

2nd

Sunday OF ADVENT

Contacts

Parish Office:603-692-2172

Office Hours: Mon—Thurs 9AM-4PM

Fax:..... 603-692-2499

Email:..... r.stmartin@comcast.net

Website www.stignatius-stmary.org

Cemetery Office:603-692-0524

Rectory, 130 Maple St.:603-841-3944

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Janet Jacobson603-692-4367

Religious Education - St. Ignatius

Janet Jacobson, Director:..... 603-692-4367

Religious Education - St. Mary

Laurie Lambert:..... 603-742-3996

Youth Minister

Brittany Molda..... youthmin@comcast.net

Bulletin Submissions

Amanda Alley..... alley.amanda@comcast.net

Pastor: Rev. Andrew K. Nelson...anelson@rcbm.org

Deacon David Divins..... 603-692-2172

Church locations:

Holy Trinity—404 High St, Somersworth, NH 03878

St. Martin—120 Maple St, Somersworth, NH 03878

St. Mary Parish—440 Church St, Rollinsford, NH 03869

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Please see Mass intentions inside bulletin

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: St. Martin.....2: 30 PM - 3:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms take place at the weekend Masses. Please call the office to make arrangements for Baptism and Baptismal preparation.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Diocesan policy states that arrangements be made at least six months prior to the date of marriage.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please notify us if a parishioner is seriously ill and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office 692-2172

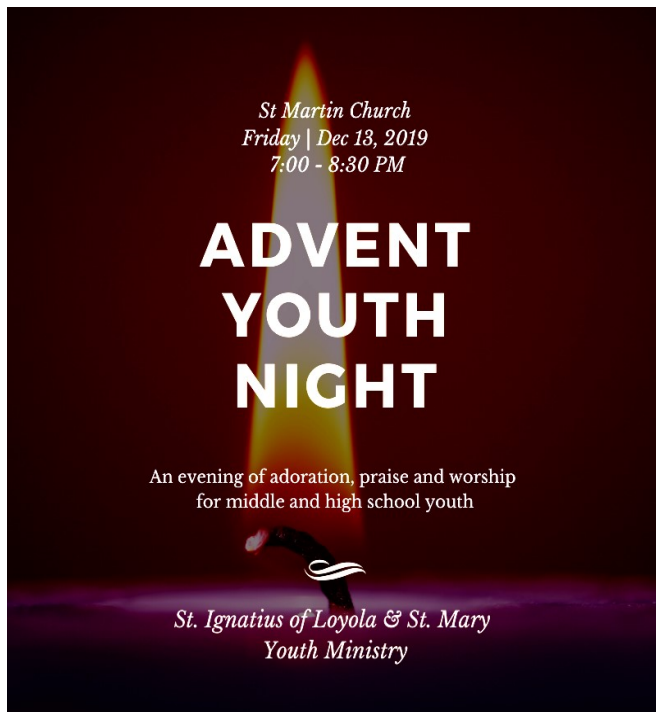


Eucharistic Adoration is one way to grow closer to Jesus this Advent

Come and Adore Him

Fridays 6-7:00PM at St. Martin Church
Every 3rd Thursday 9:30AM
at St. Mary Church

Youth Ministry Event



Christmas Raffle!

Don't forget to purchase and send in your Christmas raffle tickets!

Here are the great prizes:



1st Prize: Handcrafted crèche by Fr. Andrew with Italian hand carved Nativity.

Estimated Value: \$1,500

2nd Prize: Hand carved statue of the Holy Family

Estimated Value: \$200

3rd Prize: Hand carved angel ornaments (12 drawings for this prize)

Estimated Value: \$30 each

WINNERS ANNOUNCED AFTER CHRISTMAS CONCERT ON 12/15

Tickets available at all church entrances or at the Parish Office

All are Invited to our Annual Christmas Day Dinner

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO OUR PARISH

Christmas Dinner



All are welcome to this family-style feast in honor of Jesus' birthday!

