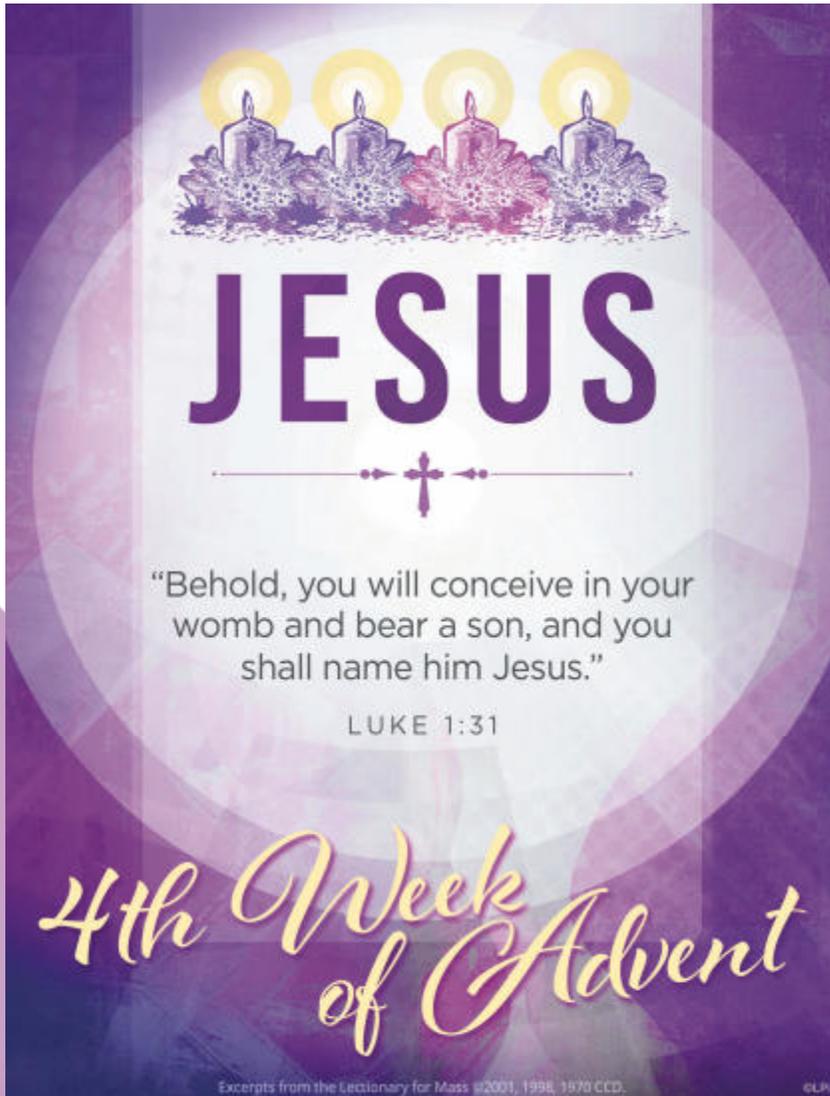


SAINT MARY

December 20, 2020

CHURCH



OUR MISSION:

**St. Mary Church in Newmarket, NH
on the shores of Great Bay,
is a Roman Catholic community
inviting all people to a personal encounter
with Jesus Christ and His Church.**

CONTACT US

182 Main Street, PO Box 337
Newmarket, NH 03857

Telephone: 603-659-3643

E-mail: stmarynh@gmail.com

Web: www.stmarynh.org

Office Hours: by appointment

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

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Welcome back to Mass! COVID-safe mask wearing
and social distancing is required.*

Sunday 9:30am

Saturday Vigil..... 4:00pm

Daily (Mon., Tues., & Thurs.)..... 7:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays, 3:00-3:30pm in the Sacristy.
COVID safety guidelines apply.

