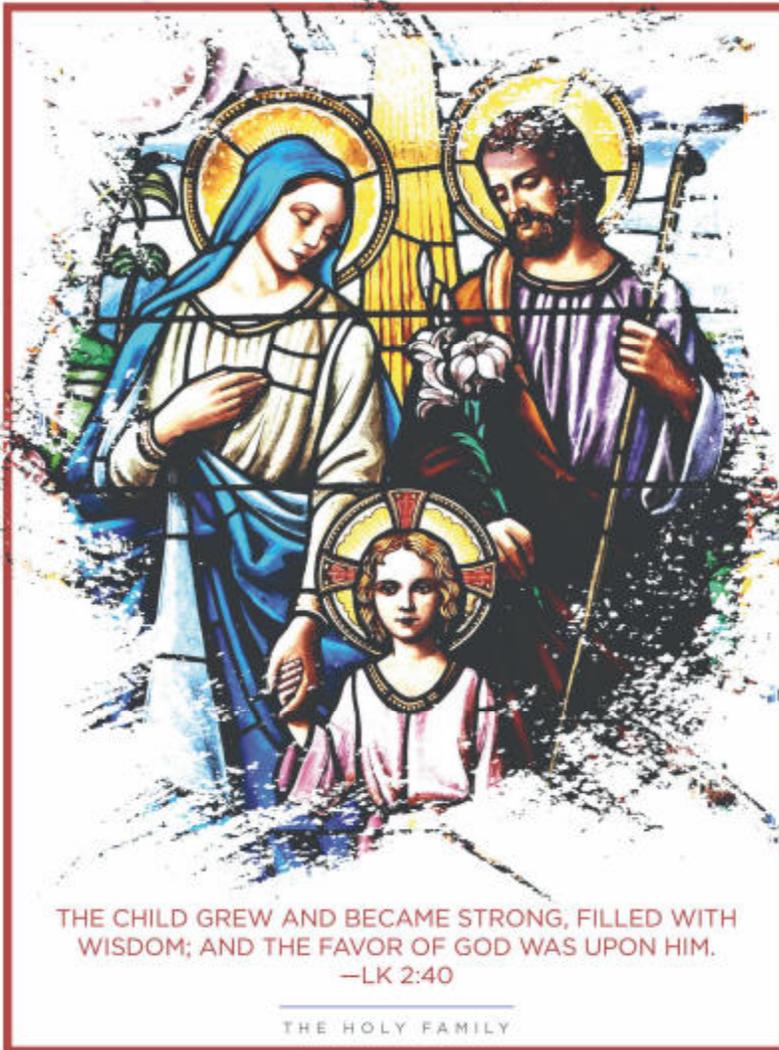


SAINT MARY

December 27, 2020

CHURCH



THE CHILD GREW AND BECAME STRONG, FILLED WITH WISDOM; AND THE FAVOR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM.
—LK 2:40

THE HOLY FAMILY

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1996, 1970 C.C.D. ©LH

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/
Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17
or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/
Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/
Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/
Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 26, 2020

4:00 pm John & Stephanie Bogacz

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:30 am Erin Malazzo ~Living

Monday, December 28, 2020

7:00 am Fecteau Family ~Living

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

7:00 am Don Spearman

Thursday, December 31, 2020

7:00 am For Our Parishioners

Friday, January 1, 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

9:30am* Celebrant's Intentions

Saturday, January 2, 2021

4:00 pm Jennifer Trask

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:30 am Barry Tudor



Sanctuary Candle

The sanctuary candle may be lit in honor of your loved one. Please call 772.2494 to reserve. A donation of \$25 is suggested.

Welcome Back!

We are happy to have you with us! Thank you for loving our fellow parishioners by wearing masks & social distancing.

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.

SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S MASS: PLEASE JOIN US AT 9:30 AM, FRIDAY 1/1



CONNECTING our COMMUNITY ONLINE

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



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groups\stmarynh

Respect Life Ministry Shares...

Diary of a Little Soul: Week 13



I've had a real growth spurt! I'm about the size of a large orange. My thumb finds its way to my mouth more and more now. Perhaps I may continue with this habit after I'm born, depending on my unique personality. Another one of God's amazing secrets is that some of my movements, as well as my temperament, are already similar to Mom & Dad's - even though I won't see them for another 5 months! Well, Merry Christmas Family!

"In Him we live and move and have our being" - Acts 17:28

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

CONTINUING CHRISTMAS WITH THE HOLY FAMILY

MERRY CHRISTMAS! It's still Christmas and not just Christmas season...

The really big feast days, Christmas and Easter, are so important that we celebrate them for eight days. This Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This is a great feast for us since Christmas has a lot to do with family! For most Christians, or even people in general, Christmas is a time to get together with loved ones.