CHRISTMAS DAY | 3:00PM |
ST. MARTIN HALL

- ★ *Are the kids out of town this Christmas and you and your spouse want to try something different?*
- ★ *Is your extended family not arriving until after Christmas?*
- ★ *Are you single or married and looking to start a new tradition?*
- ★ *Do you and your family simply have Christmas afternoon free?*

Wherever Christmas Day finds you, you are invited to join your parish family for our annual Christmas Dinner!

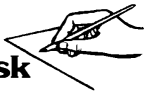
Invite your family, friends, or neighbors and join us at **3:00PM on Christmas Day at St. Martin Church Hall** to enjoy a Christmas meal as one big family!

Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 603-692-2172 no later than Monday, December 23rd so we can have a table setting ready for you and your guests.

There's no need to bring anything or worry about what to do. We all serve, eat, and clean-up as any family would. It's a great time for all ages!

** While there is no distinction during the dinner between volunteer and guest because everyone chips in, we are in need of volunteers who can help with set up, clean up, and overseeing tasks that day. If you can help us out in any way, please call the office and let us know. **

From the Pastor's Desk



This past weekend at each of our three churches you might have noticed a debate brewing in the Sanctuary before Mass began. During the time meant for silent prayer before Mass, there was a quiet argument ensuing.

If you happened to look up what you would have seen was different people gathered around the Advent wreaths explaining the precise order in which the candles on the wreaths are to be lit over the four Sundays of Advent. We all know that the pink candle is saved for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudate Sunday. But the big question is which purple candle do you light first, and then which purple candle comes next.

The very act of writing this is a dangerous move on my part. On the issue of the great Advent Candle Lighting Order debate – passions run high!

To my estimation there are three main camps in this great Catholic debate. The first group argues passionately that you start with the front candle and move your way around the wreath in a clockwise fashion. The second group insists that you also start in the front of the wreath, but that you must move in a counter clockwise pattern instead. Finally, there are those rebels, those outside the box thinkers who insist you start in the back of the wreath, and rather than progressing clockwise or counterclockwise, you instead jump next to the front of the wreath, before progressing to the pink candle on the third week.

Who is right? The truth is no one, or everyone depending on how you want to word it. For my safety I will go with everyone. There is actually no set order in which to light the Advent Wreath. The only direction the Church gives us is that the pink candle is to be lit for the third week of Advent- besides that we are on our own to light accordingly. When people say “the candles must be lit this way”- what they really mean is they are used to it being lit in one way or another. What people are describing is a habit, custom, or way of doing things they have grown used to.

Sometimes in life we grow used to doing things one particular way or another. We get in a habit and seldom stray far from it. A habit can be a good thing, like saying daily prayers, or exercising. However, it also can be a bad thing, like not saying prayers, or not exercising, or other things like being snippy with others, overeating, or gossiping. One great way to prepare for Christmas during this Advent season is to take aim at habits- add some good ones and work to break some bad ones.

In a real way we have a chance not only to be better people, but most importantly to be better Christians- to live more fully as God intends us too!

John the Baptist gives us a great witness in this regard. He focuses on prayer and fasting as a way to prepare the heart. His gaze is always towards Christ, but he does not just look at Jesus: he prepares his heart and life to receive Him.

Here is a crazy idea for us to consider. What if this year instead of making the proverbial Christmas wish list of the things we want, we made a list of the things we want in our lives, the things that God wants in our lives. I am not talking about money, cookies, or anything else. What if we made a list of those parts of how we live that we want God to help us obtain- so that we can better prepare ourselves for His coming- I am thinking of things like patience, temperance, courage, understanding, purity, faith, hope, love, forgiveness, and mercy. Better yet, what if we took serious time to consider how we can best seek these things out and grow.

Advent is a beautiful time to stop, think, pray, and prepare. The best part of preparation is that we are ready for all that comes our way and all that will be. The hardest part of preparation is that it takes hard work. We are tough, hardy, New Englanders- we are not afraid of hard work. This Advent let's do the hard work of getting our spiritual house in order, just as we get our physical homes in order and reflecting the beauty of the season and the beauty of God's love.

