



Corpus Christi Parish

The united Catholic Community
worshipping in Portsmouth, NH

Welcome!

If you are new to our community, we hope you have felt welcome!

If you are a visitor, we're glad you joined us!

If you're considering parish membership, please introduce yourself to Fr. Gary after Mass.

A PRAYER FOR THE Second Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you came among us
with the irresistible power of a baby,
requiring both our hands
and captivating our whole hearts.
Help us to cast aside the sin
and brokenness that we cling to,
so we might be ready to hold you
when you come again.
Amen.



www.archtoronto.org

Parish Mission Statement

Rooted in the Word, nourished by the Eucharist, and strengthened by the sacraments,
Corpus Christi Parish is a vibrant, welcoming Catholic community of many parts united in the one Body of Christ.
Seeking to reflect the unconditional love and embrace of Christ, we strive to live out our baptismal call
as disciples and enthusiastic witnesses to our faith.

The Pastor's Letter

Dear Family in the Lord,

I hope you're carving out time to really enter into the "reason for the season" in these days! If you've yet to, there's still time. Even though it's one of the busiest times for me, as it is for you, it is a time I look forward to each year. It takes effort, prioritizing, and resisting the temptation to turn it all into a pre-Christmas rush. Yet, I find the old adage to be true—"If we but take one extra step to draw closer to God, He takes two toward us." If we create a little space, He comes and transforms that which welcomes Him. As we look back, the manger of Bethlehem reminds us of this. In its simplicity it held the greatest of all gifts! If we look to the present, we see the same awesome mystery! He comes to us in what appears to be ordinary bread and wine in the Eucharist. He remains with us in the Tabernacle. He renews us and cleanses us if we but welcome Him in, through the best of all Christmas preparations, a good confession, and by His coming and mercy, He transforms us as He did the stable of old!

Unfortunately, if we are honest, we realize that at times we can go from day to day so caught up in the "urgent" that we neglect the "essential." Indeed, it seems at times we say by our lives—"there's no room"! Advent invites us to face that. If we can pull it off in the busiest time of the year, there's hope some of it will linger beyond! Our parish Advent opportunities offer one way. Our family prayer is another. Teaching our kids that which is at the heart of the season, praying for those we write cards to, being less into consumerism and more into giving the gift of ourselves and our time are other ways. Sitting quietly with the scriptures, our Advent daily reflection, and planning NOW for our most important preparation—not simply decoration of the house, preparation of food for the table, buying of gifts—but, most essentially, preparation of our soul in a good confession to really welcome Him more fully and faithfully at Christmas, and beyond! As one of the beautiful liturgical texts of this season puts it—"Removing what hinders us from receiving Christ with joy!"



Next Sunday is "Gaudete Sunday"—the rose candle on the wreath, rose colored vestments, the emphasis on joy and rejoicing in the texts and songs of the day, all urge us to "lighten up!" Step out of darkness and regret, look forward in hope, rejoice in it, and heed the call of John the Baptist: "Prepare the way for the Lord" to enter more fully into our souls, homes, parish, and the lives we encounter, by removing the obstacles, creating the space, and by our word and witness, being John for others, announcing the Lord's desire to come to them as well.

Let's be united in prayer for each other in these days that we all may experience our reason to rejoice—He is indeed Emmanuel—God with us!

With you on the Journey,

for Gary

Second Sunday of Advent



Intentions for Holy Mass

Monday	DEC 6	St. Nicholas
8:00AM	T J Bassett, by the Maloney Family	
Tuesday	DEC 7	St. Ambrose
8:00AM	Rosemarie Boucher, by her husband Hank	
Wednesday	DEC 8	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00AM	Robert McKechnie, by his wife Barbara	
12:00PM	Robbie Pidgeon (1st anniv) by Elaine Saltus	
7:00PM	Leo Auger (3rd anniv), by Sherry Moniz	
Thursday	DEC 9	Advent Feria (weekday)
8:00AM	Kathleen M Morrissey, by Kathleen A Morrissey	
Friday	DEC 10	Advent Feria
8:00AM	Kathy Masi, by her Husband	
Saturday	DEC 11	Advent Feria
8:00AM	A J Rava, by Ellisa Arbogast	
4:00PM	Vigil 3rd Sunday of Advent Helen Hyland (11th anniversary), by Ann, Catherine, and Frank	
Sunday	DEC 12	3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30AM	Theresa & Nicholas Pesarik, by Family	
10:30AM	Colleen Fahy, by Bill & Gemma Curran	
4:30PM	Intentions of Harry & Cassy Revels	

Our reflection of God's generosity to us!