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Matthew Mason

Pastor | Pastor@stmichaelparish.org

Rev. Bartholomew Okonkwo

Associate Pastor | bokonkwo@rcbm.org

Deacon Eric Lambert

Deacon@stmichaelparish.org

Erin Bajger

Business Manager | stmarynh@gmail.com

Stacey Cooper-Jennings

Religious Ed | FF.stmarynh@gmail.com

Sammie Moore

Youth Minister | Youth.stmarynh@gmail.com

Karen Schalitz

Parish Nurse | nurse@stmichaelparish.org

Chris Rosaferra

Communications | STMMcomms@gmail.com

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Bob Elliott Finance Council Chairman

Mike Hall Pastoral Council Chairman

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14/Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Friday: *Vigil:* Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25. *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 19, 2020

4:00 pm Carol Tremblay

Sunday, December 20, 2020

9:30 am Don Spearman

Monday, December 21, 2020

7:00 am Becky Cawley ~Living

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

7:00 am Fecteau Family ~Living

Thursday, December 24, 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVE!

No 7am Mass. Masses at 4pm, 6pm, & 10pm
Offered for the Celebrant's Intentions

Friday, December 25, 2020

MERRY CHRISTMAS DAY!

Mass at 9:30am
Offered for the Celebrant's Intentions

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 pm John & Stephanie Bogacz

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30 am Erin Malazzo ~Living

Welcome Back!

We are happy to have you with us! Reservations are not currently needed. Mask wearing & social distancing is required.

Our diocese is now allowing public masses with a limited capacity. Due to the fact that we are not open at 100% capacity, this decision from our bishop has not changed the dispensation from the Sunday obligation to actually be at Mass. If you are unable to attend mass, you can still keep the Sabbath holy by:



- ◆ Avoiding unnecessary work
- ◆ Find weekly readings on this page <<
- ◆ Access weekly/daily readings at bible.usccb.org
- ◆ Watching Livestream Mass at any of the following sites: stmarynh.org | 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.

CONNECTING our COMMUNITY ONLINE

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



@stmichaelstmarynh groups\stmarynh

Tag us & tell us: Where do you find Community?
What gifts would you bring to Baby Jesus?



"Father, we are the work of Your hands."

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



What can we pray for?!

stmarynhprays@gmail.com

Bereavement Group

UPCOMING MEETING: DECEMBER 21ST, 10AM

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Join us in solidarity and prayer in Drouin Hall in Gabriel House at St. Michael, 10 - 11:30am on 12/21. Our Bereavement Group regularly meets on the 3rd or 4th Monday of each month. Select evening sessions will be available starting 12/21. Register for those nights at stmichaelparish.org/bereavement-group. All are welcome!

A REFLECTION FOR THE SEASON OF FAITHFUL PREPARATION

ADVENT WEEK FOUR: Modeling Our Response to God After The Witness of Mary and Joseph

Scripture Excerpts from the Three-Year Cycle of the Church

“Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.

For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her.” Matthew 1:20 (Year A)

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:38 (Year B - 2020)

“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Luke 1:45 (Year C)

As we celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent and with Christmas just a few days away, we are given our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to reflect upon. Though our Blessed Mother was perfect, and St. Joseph was a deeply virtuous man, they were both still fully human and would have walked through Mary’s pregnancy and Jesus’ birth with every human emotion and experience.

St. Joseph was faced with an extraordinary mystery as he discovered his wife was pregnant. He knew her to be a woman of exceptional virtue and holiness and had to reconcile that with her surprising pregnancy. Even after the angel appeared to him in a dream he would have had questions arise in his mind as he faced this situation.

Our Blessed Mother was also invited by God to face her pregnancy in faith. Her response was perfect, “Let it be done to me according to your word.” She could not explain nor understand what was happening but, nonetheless, she knew deep in her soul that God was in charge leading all to His glory.

Both Mary and Joseph are wonderful models of faith and obedience, finding peace with the will of God. They were obedient, despite the fact that the will of God drew them into an incredible and unfathomable mystery. They were first-hand witnesses to the salvation of the world and to the greatest act of love ever known. And they both embraced this mystery and accepted it in faith.

Reflect, today, upon your own invitations from God to embrace the mysteries of life. God’s ways are often more than we can comprehend and figure out. Mary and Joseph give us the witness of how we are to handle every mystery God invites us to participate in. Say “yes” - “fiat” - “let it be done” to the will of God just as this holy couple did.

Sampled from: My Catholic Life! Reflections

Dearest Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, pray for me that I may have the faith you both lived. When questions arise in my heart, help me to respond generously to God as you did. May I trust in all that God has promised, in imitation of each one of you. With peace and hope in my heart, let me echo your response: Jesus, I trust in You.



PREPARED TO WELCOME

PARISH INFORMATION

St. Mary Church is open daily for personal prayer.