-Fr. Andrew

P.S. I want to make a big push, encouragement, and invitation to attend our parish Christmas concert **next Sunday afternoon at 3pm**. It is a beautiful way to prayerfully enjoy the season in the quiet of the Church. Every year, I am amazed at how beautiful and moving it is. Every year, I wish more people from the parish came to enjoy this incredible gift of music and time to relax and soak it in!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE CON'T...

7:00AM	Mass—Holy Trinity
9:00AM	Mass—St. Martin
9:30AM	St. Mary Rel. Ed Class—Parish House
11:00AM	Mass—St. Mary
3:00PM	Christmas Concert Spectacular! — Holy Trinity

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
12:30PM	Arrive for Departure to Parade— St. Martin
1:00PM	Depart for Parade! - St. Martin
4:00PM	Mass—St. Martin
5:00PM	Confession—St. Martin

7:00AM	Mass—Holy Trinity
9:00AM	Mass—St. Martin
9:30AM	St. Mary Rel. Ed Class—Parish House
11:00AM	Mass—St. Mary
6:30PM	Choir Practice—St. Martin

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
9:00AM	Mass—Holy Trinity
10:00AM	Prayer Group—Holy Trinity
12:00PM	Book Club—Holy Trinity
6:30PM	Miraculous Monday Bingo
7:00PM	Book Club—St. Martin

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
9:00AM	Mass—Holy Trinity
9:00-11:00AM	Mom's Group—Holy Trinity
1:30-3:30PM	Walking with Purpose—St. Martin
4:30PM	Choir Practice—St. Martin
5:45PM	Children's Choir Practice—St. Martin
7:00PM	RCIA—St. Martin

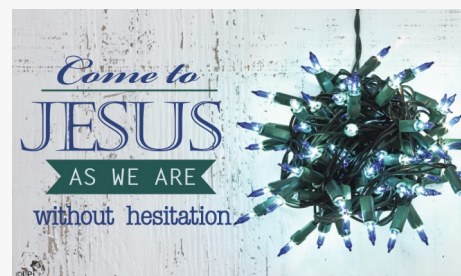
7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
9:00AM	Mass—Holy Trinity
6:15PM	Mass—St. Martin
7:00-8:30PM	Walking with Purpose—St. Martin

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
9:00AM	Mass—St. Mary

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
6:00-7:00PM	Adoration—St. Martin
7:00-8:30PM	Advent Youth Night—St. Martin

7:30AM	Walking Club—St. Martin
2:30PM	Confession—St. Martin
4:00PM	Mass—St. Martin

Christmas Day
Midnight Mass, 12:00AM —
St. Mary Parish
8:00AM Mass—Holy Trinity
10:00AM—St. Martin
2:00PM—Indonesian Mass—Holy
Trinity
3:00PM—Christmas Dinner —
St. Martin Hall





Monday, December 9 9:00AM Holy Trinity
Rosemary & Richard LaClaire by their daughter

6:15PM St. Martin
For the Intentions of All Parishioners

Tuesday, December 10 9:00AM Holy Trinity
Bill & Florence Ferrelli by Gerry

Wednesday, December 11 9:00AM Holy Trinity
Joe Mayo by Deacon Roger & Patricia Normand

6:15PM St. Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Roberge by Joe, Anna, & Tara
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Morrisette by Joe, Anna, & Tara

Thursday, December 12 9:00AM St. Mary
For All Deceased Parishioners

Saturday, December 14 4:00PM St. Martin
Raoul Chevalier by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Richard
Maurice Turgeon by his family

Sunday, December 15 7:00AM Holy Trinity
Conrad Gagnon by Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Brennan

9:00AM St. Martin
Lena Normand by Deacon Normand
Gordon Hallworth by his family
Jack Goff by his wife Doris and family

11:00AM St. Mary
Jose, Trinidad, & Don Mercado
by Gary Otash & Mercado Family



THE MOM'S GROUP

Mom's Group will meet this **Tuesday, December 10** for 9:00AM Mass at Holy Trinity. Fellowship to follow —snacks, coffee, and activities for kids will be provided! *Mark your calendars for our next meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.*