Weekend of November 20/21, 2021

Online Giving	\$ 6,199.00
Envelopes	\$ 6,818.83
Loose	\$ 1,666.37
Total	\$ 14,684.20

That weekend 147 envelope/85 Online Giving users contributed 89% of our income.

Poor Box /SHARE Donations \$ 806.10

Weekend of November 27/28, 2021

Online Giving	\$ 2,633.00
Envelopes	\$ 6,290.92
Loose	\$ 1,773.31
Total	\$ 10,697.23

Last weekend 141 envelope/67 Online Giving users contributed 83% of our income.

Poor Box /SHARE Donations \$ 527.37

Thanksgiving collection for SHARE \$ 6,840.00

Capital Campaign as of 11/29/21 \$ 2,406,089.00

Advent Opportunities



The Season of Advent can do so much for us if we carve out some space and embrace Advent living. Here are some simple opportunities your parish family holds out to you to make it different this year!

Advent Evensong and Benediction will take place tonight, and each Sunday of Advent, at 6:00 PM in church. Join us to keep focused on the “reason for the season” with this half hour of reflection, Advent anthems, and Benediction in a quiet candlelight setting. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed at 5:30 PM for those who wish to come early for some personal adoration time, and remains exposed afterwards until 7:00 PM for those who may wish to linger. Confessions are heard before/after as well.

Rorate Candlelight Mass is offered at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays (December 15 & 22). This candlelight Mass, celebrated at the high altar, is a Votive Mass honoring our Lady as the “dwelling place of the Incarnate Word. It features the beautiful traditional Gregorian chant, anthems and polyphony of the Advent season. Join us! Invite friends! **(NOTE: Due to holy day this week, we do not have the Rorate Mass this Wednesday, the 8th, but rather the Solemn Mass of the Solemnity.)**

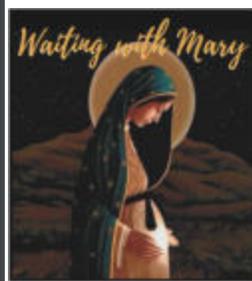
Weekday Morning Mass is offered at 8:00 AM Monday through Saturday, with communal Rosary, for those who wish to remain, after Mass each day.

Confessions are offered daily to make it easier for all to include this most important of all Christmas preparations in their Advent schedule. The Sacrament of Penance will be available as follows:

- * Monday through Saturday at 8:30 AM
- * Saturdays at 3:00 PM as well
- * Sundays at 3:45 PM, as well as 5:30 to 5:50 PM and 6:30 to 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Adoration opportunity is offered every day. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed Monday through Saturday from 7:00 to 7:55 AM, and additionally, on Wednesdays from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM and on Sundays before Evensong from 5:30 PM and after until 7:00 PM. In the Eucharist we truly experience the reality that He is—Emmanuel—God with us! Come, be with Him!

Blessing of Expectant Couples And Those Hoping to Conceive



*On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, when we focus on Mary as an expectant mother, we will offer this special blessing for couples at both the 8:30 and 10:30 AM Masses on **December 19th**. Save the date! Spread the word! Plan to join us as our community prays with and for you!*

NEW! *Christmas Wafers*

Our Knights of Columbus are once again making available packets of the Christmas wafers, drawn from a centuries old Slavic tradition, to be used as part of table prayer on Christmas. The table with wafers will be in the back of the church this weekend and the next two weekends. Green sheets in the rack at the main entrance give an explanation of this tradition and, on the reverse side, the prayer ritual to use with them. Take a look! Consider this great way of living out faith in your home—the domestic church!

