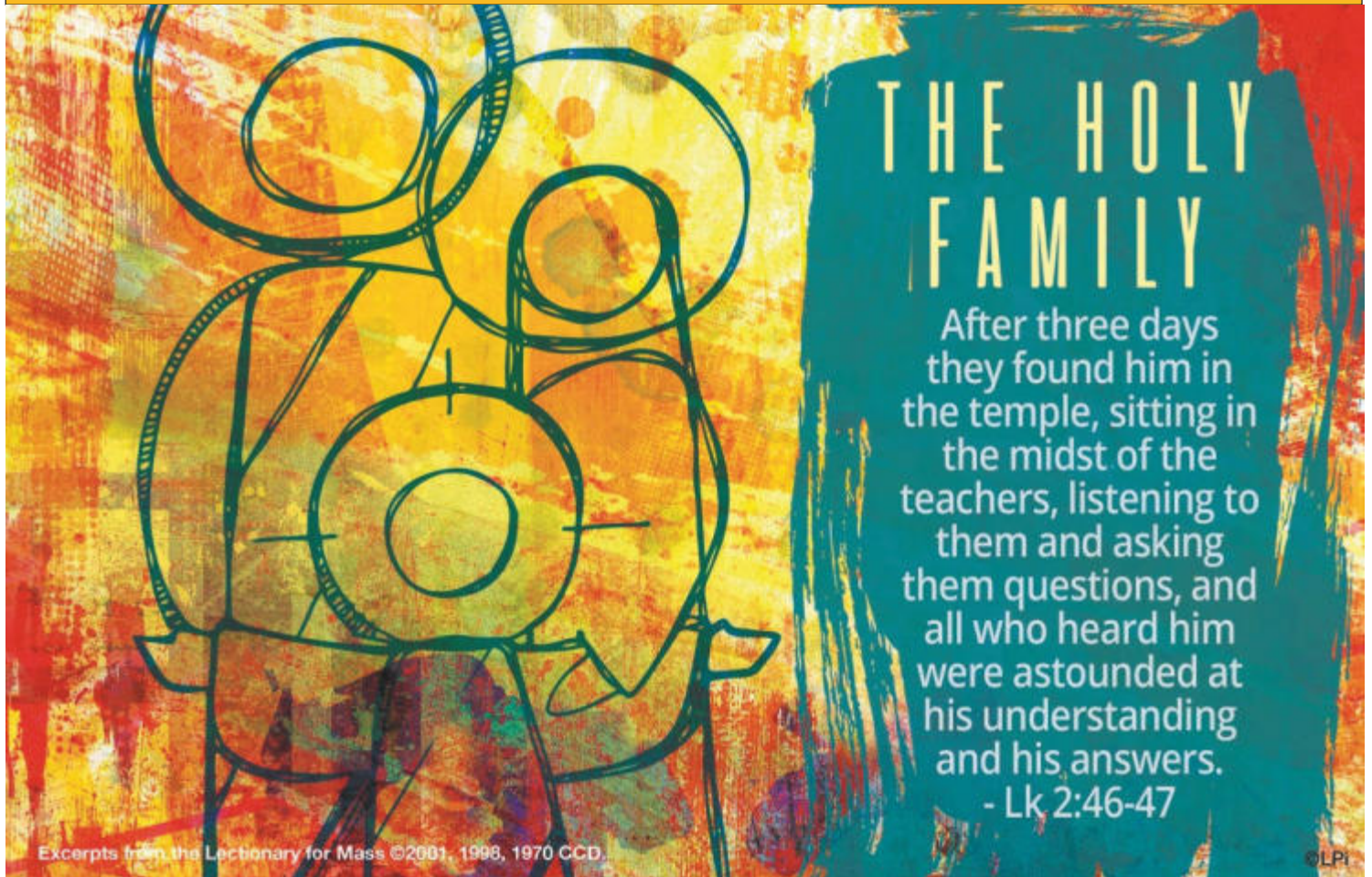


OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST. JOSEPH

20 RIVER RD. PITTSFIELD, NH 03263/844 FIRST NH TRNPK (RT4) NORTHWOOD, NH 03261

DECEMBER 26, 2021



THE HOLY FAMILY

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.
- Lk 2:46-47

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays Our Lady of Lourdes:
Tue. 12 PM, Wed. - Fri. 8 AM

Saturdays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 4 PM
St. Joseph's (Memorial - Labor Day) 5:30

