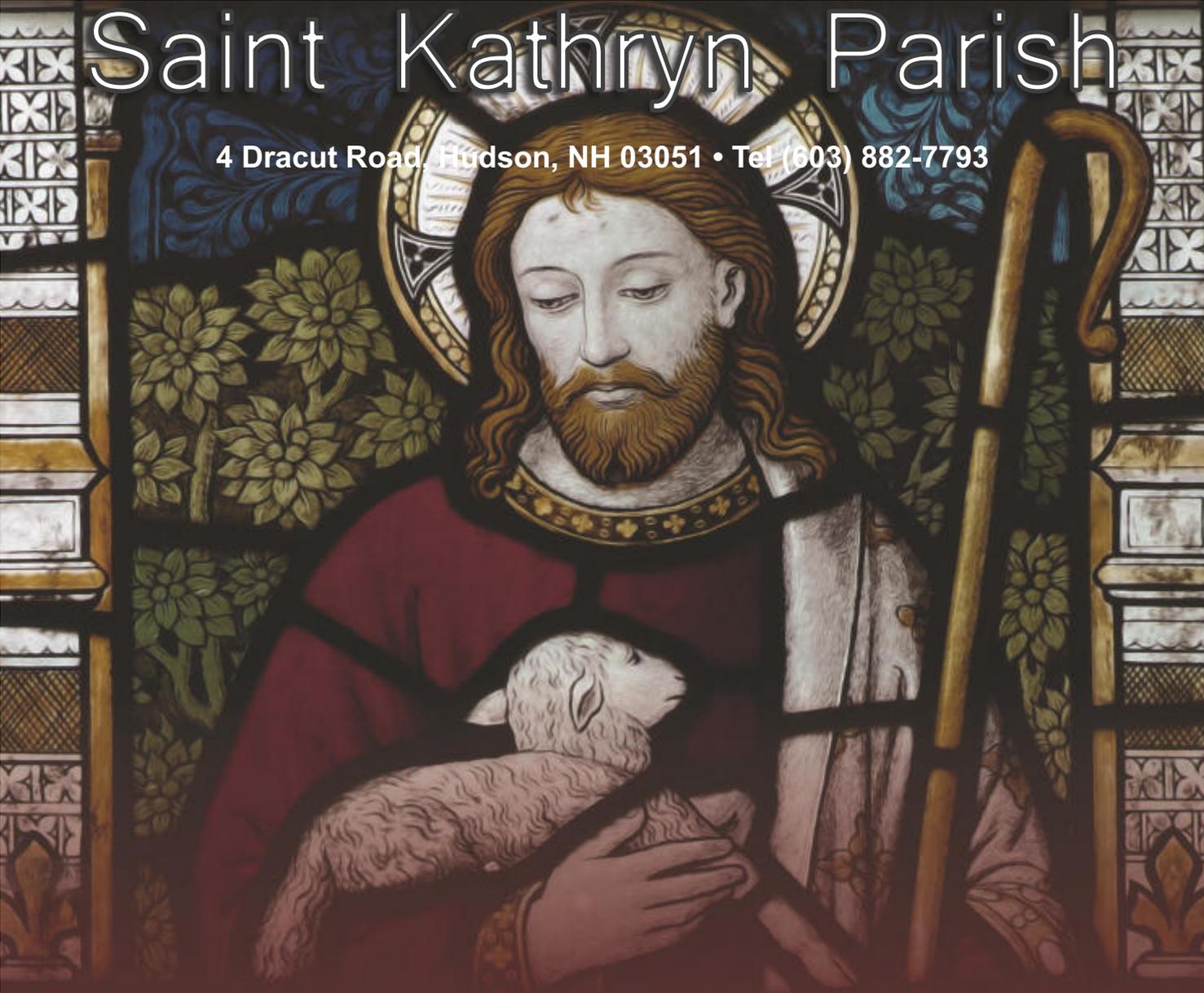


Saint Kathryn Parish

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4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd.” - Jn 10:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

