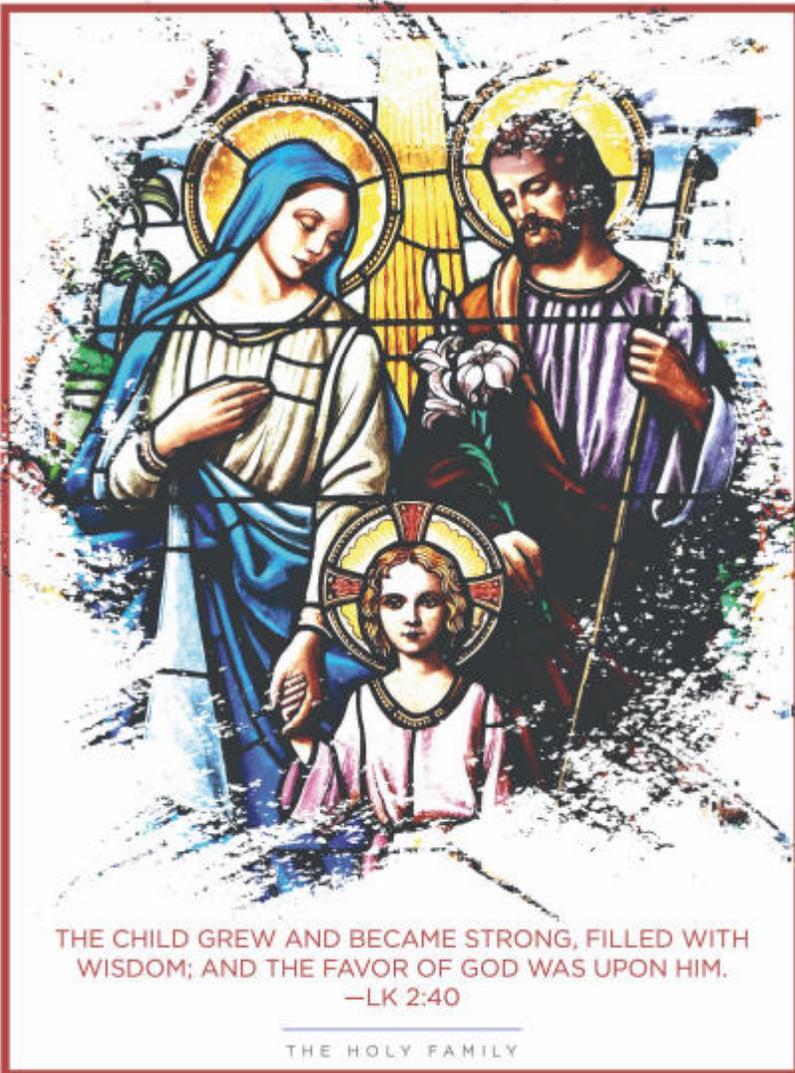


# St. MICHAEL

December 27, 2020

Parish



EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS 12001, 1988, 1970 CCD. HLP1

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Sunday | 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00am  
Saturday Vigil | 4:00pm  
Daily (Mon.-Sat.) | 8:00am

*Public masses have opened with COVID-safe mask usage and social distancing in effect.*

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays, 2:30-3:30PM in the Sacristy.

### Adoration

Wednesdays 8:30am - 8:30pm

## Contact Us

### Gabriel House (Offices)

9 Lincoln Street, Exeter, NH 03833  
Phone: 772-2494 | Fax: 778-1629

**Michael House** | 11 Linden Street

**Rectory** | 91 Front Street

**Website** | [www.stmichaelparish.org](http://www.stmichaelparish.org)

**Email** | [stm@stmichaelparish.org](mailto:stm@stmichaelparish.org)

**Facebook** | St. Michael Parish Exeter, NH  
OR St. Mary and St Michael Parish Community  
[@stmarystmichaelnh](https://www.facebook.com/stmarystmichaelnh)

## Our Mission

St. Michael Parish in Exeter, NH, is a Roman Catholic community inviting all people to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ and His Church.

