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DECEMBER
T W E N T I E T H



St. Athanasius/St. John

126 Maine Avenue
Rumford, Maine

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 9:30am (also online)

Weekday Mass

Mon, Wed & Fri 8:15am (also online)

Confessions

Saturday 3:00pm-3:45pm
Sunday 8:30am-9:15am

Our Lady of the Snows

265 Walker's Mills Road (Route 26)
Bethel, ME

Lord's Day Mass

Saturday 6:00 pm

Weekday Mass—SUSPENDED

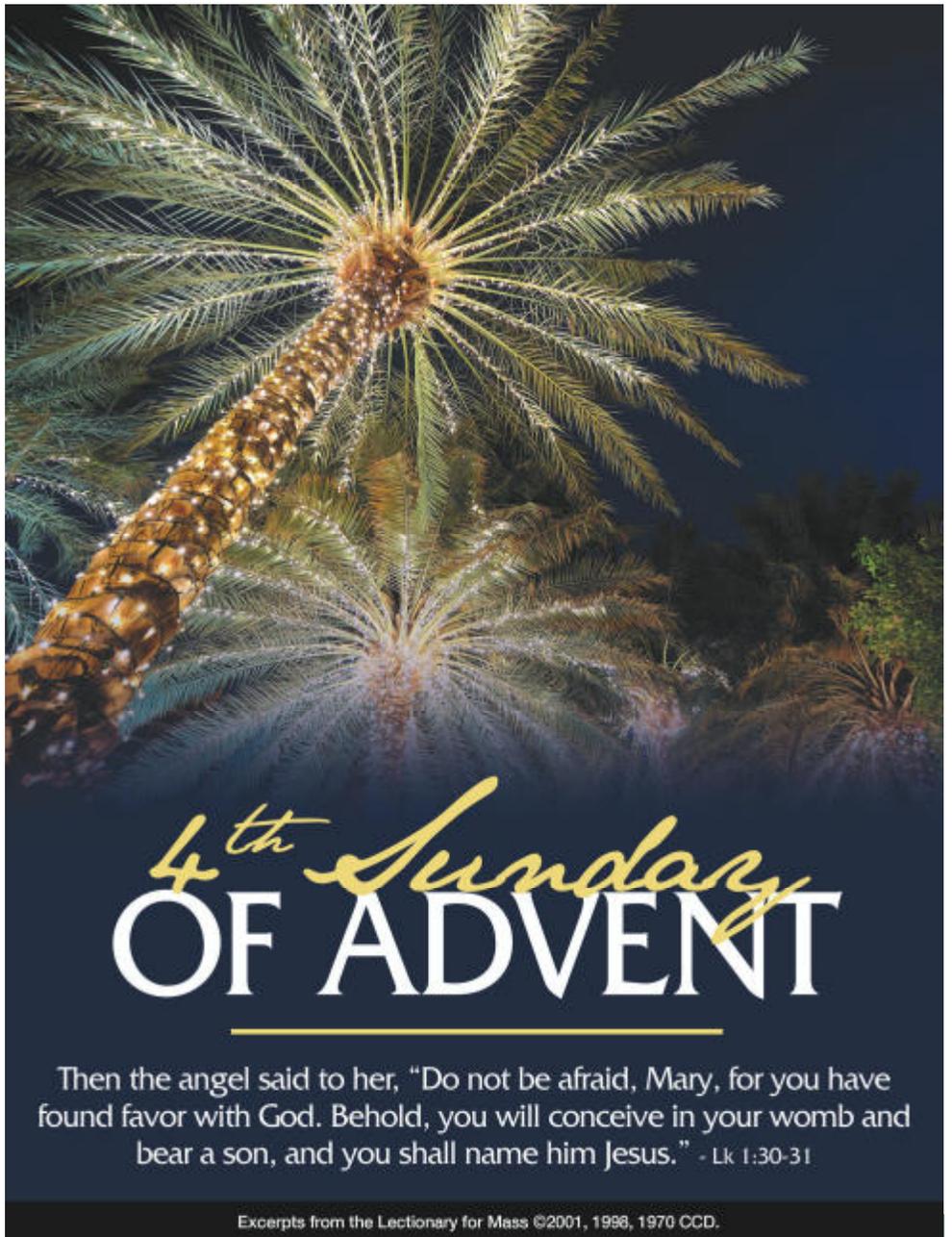
Tuesday 6:00 pm

Confessions

By appointment, call (207) 364-4556



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4th Sunday
OF ADVENT

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:30-31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Parish Office

7 Brown Street | Mexico, ME 04257
(207) 364-4556

Monday—Thursday 9:00 am—1:00 pm



1. The ad-vent of our King Our thoughts must now em - ploy;
 2. The co - e - ter - nal Son A maid - en's off - spring see;
 3. In glo - ry from his throne A - gain will Christ de - scend,
 4. Our joy - ful prais - es sing To Christ, who set us free;



1. Then let us meet him on the road With songs of ho - ly joy.
 2. A ser - vant's form Christ put - teth on, To set his peo - ple free.
 3. And sum - mon all who are his own To joys that nev - er end.
 4. Like trib - ute to the Fa - ther bring, And Ho - ly Ghost, to thee.