25 April 2021

God Alone!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The second saint to share the feast day on July 29th is St. Mary of Bethany, the sister of St. Martha; she will be newly added to the General Roman Calendar. Again, what we know of St. Mary is derived directly from the Scriptures. Mary is the one who sat at the feet of Jesus. As it says in Luke's Gospel, "As they continued their journey Jesus entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary who sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak" (Lk. 10: 38-39). As Jesus reminds Martha, Mary had chosen the better part. In other words, Mary was focused on allowing the Lord to minister to her soul, to feed her. She was attentive to His word. However, St. Mary

of Bethany is also known as the one who anointed the feet of Jesus shortly before His Passion and Crucifixion: "Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil" (John 12:3). What does this gesture reveal? The virtue of charity!

Just as Martha's response to the Lord, as we saw last week, reveals the virtue of faith, so Mary's gesture was one of love. The costliest gift we could give to another is our heart. The oil which Mary used to anoint Jesus' feet was the most expensive, and her liberal use of it filled the house with its fragrance. Only charity has the power to spread in this manner. We may do everything right as Christians but if we lack charity, we have nothing, we are nothing. St. Paul speaks this truth in his famous passage in the letter to the Church at Corinth, "If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing...So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love (1 Cor. 13: 1-3; 13).

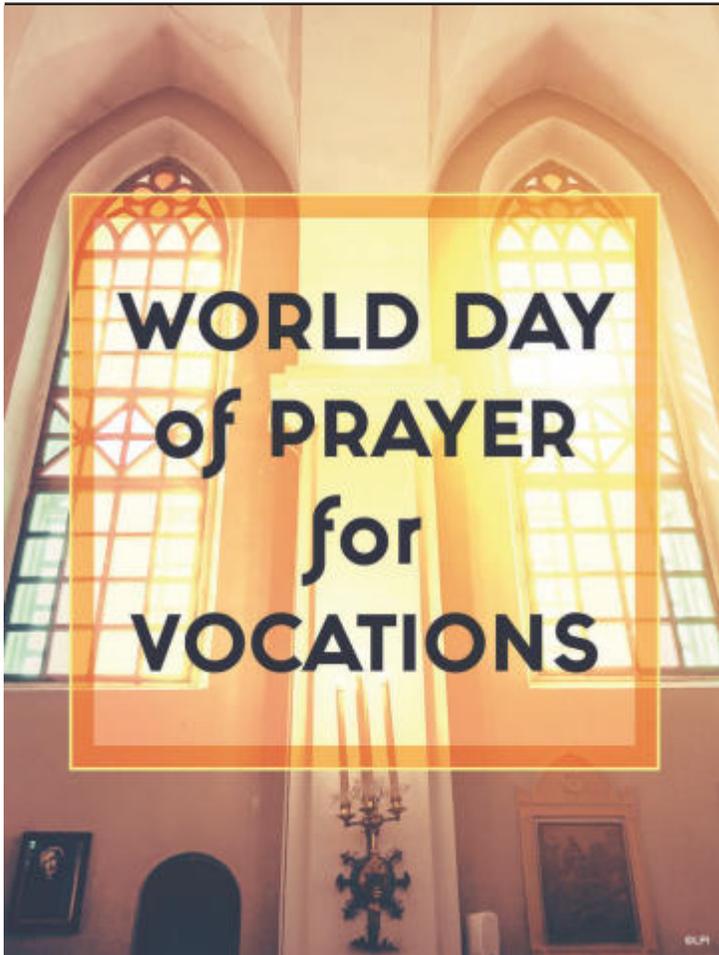
In this Easter season, let us allow the example of Mary to dwell deeply within our hearts. Charity is everything! It was love that kept Christ fastened to the cross. It was love that conquered the grave. It was charity that kept Mary at the feet of Jesus to receive all His words. If charity does not reign

