

Saint John XXIII Parish

Mark!

*...the herald
angels sing,
glory to the
new born
King!*



Mass Intentions

Friday

SJE 4:00 PM

IJ 6:00 PM

Saturday

SJE 8:00 AM

IJ 10:30 AM

Sunday

SJE 8:00 AM

IJ 10:30 AM

Tuesday

IJ 8:30 AM

Wednesday

SJE 8:30 AM

Thursday

IJ 8:30 AM

Friday

SJE 4:00 PM

Saturday

SJE 8:00 AM

Sunday

SJE 8:00 AM

IJ 10:30 AM

December 24 Christmas Eve

Marcel Dubord by his family

Christmas Eve Mass

December 25 Christmas Day

Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Day Mass

December 26 Feast of the Holy Family

Marie MacDonald by Doris Foley

M/M Wilfrid Marquis

By M/M Albert N. Poliquin

December 28

Deceased members of

The Ladies of Ste. Anne

December 29

Fr. Jack Horan by a parishioner

December 30

Intentions of the Parishioners

December 31

Anticipated Mass Solemnity of Mary

January 1 Solemnity of Mary

Solemnity of Mary Mass

January 2 Feast of the Epiphany

Deceased Loved Ones

of Tom & Debbie Gagnon

Deceased Members of the

Hilston & Remillard Families

IJ = Infant Jesus Church SJE = St. John the Evangelist Church

CORPUS CHRISTI NOTES

Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance is helping to spread the joy of Christmas. Recently, we were able to help a family that was struggling financially due to an unexpected medical expense. In addition to helping the family with medical expenses, the Assistance Program was able to provide the family with gifts for their young children, to open on Christmas morning. The Food Pantry was able to provide enough food for the family to have a feast on Christmas day. With your support, we continue to practice two works of mercy – feed the hungry and shelter the homeless. Thank you very much.

PARISH OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Parish Offering Envelopes for 2022 are **being mailed directly to your house** and should arrive sometime during the next 2 weeks. If have not used offertory envelopes in the past and would like an envelope booklet, please call the parish office 882-2462 ext. 4. If you don't receive your envelope booklet by December 28th, please call the office and one will be made available to you. **Online Giving is also an option** To sign on to WeShare, please go to our parish website: www.stjohnxxiiinh.org, then click "Online Giving."

Weekly Readings for Dec. 27 – Jan .2

Mon.: Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

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

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

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18

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

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Week Ending ~ December 11 & 12, 2021

Adult Envelopes (72)	\$3,037.00
WeShare (Online Giving) (54)	\$931.00
Loose Cash	\$301.00
Offertory Total:	\$4,269.00
Retired Religious	280.00
<i>May our loving God bless you for your continued generosity!</i>	

Saint John XXIII Parish

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

St. Thomas Aquinas, the brilliant 13th century Dominican friar and Doctor of the Church, is quoted as having opined that the only thing people need to know of Christ and become a believer are the accounts of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. I believe that we Catholics and all true Christians would have no problem with the saint's statement. Yet, I would humbly argue with the great saint that we also need the Christmas story. Where would we be without it?

True, dogma will always have its privileged place. But divine drama has one as well. Why? Because the story of our redemption is no less than the outreach to us of a loving God who knows full well that we are more than our intellects.

We humans are mysterious compounds of body and spirit, with wits and wishes, loves and loathing in our makeup. With our limited minds, we often find God's ways most mysterious. We would like more answers. But we do notice one thing: our God know what delights us. He knows what can lift us out of our melancholy. So He provides us roses and robins; loves and laughter; jokes and jokers. Above all, He knows that there is nothing better for a cure of ennui than a good story. The Christmas take is one of His finest.

First, we have that face-to-face meeting of heaven and earth we call "the Annunciation." An archangel named Gabriel, one of those mysterious beings sublimely superior to us, who comes to the doorstep of a beautiful teen-aged girl named Mary to fulfill his duty. He has a message to deliver, which happens to come from God Himself.

It is a pivotal moment for world history when Gabriel poses the question: "Would you be willing to carry Christ in your womb, lovely Lady? Would you allow God to become a baby in your loving arms with no guarantee of a blissful life beyond a safe delivery?" "I'm the Lord's handmaid," answers she, "let it be done unto me as you say." She spoke with that sweet voice that must have thrilled even the Lord of lords.

That scene is prelude to the accounts penned by Matthew and Luke, each with their different emphases and accents. We almost know them by heart from over 2,000 plus years of repeated proclamation. Masterful artwork and breathtaking music.