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Rev. Matthew Mason** | Pastor | Pastor@stmichaelparish.org  
**Rev. Bartholomew Okonkwo** | Associate Pastor | bokonkwo@rcbm.org

### Deacon

Eric Lambert ..... Deacon@stmichaelparish.org

### Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Campbell..... Admin@stmichaelparish.org

### Alpha Coordinator

Renee Portu.....stmichaelsalpha26@gmail.com

### Business Manager | Bookkeeper

Erin Bajger .....stm@stmichaelparish.org

### Communications Director

Chris Rosaferra .....STMMComms@gmail.com

### Evangelist

Tim Diaz ..... Evangelist@stmichaelparish.org

### Music Director

John Kelly ..... Music@stmichaelparish.org

### Organist

Denise Kelly ..... Music@stmichaelparish.org

### Parish Nurse

Karen Schalitz ..... Nurse@stmichaelparish.org

### Pastoral Minister

Leah Grant..... PastoralMinister@stmichaelparish.org

### Program Director

Brian Harrison .....ProgramDirector@stmichaelparish.org

### Religious Education Coordinator

Susan Breton ..... ReligiousEd@stmichaelparish.org

### Youth Ministers

Rebecca Liguori ..... Youth@stmichaelparish.org

Sammie Moore..... Youth.stmarynh@gmail.com

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tim Diaz ..... Pastoral Council Chairperson

Bill Casserly ..... Finance Council Chairperson

## PARISH INFORMATION

**New Parishioners** If you have just moved to the Exeter area, we welcome you to Saint Michael Parish. Please call Gabriel House for the next Meet the Pastor evening.

**Baptisms** Please contact Deacon Eric at Deacon@stmichaelparish.org or by calling the office at 772-2494 X211.

**Communion Calls** A Priest or Eucharistic Minister will be happy to arrange a visit. Please call Karen Schalitz at Gabriel House.

**Healing Prayer** For an individual Healing Prayer appointment by a trained Prayer Team, please call Maureen & Steve at 603-929-3934.

**Marriages** Couples must call Gabriel House for an appointment at least six months prior to the date of their marriage.

**Natural Family Planning** To learn more, contact Hannah Parent at hannahrose.parent@gmail.com or 339.309.9187

**Spiritual Direction for Women** Please contact Jan Moran for an appointment 603.770.1578.

**St. Michael Parish Prayer Line** | Grace at smythfam@comcast.net or Deb @ 580-5067 or debpasno@comcast.net.

**Society of St. Vincent DePaul Exeter** | 772-9922

Community Assistance Center Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am-4pm

Food Pantry Hours Mon, Weds, Fri 10am-12pm | Mon Nights 7-8pm

## Parish Office Hours

The office is staffed to receive phone calls Monday - Friday, 8:30AM - 3PM

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



## Welcome Back to Mass!

Thank you for loving our fellow parishioners by wearing masks at all times & social distancing.

## NEW YEAR'S MASSES:

4:00 PM, THURSDAY 12/31

9:00 AM, FRIDAY 1/1



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 26, 2020

No 8am Mass.

4:00 pm Yolande Dulio

### Sunday, December 27, 2020

7:00 am George & Greg St. Amour

9:00 am Joyce Bird

11:00 am John & Elizabeth  
Fernandes

### Monday, December 28, 2020

8:00 am Robert Gula

### Tuesday, December 29, 2020

8:00 am Catherine Howard

### Wednesday, December 30, 2020

8:00 am Nancy Wright

### Thursday, December 31, 2020

8:00 am Jeffrey Lightle

4:00 pm\* Christopher Parkman  
~Living - Happy Birthday!

### Friday, January 1, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

9:00 am\* Sally Russell

### Saturday, January 2, 2021

8:00 am Hugh Dowling

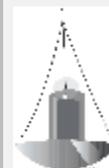
4:00 pm Russell Fieldsend

### Sunday, January 3, 2021

7:00 am George & Greg St. Amour

9:00 am Jeffrey Lightle

11:00 am Kathy Allred



## Sanctuary Candle

*The sanctuary candle is lit this week in memory of*

**Sally Russell**

## A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR: COMMUNITY STRENGTH & CHRISTMAS HOPE

Dear Friends,

Our parish question for the month of December has been "Where Do We Find Community?" At times it has seemed like a difficult question to answer in the midst of a pandemic when community is so difficult to maintain. I don't think I've even seen some of your faces yet behind the masks and livestream!