Sundays

Our Lady of Lourdes: 8 AM
Saint Joseph's: 10 AM

PHONE LISTING

Rectory	603-435-6242
Religious Ed. Ctr. St. Joseph	603-942-8716
Fax	603-435-5531
Email Parish	ololstjoseph@metrocast.net
Website	ourladyoflourdes-stjosephs.org
Email CCD	stjgar@outlook.com
NH Catholic Charities	1-800-562-5249

PARISH STAFF

Rev. John B. MacKenzie	Pastor
Jeannie Garcia	Religious Ed. Coord.
Ellen Barbasso	Secretary

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—FRIDAY 8AM-12PM

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 3 PM

BAPTISM

Families must be registered parishioners at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Joseph's. Please call the rectory for arrangements.

MARRIAGE

Couples must contact the rectory at least six months before intended date to fulfill preparation requirements.

Welcome to Our Parish

We pray that you enjoy celebrating with us this weekend. Whether you are new to the community or live here, know that you are invited to join our Parish family. Please be sure to introduce yourself to Father after Mass. You may register with us by dropping in or calling our rectory during the week at 435-6242.

If you are just visiting for the weekend, we hope you enjoy your visit with us and consider us your "home away from home".

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 25

8AM Fernand Marquis by Regina Marquis OL
10AM Edward Biron by Mariette Biron and Edward M. Knox by June Knox SJ
(No 4PM Vigil Mass on Christmas Day, Dec. 25)

Sunday December 26

8AM For Our Parishioners OL
10AM Apolionijah & Alfonsas Valatkaitis by the Pauliukonis Family SJ

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Mon. Dec. 27 8AM No Mass
Tues. Dec. 28 12 Noon Healing for Janice Riel OL
Wed. Dec. 29 8AM Rev. Gerald Auger OL
Thurs. Dec. 30 8AM James S. Riel OL
Fri. Dec. 31 8AM Michael Chagnon OL

Weekend Masses:

Saturday January 1

8:00 AM Intentions of Our Lady of Fatima OL
4:00PM Robert C. McWhinnie Sr. & Stephen P. McWhinnie by Janice McWhinnie OL
5:30PM No Mass SJ

Sunday January 2

8:00AM For Our Parishioners OL
10:00AM In Memory of Gibeau family by Joyce and Marcel Lebel SJ

Weekly amount needed to meet Budget Requirement: \$ 4,000

Weekly Offering Dec. 12 \$3,256
Immaculate Conception \$763
Retirement for Religious \$1,069

We are, as always, very grateful for all who share, in a generous way, their Time, Talent and Treasure.

Lay Ministries	December 25/26	January 1/2
Christmas Eve	4PM Northwood Rob Rodler 6PM Pittsfield Ellen Barbasso	
8AM (No 4PM Mass on Christmas Day)	Christmas Day 8AM Karen Cote	
10AM Christmas Day	Christmas Day 10AM Dolly Pauliukonis Or Chris Garcia	January 1 4PM Dianne Bird
8 AM	December 26 Dianne Bird	Charlie Hauck
10:00 AM	December 26 Chris Garcia or Dolly Pauliukonis	Pauline Marston

Parish Ministries

Serving God, Our Parish and Our Parish Community
Our Lady of Lourdes – St. Joseph’s Church Parish Center

- **Interfaith Community Kitchen Monday Meals** – Drive up take-out dinners are offered every Monday at 4:30
- **The Clothes Closet** – Free clothing for men, women, and children. Open: on Mondays 3:30-4:30, Thursdays 11:00-Noon, and during food pantry hours or by appointment
- **The Northwood Emergency Food Pantry** – Stop by for our monthly schedule.

DIVINE MERCY MILITIA

Please join us every Thursday evening beginning at 5:30 pm at Our Lady of Lourdes Church as we pray for our nation, our Church, our parish, and our world.



READING

Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

Page 894

**“And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man”
(Luke 2:52)**

Question of the Week

What is distinctive about the Christian approach to the family? What implications might it have for you?

HIS WORD TODAY

For most Christians the family is the first school of spirituality. In that context we learn (or do not learn) the basics of morality and religion, and we develop our sense of responsibility and mutual respect. On Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of Jesus, through whom we believe that we have entered upon a new relationship with God. We are God’s children alongside the Son of God. This means that we should respect one another as God has respected us. The theme of our identity and dignity as God’s children runs through the readings for Holy Family Sunday.