From the first of the Christmas announcements made by angels hovering over shepherds down to that young voice acting as Linus' in the "Peanuts Christmas special", we rehear it annually with our children nearby.

Christmas arrives this odd-numbered year 2021 with traces still present of the same gray ogre that breathed over us last year known by its generic name "pandemic," but popularly as "Covid 19." Sadly, hospital staffs are still overworked fighting against it, and we hear the sad tally of loved ones unable to gather around the Christmas tree. So many faces around us veiled halfway by masks, worn like armor, depriving us of their smiles. Debates about vaccinations don't help the situation.

Yet there is still, despite all that, the joy that the Christmas event offers, like the laughter of little ones, and the brightly colored lights that enliven a dull landscape. Amid the shouting voices of conflict can still be heard the early cries of an Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes who represents God's opinion about the future. Good parents will still keep up their efforts to protect their young from the beasts in the forest by their walls of warm love. Grandparents will help, and so will Aunts and Uncles. We will still sing the carols of the season. We'll likely still gather around the wide screen electronic hearth and laugh along with the kids to the stories of Frosty the snowman; the irascible Grinch and Charley Brown's Christmas. A mixed team of old and young will set up the family's treasured manger scene on the mantel. And the rest of us will take delight in what we see and hear.

It is Christmas 2021, arriving on time and just in time to help us tighten our grip on optimism, trust and hope. .

Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS

The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive him Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. In his video-based study A Biblical Walk Through the Mass, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Join us for A Biblical Walk Through the Mass at St. Patrick Parish in Nashua NH beginning January 7, 2022 from 6:15 p.m. and continuing every Friday for five (5) weeks. For more information or to register call Adam D'Entremont at (603) 233-5855 or via email: Word@DEntremont.org. .

REFLECTION FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

St. They can be ridiculously laughable or memorably lovely, or even eerily scary but always touched with a tinge of the mysterious. I speak of our dreams, those concoctions derived from our varied experiences and mixed into a kind of stew by our brains making mini-movies often fit for recall. In his narrative highlighted today, Luke the physician has no interest in a medical analysis of dreams, because he has a story to tell that cannot wait. He does want us to know that dreams can be the instruments of God's communications with us. His agents are usually angels. One or more of them came to St. Joseph, and he, "that just man", was attuned to accept them as coming from God. So he obeyed.

Coming so quickly after Christmas Day for this Liturgical calendar year compels us to lift up our eyes momentarily from the Child in the manger to take some precious time looking also at His parents. In this case of Joseph the foster father of Jesus. We are reminded once again of his strength of character; his obvious humility; and his exemplary obedience. All told, St. Joseph is a marvelous model of masculine virtue honed into sanctity. The Holy Spirit, speaking through St. Luke, sees Joseph as the head of the Holy Family, not lording it over them but serving as their caregiver. He protects Mother and Child.

Our complementary Readings today expand on the virtues needed for a healthy Christian family to flourish and grow in love for God, each other, and everyone else.

The cultural context in which this Feast arrives is certainly toxic to good family life. The family as it was known in biblical times has been shifted off its traditional base by forces we know full well. There is no need to be explicit here. All one need do is watch, look and listen. But this feast day, like all others in the Church, is not meant to focus on the negative. Nor is it meant to foster cynical criticism of our own families.

Instead, we have an annual call to put aside for a time the Toyland reveries that emerge at Christmas and consider the beauty of God's design for families as seen in this most blest circle of three. The Book of Sirach and Paul's letter to the Colossians offer specific ways for us to follow God's blueprint that, while often difficult to live day in and day out, is the best. The need is there from time to time to observe what good or its opposite the man or woman in the mirror brings to family life.

Returning to St. Luke's "man of the hour," St. Joseph, here is a touching story offering advice to any and all Catholic parents: A little boy, frightened by a thunderous lightning storm, called out one dark night, "Daddy, come. I'm scared." "Son," the father said, "God loves you and He'll take care of you. "I know God loves me," the boy replied, "but right now I want somebody who has skin on."

It seems to me that the role of the father (and the mother) is to be and demonstrate God, with skin on. God love you and give you and your family His peace. Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

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Luke 24:13-35

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Please consider Your Parish in Your Will.
For further information, please call the Parish Office.
Thank you.

Child Safety Reporting
If you know of or suspect abuse or neglect of a minor (under 18 yrs.), you must report it to the NH Division for Children, Youth and Families: 1-800-894-5533 or 603-271-6566.

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If you have experienced abuse by someone representing the Catholic Church, you may contact the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care of the Diocese of Manchester: 603-668-0014 or 800-475-5585 x233.

Sponsored by the Office for Ministerial Conduct, Diocese of Manchester.

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