NEW! *Christmas Cards*

Greeting cards that underscore the true meaning of Christmas, and are beautiful, and economical, are on sale at the table in the back of the church **today** from the Knights of Columbus. Proceeds from the sales benefit our parish. Be sure to take a look and consider this opportunity!

NEW! *Wedding Bells!*

Next Saturday, **Samantha Armishaw & John Riga** will pledge life and love in the sacrament of Marriage in our parish. We extend congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them! May He who brought you together bless you in abundance in the years ahead as you live out this wonderful vocation.

NEW! *Called Home to the Lord*

We remember in prayer the repose of the souls of **Frances Lebel** and **Thomas Stuart**, whose Funeral Masses were recently celebrated in our parish, **Roselina Fromme**, grandmother of Fr. Joseph Moynahan, and **Barbara Bowers**, mother of parishioner Joyce LeBlanc and grandmother of Fr. Bobby LeBlanc and parishioner Jason LeBlanc. To their families we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support.

Young Adult Ministry

ADVENT FOCUS & FELLOWSHIP is offered each Sunday of Advent as we join with the parish family for Advent Evensong & Benediction in church, from 6:00 to 6:30 PM, then, if you'd like to join us in walking into town to grab dinner and enjoy fellowship, simply meet outside in front of our Lady's statue after. Great way to keep focused on the real reason for the season! (The Blessed Sacrament is exposed at 5:30 for those who may want some quiet one-on-One time before the communal prayer begins.)

FRASSATI FRATERNITY will meet **Thursday, December 16th**, at our rectory, Vianney House, for food, fellowship, and faith enrichment from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. We'll start to explore some of the questions that were submitted at our last gathering. All guys, 18 to 30-something, are welcome! In order to plan for dinner, we need you to **RSVP** to frgary.ccnh@gmail.com by **Monday, December 13th**.

FOR MORE INFO & UPDATES:

- ◆ **Discord group**—The Young Adult Ministry has a group chat on the app Discord, where we coordinate group activities. FMI, please email pathampson@protonmail.com
- ◆ **Facebook group**—Corpus Christi Young Adults
- ◆ **Questions about Young Adult Ministry?**—Please contact Dave Perrella, our Young Adult Minister, at youngadult-min.ccnh@gmail.com.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Wednesday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is the patronal feast for our Parish Church, which was consecrated under this title. We will offer the following opportunities to enter into celebration:

- **Holy Mass** at 8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon, and **Solemn Mass** at 7:00 PM
- **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** from 7:00 to 7:55 AM, then 8:45 to 11:45 AM, and 1:00 to 6:00 PM.
- **Communal Rosary** after 8AM Mass and at 6:30PM

NAMES TO THE TOWER!

This Wednesday, our patronal church name day, we will install the receptacle containing all the names you submitted, of family and friends, living and deceased, in our bell tower beneath the new cross that adorns the tower. Each night, at 8PM, the bell tolls in memory of all our parishioners, benefactors, and those submitted for this remembrance. We thank those who made a “love offering” with the submission of names. These offerings will go toward the funding of the newly-created and gilded cross. A second one, to match it, will be installed on the roof of the facade of the church within the coming days and that one will be in loving memory of Sally Griffin. As we lift our eyes to the cross, and hear the call of the bell, may we lift each other up to the Lord!



Portsmouth Pro Musica is back! This holiday season they will be performing the *Midnight Mass for Christmas*, and a collection of shorter seasonal pieces accompanied by strings, flutes, and harpsichord.

One of their performances will be held at 7:30 PM **NEXT Saturday, December 11th**, in our Immaculate Conception Church. Tickets are \$13 general admission, or \$11 for seniors/students, and will be sold at the door, or please visit: <http://portsmouthpromusica.org/tickets/>





- * **Vigil Masses will be offered at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Christmas Eve.**
- * **Solemn Mass at Midnight with candlelight procession will be preceded at 11:30 AM by Carols & Anthems by our Christmas Choir.**
- * **Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:30 AM.**

Please note: There will be NO 4:00 Mass on Christmas Day.