But despite these challenges, it has been wonderful to see how our parish community continues to pull together and to find creative ways to stay connected.

Just this past month, we have come together as a community to celebrate a beautiful Thanksgiving Mass, feed families with our Thanksgiving basket drive, hold a highly successful Virtual Christmas Fair, organize a Christmas gift drive for families in need, launch a Virtual Night in Bethlehem, create Advent calendars for Family Faith Formation, decorate the churches for Christmas, have drive-through confessions, and serve, read, and minister at many extra Christmas Masses. I guess we are pretty good at this community stuff after all!

I think of the wonderful volunteers in our parish who make all this ministry and community possible, so many faces seen and unseen. Thank you for all you do to make our parish community such a welcoming and loving place where people can encounter the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thank you for the ways you serve, sometimes in ways only known to God.

Let's not forget what we are celebrating at Christmas, the answer to that prayer that people for centuries prayed, "Lord, let us see your face and we shall be saved!" Nobody saw the face of God, until Mary and Joseph and the shepherds looked down into that manger in Bethlehem, and that cute, humble, face of a baby looking back up at them, was in fact the face of God, finally unveiled, for the world to see. Who would've ever thought that God looked like that!

We look forward to the day when we can see everyone's face once more, our whole community together again in a single place, but until that time, soon, let's wait in joyful hope, knowing that God is with us. A blessed Christmas Season to you and all your loved ones!

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Matt



[VIRTUAL] **NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM**

Now Playing!

*The Christmas Season Continues:*

If you haven't yet followed the journey of Mary & Joseph, it's not too late! Watch our video & bring your gifts to Baby Jesus. You'll arrive with the Wise Men right on time for the Epiphany next weekend!

VISIT: [stmichaelparish.org/nib](http://stmichaelparish.org/nib)



## Divine Dinner Dates

presents

## Date Night at the MOVIES



Featuring *The Stars of Heaven: THE SAINTS!*

**JANUARY 8th, the story of ST. AUGUSTINE**

2hr 14min

**Calling all Married and Engaged Couples to join Deacon Eric and his wife Laura Friday Nights this January, 7-9:30pm**

Space is Limited as Couples will be Safely Distanced in Cotter Hall at St. Michael (Masks Required)

Reserve **FREE TICKETS** at [stmichaelparish.org/ddd](http://stmichaelparish.org/ddd)

*Popcorn, Soda, Water, and Boxed Candy will be available from 6:30-7pm prior to movie start!*

# St. Mary & St. Michael MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

@youth.marymichaelnh



## COVID DIDN'T CRAMP OUR STYLE... Just Added a Mask & 6 Feet to It!



2020 has been a strange year for everyone and youth have been impacted in a unique way. Having to quickly switch from in-person learning to remote learning proved difficult and at times stressful for young people and their families.

The uncertainty that faces our youth each day led our youth ministry team to want to serve as a place of normalcy, relief, and encounter with Christ for the teens.

Having a relationship with Jesus as a young person is a gift and, now more than ever, hoping in Christ and trusting in Him is vital. We've seen an increase in attendees and the kids have been great following all Covid guidelines, so there is much to be joyful about!

Check out some of the great things we were still able to do:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Instagram Live YM Chats                               | MS Advent Bible Study                             |
| Virtual Young Life & Wildlyfe                         | Young Life & Wyldlife Camps                       |
| Handwritten Notes                                     | <i>(Socially distant hiking &amp; beach fun!)</i> |
| <i>(Yup - snail mail!)</i>                            |   |
| Outdoor HS & MS Retreats                              | Donut Club at St. Mary                            |
| Outdoor Eucharistic Adoration                         | Halloween & Ugly Sweater                          |
| Outdoor Confession                                    | Get Togethers                                     |
| <i>(Right in Fr. Matt &amp; Fr. Bart's backyard!)</i> | At-Home Confirmation Prep                         |
|   | <i>(Thank you parents!)</i>                       |
| Zoom Game Nights                                      | + 110 new MS & HS students                        |
| Zoom MS & HS Bible Studies                            | are getting ready for 2021!                       |

When we sit back and reflect on how much God has done through this time of pandemic, it reminds us that nothing can stop God's love, nothing can stop God's power, and He longs for relationship with all of his children.

