

# ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

DECEMBER 26, 2021

200 Pleasant Street, PO Box 337

Epping, NH 03042

603-679-8805

Emergency number after hours 603-734-4436

Website: [stjosepheppingnh.com](http://stjosepheppingnh.com)

Email: [nh337@comcast.net](mailto:nh337@comcast.net)

Office hours: Mon-Thursday 9am to 4pm

Closed Friday

## THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



## VISITING PASTOR

Fr. Elson Kattookkaran

## PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Deacon Terry Sullivan  
saintjosephdeacon@comcast.net

## Parish Secretary

Jackie Biron  
nh337@comcast.net

## Faith Formation

Ann Ryan  
saintjosephccd@comcast.net

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

4:00PM Saturday  
8:00AM, 10:00AM Sunday

## Weekday Masses

7:30AM Monday thru Thursday

## Holy Days of Obligation

Please consult parish bulletin

## Confessions

Saturday 3PM to 3:30PM or by  
appointment

## Sacraments

Please call the office

## Cemetery

Please call the office

## New Parishioners

If you have just moved to the area, we welcome you to Saint Joseph Parish. If you have any question, please call the office. To register please visit our website: [stjosephpeppingnh.com](http://stjosephpeppingnh.com)



## Monday, December 27TH

No Daily Mass

## Tuesday, December 28TH

No Daily Mass

## Wednesday, December 29TH

No Daily Mass

## Thursday, December 30TH

No Daily Mass

## Saturday, January 1ST

4:00PM Kristin Boudreau

## Sunday, January 2ND

8AM Olga Derosiers, Requested by Paul & Lynn Carleton

10:00AM Ray Chevalier, Requested by Family

## WEDNESDAY MASS

Beginning Wednesday, December 29, 2021 Fr. Matt Mason and Fr. John Carroll will offer daily Mass on **Wednesdays at 7:30 am**, and will continue through the month of January for now.

## Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
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

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Has Something Changed?? Have you moved, or changed your phone number, email address? Do you now use online giving and would rather not receive envelopes anymore? Be sure to call the Parish Office at 679-8805 or email [nh337@comcast.net](mailto:nh337@comcast.net) to let us know about the changes in your life so we can update our records! Thanks

## BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTION

We welcome all **Parents** and **expecting Parents** to our Baptismal Preparation Class here at St. Joseph Parish.

Classes will be held the **third Thursday** of every month beginning at **6:30PM**. And is a **requirement** Prior to scheduling a date for your child's baptism.

The class will help answer many of your questions and help prepare you for your child's reception of the Sacrament of Baptism. You will find it very informative and interactive. Please contact Deacon Terry Sullivan at [saintjosephdeacon@comcast.net](mailto:saintjosephdeacon@comcast.net).



*From the Desk of  
Deacon Terry  
December 26, 2021  
The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary & Joseph*

*My Brothers and Sisters in Christ: “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”*

*This is one of the most relatable passages in all of the Gospels. It doesn’t take a lot of historical context to understand the fear and dread Mary and Joseph must have felt when they realized their precious baby boy was gone.*

*This Gospel signifies the movement of Jesus from being Mary’s miracle baby to a self-reflective adult. The entirety of his childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood is covered in a few short sentences. What we know of Jesus’s upbringing is contained in the words that he “was obedient to his parents” and “advanced in wisdom and age for favor before God and man.”*

*Like last week, this is an opportunity to reflect on what the Gospel writer must have heard about Jesus’s life. Since the Gospel contains accounts and parable of remarkable things, often turning to mundane remarkable, we are invited to wonder at the notion that Jesus’s upbringing was probably fairly normal for a boy of his place and time.*

*Whatever personal relationship Jesus may have developed with his Father in heaven, while here on earth, he was raised by a young mother and a father who likely built furniture for a living.*