in our hearts, then we will not be able to know God, nor shall we be known by Him. As it is written in the first letter of John, "If anyone says, 'I love God,' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 Jn. 4: 20-21). Just as St. Martha teaches us the importance of the virtue of faith, St. Mary teaches us of the importance of charity. Further, faith cannot exist without charity. On the contrary, it has no life. As Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI stated in his first encyclical, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Love of neighbor is thus shown to be possible in the way proclaimed by the Bible, by Jesus. It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, even affecting my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ" (Deus Caritas Est 1, 18). In this Easter season, may our encounter with the risen Lord help our hearts to expand in order to receive the perfect love of God and to become His vessels which pour forth this divine charity into the world.



In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Michael



HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS This Sunday, April 25th, is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity), secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life. Please join us on this day at 4:00 p.m. for a Holy Hour for Vocations, which will be followed by Vespers at 5:00 p.m.

SAINT KATHRYN'S CRAFTERS BACK IN ACTION! Our talented and dedicated group of crafters is once again meeting in the Craft Room in the Parish Office Building on Tuesdays with drop-in hours from 1:00-8:30 p.m.! Would you like to donate some time to helping make Bazaar 2021 a huge success by contributing to our amazing craft room? Do you have some level of craftiness? We need you! Our crafting group, like all of our ministries, is a welcoming community. If you can give some time and you have an interest in crafting, this is the place for you! Please contact Marge for more info: 603.233.8428.

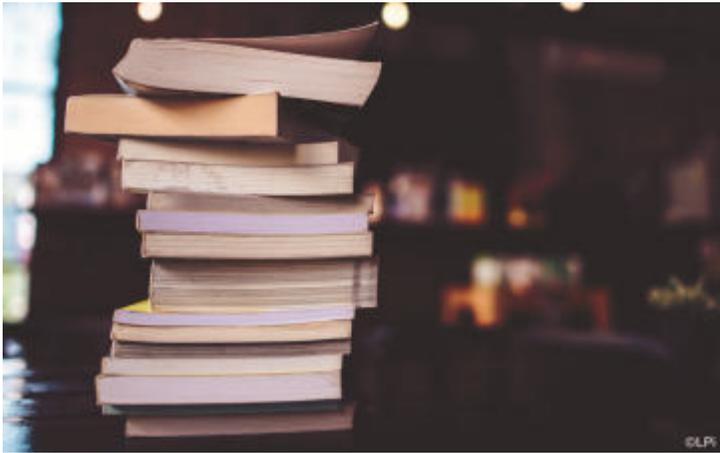
CRAFT CLASS: JEWELRY MAKING Speaking of crafting, on Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, please join us for a fun and crafty evening! Marge Ignelzi, coordinator of Saint Kathryn's Crafters, will lead participants in the making of four necklaces. Cost is \$20 per person, materials included. Ages 12 to 112 welcome! (Those between 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult.) We are able to accommodate 24 participants, so please call the office today to save your spot! 603.882.7793.



Save the date! Saint Kathryn's Vacation Bible School will take place on August 9th-13th this summer! Registration forms will soon be available. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Tina in the office at 603.882.7793.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SCHOLARSHIPS Council 5162 is offering **The Dave Sullivan Memorial Scholarship**, open to Catholic students who will be graduating Alvirne High School this June. And some **Columbianite Scholarships** are open to Catholic students who will graduate this year and are members of St. Kathryn's. They could be attending a school outside of Hudson, such as Notre Dame Academy. The following information must be received **no later than Friday 05/07/21**

- A completed application
 - A copy of applicant's current grades
 - A copy of his or her SAT scores (if applicable)
 - A one page summary of extracurricular and community activities since last year. This can include jobs and volunteer positions.
 - A one- page essay as why you wish to attend college and how your future goals relate to your Catholic faith.
- Applications are available by emailing me at rddistasio@comcast.net. Please return completed applications to either Knights of Columbus P.O. Box 42, Hudson N.H. 03051 or to Ron Di Stasio 27 ¼ Highpine Ave. Nashua N.H. 03063 (phone: 595-7837). Thank you. *Ron Di Stasio*



PARISH LIBRARY We all know about the fabulous religious goods store we have in our midst, Saint Kathryn Religious Goods; but, did you know the parish also has a library? We have thousands of Catholic books ready and waiting for you to borrow and delve into your faith! The library is open to all and located in the office building behind the church. There is no limit on the number of books you can borrow or the amount of time you can have a book out. The office building and library is open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. There is also a drop-slot available just inside the foyer of the office building for after-hours library book returns until 7:00 p.m. each night.