Today’s text from Sirach 3 is an instruction for adults to care for their aging parents. That plea is based on the commandment to “honor your father and mother,” which was addressed originally to adults rather than to young children. We are to honor our aging parents not only out of gratitude for their gifts of life and care, but also because as children of God they deserve our respect and love.

In the household code from Colossians 3, husbands are exhorted to love their wives and avoid bitterness toward them. Likewise, parents are urged to avoid nagging their children, lest they become discouraged. Even within the patriarchal family structure assumed in the passage, there is an overriding emphasis on respect based upon our common identity and dignity as God’s children through Christ.

In Luke’s account, the child Jesus goes up to Jerusalem on Passover, engages the Jewish sages in dialogue and claims the Temple as his Father’s house. Jesus fails to inform his parents of his whereabouts and answered them in a “fresh” manner. Later in Luke’s Gospel (8:21; 11:28) Jesus redefines his family as those who hear God’s word and act upon it. Of course, the one character who fits that definition perfectly is Mary the mother of Jesus. The final sentences in today’s reading affirm that Jesus participated fully and flourished in his family.

Christian family life begins with the recognition of our common identity and dignity as God’s children through Jesus the Son of God. It should help all the members grow in wisdom and grace, and encourage them to hear God’s word and act upon it as Mary did.

Father John’s Jottings

We like to think of the Holy Family as “perfect,” full of joy and problem free, but that’s not really the case. Theirs is the story of a woman suspected of adultery, a man anxiously planning a divorce, and a family forced to migrate to a foreign land. It’s the story of a couple learning how to cope with their son’s unconventional behavior -- something we read about in today’s Gospel. It’s also the story of a sad woman who first loses her husband and then watches as her only child is unjustly executed by the state.

Here are some things to think about as you gaze at the Holy Family: first, your family is not ordinary in God’s eyes. Every family is special to him. Every family receives his favor. Second, your family can make a difference in this world. Dream big, then try to do good work for God. Third, it really is possible for your family to be a holy family. Just try to live in God’s love, and it will happen. Yes, this family was holy, but it was also very human--dealing with human issues on a daily basis, just like us. That means they know our family’s ups and downs as well.

*“Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, please pray for all families.
Let us become more and more like you.”*

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God’s plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>. Give yourselves the best Christmas present ever – take time for your marriage. Strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

PUZZLE

Find the way that leads to church!



MISSION

I will always let my parents know where I am, so they won't worry.



GROWING WITH THE Gospel

CYCLE C

COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



Holy Family • Luke 2:41-52

VITA Volunteers Needed

The IRS and our local partner Granite United Way need volunteers to help prepare tax returns at our Laconia site for the upcoming filing season.

For over 50 years, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) sites have offered tax prep for low to moderate income taxpayers. No experience is necessary as training is provided to become an IRS certified volunteer preparer.

We also need individuals to serve as greeters. A commitment of at least 3 hours a week during the tax season and the willingness to learn and grow with fellow volunteers is all that is needed.

If you would like to help your community, please contact Cathy at 603-528-4295, or cdumais@metrocast.net