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Text: SM; Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. by Robert Campbell, 1814-1868, alt.

Music: Aaron Williams, 1731-1776.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Although everything is subject to change, should the Governor, and then the Bishop, announce different limitations due to COVID, our current schedule for Christmas Masses is as follows:

St. Athanasius & St. John Church/Rumford

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00 pm Fr. Nathan March, celebrant

6:00 pm Fr. Nathan March, celebrant

10:00 pm Fr. Nathan March, celebrant

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2020

9:30 am Fr. Nathan March, celebrant

Our Lady of the Snows Church/Bethel

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2020

4:00 pm Fr. Bob Hayman, celebrant

6:00 pm Fr. Bob Hayman, celebrant

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2020

8:00 am Fr. Bob Hayman, celebrant

Masks are required at all times in the buildings, as is social distancing.

At St. Athanasius & St. John Church, we can have 50 people in the church and 50 people in the downstairs Hall. Our Lady of the Snows is limited to 50.

The 4:00 pm Masses at both locations will be filled on a first come basis. When we reach capacity, we will have to turn people away to be compliant with COVID restrictions.

We will take reservations for the 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm, and 9:30 am masses up to 50. The space in the church hall at Rumford will be available on a first come basis, up to 50 at these Masses as well. Please call the Parish office at 207-364-4556 if you want a reservation for any of these Masses.

This will be a very different Christmas season but the reason for the season hasn't changed. Jesus Christ's birth is the reason. If we keep that in our hearts, we can get through this together.

Our best to you all this Christmas season!



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READING 1

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

A reading from the second Book of Samuel

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!" Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?'"

"It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

PSALM 89: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B



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READING 2

ROM 16:25-27

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of

the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

R. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

R. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL

LK 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Bob Hurd

Verses



- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. "Read - y the way of the Lord! | Read - y the |
| 2. "Let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled. | Let ev - 'ry |
| 3. Des - ert and waste-land will bloom. | Des - ert and |
| 4. Those who are blind will then see. | Those who are |
| 5. Strength-en the ones who are weak. | Strength-en the |



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. way of the Lord!" | A voice — cries out in the wil - der - |
| 2. val - ley be filled. | Let ev - 'ry moun-tain be hum - |
| 3. waste-land will bloom. | ‡ Glo - ry and splen-dor will fill the |
| 4. deaf will then hear. | ‡ Those who are lame will then leap for |
| 5. ones who are weak. | ‡ Say to the fright-ened: "Have cour - |



- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. ness: "Read - y the way of the Lord!" | (to Verse 2) |
| 2. bled; let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled." | (to Refrain) |
| 3. land. Des - ert and waste-land will bloom. | (to Verse 4) |
| 4. joy. Those who are mute will then sing. | (to Refrain) |
| 5. age." Strength-en the ones who are weak. | (to Refrain) |

Refrain



Here is your God, com-ing with your vin-di - ca - tion.



Look and be-hold the sav - ing pow - er of God.



The sav - ing pow - er of God.

Text based on Isaiah 35:1-6; 40:1-5, 9-11; Ezekiel 11:19-20. Text and music © 1986, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP.
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HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE

Randall DeBruyn



O how love-ly is your dwell-ing place, dwell-ing of the Lord of



hosts! How we long for your house, O Lord,



sing-ing out a song of joy to the liv - ing God!



1. E - ven spar - rows find a home with you, and
2. Bless'd are those who find their strength in you, whose
3. Hear our prayer, O Lord — God of hosts; re -
4. For one day with - in your house ex - ceeds a
5. For our God pro - tects us from all harm; he



1. swal-lows lay their young to rest. Bless-ed are — those who
2. hearts are high-ways for your will. Bring-ing joy to those a -
3. ceive our lives in - to your hands! Look in - to the hearts of
4. thou-sand spent a - way from you. We would rath - er serve with-
5. gives his fa - vor and his love. All good things will come to



to Refrain

1. dwell in you and sing your praise, O God!
2. round — them, they go from strength to strength.
3. those you love and grant us all we need!
4. in your house than wealth and pow'r re - ceive.
5. those who love the Lord, and walk with him.

