

Fifth Sunday in Lent— March 21, 2021

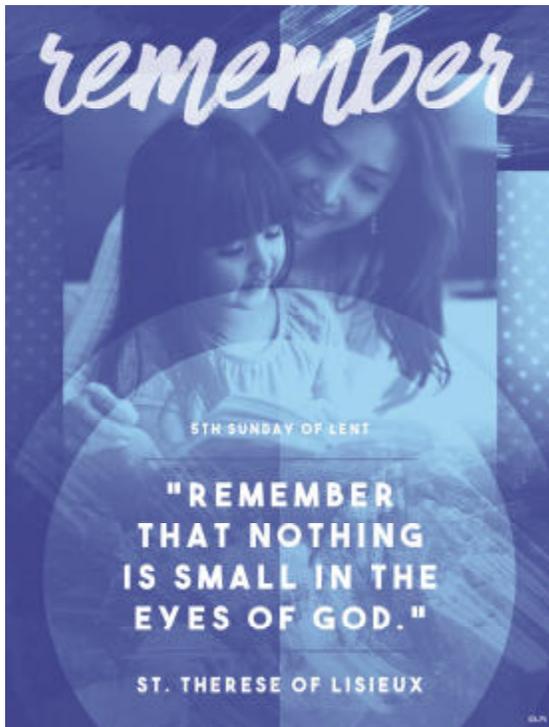


Saint Patrick Catholic Church
34 AMHERST STREET, MILFORD, NH 03055

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

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome each and every one who has come to worship with us. Our parish is here to assist all who wish to know God more deeply.



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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music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com

Jay Duffy, Cemetery Sexton 673-1311



**The last Stations of the Cross
will be at 6:00PM on
Friday, 3/26/2021**

**Reconciliation will be offered every
Wednesday during Lent
from 4:15-5:15PM & Saturday from 3-3:45PM**

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Will McGrath

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

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.

MARCH 22-28, 2021

MON - 3/22- Lenten Weekday

7:30AM: All Souls

TUES - 3/23- St. Turibius of Mogrovejo—NO MASS

WED - 3/24- Lenten Weekday

4:15-5:15PM - Reconciliation

5:30PM: All Souls

THURS - 3/25- The Annunciation of the Lord

7:30AM: All Souls

FRI - 3/26 - Lenten Weekday (Abstinence)

7:30AM: All Souls

6:00PM: Stations of the Cross (led by the Knights of Columbus)

SAT - 3/27 - Vigil of the Palm Sunday

4:00PM: Intentions of Bernie Kallfelz

SUN - 3/28- Palm Sunday—

The Church closes at Noon on Sundays

8:00 AM: Greg Holland by Mr. & Mrs. Steve Dudley and Marianne Marcinko by Jane Provins

10:30AM: Members of the Parish

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

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**



The sanctuary lamp will burn this week for the intentions of Bernie Kallfelz



READINGS 3/28/2021

Is: 50:4-7
Phil: 2:6-11
Mk: 14:1—15:47

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!

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

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 MARCH 14, 2021: \$7,724
Bishop's Overseas Relief: \$832

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 (3/21/2021)

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Why are they Christian symbols?

Α Ω

Answer to last week's question (3/14/2021)

The word for fish, in Greek, is ichtus (ΙΧΘΥΣ). As it happens, those letters are also an acronym in Greek for Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior: essentially a one-word summary of the creed.

Combined with the importance of fish in many of the gospel accounts, this made the fish a potent symbol for the early Christians. It is also easily drawn or scratched into a surface. During times of persecution, places where Christians would be welcomed and safe were sometimes marked with a fish. Upon meeting a stranger, a Christian could casually scratch one half of the fish in the dirt with his staff – and if the stranger completed the design, they would recognize each other as fellow believers.

Lent: the hour arrives

In the season of Lent, the believing community follows Jesus as he is tested, transfigured, cleanses the temple, explains how God loves, and announces his hour has come. This week's readings ask us to think about the elements of Jesus' covenant.

