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FOLLOWING JESUS IN THE FOOTHILLS

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DECEMBER
T W E N T Y - S I X T H
2 0 2 1



Fr. Aaron Damboise, Pastor

St. Athanasius/St. John

126 Maine Avenue
Rumford, Maine

Lord's Day Masses

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

Weekday Mass

Mon, Tues, Thu, Fri 8:15am *(also online)*

Confessions

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

Our Lady of the Snows

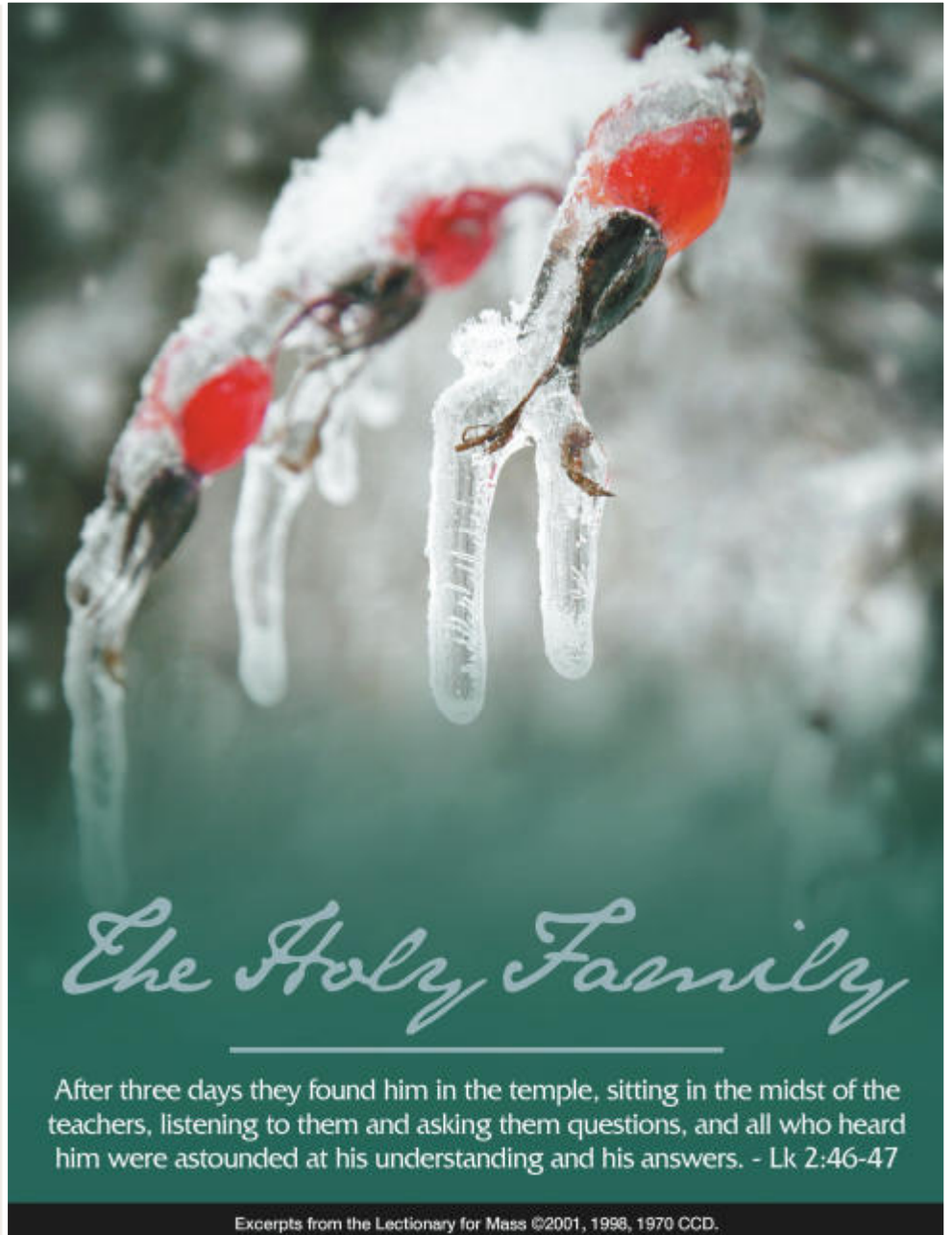
265 Walker's Mills Road (Route 26)
Bethel, ME

Lord's Day Mass

Saturday 6:00 pm



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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

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

The Pastor's Corner

The Feast of the Holy Family

He went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom, age, and favor before God and man (Lk 2:51-52).