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WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21st—St. A & J

8:15am—Pearl Murphy (1st Anniv.) by Tim, Deb & family

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd—NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd—St. A & J

8:15am—Bernard Poirier (90th B-day) by Lorraine

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th—St. A & J

Memorial Mass—4:00pm, 6:00pm & 10:00pm

Antoinette Conti Perretti by her daughter, Janet Francis & Marjorie Casey by the Casey family
Josie & John Yarnish by Sally Yarnish
Tony Poirier by his wife & family
John Gotto by Penny & family
The Seminarians by the Vocations Team
Doug Nash (31st Anniv.) by the family
Dora Desjardins (21st Anniv.) by Janet Thibodeau, and Jim & Peter Desjardins
Glo & Earl Zinck and Lorraine & Garf Adley by family
Mark Sr. & Timothy Ross, Ruth & Enrico Naples Sr. & Paul Ross by Catherine & family
Hector Dayon by his wife, Doris
Theresa Soucy by the Soucy Family
J. Robert Soucy by the Soucy family
Marguerite Gaudet by her family
Deceased members of the Polero & Thorne families
By Rita & family
Robert Pelletier by his nieces & nephews
Bernard Poirier by Lorraine & family

CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILIES 2020—IN BETHEL

This year, our holiday giving tree will not be displayed; however, we will donate to Bethel's Christmas For Families. Instead of buying a gift, making a donation directly to this worthy organization is a great way to make sure families in the area have a great Christmas. The organization would welcome checks or gift cards.

Please consider making a donation and sending it to:

Christmas For Families
156 Barker Road
Bethel, ME 04217



Thank you for your continued generosity. Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS (continued)

Deceased members of the Boudreau & Breau families by Ernest & Jean Boudreau
Deceased members of the Gorham family by Patrick Gorham & family
Deceased members of the Salatino & Papisadora families by Roxanne Gorham & family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24th—OLS

4:00pm—Ann Fitsmorris by her siblings
6:00pm—Moe Fraser by Annette St. Pierre

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25th

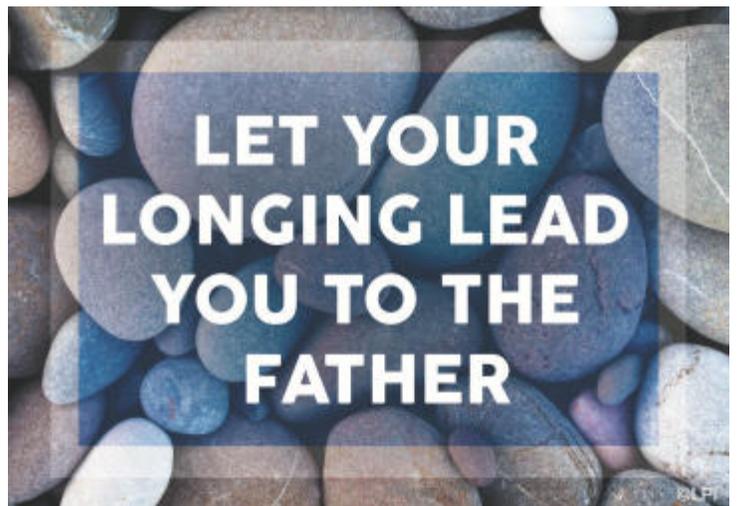
OLS—8:00am—James Smith by Eleanor DeNormandie
St. A & J—9:30am—Teena Gorham (Happy B-day) by Patrick & Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26th

4:00pm/St. A & J—All Parishioners
6:00pm/OLS—Moe Fraser by Bill & Peggy Malley

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27th—St. A & J

9:30am—Francis Casey (Happy Birthday) by the Casey family



ADVENT HOLY HOUR



There will be an Advent Holy Hour at St. Athanasius & St. John Church from **6:00 pm to 7:00 pm** on **December 23rd**, organized by Sister Bernadette with members of her Bible Study group participating. Please join them, either in person, or via livestream, for this hour of prayer and adoration during the Advent season.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Due to early deadlines around the holidays,

COLLECTIONS from December 8th-14th, 2020
Will be reported in the next bulletin.

Merry Christmas!

We wanted to take a moment and thank you all for showing us and each other how committed you are to your faith, and to your community. We feel blessed to both be a part of this parish community and to be able to assist all of you in our role here at the office. This has not been an easy year and we're not out of the woods yet, but with faith and love for each other, we can weather any storm.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Cheryl & Sue

Christmas Fair News

We reported the Raffle winners in the December 6th bulletin. We have paid the final bills and received the final payments and, even amidst all the COVID restrictions and the lack of a baked goods table (yes, we heard that everyone missed that table), we had a phenomenally successful year.

Net proceeds from 2020 Fair	\$12,040.84
Net proceeds from 2019 Fair	\$8,520.17

Total raised for Sound System	\$20,561.01
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Thanks to all the volunteers that worked the fair, those who donated goods for sale, and to everyone that stopped in or drove by to take advantage of the to-go turkey dinner.

Great job, everyone!



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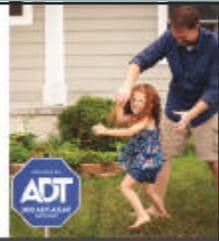
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