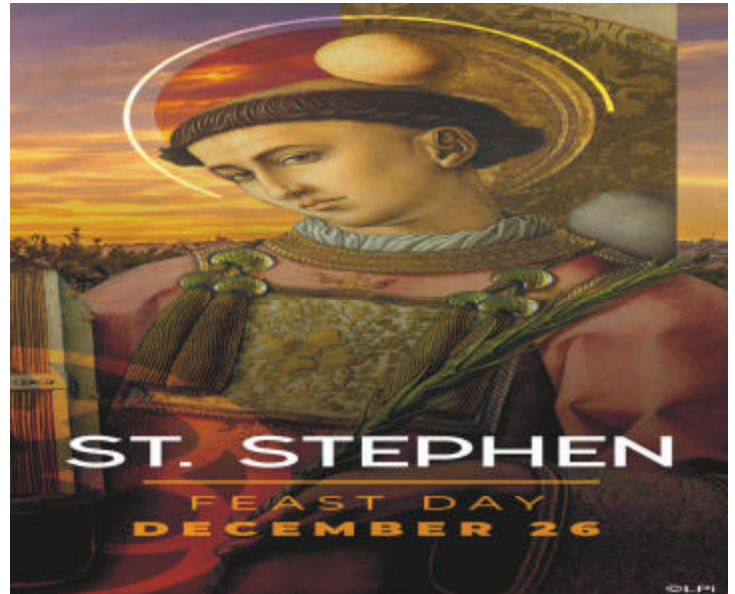
*God Bless your Heart!!*



**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**December 12, 2021**

Not Available due to early publication



St. Stephen | Feast Day December 26

The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. A man filled with grace and power, he worked great wonders among the people. Some Jews debated with St. Stephen but could not match his wisdom and spirit. Eventually, a charge of blasphemy was brought up against him, and the local population demanded that he be tried and sentenced. He was seized and carried before the Sanhedrin.

Despite the danger he faced, in front of the Sanhedrin and his accusers, St. Stephen gave a long speech about the history of Israel and the blessings that God had given upon His chosen people. He talked about how Israel had become disobedient despite God’s abundant mercy. This enraged his accusers, and eventually the crowd dragged him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Even in his final moments, St. Stephen displayed great forgiveness and even asked God not to hold the sins of his attackers against them. Hundreds of years after his death, he is still a role model for us to follow.

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**BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY ROSARY PROGRAM**

The NH Knights of Columbus State Council is hosting an online rosary on the 4th Thursday of each month beginning at 7PM on December 23, 2021 and continuing monthly through June 23, 2022. The goal is 5,000 rosaries by Founders Day March 29, 2022. Submission forms and more information is available at [www.nhknights.org](http://www.nhknights.org) or you can call email Nelson Thibault 603-679-8459, [thibnott@comcast.net](mailto:thibnott@comcast.net)



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

### 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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### Coming Back to Church

#### Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

#### Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

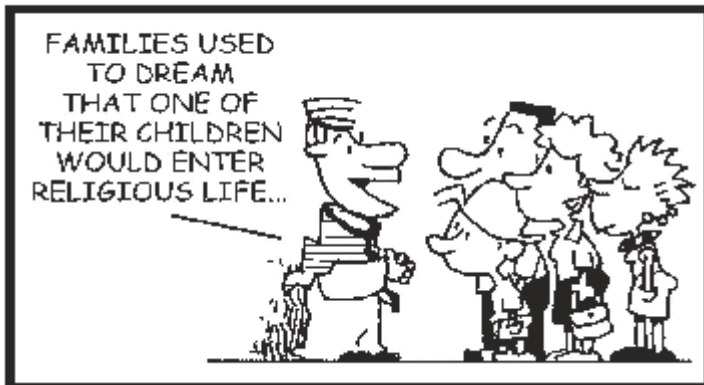
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### R.C.I.A ( Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

News: We are now offering an ongoing (year round) R.C.I.A. process to accommodate individual situations and needs. Our team also offers adult faith formation for those adults baptized in another faith seeking full communion into the Catholic Church and for those adults already baptized Catholic in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. All inquirers are encouraged to contact the church office so your questions can be answered and we can help get you started on your journey.

### HOLY FAMILY



**Feast of the Holy Family - December 26, 2021**  
“He gave power to become children of God.” If you think you may be called to share the Father’s love as a priest, deacon, sister or brother, Contact the Vocations Office at 603-663-0196 or email: [mmason@rcbm.org](mailto:mmason@rcbm.org)

"GOD IS  
LOVE.  
WHOEVER  
LIVES IN  
LOVE LIVES  
IN GOD  
AND GOD  
IN HIM."

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



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