

Easter Sunday — April 4, 2021



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

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



MONDAY, APRIL 5TH

Parish Office: 673-1311 Fax: 673-3687
Faith Formation: 673-4797
Website: saintpatrickmilfordnh.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Dennis Audet, Pastor
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music.saintpatricksmilford@gmail.com
Jay Duffy, Cemetery Sexton 673-1311

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

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.

APRIL 5-11, 2021

MON - 4/5- Monday within the Octave of Easter (Offices closed)

7:30AM: NO MASS

TUES - 4/6- Tuesday within the Octave of Easter NO MASS

WED - 4/7- Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

5:30PM: Richard Prunier by the family

THURS - 4/8- Thursday within the Octave of Easter

7:30AM: Gloria Bernasconi by Jane Provins

FRI - 4/9 - Friday within the Octave of Easter

7:30M: Herbert Luscombe by Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Coty

SAT - 4/10 - Vigil 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

7:00PM: Hank & Rita Mansfield by Mark Quinlan

SUN - 4/11- 2nd Sunday of Easter — Divine Mercy

The Church closes at Noon on Sundays

**8:00 AM: Robert Champagne by Kathy Duchesne & Robert, Jr.
and Jeffrey Hicks by his wife, Kim**

10:30AM: Members of the parish

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

**FACE MASKS
REQUIRED
SOCIAL DISTANCING
PRACTICED**

READINGS 4/11/2021

Acts: 4:32-35

1 Jn: 5: 1-6

Jn: 20:19-31



The sanctuary will burn this week for the deceased members of the Coté & Caveney family by Ida Caveney.

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 28, 2021: \$4,332

Heating & Air Conditioning: \$1,842

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 (3/28/2021)



Happy Easter! Let's consider three symbolic birds this week: The Pelican, the Peacock, and the Phoenix are all important in early and medieval Christian imagery. Why?

Answer to last week's question (3/28/2021)

Palms had liturgical significance in Judaism. The walls of the temple, meant to represent the Heavenly temple, were carved with alternating cherubim (angels) and palm trees. Leviticus 23:40 says, "On the first day you shall take the fruit of majestic trees, branches of palm trees, boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days." While this commandment is in the context of Sukkot, the carrying and waving of palm branches was a part of the ceremonial processions to Jerusalem for all the great assembly feasts (Passover, Pentecost and Sukkot). Interestingly, palms do not grow in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem, and during the Holy Days enterprising locals would sell palms collected in the valley to the hordes of pilgrims climbing toward the city.

Finally, John reports that in Heaven he saw "A great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Rev. 7:9-10)

You will see him

The Easter Vigil is the liturgical year's most important liturgy. It is filled with stories and symbols of renewal and new life. The believing community gathers to tell and to hear the stories that make it a family: its origins, struggles, successes, and meaning as a community who believes in redemption, renewal, and hope because Jesus is risen.

Mark's gospel proclaims the resurrection. A young man in a white robe explains the resurrection's meaning to the women disciples:

You seek the crucified One. The young man uses the Greek verb *ζητέω/zētēō*, which usually means "to seek" or "to search after." The gospel writers use this word to designate someone who is *asking to become a disciple* or *pledging discipleship*. The women come to *affirm their discipleship* to Jesus, even though they saw him executed.

He is not here; he was raised. The young man confirms that the tomb, a place of death, is empty. Jesus is not to be counted among the dead, but *among the living*. The young man continues, using the *divine passive* "he was raised," indicating that *God was the one who raised Jesus*. God has answered Jesus' prayer from the cross (see Mk 15:34); God did not forsake Jesus, but *raised him to glory*. Jesus' resurrection is the decisive event that results in *human salvation* and the *fulfillment of God's kingdom* (1 Cor 15).

You will see him. The young man *commissions the women disciples* to tell the others that Jesus is alive and that Jesus will reveal himself to them. The promise to *see Jesus* in Galilee fulfills Jesus' prophecy from Mk 14:28. Mark's ending leads us back to his gospel's beginning: it starts with a *message from God* that points to a *meeting with Jesus*.

All the Lent, Holy Week, and *Triduum* readings have led us to this moment. The Vigil readings ask us to reflect on God's plan and the mystery of salvation, brought to fulfillment in Jesus' transformative death and resurrection. The empty tomb is Jesus' promise that those who seek him in faith will find him. Easter is the family story about God and us. Easter is God's promise of salvation fulfilled. Easter is the hope of our own resurrection foretold and foreshadowed by Jesus' being raised. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

-Terence Sherlock

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



Ashley Holland, Janet Ramsdell, Joyce Nelson, Jeff Svelest, Todd Turcotte, Bettina Mace, Julia Frawley, Jean Moro, Lucille Farwell, Stephen, Cheryl Lounsbury, Baby Owen, Christian Beck, Shawn Dufraigne, 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:

Watch: The Shroud of Turin - Formed Now with Dr. Ben Akers and Fr. Francis Peffley (Very interesting, informative discussion)

Study: Lectio Eucharist

Watch: Brother Francis: The Mass

Watch: Brother Francis: He Is Risen

Watch: Did Jesus Really Rise From the Dead?

