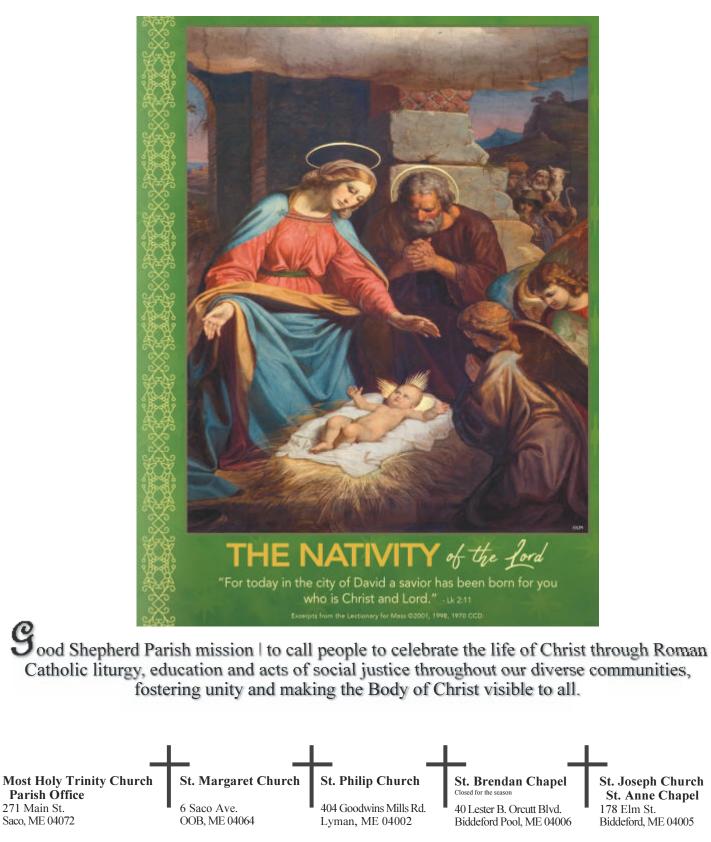
Good Shepherd Parish

December 26, 2021

GoodShepherd@portlanddiocese.org | www.goodshepherdparish.us | (207) 282-3321



GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH | THE HOLY FAMILY | DECEMBER 26, 2021

Pastoral Corner

Merry Christmas!! The Holy Day of Christmas brings great happiness to our families, our parish, and in fact the whole world – even in this time of Covid. The shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has made known to us." The shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for what He had done and what they had seen. The shepherds saw the Child in Bethlehem and gave thanks to God.

Our parish has followed the example begun by St. Francis and placed Nativity Scenes in our churches, so we can in effect, be like the shepherds and journey to see the Infant lying in the manger. These displays of the birth of our Salvation, are elaborate and simple, but the message is clear and always the same: **Jesus the Light of the World**, was born in Bethlehem that first O Holy Night. To commemorate this most precious Gift from God, we share our love for God and others – by giving gifts.

This Advent, we have given thousands of spiritual gifts to others, through the Advent Spiritual Works of Mercy Trees in our parish. Taking an ornament containing a Spiritual Work of Mercy, we have given those spiritual gifts and then decorated our Churches with the prayed "ornaments" – thousands of these spiritual gifts given to our brothers and sisters because we love and appreciate God's Gift of His Only Son, now that is Christmas.

Christmas gift giving can bring peace and happiness, but it can also bring disappointment to some. Wanting something else so strongly, when a gift is opened, and it is not the one wanted, some disappointment can follow. Christmas gifts can also bring true happiness, when we receive something that is completely unexpected; it touches us deeply and speaks of a relationship with the giver. The disappointment may have to do with the size of the giver's wallet; the second, on the size of the giver's heart.

The amount of Spiritual Works of Mercy "ornaments" tells us the size of our hearts. The gift of Jesus is so surprising and unexpected, that it has changed the whole world. The Christmas gift of Perfect Love is the source of our life and happiness, and this speaks of the Giver's Sacred Heart. As we celebrate the Holy Day of Christ's Birth may each member of Good Shepherd Parish understand the significance of God's Gift to us now, and each day of the New Year in front of us.

Please know of my Christmas prayers and those of Father Dominic and Father Anthony. Merry Christmas.

Father Timothy Nadeau

LET US PRAY

Rest in Peace | Normand Vermette (born 1938) Nancy Hodge (born 1934) For all who have recently died. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

The Sanctuary Lamps are burning this week at Most Holy Trinity, St. Joseph, St. Philip and St. Margaret | In memory of Romeo Dube, Aurel Paquette, Hermenie Duchesne and Lucien Z. Lessard.