KEEP KIDS SAFE—ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING Did you know? The Diocese of Manchester requires all those who work with children and youth in our parishes, schools, and camps to complete “safe environment” training. This training teaches adults to recognize and report suspected abuse and boundary violations. Training is offered free of charge to **all** NH Catholic adults and is available online at <https://manchester.cmgconnect.org>. For more information about child safety, visit www.catholicnh.org/safety.

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY Volunteers needed! Do you have a knack for helping people feel welcome and at home in our church? Would you enjoy greeting parishioners as they arrive for Mass, and are you willing to assist them with following COVID-19 safety guidelines? Are you able to pitch in with disinfecting the church after Mass? We are in need of more greeters for all of our weekend Masses, especially the 4:00 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses. If you are interested in joining the hospitality ministry, please call the parish office at 603.882.7793.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph,
do we come in our tribulation,
and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse,
we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you
to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God
and through the paternal love
with which you embraced the Child Jesus,
we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which
Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood,
and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

- O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,
defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;
- O most loving father, ward off from us
every contagion of error and corrupting influence;
- O our most mighty protector, be kind to us
and from heaven assist us in our struggle
with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril,
so now protect God's Holy Church
from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;
shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that,
supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live
piously, to die in holiness,
and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

VOCATIONS On this Good Shepherd Sunday we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pray for holy vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese, that God will raise up good shepherds in our midst. If you are considering such a vocation, call Father Matthew Mason (603) 663-0132, or write: mmason@rcbm.org.

REFLECTING GOD’S GENEROSITY TO US

In Church 4/17-4/18:	\$ 3,073.50
Online:	\$ 5,666.82
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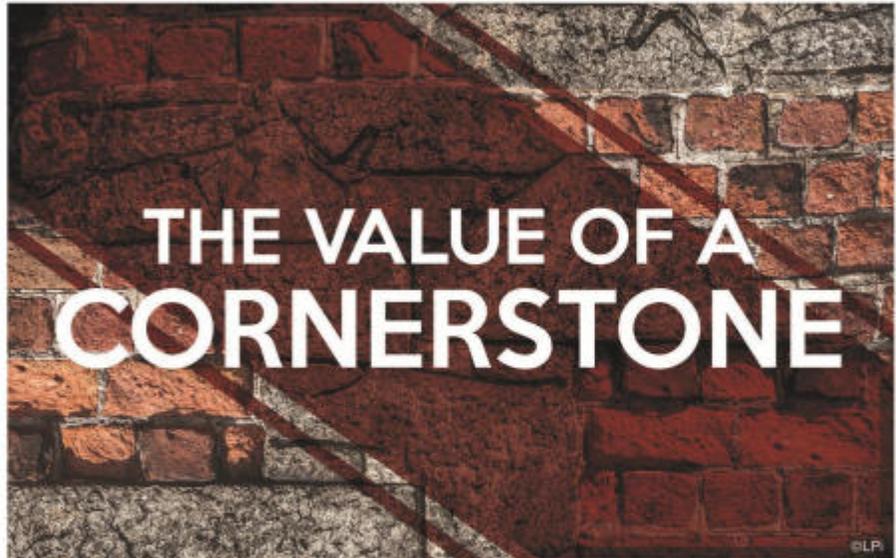
Our weekly parish budget is \$11,900.00.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Any builder worth his or her salt knows the value and importance of a cornerstone. Properly laying and securing this primary unit determines how the rest of the project unfolds and its success. Cornerstones are necessary elements not only of buildings but of lives as well. Many human beings conduct the business of their lives paying little attention to a grounding reference or starting point. Hence, what unfolds is a tapestry of relativism, with few anchors or guideposts and many impulsive choices. Some consider love to be their cornerstone. While this may sound attractive and useful, the pursuit of love without a simultaneous pursuit of its source can be shallow and self-focused. Just because a person chooses to do no harm and love others does not mean that they are living in truth and properly anchored to the real cornerstone.