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass celebrated during the week or on the weekend for a particular intention for a person living or dead, please call the office to schedule. 673-1311.



If you would like to receive the weekly bulletin in an email. Send your email address to the parish office's email address: diane.st.patoffice@gmail.com and you will be added to our mailing list.



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.

**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 — April 11, 18
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.

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.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP:

Registrations are available at the office, at the entrance of the Church, in the Church Hall and on our website. Registration is necessary for Faith Formation Classes and Sacrament Preparation.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY

Canned Fruit, Flour, Sugar, Boxed Cake Mixes & Baking Supplies, Coffee & Tea, Juice, Granola These items can be dropped off at the SHARE office. PLEASE CALL FIRST: 673-9898. Thank you for your donations.

EASTER 2021

We have been prayerfully preparing for this celebration for weeks. These more recent days we have been getting up close and personal with the drama of Jesus' receiving more totally Himself and our human family. Today we receive the blessings which flow from His fidelity. Preparation is over, reception is just beginning.

For the next seven weeks, we will hear much of the struggles and growth of the early Christian community. The Acts of the Apostles, written, apparently, by the author of the Gospel of Luke, is a collection of events which form the fallout from the rising from the dead of Jesus. The little groups of believer's moves out from its birthplace of Jerusalem and begins the extension of Christ's resurrection embrace of all creation and all humankind.

The Gospel of Luke portrays Jesus as moving ever so slowly up towards the heights of Jerusalem. The Acts display the Holy Spirit as dispensing God's grace downward from Jerusalem to spread like "Good news" to the ends of the earth. Jesus' Easter rising begins the movement by beginning God's second creation of creation.

We hear in today's First Reading Peter's short biography of Jesus. He, Peter, has been summoned by a devout centurion named Cornelius who during his prayer had a vision. He is told to fetch Simon, known as Peter, who will help him understand the vision. Peter arrives and speaks to the assembled the words of today's First Reading. What Peter speaks is a compilation of the major aspects of his belief in this new way. It is almost a sort of outline, topical sentences of which each one will be developed in later writings and preachings. It is important to note that Peter assumes that everyone has heard all he is saying. It is the author's method to keep presenting and reminding the readers of the basic "company line".

Our Easter Gospel is a story of Hide and Go Seek. Mary Magdala goes to the tomb and finds emptiness. The stone has been removed from the burial opening and Jesus is gone. When she informs Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, they run and find emptiness as well, except they find evidence that Jesus had been there in a burial posture. "Now-you-see-him, now-you-see-him-differently" continues during these Easter days. For us it can seem a game; for Jesus it is a process of inviting his followers to deeper faith. He seems to hide, then appears, then vanishes and all so that his followers will keep seeking.

It is this "seeking" which is so central to Easter grace. Jesus is the primary seeker and his foundlings are ourselves. He moves through the "Resurrection Narratives" collecting, consoling, confronting, and eventually missioning the early believers, or doubters. In turn, we are the seekers as well. We are invited to keep looking for Jesus, even in the emptinesses of life. Jesus is "translocational". We would like to grab hold of him, but he would say to us, "Do not cling to me, but go to my new body, my different, but real presence in community, in relationships, and within your own emptinesses".

C. S. Lewis, in his wonderful book, *Surprised By Joy*, writes that real joy is more in the seeking than the finding. We might have trouble with that idea until we live it a while. What do we find when we find what we have been seeking? Eventually we will find that every answer leads to the next question. Every good and more than wonderful experience, relationship, ecstasy, does end or has certain little holes in them. So there is an empty tomb in all of life's joys that invites us to "seek" and you shall find. What will we find? We will gracefully discover the invitation to seek some more. Is that a terrible tricky game that the Divine Magician is playing on us? Maybe!

We are believers because we do not know, but we grow more deeply as humans the more we keep reaching towards, looking for, hungering after, and always in a spirit of gratitude. Everything ends, including this Reflection, and where it ends Jesus is waiting to find us and be found. He has risen, but not disappeared. He has risen from the dead to bring life to the seekers. Hope you can watch a group of little children at an Easter Egg Hunt and notice their joy is in the looking for. And if they find one, they will want to find one more. So again, it is by little children that we learn basic human truths. Alleluia!

We are believers because we do not know, but we grow more deeply as humans the more we keep reaching towards, looking for, hungering after, and always in a spirit of gratitude.

"Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us keep the feast with unleavened bread of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia." 1 Cor. 5, 7-8

Alleluia

Happy Easter to all!

Fr. Dennis

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