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## JANUARY

N I N T H  
2 0 2 2



**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 Baptism*  
**OF THE LORD**

"I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16c

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***

### *Discovering our Life's purpose*

You've probably already figured out that I am not here this weekend. In addition to being your pastor, I am also the State Chaplain for the Maine State Council of Knights of Columbus. This weekend, I am away ministering to them at their annual winter meeting. A special thanks to my good friend, Fr. Joel Cyr, who has traveled from Fort Kent to be with you in my absence.

Seven weeks ago, I began a homily series on Discovering Life's Purpose. In that homily, I referred to an article from the journal *Scientific American* that addressed the fact that during the pandemic we have experienced an overall decline in mental health. That's no surprise. Alcohol and substance abuse surged, and young adults became twice as likely to contemplate suicide. The only exception, the study showed, was this: those who participated in weekly religious services experienced an improvement in mental health.

The reason for this is that we are composite beings; we have a body and a soul. Our soul is our inner core that can turn us toward God or away from Him. We see this today in the Gospel with John calling people to a baptism of repentance, having them undergo an external cleansing to signify their internal renewal. The physical rite of baptism is so important that Christ was baptized.

Friends, our inner core isn't intact. Our souls are broken, and we need the Holy Spirit to restore us to wholeness. We get the Holy Spirit in two sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation. Because our souls are broken, we are more susceptible to being pulled down by the Devil. Things might go well for a while,

but then we fall. If we don't get up, if we don't regularly repent and turn back to God, we will find ourselves turning away from him and seeking happiness in things other than Him. That effort ultimately fails.

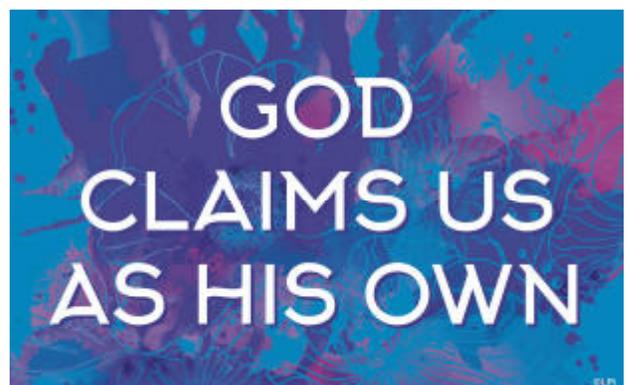
That's why John's message of repentance is so important for us to hear. We need to be reminded of the great good that comes from turning back when we've fallen, knowing that each time we do we receive the help of the Holy Spirit. When we do that, we open our hearts to Jesus—the one with whom God is well pleased.

God is pleased with us because he created us. He knows the greatness that you and I can bring about. Our bodies and souls reflect that greatness. Even the most successful among us have probably not lived up to our full potential. We are all a work-in-progress, and we need Jesus to help us in becoming the best version of ourselves. We need Jesus, and we should all want to become one with him. When we do that, God will see in us what he sees in his Son.

Next Sunday, we'll learn more about the purpose of our bodies and souls as we accompany Jesus at the wedding feast of Cana. It will be the final homily in this series, and I will try to sum up what we have learned about Discovering Life's Meaning.

Peace!

Fr. Aaron



## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

### Saturday, January 8th (Fr. Joel Cyr covering)

- 3:00pm Confessions at St. A & J  
4:00pm Weekend Mass at St. A & J  
6:00pm Weekend Mass at OLS  
7:00pm AA Meeting in the Church Hall

### Sunday, January 9th (Fr. Joel Cyr covering)

- 8:30am Confessions at St. A & J  
9:30am Weekend Mass at St. A & J  
10:30am Knights of Columbus Breakfast in Hall  
11:00am Faith Formation in Ministry Room

### Monday, January 10th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J  
8:15am Daily Mass at St. A & J  
6:00pm Boy Scout Troop meeting in Church Hall

### Tuesday, January 11th

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

### Wednesday, January 12th

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

### Thursday, January 13th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J  
8:15am Daily Mass at St. A & J  
6:30pm Sister B's Bible Class in the Church Hall

### Friday, January 14th

- 7:30am Rosary at St. A & J  
8:15am Daily Mass at St. A & J  
8:45am Friday Adoration

### Saturday, January 15th

- 3:00pm Confessions at St. A & J  
4:00pm Weekend Mass at St. A & J  
6:00pm Weekend Mass at OLS  
7:00pm AA Meeting in the Church Hall

### Sunday, January 16th

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

## JANUARY BREAKFAST

There will be a Knights of Columbus breakfast on Sunday, January 9th right after the 9:30am Mass.

Come and join our Parish community and hear what our Faith Formation group is learning!



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  
February 6, 2022  
February 13, 2022

No classes on February 20th or February 27th due to holiday weekends or winter vacation.



### Sister B's Bible Class on Thursdays

Class will resume on January 13th, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Church Hall.

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

## "BREAKING OPEN THE BREAD OF THE WORD"

'Your Journey into the Sunday Readings'  
2022

For the Liturgical  
facilitated by Sister Bernadette

Year of Luke  
Suzanne, MCH



**WHERE?** IN THE CHURCH HALL

**WHEN?** THURSDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:30 – 8 pm.

You are invited to gather with likeminded parishioners to reflect, share, and be nourished by the Scripture passages given to us each weekend in the Sunday Readings.