Baptisms | Nora Marie Laverriere, Micah Ganza Rucogoza, Emma Steele Ouellette, Hannah Michelle Ouellette and Brady Jack Ouellette

Vocation | "Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the Lord." Contact Fr. Greg Dube: 773-6471; email:

vocations@portlanddiocese.org;

Website: www.portlanddiocese/vocations; Facebook: VocationsME

Intercession | For all Catholic families, that they will esteem the grace of each child's vocation and prayerfully encourage their children to consider being a priest, deacon, religious brother, or sister, we pray to the Lord.

Apostolate of Prayer for Priests | December and January 2022

- 26. Rev. Kyle L. Doustou, V. Rev. Wilfred P. Labbe
- 27. Rev. C. James Martel, Rev. Anthony F. Kuzia CM
- 28. Rev. Patrick E. Agbodi SMA, Rev. Dominic Tumusiime AJ
- 29. Rev. Thomas M. Lee, Rev. James Doran
- 30. Rev. Apolinary Kavishe AJ, V. Rev. Thomas M. Murphy
- 31. Rev. Timothy J. Nadeau, Rev. Gerald A. Levesque
- 1. Pope Francis

Clergy

Fr. Timothy Nadeau, Pastor

Rev. Dominic Tumusiime, AJ, Parochial Vicar Fr. Anthony Lawir, Parochial Vicar Deacons Robert Parenteau | Kevin Jacques | Rick Huot

Saint of the Week

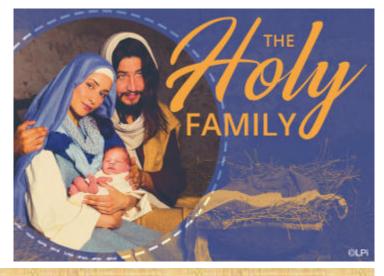
Who shall resist Anti-Christ when he comes if we show such patience towards the vices and crimes of his precursors? By such leniency, we encourage kings to become tyrants and tempt them to withdraw every privilege and all jurisdiction from the Churches.

- Thomas Becket (1118-1170), Martyr, Bishop, Feast Day Dec. 29

COLLECTIONS

Special Collection December 25 | Holy Christmas. Special Collection for Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus and a Holy Day of Obligation.

Special Collection This Weekend | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The feast is a celebration of Mary's motherhood of Jesus. On this day, we are reminded of the role the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation!



Good Shepherd Parish Main Office hours | 9am to 4pm, Monday - Friday.

MASS SCHEDULE

<u>Saturday Mass Times</u>

4pm Most Holy Trinity, Saco 4pm St. Philip, Lyman 6pm St. Margaret, Old Orchard Beach

Sunday Mass Times

7am St. Joseph, Biddeford 9am St. Philip 9am St. Margaret 11am St. Joseph 5:30pm Most Holy Trinity

Daily Mass Schedule

St. Joseph Church: 6pm Monday & Wednesday and 9am Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

PARISH LITURGIES | MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 25 | The Nativity of the Lord, Christmas 12:00 am St. Joseph: For All People in Good Shepherd Parish 9:00 am St. Margaret Mass: Donovan J. Pfeiffer Sr. & Paul (Sr.) & Mary Compagna 9:00 am St. Philip Mass: Leonel Sylvain (24th Ann.) 10:30 am Most Holy Trinity Mass: Thomas & David O. Reed 11:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Noella & Robert Croteau Sunday, December 26 | The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 700 am St. Joseph Mass: Joan Marg Parron

7:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Jean Marc Perron 9:00 am St. Margaret Mass: For All People in Good Shepherd Parish

9:00 am St. Philip Mass: Annette DesRoberts

11:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Romeo Rousseau & Gerard & Pauline Larose

5:30 pm Most Holy Trinity Mass: James Beaudry

Monday, December 27

6:00 pm St. Joseph Mass: Renald & Juliette Landry Tuesday, December 28

9:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Denise Chretien *

Wednesday, December 29

6:00 pm St. Joseph Mass: Jacqueline Roberge (1st Ann.)

Thursday December 30 9:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Robert, Sr., Alan, & Kimberly Bolduc Friday, December 31

9:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Donald (10th Ann.) & Doris (1st Ann.) Plante

Saturday, January 1
4:00 pm Most Holy Trinity Mass (Livestreamed): Jennifer Ham ilton (2nd Ann.)
4:00 pm St. Philip Mass: Mme. Eva Spénard Carrier

6:00 pm St. Margaret Mass: Cathleen L. Pinard

Sunday, January 2 | The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 am St. Joseph Mass: Rita Gilbert

9:00 am St. Margaret Mass: Aurel Paquette

9:00 am St. Philip Mass: Bobby LaRose

11:00 am St. Joseph Mass: For All People in Good Shepherd Par ish

5:30 pm Most Holy Trinity Mass: Leigh Parenteau Lambert

SHEPHERDS OF HOPE

We've hit a milestone!