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. In honoring the Holy Family, we honor all of our families—including God's family—our Church. But in a special way, we focus on the hidden, day-to-day life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

What was it like to live in St. Joseph's household? I wonder what it was like to have Jesus for a son and Blessed Mary for his wife. I suspect that they spent a lot of time working, eating, and dealing with problems together. Like most families, they would have also had fun together and disagreed with each other. They would have done everything that most families do.

It's worth noting that the virtues of Jesus and Mary were perfect, and that St. Joseph was "a just man." With that being said, the Holy Family wouldn't have been exempt from the challenges and hurts that other families face. They certainly faced death, and it's most likely that St. Joseph passed away before Jesus began his public ministry. They weren't shielded from gossip and misunderstanding. For example, the fact that Mary was with child

out of wedlock would most definitely have been a topic of discussion amongst the townspeople. Like other families, Mary and Joseph had daily chores to complete, family gatherings to attend, and many other responsibilities that other families have. The Holy Family would have lived a normal family life in every way.

Friends, this shows us just how much God loves family life—that he would allow His Divine son to be born into that life. In doing so, the Father elevated the family. In the Holy Family, we are reminded that every family is invited to share in God's life and encounter everyday life with grace and virtue.

Peace!

Fr. Aaron

**"GOD IS
LOVE.
WHOEVER
LIVES IN
LOVE LIVES
IN GOD
AND GOD
IN HIM."**

ST. JOHN, APOSTLE



UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Friday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

- 3:00pm Confessions at St. A & J
4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. A & J
6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass in Bethel

Saturday, December 25th—Christmas Day

- 8:30am Confessions at St. A & J
9:30am Christmas Mass at St. A & J
1:00pm Community Christmas Meal in Hall
7:00pm AA Meeting in the Church Hall

Sunday, December 26th

- 8:30am Confessions at St. A & J
9:30am Sunday Mass at St. A & J

Monday, December 27th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J
6:00pm Boy Scout Troop meeting in Church Hall

Tuesday, December 28th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J

Wednesday, December 29th

- 8:00am Rosary at St. A & J

Thursday, December 30th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J

Friday, December 31st

- 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St. A & J

Saturday, January 1st

- 4:00pm Solemnity of Mary Mass at St. A & J
6:00pm Solemnity of Mary Mass at OLS
7:00pm AA Meeting in the Church Hall

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the St A & J choir members

The choir members have been meeting since October to prepare the music for this joyous celebration! We have a short Prelude to present and ask for your consideration. We understand many of you are visiting and catching up with each other. Please be aware, others near you may be here to listen to the music and may be recording the Presentation. Also, the Mass is being live streamed for those members who cannot be with us.

Thank you and once again and Merry Christmas!

Your Choir Members



We are so thankful for the parents and children participating in our faith formation program this year and are aware of the sacrifice you are making to pass on the faith to your children.

Upcoming Faith Formation Schedule

- January 9, 2022
January 23, 2022
January 30, 2022

No classes on December 26th, January 2nd or January 16th due to holiday weekends.



Sister B's Bible Class on Thursdays

No class on 12/30 or 1/6

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Class will resume on January 13th, 2022.

FYI: The bible class is canceled when the school district is closed for snow storms.



Join us at 1:00pm on Christmas Day in the St. Athanasius & St. John Church Hall for a free Christmas Dinner.

FATHER TAKING A FEW DAYS OFF

Father will be taking a much-needed rest after the Christmas masses. There will no daily masses the week after Christmas. Specifically, no daily 8:15 am mass on:

- Monday, December 27th
Tuesday, December 28th
Thursday, December 30th
Friday, December 31st

WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of December 26th, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52

or

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, December 27th—NO MASS

TUESDAY, December 28th—NO MASS

WEDNESDAY, December 29th—NO MASS

THURSDAY, December 30th—NO MASS

FRIDAY, December 31st—St. A & J

6:30pm—Bill Gates & Gary Oldham by Sharon & family

SATURDAY, January 1st—St. A & J

4:00pm—St. A & J —Joshie Yarnish by daughter, Sally

6:00pm—OLS—All Parishioners

SUNDAY, January 2nd—St. A & J

9:30am—Bob Parisi by a friend



We are still in need of more greeters and ushers at Mass. If you could help out in either of these ministries, please call the office at 364-4556 and we will direct your name to the proper person. Thank you for considering sharing the gifts God has given you on behalf of the Church!



Old School Food Pantry

115 Maine Avenue

Wednesdays: 3:00pm to 5:00p
Every other Saturday: 9:00am-11:00am

Donations welcome. Items needed are outlined below. Feel free to leave items in the boxes at St. A & J. Any monetary donations should be made payable to Old School Food Pantry. Checks can be dropped at the parish office. We will get them over to the pantry. This is open to all, there are no income guidelines, so please feel free to come.


Snacks: chips, popcorn, cookies, crackers, and school snack items.