Jesus is the true and authentic cornerstone and shepherd. It is only in following the Risen One as the way, the truth, and the life that we can move from being well grounded ethical people to properly focused moral ones. Proper conduct, a true sense of justice, wisdom, virtue, moral principles, faith, hope, and love will be difficult to find unless we listen to the right Voice. It is when we learn to listen to the voice of



God that we begin our journey on the road to salvation. It is only the Good Shepherd, the authentic and solid cornerstone, who can guide us through life's questions and challenges and bring us to the safe and proper pasture.

A person's life only has meaning when the cornerstone is properly selected and set. Understanding themselves only as random acts of creation, existing without intent or purpose, will color their choices and influence their decisions. The foundation of their lives will be simply a matter of preference and choice, leaving benchmarks of growth and higher ideals optional to pursue. Whereas people who

believe that they are fashioned and loved into existence by a God who purposely made them, have this incredible unconditional relationship at their source which has tremendous significance. Their allegiance is not to themselves but to their Creator. Life, then, is an adventure in search of this Creator God and a journey of self-discovery that seeks to unite their will to His. There is a cost. We have to give up our life in order to gain our life. As ironic as that sounds, it is true. It is only when we finally figure this out that the true cornerstone of our lives will be properly laid and we can, with God's help, get about the business of properly constructing a temple that endures.

"I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again." - Jn 10:16-17

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St. Catherine of Siena

 St. Catherine was born into a large family in Siena, Italy, on May 23, 1347. She developed a deep love of prayer, especially the Rosary. From her earliest years, she received many visions of Jesus in prayer. People became aware of her visions and knew how important it was to share these visions with others, so they convinced Catherine to dictate her visions. These were later compiled in her work called *The Dialogue* which people still find inspirational today!

Catherine became a Third order Dominican, and spent much time caring for and praying for the needs of those around her. She visited the sick in the hospital and went to the homes of the poor to care for those in need. Many people saw Catherine's devotion and followed her.

Catherine is well known for urging Pope Gregory XI (the last of the 70 year long Avignon Papacy in France) to return to Rome. St. Catherine is often depicted receiving a rosary from Mary. Sometimes she is also depicted with St. Dominic, who also receives a rosary from Mary.

St. Catherine was canonized in 1461.
Her feast day is April 29.



Mystic

 The tumultuous political climate of St. Catherine's day resulted in the move of the papacy from Rome to Avignon, France. Due to her reputation for holiness, many sought the advice of St. Catherine on spiritual and secular matters. Even the pope was moved by her prayers and spiritual advice, to fulfill his private vow, that if he were elected Supreme Pontiff, he would return the papacy to Rome.

Doctor

 St. Catherine was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1970 by Pope Paul VI. The title *Doctor* is given to saints whose numerous writings were found to be inspirationally edifying throughout history and still inspire people of faith today! St. Catherine wrote hundreds of letters and prayers. She is best known for her work, *The Dialogue*, in which she dictated the descriptions of her visions.

Saint

 Just as Mary intercedes for us, the saints also intercede for us. Saints are picked to be patrons of countries, cities, cathedrals, churches, hospitals, schools, religious orders, professions, diseases and other medical issues, altar servers, artists, and athletes. Confirmation candidates often choose a patron saint to whom they feel a spiritual closeness. St. Catherine is the Patron Saint of Europe, nurses, and jurors.

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