John's gospel marks the end of Jesus' public ministry and the coming of Jesus' "hour." The Greeks' arrival and request lead to Jesus' last discourse.

"The Greeks" arrive. Part of the crowd attending Passover are "the Greeks." This is John's term for *gentiles who admire and live Judaism* as best they can ("God fearers") within Judaism's cultural constraints. These Greeks approach Philip, a disciple with a Greek name, and ask to see Jesus. In John's gospel, the Greek verb *εἰδω/ειδō* indicates *acceptance of Jesus*. The gentile Greeks' arrival signals that "the world is coming to Jesus" (Jn 12:19); Jesus recognizes that "the hour" has come.

Falling and lifting up. Jesus describes his self-gift as his "lifting up." In the grain of wheat parable, he expands his self-gift to include "falling into the earth" in order to *bear much fruit*. His self-gift includes both his *lifting up* and his *falling*. He teaches that disciples must be ready to follow Jesus' example of *self-sacrificing love and service* (lifting up) to the point of death (falling).

This world's ruler is cast out. Jesus' *presence* in the world brings *judgement* (the self-judgement of last week's gospel). His *lifting up* will be Satan's moment for judgement as this world's ruler. Jesus' presence forces a judgement on this world's rulers who govern, judge, divide, and enslave people by ethnicity, culture, history, and religion. Those who rule by this world's principles are *found wanting by Jesus' glorification*: they cannot permit the *true freedom that comes from accepting God's revelation in and through Jesus*. This world's ruler and his followers are cast out; Jesus' lifting up now *draws everything and everyone to him*, regardless of their ethnicity, culture, history, or religion.

Lent's readings call us to walk with Jesus as he prepares for his transformative death. Today's readings ask us to think about Jesus' new covenant. Jeremiah announces a new saving covenant God writes on the peoples' hearts. The Hebrews author recalls how God heard and answered Jesus' prayer of trust in God's saving plan. Jesus explains again that his covenant is about self-sacrificing love and service to everyone. What does Jesus' new covenant mean to us? Are we able to listen with our hearts to what God teaches? Are we able to see the new covenant as the source of salvation for all, not only ourselves? As disciples do we let ourselves fall into the earth and lift up others in service to all?

-Terence Sherlock

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



Janet Ramsdell, Joyce Nelson, Jeff Svelest, Todd Turcotte, Bettina Mace, Julia Frawley, Jean Moro, Lucille Farwell, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Shawn Dufraime, Laura McGettigan, 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, 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.

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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:

Read: Saint Oscar Romero

Watch with Children: Brother Francis: The Rosary (The Annunciation, 3/25)

Listen: The History of Salvation

Listen: Audiobook: The Eternal Woman: The Timeless Meaning of the Feminine

Watch: Confession, The Forgotten Sacrament

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR
MARCH 27-28, 2021 (Palm Sunday)**

4:00PM Church

Lector	George Lemelin Jeanne Donnelly
Eucharistic Minister	Dave & Joanne Couture
Greeters	Gary McCartney Pauline Nepveu Susan Niquette
C/H	
Eucharistic Minister	Pauline Nepveu
Greeter	Irene Prunier

8:00AM

Lector	Ron Calo Amy Guthrie
Eucharistic Minister	Kathy Sharkey John Ordemann
Greeters	Steve Santinelli Sue Pasquale

C/H

Eucharistic Minister	Sally Wilkins
Greeter	Diane Bergeron

10:30AM

Lector	Jude Lorman Will McGrath
Eucharistic Minister	Tony & Michelle Varga
Greeters	Steve Dudley Bernie Quinn Judy Hohenadel

C/H

Eucharistic Minister	Jackie Kelly
Greeter	Mary Ellen Dudley

**FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
GRADES K-6**

Tuesday: 4:30 - 6:00pm — April 13, 2021
Wednesday: 6:00 - 7:30pm — April 14, 2021

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

Sunday: 6-7:30pm — March 21
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.