Of course, we could not do any of this without the hard work of volunteers who care about the young people in the St. Mary and St. Michael community. We also could not do this without all of our parishioners, your generous support, and all of your prayers, over the years.

Our team wants to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

- Becca Liguori & Sammie Moore

**I COMMAND YOU: BE STRONG AND STEADFAST!  
DO NOT FEAR NOR BE DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD, YOUR  
GOD, IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. JOSHUA 1:9**

## Giving Tree Gratitude: Faith, Hope, & Love

Faith, Hope and Love was expressed so generously in the Christmas Giving Tree program that impacted many of the families of Exeter, Brentwood, East Kingston, Stratham, Kensington, and Newfields for Christmas this year.



The parishioners of St. Michael, Episcopal Christ Church, Exeter Congregational Church, Faith Lutheran Church, Exeter United Methodist Church, First Unitarian Society of Exeter Church, Kensington Congregational Church, the members of the Lion's Club, Knights of Columbus, Exeter Fire Department, Brentwood Fire Department and Shaw's all stepped in to make to give these families a wonderful Christmas!

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. Those listed above have not only proven this to be possible but they also have shown that they can raise the spirits of faith, hope and love to any child affected by their generosity and graciousness. Their willingness to give of themselves in so many ways that others will not go without, gives the true meaning of Christmas.

**"As I have loved you, you should love one another" JN 13:34**

Thank you again for the love that you poured out to those who are struggling and made this Christmas very special for them!

- Leah Grant, Pastoral Minister

## St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry: Call for Donations



St. Vincent de Paul food Pantry in Exeter is in need of the following items. If you are able to donate these or any non-perishable food items, please drop them off at the back door of the pantry and ring the doorbell for assistance. The hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, & Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Tea/coffee           | Toilet paper   |
| Cookies              | Bar/hand soap  |
| Crackers             | 100% juice     |
| Deodorant            | Dish detergent |
| Shampoo/ conditioner | Canned fruits  |
| Baking mixes         | Razors         |
| (cakes, brownies)    | Tissues        |

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

## WRAPPED IN LOVE

### A Warm Prayer Shawl for the New Year!

Do you know someone who is lonely, grieving or ill? **The Wrapped in Love Prayer Shawl Ministry has a supply of beautifully crafted shawls and lap robes available.** The knitter has prayed on each stitch and every item has been blessed by our priests to be given freely to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Please **stop by Gabriel House during office hours to pick one up!** In these days of isolation, who wouldn't love being wrapped in a soft, warm hug?

## CONTINUING CHRISTMAS WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

### *MERRY CHRISTMAS! It's still Christmas and not just Christmas season...*

The really big feast days, Christmas and Easter, are so important that we celebrate them for eight days. This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is a great feast for us since Christmas has a lot to do with family! For most Christians, or even people in general, Christmas is a time to get together with loved ones.

At an even deeper level, this feast reminds us that God comes to us as part of a family. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son begotten of God the Father, “God from God, begotten, not made” who, nevertheless, is conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and born, just like we were. Mary, of course, is married to Joseph, the foster-father of Christ.

Over the centuries, people have wondered why the Divine Word would be born of a human woman. Could not God have simply descended from heaven on a cloud and explained things to us?

God chose to enter into human existence as part of a family because family life is part of the image of God we all carry within us (Genesis 1:27). God, in His inner life, is a family – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Family is our first and most basic human experience, and it is divine. BUT – family life isn't easy, community life isn't easy. The community where Joseph and Mary live want to kill their child. They must flee to Egypt, and they couldn't just hop on a flight – they went 500 miles on foot! Our experience of family life is often difficult, too, but the example of Mary and Joseph trusts God...

Christmas, when Christ comes into our lives, means that, by our baptism, we become part of the family of God. This is a family whose leader is all-powerful, all-knowing, and cares for us. Being part of the family of God has great benefits, but also great responsibilities. Just like a human family, we are called to spend time with Christ's family, the Church.

A healthy family life requires spending time together and communicating. That is what praying together and going to Mass is all about. We go to Mass because Christ is there in the Eucharist. The Mass is a privileged encounter with God. Family life requires reconciliation. Within our human families, we must be ready to ask for and grant forgiveness. After all, Christ came into the world to bring us into His heavenly family by making the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven...