Baking supplies; sugar, flour, vanilla, baking soda and baking powder.

Personal items: shampoo, soap, dish soap, Q-tips and deodorant.

Infant care items: baby food, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby powder, baby lotion and diaper cream.

Condiments: mustard, ketchup, pickles, mayonnaise, salt and pepper.

COVID-19 Update

Parish of the Holy Savior and the Diocese of Portland recommends that you wear a mask. At this time, the State of Maine does not have a mask mandate but the Bishop is encouraging mask wearing. Please be mindful that the Bishop is not mandating mask wearing for lay people or ordained ministers, they are able to wear masks at their discretion. Please respect fellow parishioners of their decision. Practice social distancing and use hand sanitizer.

Old School Food Pantry Thank You

We received the following in a Christmas Card from the Old School Food Pantry and wanted to pass it along:

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Old School Food Pantry. Your generosity will make the holidays brighter for many families in our community.

Shannon Glover (Americorps)
Melissa Harding (RVHCC)

PARISH COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS from Dec 7—Dec 13th, 2021

Offertory, including WeShare	\$5,343.50
Holy Days	\$730.00
Fuel Collection	\$235.00
Renovation Collection	\$71.00
Diocesan collection	\$1,057.00
Christmas Flowers	\$410.00
Total	\$7,846.50

Thank you for your continued support!

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK
December 26, 2021

WATCH

FORGIVEN—SESSION 1: WHERE ARE YOU?
As we make resolutions for 2021, don't forget about your spiritual well-being! Through our Forgiven series, you can help guide friends and family to new spiritual beginnings!



LEARN

FORMED NOW!
Now!

FORMED NOW! WHO IS SAINT STEPHEN?
This past week, we celebrated the life of St. Stephen, heroic leader of the early Church. Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Barber as they discuss the first Christian martyr.

LISTEN

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: LOVE UNVEILED BY DR. SCOTT HAHN
The feast of the Holy Family reminds us to help our own families grow in holiness. With this in mind, join Scott Hahn as he shares his advice on how to bring sanctity into the home.


MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
DR. SCOTT HAHN



Our parish has a FORMED subscription. To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

2021-2022 Winter Parking

Do you or anyone you know need overnight off-street parking this winter in our overflow parking area?? If so, please contact the parish office at 364-4556 to obtain a parking permit. The cost for the 2021-2022 season is \$35.00 per vehicle.





We, here at the office, want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is our pleasure to serve this parish and all of you.

The Office Staff



2021 Donations

After the first of the year, we will be preparing letters for parishioners summarizing their donations in 2021.

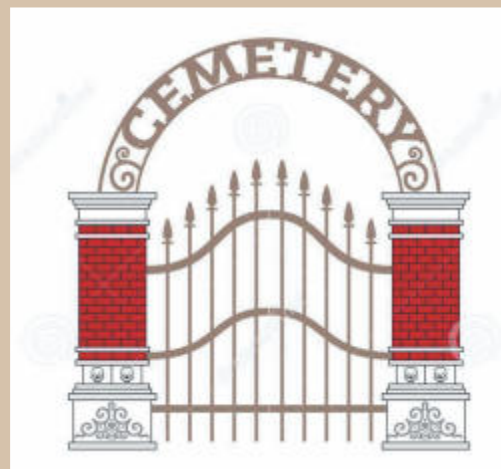
We are required by IRS laws to send letter to anyone who donated more than \$250 in a single donation, but we don't send out letters to everyone.

If you wish to receive a record of your donations to the church, please let us know after the first of the year (207-364-4556).

NO MASS CANCELLATIONS DUE TO SNOW STORMS

If we have a snow storm, Father Aaron is still planning on doing the scheduled Mass. He will not cancel due to weather. However, please use your discretion in attending, placing your safety first!

God Bless!



CEMETERY CLOSURE

The Cemetery is now closed for the season. Our Maintenance Staff has locked the gates, turned off the water, and picked up the grounds for winter. We'll see you in the Spring!

Please contact the Parish Office at 364-4556 if you are interested in

- Sacraments of Baptism or Marriage
- Parish Mass and Prayer Requests
- Pastoral Ministry to the Sick and Homebound

We will put you in touch with the right person. If you wish to register, see form below.

BULLETIN/CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD

If you have items for the Bulletin, please send them to cheryl.cox@portlanddiocese.org no later than Monday morning.

To have items posted on the St. A & J bulletin board, please contact the office at 207-364-4556 or email holsaviorparish@portlanddiocese.org.

REGISTRATION/UPDATE FORM

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
 EMAIL: _____
 PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ - _____

_____ NEW MEMBER _____ CHANGE OF ADDRESS
 _____ ENVELOPES _____ MOVING AWAY

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