New Online Support Group from Catholic Charities NH
Divorce/separation can be an uncomfortable and often misunderstood topic, and for those directly impacted, a painful process with many questions often left unanswered. Catholic Charities NH will be hosting its next online support group, "Divorce/Separation: Why me? What can I do?" for those navigating the divorce process or trying to find their way afterward. Participants will learn more about the dynamics of divorce, better understand their options, learn helpful coping strategies, and support others on the same journey. The program will be held via Zoom for six consecutive Wednesdays (at noon) starting April 21. To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/supportgroup or call 603-752-1325.

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.

***Knights of Columbus
Scholarship application***

Attention high school seniors: the Knights of Columbus Fr. Don Jacques Council #3035 is pleased to offer two \$1000 scholarships to members of St. Patrick's parish who will graduate from high school this spring. For an application, please visit the parish website (<https://saintpatrickmilfordnh.org/>) under resources or pick one up at the back of the church after Mass. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2021. Submit any questions and completed applications to scholarship@kofc3035.org.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY

Canned Ham, Canned Meats, Side Dishes (seasoned pasta mix, hamburger helper, etc.), Ravioli & Beefaroni
These items can be dropped off at the SHARE office. PLEASE CALL FIRST: 673-9898. Thank you for your donations.

5th Sunday of Lent

Unless a grain of *wheat* falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it



bears much fruit.
John 12:24, 1977

The gospel of this Sunday proclaims the paradoxical wisdom of emptying in order to become full, of dying so that we may be raised to new life. This is the “hour” of radical obedience and exaltation for which, from Cana, through controversies, festivals, and miraculous signs, Jesus has been waiting: an hour that in today’s gospel sees Jesus sought by new “first disciples,” those beyond Israel, to whom the evangelist refers as “some Greeks.” They were probably Greek-speaking Jews who had come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They approach Andrew and Philip, two of Jesus’ original disciples who are apparently approachable and good at bringing others to Jesus. (Remember Peter, Nathanael, and the boy with five barley loaves and two fish.) Although these seekers may have been Jews from far flung places, John uses this episode on the threshold of Jesus’ “hour” to suggest the call of the Gentiles. Many nations who eagerly seek Jesus will be drawn into his mystery when he is lifted up from the earth on a cross; all those who will belong to the church that is meant to be multiracial and multicultural.

To explain the meaning of his “hour,” Jesus tells the parable of a grain of wheat. When it is dropped into the earth, the seed shrinks, empties itself, and dies. But in the warmth and moisture of the earth new life breaks out of the husk and bears much fruit. “Fruit” in John’s gospel means “life,” and the hour is at hand when Jesus will be buried in the heart of the earth and rise from there to transformed and transforming life.

The larger world beyond Israel now includes us. If we wish not only to see but also to follow Jesus, we must choose to empty ourselves of self-centeredness, of the instinct for self-preservation at the expense of our sisters and brothers. Those insulated from others’ suffering, eager for good connections, popularity, and status, rather than finding and following Jesus, will lose their lives. From seeds buried in the warm love and service of others, and watered by fidelity to our baptismal commitment, the Christian community grows into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is not easy; it was painful for Jesus, and it is painful for us. Jesus’ soul was troubled, we hear, but he embraces his hour of his own free will. He has already told the crowds, “*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father*”. What Jesus has done, he proclaims, has always been for the glory of his Father, and he will die because of the way he lived. The Father’s voice affirms Jesus’ proclamation, declaring that Jesus is giving glory to God, and will be glorified because of this. It is a voice, says Jesus, that speaks not so much to reassure Jesus himself, but to bring faith and encouragement to the bystanders.

We are now the crowd assembled around Jesus. Do we understand his words or the Father’s voice? Can we recognize his saving cross at the epicenter of the tragedies that are born of sin, planted on the seismic fault lines that threaten to open and crack our world apart: the divides between rich and poor, peace and violence, north and south, east and west? Even more important, can we allow ourselves to be drawn to the venerable cross of Christ so that we ourselves may offer from the “right place” of the cross the fruit of healing reconciliation for the glory of God?

Fr. Dennis

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