Thank you everyone for your continued support of our capital



campaign. This week we received a generous donation that put us over \$1.5M, or 75% of our goal. Some people who gave a one-time donation instead of a pledge, are giving a second or third time, as they are able, and it is making a difference. In 2021 we made a lot of progress capital campaign projects at all church

on capital campaign projects at all church sites, and we will do more in 2022. I hope you all have a chance to see the renovations at St Margaret Church in Old Orchard Beach. Our goal remains \$2M, so please consider helping us get there, if you are able. Send donations to: Good Shepherd Parish, 271 Main St., Saco 04072.

Note | Any checks or cash can be dropped in weekend collection basket, inside a blank envelope and must have a name and ID number to receive credit. Check payments should be made out to: Good Shepherd Parish; "Shepherds Of Hope" in memo line.

Current totals | 793 household gifts , pledges | 1,503,703 | 75.2% of goal Cash collected, available for projects as of 11/30/21 | 1,007,163

Shepherds of Hope Pledge Payments | Please note that if you intend to use ACH or credit card for payment and/or installments on pledge, you must do so by signing into the parish's online giving service, WESHARE. Please do not include bank account information or credit card number on pledge card. Go to the parish website to sign up and make a payment or set up a recurring payment schedule. If you decide to use WESHARE, mark that on your pledge card so we handle the pledge properly.

We have created a link with the Shepherds of Hope logo at goodshepherdparish.us/. For assistance, call Amy Loring at 282-3321, ext. 105.

* ACH withdrawals from bank account: Fee is 10 cents per transaction plus 1%, calculated as follows: For example, a \$50 donation will include a 50-cent charge, plus 10 cents, for a total fee of 60 cents. The \$50 donation results in a net donation to the parish of \$49.40.

* **Credit, Debit Card Transactions:** Fee is 3.25%, calculated as follows: A \$50 donation will include a 3.25% transaction fee and amount to a charge of \$1.63. The \$50 donation results in a net donation to the parish of \$48.37.

Since the credit/debit card fees are more than double ACH fees, we prefer use of ACH. Please consider this when deciding your source of payment. Thank you for your generosity.

READINGS

First Reading:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84) Second Reading: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

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FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION Children & Youth Merry Christmas to all!

We hope this Christmas Season will be filled with joy and blessings as we gather to share Christ's love. May you have the opportunity to spend some quiet time with Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph and invite them to journey through the new year with your family.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

- Family Faith Formation Resumes January 9
- Jr. High Ministry Resumes January 4
- RCIA for Teens Resumes January 6
- High School Ministry New Dates Coming Soon

ST. JAMES SCHOOL



Spirit of the Season

Eighth grade elves at Saint James School put snacks in bags for distribution to families in need. The snacks were donated by the Saint James extended families. This will help many families at this time of year! St. James wishes you A most blessed Christmas Season filled with peace, family, friends, love and laughter.

COMMUNITY

St. James Helps Homeless Students

"Students are experiencing homelessness in Biddeford. I, Igor Bitencourt, want to assemble a project to make their lives easier."

And with that, a written proposal by an eighth grader at St. James School inspired a schoolwide Advent initiative to help over 60 students in Biddeford who are experiencing homelessness to have a magical Christmas.

"When a student comes to me with an idea, I usually ask them to write it out. This way I know it is well thought out," said Nancy Naimey, principal of St. James. "This certainly is."

Over the next few weeks, students, staff, and community members are being asked to bring in food items like cereal, cookies, chips, granola bars, juice boxes, and fruit snacks to be assembled by the eighth graders into baskets of food for children living in shelters, hotels, and houses of their friends.

"Soup kitchens provide meals once a day to people living in the hotels. However, not everyone enjoys what they are providing," wrote Igor. "Fortunately, kids love snacks. We can pack snacks for these kids so they can have something else to eat throughout the day when they are hungry or if they don't like the meal the center provided."

In 2020, his sister, Adriana, received a great deal of attention in the community and from the media thanks to her successful initiative collecting food, toys, and grocery money to donate to the refugee community living in Maine.

Adriana, now a student at Cheverus High School in Portland, is running a similar campaign this year at Cheverus to benefit the homeless in Portland.