Just as we are fed each Sunday with the Eucharist = the 'Bread of Life' so we are fed with The Scriptures = the 'Bread of God's Word'.



Photo: 2018-2019

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

A great way to "Follow Jesus in the Foothills in 2022!"

## WEEKLY READINGS

Readings for the week of January 9, 2022

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**Monday:** 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

**Next Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

## Blessings of Sainthood

With great joy, we recently received the news that Sr. Marie Rivier, foundress of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary, will be canonized and become a Saint. Those of you from St. Theresa's Church probably have fond memories of the Sisters of the Presentation teaching at the school.

Mother Rivier formed the order in the 1700's in the south of France. Today the sisters are active around the world, and they have an active group of associates committed to the same values of Mother Rivier. They operate a wonderful retreat house on the beach in Biddeford, open to any Christian organization that wants to gather for prayer and contemplation.

### Prayer

Dear "Saint" Marie Rivier, we pray to you to continue the wonderful works of love and devotion that you so instilled in your daughters and sons, for the love of the Virgin Mary and the good of mankind.

God Bless Everyone!  
Doris Bourret

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**MONDAY, January 10th—St. A & J**  
8:15am—John Ronan by the Zinck family

**TUESDAY, January 11th—NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY, January 12th—NO MASS**

**THURSDAY, January 13th—St. A & J**  
8:15am—Sally Yarnish by Marie Curato

**FRIDAY, January 14th—St. A & J**  
8:15am—Bea Clark by Lorraine Nadeau

**SATURDAY, January 15th—St. A & J**  
4:00pm—**St. A & J** —Roland Goguen by Nancy Bourgea & Ginny Bragdon  
6:00pm—**OLS**—All Parishioners

**SUNDAY, January 16th—St. A & J**  
9:30am—Annette St. Pierre by Ray & Lisa Doherty



## 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.

## 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!

### Daughters of Isabella Meeting

St. Timothy's Circle #504, Daughters of Isabella will meet Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Holy Savior Parish Hall. Luncheon committee members are: Doris Bourret, Jolene Lovejoy, Judy Collette & Catherine Ross.

The Daughters of Isabella would like to welcome Diane Roy as our newest member. Also, congratulations to the following members who are celebrating their 25 years plus membership with the Daughters of Isabella: Theresa Vaillancourt - 36 years, Joan LePage - 53 years & Rita Perry - 55 years.

Our Annual Christmas party was a huge success with great food and accommodations at 49 Franklin. We had lots of laughter, singing and presents. Yummy cookies & treats were made by Debbie, Ann, Sharon & Lisa.

Please remember our 2022 dues are to be paid in January in accordance with our by-laws.



### 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 and for safety reasons, practice social distancing and use hand sanitizer.

*Since masks are not mandated and at the discretion of each individual, we will no longer be supplying masks at the door. If you wish to wear a mask, please bring your own.*

## PARISH COLLECTIONS

### COLLECTIONS from Dec 21st, 2021—Jan 3rd, 2022 (2 weeks of collections)

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Offertory, including WeShare | \$12,051        |
| Holy Days                    | \$6,557         |
| Fuel Collection              | \$695           |
| Renovation Collection        | \$394           |
| Diocesan collection          | \$115           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$19,812</b> |

Thank you for your continued support!

# FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

January 9, 2022

WATCH

#### REBORN - EPISODE 1: A NEW CREATION

This week, as we contemplate Jesus' Baptism, dive into the mystery of the Sacrament of Baptism! Through our Reborn series, you will come to understand the deeper meaning behind your Baptism!



#### LECTIO: MARK, EPISODE 2: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

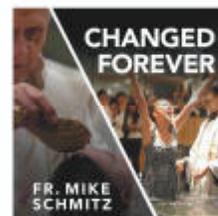
Jesus couldn't have been baptized without a baptizer. Join Dr. Tim Gray as he explains the opening verses of Mark's Gospel that depict the ministry of John the Baptist -- the man who would baptize Jesus.

LEARN

LISTEN

#### CHANGED FOREVER: THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM BY FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

Renowned Catholic speaker and priest, Fr. Mike Schmitz, explores the beautiful gift of the Sacrament of Baptism. In this talk, Fr. Mike provides a wonderful presentation on the waters that give new life!



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit [formed.org/signup](https://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.



## Our Lady of the Snows Extraordinary Ministers

If anyone is interested in serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in Bethel on Saturdays at 6:00 pm in 2022, please contact the office.

I know there are limited opportunities to serve at St. Athanasius & St. John Church, so if you are an existing Extraordinary Minister and would like to attend mass in Bethel and serve during communion, please let the office know.

If you have never been an extraordinary minister of holy communion but would like to consider that ministry, let us know. There is training required and approval by the Bishop, but we'd be happy to work with you to get you qualified.

## 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).



## Christmas Day Community Dinner



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](mailto: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](mailto:holsaviorparish@portlanddiocese.org).

### REGISTRATION/UPDATE FORM

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\_\_\_\_\_ NEW MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ CHANGE OF ADDRESS  
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