Parish Support

St. Ignatius Parish

November 23 & 24, 2019

Sunday Offertory Envelopes	\$ 4,988.00
Loose Cash Offertory	\$ 1,411.52
Online Giving	\$ 1,415.00
Total Offertory	\$ 7,814.52
Other Collections and Donations	\$ 2,592.00

St. Mary Parish

November 24, 2019

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 881.00
Loose Cash Offertory	\$ 401.00
Online Giving	\$ 245.00
Total Offertory	\$ 1,527.00
Other Collections and Donations	\$ 240.60

St. Ignatius Parish

November 30 & December 1, 2019

Sunday Offertory Envelopes	\$ 6,515.00
Loose Cash Offertory	\$ 1,595.91
Online Giving	\$ 1,925.00
Total Offertory	\$10,035.91
Other Collections and Donations	\$ 1744.75

St. Mary Parish

December 1, 2019

Offertory Envelopes	\$ 865.00
Loose Cash Offertory	\$ 473.01
Online Giving	\$ 245.00
Total Offertory	\$ 1,583.01
Other Collections and Donations	\$ 215.00

Thank you for your generosity

NOTICE FOR BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

With the Christmas season upon us, we have an irregular publishing schedule throughout the month of December. If you would like to publish an announcement in the bulletin, they are due **2 WEEKS** before you need them published.

Please email them directly to Amanda, the bulletin editor at alley.amanda@comcast.net

Thank you in advance!

One of the best ways to open your hearts to Christ this Advent is by helping others. Here are some great volunteer opportunities!

***Lydia's House of Hope
is Looking for Help!***

If interested in the events below or to volunteer another time, please call Rachel at 603-692-3100.

Saturday, December 14th, 10AM-12:30PM: Volunteer to facilitate Gingerbread House Making in our home kitchen

Saturday, December 21st, 10AM-12:30PM: a few volunteers to take our families sledding
1PM-2PM: a volunteer to make homemade hot chocolate at our house with the families

Monday, December 23, 8:30AM-12PM: we need childcare while the mothers are in programming

Monday, December 30th, 8:30AM-3PM: we need childcare while the mothers are in programming

**From the Somersworth/Berwick Food
Pantry....**



December arrived too fast for many of us, no matter what our financial situation. For those in difficult circumstances, the pressure of the Holidays is even more intense. You can be the safety valve for them by donating items to the Community Food Pantry.

Please consider contributing **laundry items** to the food pantry by December 22. This includes laundry detergents, fabric softeners, bleaches, spot cleaners, pre-washes and any other item needed to do laundry. Donated items can be dropped off at any of our church entrances/exits.

The Community Food Pantry greatly appreciates the donations and wishes a blessed Christmas to all!

Does Life have you feeling weary, restless, lonely? Do your burdens and worries keep you awake at night?

Christmas is coming! Tuck your worries away and give yourself the gift of health, balance and a closer relationship with Jesus!

Run for God is a 12-week fitness program that trains participants physically, emotionally and spiritually to complete a 5K road race.

All ages, ability levels, faith levels and walkers are invited to participate. Classes occur on Saturday mornings, 9-11am at St. Mary Church in Dover. Childcare is provided.

The 2020 RFG Program will begin Saturday, January 18 and end on Race Day (the Saint Mary Academy 5K) on April 4.

Cost: a one-time \$5.00 fee. No pre-registration is required.

For more information, please contact Molly Wade at mollywade@comcast.net or 603-275-0050.



Please remember to use Amazon Smile for all of your Amazon Christmas purchases! Amazon donates a percentage of all profits back to our Parish. Every little bit adds up. It's an effortless way to support your parish. **Visit smile. Amazon.com and choose "St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish" in Somersworth, NH.**



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Work to ensure your marriage bears good fruit by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are Dec 13-15, 2019 in Duxbury, MA and Mar 13-15, 2020 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at [https://](https://www.wme.org)



***St. Ignatius
Family Faith Formation***

Our Whole Family Catechesis class assignment is to attend the Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 15 at Holy Trinity Church at 3:00PM. It's a great way to enjoy Advent as a family! Listen and sing along to many traditional and beloved Christmas songs—it's a fun Christmas activity!