"She is doing it for the Portland homeless population, and I was hoping to run it for the Biddeford population," said Igor. "We are definitely working together to make the projects work."

The school will be accepting donations, including monetary gifts, for the project through Friday, September 10. Big boxes in the front hall are already filling up with snacks.

"This may be a tedious process, but it is for a good cause," said Igor. "These kids could use an easier lifestyle and we, St. James families, can provide that for them."

"The children feel the need to help others, particularly these kids and their families," said Naimey. "It makes us proud."

- Compiled by Dave Guthro, Communications Director, Portland Diocese

DISCIPLESHIP

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel | The chapel is currently open Tuesday through Saturday with a capacity of 4 people allowing for drop ins between the hours of 6am-8pm. Please consider committing to spending 1 hour a week in the Eucharistic presence of Christ. The following hours are in urgent need of scheduled adorers: Wednesday, 7am, 9am; Saturday, 9am. FMI, contact Steve Plante, 283-0782.

Most Holy Trinity Usher Ministry Invitation | Have you always wanted to help out at Mass but not sure what you could do or who to ask? Most Holy Trinity Church needs Ushers for Saturday and Sunday Mass. What does an usher do? Ushers/Greeters welcome people to Mass, help them find a seat if needed, hand out bulletins, count parishioners as needed and bidding them farewell when the Mass concludes. Training and guidance are provided for this ministry. Contact Liz Williams with questions at 282-3321 x110 or Elizabeth.Williams@portlanddiocese.org.

Sacrament of Reconciliation | Confessions are held prior to the following Masses: 3-3:45pm Saturday, prior to 4pm St. Philip; 3-3:45pm Saturday, prior to 4pm Most Holy Trinity; 4:30-5:15pm Sunday, prior to 5:30pm Most Holy Trinity. Due to travel after Saturday 4pm Masses, we are unable to offer Confession prior to the 6pm Mass at St. Margaret. Make an appointment by calling 282-3321.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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PARISH DONATIONS

Please be aware that the parish office can only track your offertory donations in our Parish Database when you use Offertory Envelopes or WESHARE (our online giving service). All donations received through your envelopes or WESHARE are recorded to your member account.

Conveniently, WESHARE donors may also self-serve from their account to obtain giving/donation records directly without parish assistance. Be advised: All Souls donations are non-deductible since a Mass is given for those intentions.

To receive envelopes, please contact the parish office. It is helpful to register in the parish beforehand, and you may do that online at: https://goodshepherdparish.us/become-a-member or call the office at 282-3321 to request a paper copy.

Requesting 2021 Parish Contribution Statement: It would be best if requests be made only after mid January as time is needed to close the month and update records for yearend transactions. Your patience is greatly appreciated. Requests can be made as follows:

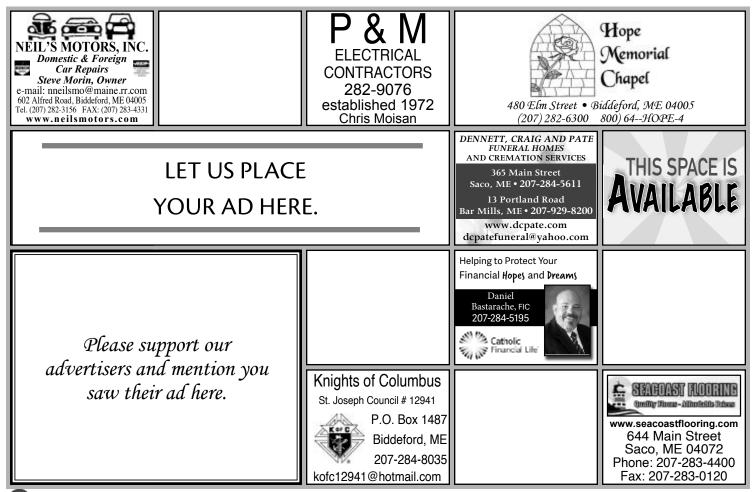
• Visit our website to fill out the request form: www.goodshepherdparish.us/annual-donation-report (most preferred way) or

• Email Amy.Loring@portlanddiocese.org with 2021 GSP Contribution Statement in the subject line. Leave your name, Envelope Number, address, email & phone number or

• Call the parish office at 207-282-3321x105, leaving the same info noted above.

Remember if all your contributions to Good Shepherd Parish for the year were made through WESHARE, the online giving service, you have the ability to run your own report from your account. Log in and go to GIVING HISTORY.

With gratitude, we wish you all God's Blessing, Peace and Joy this Christmas Season.



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