At an even deeper level, this feast reminds us that God comes to us as part of a family. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son begotten of God the Father, “God from God, begotten, not made” who, nevertheless, is conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and born, just like we were. Mary, of course, is married to Joseph, the foster-father of Christ.

Over the centuries, people have wondered why the Divine Word would be born of a human woman. Could not God have simply descended from heaven on a cloud and explained things to us?

God chose to enter into human existence as part of a family because family life is part of the image of God we all carry within us (Genesis 1:27). God, in His inner life, is a family – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Family is our first and most basic human experience, and it is divine. BUT – family life isn't easy, community life isn't easy. The community where Joseph and Mary live want to kill their child. They must flee to Egypt, and they couldn't just hop on a flight – they went 500 miles on foot! Our experience of family life is often difficult, too, but the example of Mary and Joseph trusts God...

Christmas, when Christ comes into our lives, means that, by our baptism, we become part of the family of God. This is a family whose leader is all-powerful, all-knowing, and cares for us. Being part of the family of God has great benefits, but also great responsibilities. Just like a human family, we are called to spend time with Christ's family, the Church.

A healthy family life requires spending time together and communicating. That is what praying together and going to Mass is all about. We go to Mass because Christ is there in the Eucharist. The Mass is a privileged encounter with God. Family life requires reconciliation. Within our human families, we must be ready to ask for and grant forgiveness. After all, Christ came into the world to bring us into His heavenly family by making the sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven...

If we all reflect honestly on our lives, we have to admit we don't always live our relationships the way God wants, or even the way we really want to. That is especially true of our families. The beauty of our religion, the miracle of Christmas, is that God has entered our world to show us the way and give us the strength to live authentic love!

Sampled from: stdamienparish.com Ocean City, blog



HOLY FAMILY, PRAY FOR US

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 Gift of Family & Stewardship

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now?

As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, "people need people."

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

We're grateful that you're part of our faith family and appreciate your time, talent, and generosity!

Thank You!

PARISH GIVING

December 6, 2020

Envelopes	\$1,639.00
Loose	\$82.00
On-Line Giving	<u>\$1,962.00</u>
Total	\$3,683.00

Thank you for your continued contribution to our church during this difficult time. Your support will keep our ministries vibrant in 2021 and beyond! See below for our online giving option.

It's easy to



1

Visit stmarynh.org click "Donate" (2nd menu at the top of the 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

St. Mary & St. Michael MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



**COVID DIDN'T CRAMP OUR STYLE...
Just Added a Mask & 6 Feet to It!**



2020 has been a strange year for everyone and youth have been impacted in a unique way. Having to quickly switch from in-person learning to remote learning proved difficult and at times stressful for young people and their families.

The uncertainty that faces our youth each day led our youth ministry team to want to serve as a place of normalcy, relief and encounter with Christ for the teens.

Having a relationship with Jesus as a young person is a gift and, now more than ever, hoping in Christ and trusting in Him is vital. We've seen an increase in attendees and the kids have been great following all Covid guidelines, so there is much to be joyful about!

Check out some of the great things we were still able to do:

Instagram Live YM Chats	MS Advent Bible Study
Virtual Young Life & Wildlyfe	Young Life & Wyldlife Camps
Handwritten Notes	(Socially distant hiking & beach fun!)
(Yup - snail mail!)	
Outdoor HS & MS Retreats	Donut Club at St. Mary
Outdoor Eucharistic Adoration	Halloween & Ugly Sweater
Outdoor Confession	Get Togethers
(Right in Fr. Matt & Fr. Bart's backyard!)	At-Home Confirmation Prep
	(Thank you parents!)
Zoom Game Nights	+ 110 new MS & HS students
Zoom MS & HS Bible Studies	are getting ready for 2021!

When we sit back and reflect on how much God has done through this time of pandemic, it reminds us that nothing can stop God's love, nothing can stop God's power, and He longs for relationship with all of his children.

Of course, we could not do any of this without the hard work of volunteers who care about the young people in the St. Mary and St. Michael community. We also could not do this without all of our parishioners, your generous support, and all of your prayers, over the years.

Our team wants to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

- Becca Liguori & Sammie Moore

**I COMMAND YOU: BE STRONG AND STEADFAST!
DO NOT FEAR NOR BE DISMAYED, FOR THE LORD, YOUR
GOD, IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. JOSHUA 1:9**

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 past month, we have come together as a community to celebrate an ecumenical Thanksgiving service with NCC, 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 & Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
Fr. Matt



[VIRTUAL] **NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM**

Now Playing!

The Christmas Season Continues:

If you haven't yet followed the journey of Mary & Joseph, it's not too late! Watch our video & bring your gifts to Baby Jesus. You'll arrive with the Wise Men right on time for the Epiphany next weekend!

VISIT: stmichaelparish.org/nib



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!



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