If we all reflect honestly on our lives, we have to admit we don't always live our relationships the way God wants, or even the way we really want to. That is especially true of our families. The beauty of our religion, the miracle of Christmas, is that God has entered our world to show us the way and give us the strength to live authentic love!

*Sampled from: stdamienparish.com Ocean City blog*



**HOLY FAMILY, PRAY FOR US**

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/ Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/ Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

**Next Sunday:** Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

### Resources for Mass

With many still worshipping from home and limitations on in-hand missalettes in the pews, here are some options for following along:

- ◆ Find the Weekly Readings section in this bulletin or access all weekly and daily readings at [bible.usccb.org](http://bible.usccb.org)
- ◆ Watch Livestream Mass at any of the following sites: [stmarynh.org](http://stmarynh.org) | [stmichaelparish.org](http://stmichaelparish.org) (Recordings available.) EWTN, Word On Fire, CatholicTV, St. Patrick's Cathedral
- ◆ Make an **Act of Spiritual Communion:** *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I 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.*

Whether in-person or remote, we are grateful that you are still a part of our community. Thank you for praying with us!

## The Gift of Family & Stewardship

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now?

As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

***We're grateful that you're part of our faith family and appreciate your time, talent, and generosity!***

## PARISH GIVING

December 6, 2020

Envelopes	\$6,043.00
Loose	\$791.00
On-Line Giving	<u>\$11,044.00</u>
Total	\$17,878.00

*Thank you for your continued contribution to our parish during this difficult time. Your support will keep our ministries vibrant in 2021! See below for our online giving option.*

It's easy to



1

Visit [stmichaelparish.org](http://stmichaelparish.org) & click "Give Online" (left side of home page)

2

Set up your online giving account with **WeShare**

3

Choose a preferred payment option & **customize your donation**

We hope this option makes life easier for you. No matter how you choose to give, THANK YOU for your generosity and support!

If you have any questions about the program or about setting up your account, don't hesitate to contact Erin at (603) 772-2494 or [stm@stmichaelparish.org](mailto:stm@stmichaelparish.org).

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



@stmarystmichaelnh

groups\stmichaelnh

*Tag us & let us know: Where do you find community? What special gift would you bring to Baby Jesus? What are you excited for in 2021?*

## Join us to Pray the Rosary

Join us for the Rosary at 7:30am each weekday and Saturday morning before the 8am mass. The first Saturday of each month after the 8am mass will be the Devotional Rosary.



***"The Word became flesh and lived among us."***

Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are living in our midst.

Is God's work in you to be of service to Him as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life? Call Fr. Matt Mason (603) 663-0132, or email: [mmason@rcbm.org](mailto:mmason@rcbm.org)



## Return to Reconciliation

**SATURDAYS, 2:30-3:30 IN THE SACRISTY**

Experience the love and mercy of God & release your burdens through the healing of Reconciliation. Please join Fr. Matt or Fr. Bart for this sacrament before the 4pm Mass. Covid-safety guidelines are observed.



## Respect Life Ministry Shares...

### Diary of a Little Soul: Week 13

I've had a real growth spurt! I'm about the size of a large orange. My thumb finds its way to my mouth more and more now. Perhaps I may continue with this habit after I'm born, depending on my unique personality. Another one of God's amazing secrets is that some of my movements, and even a bit of my temperament, are already similar to Mom & Dad's - even though I won't see them for another 5 months! Well, Merry Christmas Family!



*"In Him we live and move and have our being"* - Acts 17:28

Sampled from Fr. Wilfred Deschamps, copyright 2017. Look for more next week!

To join the St. Mary/St. Michael Respect Life Ministry, email Corinne & Kevin Kaneb via [cwinter121@gmail.com](mailto:cwinter121@gmail.com). God bless!

**PREGNANT?  
NEED HELP?**

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**CHILD SAFETY  
REPORTING**

If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (under 18 yrs.), you **MUST** report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families:

**1-800-894-5533 or  
603-271-6556.**

If you have experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, you may contact the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care of the Diocese of Manchester:

**603-669-3100**

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