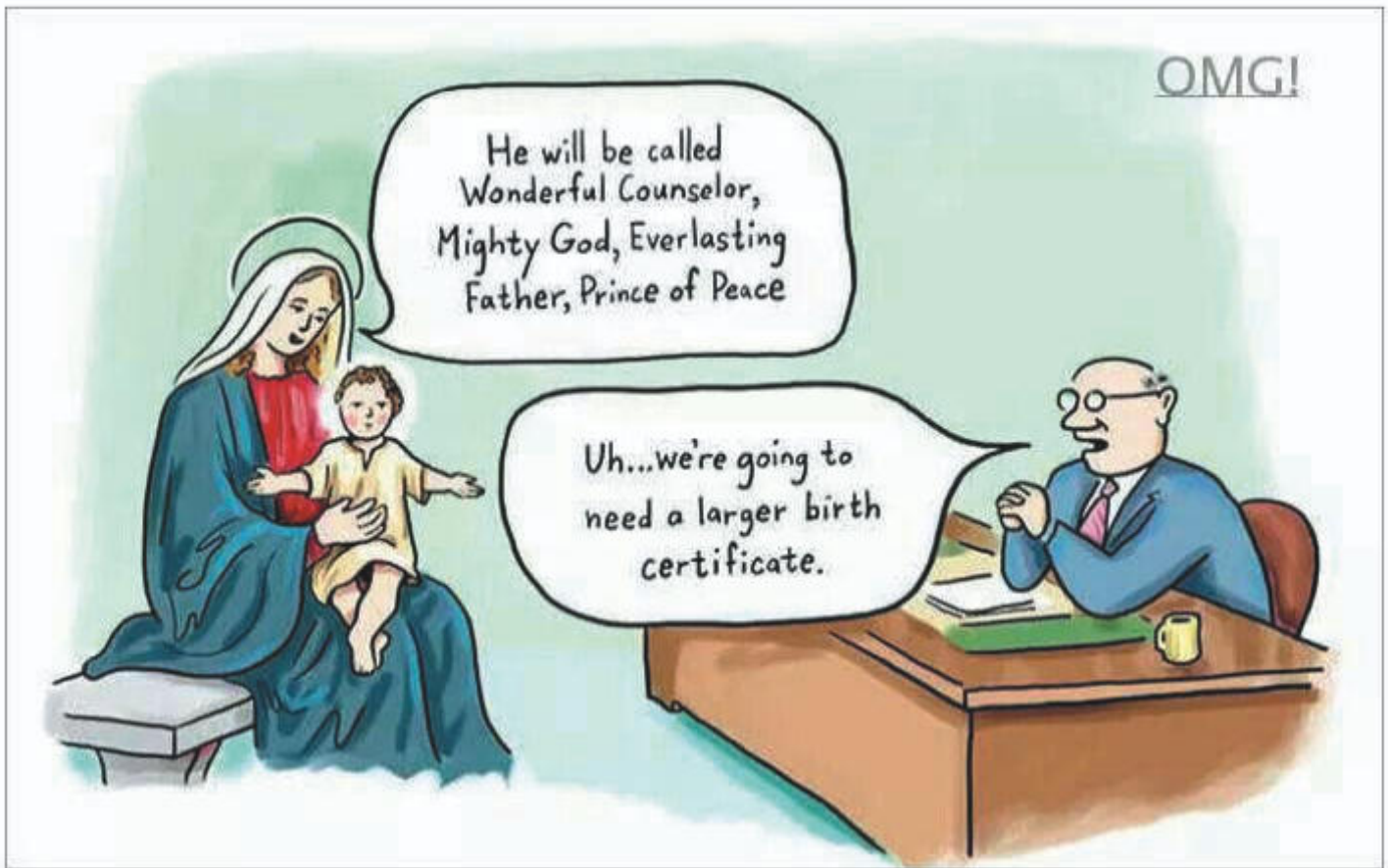
“Strengthen your hearts in holiness.” Are you being called to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister?

Contact the Vocation Office at (603) 663-0196 or email: mmason@rcbm.org.



Lord Jesus Christ, our Divine Physician, we ask you to guard and protect us from Coronavirus Covid 19 and all its variants and all serious illness. For all that have died from it, have mercy; for those who are ill now, bring healing. For those searching for a remedy, enlighten them; for medical caregivers helping the sick, strengthen and shield them. For those working to contain the spread, grant them success; for those afraid, grant peace. May your precious blood be our defense and salvation. By your grace, may you turn the evil of disease into moments of consolation and hope. May we always fear the contagion of sin far more than any illness. We abandon ourselves to your infinite mercy. Amen

—Pedro de la Cruz



We Need God !

The fact the enemies of God must face is that modern civilization has conquered the world, but in doing so has lost it's soul. And in losing it's soul it will lose the very world it gained. And as religion fades so will freedom, for only where the spirit of God is, is there liberty.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Prepare Your Heart! - Advent 2021 Parish Resources

Spiritual reflection on biblical teachings, scripture, or sermons, helps to quiet the mind, enables the openness of the spirit, and the softness of the heart. Start this Advent season with a daily reflection. Sign up on FORMED.org for free Daily Advent Reflections with Dr. Tim Gray or listen to ***The True Meaning of Christmas*** with Dr. Michael Barber and enjoy the free companion book available in both churches beginning November 21. A limited number of free Advent books by Scott Hahn and the Word Among Us are also available.



Unity Prayer

My Beloved ,

May our feet journey together.

May our hands gather in unity.

May our hearts beat in unison.

May our souls be in harmony.

May our thoughts be as one.

May our ears listen to the silence
together.

May our glances profoundly penetrate
each other.

May our lips pray together to gain
Mercy from the Eternal Father.

Amen



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