BAPTISMS: Please contact Deacon Eric at Deacon@stmichaelparish.org or 772-2494 X211.

MARRIAGES: Please register your intentions with the parish at least six months in advance.

CALVARY CEMETERY: Michael Pelczar @ 659-3344

MERCY MEALS: Please contact Karen Polzinetti at 397-7685 or kdd42409@yahoo.com

SOCIAL MEDIA: facebook.com/stmarystmichaelnh
stmmcomms@gmail.com

PRAYER LINE: StMaryNHPrays@gmail.com / 770-8904

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Hannah Parent
339-309-9187 or hannahrose.parent@gmail.com

HEALING PRAYER: For an individual healing prayer appointment by a trained prayer team please contact us at Healing.StMaryNH@gmail.com or at the parish office.

ROSARY: The rosary is prayed Mon, Tue, Thurs at 6:30am before the 7am mass and Sat at 3:30pm before the 4pm mass. First Saturday Devotional Rosary is prayed at 3pm before the 4pm Vigil each first Saturday of the month.

FORMED: Parish Code: KYJ3M2

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: CALLED TO BE STEWARDS

During the Advent season as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and reassess our priorities in life, we should also strive for a greater understanding and appreciation for the ministries in our parish, and look within our hearts to determine what role stewardship plays in our lives. Our time, talent, and treasure make ministry happen!

This season, we thank you for giving your financial stewardship prayerful consideration. To make your life easier, we offer the online option below. On behalf of the staff, we wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas. We're grateful you're in our community!

PARISH GIVING

November 29, 2020

Envelopes	\$1,235.00
Loose	\$268.00
On-Line Giving	\$922.00
Total	\$2,425.00

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish during this difficult time. See below for our online giving option.

It's easy to



1

Visit 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

Questions about the program or setting up your account? Don't hesitate to contact Erin at 772-2494 or stmarynh@gmail.com

Respect Life Ministry Shares...

Diary of a Little Soul: Week 12

Guess what! If you could see me now, you would know whether I am a boy or a girl. Also, my vocal chords are starting to form for the day when I will sing Christmas carols with Mommy and Daddy during this joyful season. Another bit of news is that I can grasp and hold things, thanks to my amazing thumbs. Before you know it, I will use them to open Christmas presents under the tree.

"Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise" - MT 21:16

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. God bless!

**PREGNANT?
NEED HELP?**

Seacoast Birthright: 603-436-5558
Birthright of Derry: 603-434-3000
Options for Women: 603-749-4441
New Generation, Inc: 603-436-4989



CHRISTMAS MASS IN-PERSON TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE:

Due to COVID, in-person Mass attendance will be limited. **Free tickets are required.**

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4pm 6pm 10pm

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:30am

REGISTER ONLINE, 12/7-12/21, AT
stmarynh.org/christmas2020

JOIN VIA LIVE STREAM!

Safe, Simple, No Ticket Needed.
stmarynh.org/livestream



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

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

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 month, we have come together as a community to celebrate an ecumenical Thanksgiving service, organize both Thanksgiving and Christmas gift drives 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 to you and all your loved ones!

Merry Christmas to All!

Sincerely,
Fr. Matt



HERE ON EARTH WORSHIP BAND
PRESENTS:
REJOICE
SUN. DEC. 20TH AT 6:00PM
ST. MICHAEL PARISH

THIS WONDERFUL EVENT IS BACK TONIGHT!
GET YOUR FREE TICKET OR WATCH THE LIVE STREAM!

It’s scaled down a bit and attendance is limited (free ticket required), but we’ll have the live stream available and there will be Eucharistic Adoration. What a beautiful way to celebrate Advent & prepare for Christmas week! We hope you’ll join us.

Grab your favorite mask and reserve your free ticket:
facebook.com/hereonearthworship OR
stmichaelparish.org/here-on-earth-worship-band

Watch online: stmichaelparish.org/livestream, 6pm

Now Playing!

[VIRTUAL]
NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

Gather your family, press play, and follow the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on the night that Jesus was born.

**GRAB A KIT FROM THE CHURCH GATHERING SPACE
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)
+ WATCH OUR SPECIAL WALK-THROUGH VIDEO**

VISIT: stmichaelparish.org/nib

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene, showing Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus in a manger, surrounded by shepherds and the three wise men on camels.



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