Christmas Extra Effort

Over the years it has been a wonderful gift to see the response to this annual special appeal for “extra effort” at Christmas. Our parish budget plans on this annual appeal to fund a major part of our operating expenses. Some parishes do “Grand Annual Appeals” with mailings, etc. We have simply counted on your prayerful consideration and response to this occasion to see your offering as your Christmas Gift to your parish! Thank you in advance for whatever you can do. (If you give electronically, you can designate this gift online. If you use envelopes, you will have in your packet a special Christmas envelope right after the ordinary weekly envelope for Sunday, December 19th. You could also use your own envelope and simply mark it “Christmas Offering.”) We are happy to include this offering, in our statement to you for tax purposes. Thanks in advance for all you do and all you can do in this annual “Extra Effort”!

Christmas Flower Offerings

As in the past, white envelopes are at the church entrance for those who would like to contribute to adorning our church for the upcoming high holy days! If you would like to make the offering in memory of loved ones, simply **print their names CLEARLY** on the envelope and be sure to have it in **no later than next Sunday, December 12th**, in order to have them included in remembrance at Masses offered in the Christmas Octave days and listed in the bulletin for prayerful remembrance as well. (Names submitted after that will be remembered in Masses, but not included in the bulletin listing until a week later, due to printing deadlines.) Thank you for whatever you can contribute to add to our celebrations in a festive atmosphere!



Time, Talent, and Treasure Shared!

Once again, generosity abounds in our parish community! We are so thankful to the Lord for His blessings to us and His Spirit stirring among us!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD was enthusiastically supported by our community, enabling a group of middle school girls to lovingly pack 75 gift boxes for distribution! Thanks to Suzy Gagnon and Annelise Hartley for coordinating this effort!



OUR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE for Operation Blessing baskets brought in 1750 pounds of food and \$1800.00 in cash donations/gift cards. Many local families benefitted from your generosity! Thank you to Peg Allard & Shirley D’Antonio for coordinating this effort!

THE OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS was



blest and dedicated, featuring the stations from the former St. James Church, on November 21st. Your generosity—in helping to fund it, as well as the helping hands of all volunteers—and the great effort by Gregory Riddle of planning, recruiting help, and seeing the project through to completion, made this new outdoor meditation area a reality on the grounds of our Parish Center. Thanks Gregory, for your initiative, thoughtfulness of your parish family, and your skills and effort in pulling off this successful Eagle Scout project!

OUR MARTHA MARY MINISTRY (AND FRIENDS) were not hunting down “Black Friday” bargains, but lovingly laboring with time and talent shared to transform our church environment, inside and out, to usher in Advent on the day after Thanksgiving! Decorating, liturgical preparations, changing of hymnals, and a few “clean up” details were all rolled in! Week after week, in all sorts of ways, our Martha & Mary Ministry keep our sacristy and sanctuary worthy places for the celebration of the Sacred Mysteries and, with helpers joining in, go above and beyond for all the special seasons, in addition to weekly care for Mass linens and Vestments for priests and servers. Thank you for your obvious care, reflected in the order and beauty of our Sacred Space!

AND, we’re grateful to guys from our Men’s Ministry and Young Adults who gave a hand to Dominic with the outdoor preparations and to all who jumped in with the hymnal switch out effort!

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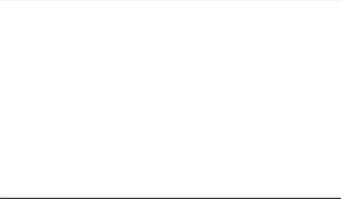
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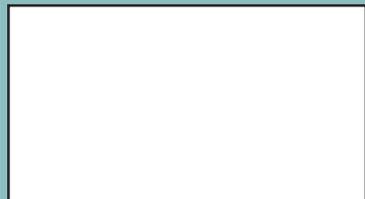
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