



Saturday April 27

4pm ~ Rick Bouchard, 1st Anniversary,
requested by Joan Janos

Sunday April 28

8am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners
10:30am ~ Jeannette McCoy, 2nd Anniversary,
Mike McCoy, 7th Anniversary, **Lisa McCoy**, 27th
Anniversary, requested by Brian, Monique &
family

Monday April 29

8am ~ Theresa Straughan, Birthday
Remembrance, **Brenda Gabriel**, 1st
Anniversary, requested by Doug & Laura
Masson

Tuesday April 30

8am ~ Rita Guzdowski requested by Donna
Smith

Wednesday May 1

8am ~ Right Rev. Xavier Connelly requested
by a friend
David Moffitt requested by John & Joyce Keslo

Thursday May 2

8am ~ Leon Wells requested by David &
Maureen Groff
Rev. Mark A. Rundzio

Friday May 3

8am ~ Virginia Fichera requested by a friend

Saturday May 4

8am ~ Michael Perruccio requested by his
family
Roland Delisle requested by St. Patrick Parish
4pm ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Sunday May 5

8am ~ Robert Hall, Birthday Remembrance,
requested by his family
10:30am ~ Emile Martin, 13th Anniversary,
requested by his family

Sunday, April 28

Coffee & Donuts, 9:00 AM, in the parish center
Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the parish center
Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school

Monday, April 29

33 days to Eucharistic Glory, 7:00 PM, in the
youth room at the school

Tuesday, April 30

Women's Bible Sharing, 9:00-10:00 AM, in the
youth room at the school
Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, May 1

Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-9:00 PM
Food Pantry, 1:00-2:30 PM
Women's AA, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the school
Knight of Columbus Meeting, 7:00 PM, in the
parish center

Thursday, May 2

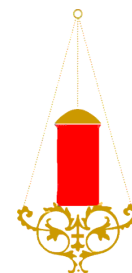
Men's AA, 7:00 PM, in the school
Praise Band, 7:00 PM, in the church

Friday, May 3

Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school

Saturday, May 4

Spring Clean-up, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of
Kevin Gallagher by Glenna & Mike Gallagher

**First Friday Mass is this Friday, May 3rd, at
8:00 AM.**

**First Saturday Mass is this Saturday, May 4th,
at 8:00 AM.**



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week, we're going to begin looking at the Eucharist as Communion (remember that over this year we have looked at the Eucharist as Presence and Sacrifice). Here's an amazing point to ponder: God – the Blessed Trinity, totally self-sufficient and dependent on nothing and no one; God who creates all and is not created; God who has complete and perfect Communion interiorly through the union of the Blessed Trinity – wants us to be in communion with Him. He made us to be one with Him! He made us by love, for love.

Each of us has this longing. Every one of us is made for love. Because of the hurts we endure, we put up walls to protect our hearts, but at the core, we are all looking for union, to be loved, not for utilitarian reasons (what we can give or get), but for ourselves.

When Jesus gives Himself in the Eucharist, then, He is giving us the foretaste of the promise of heaven – perfect union with Him forever. When we are at Mass, we're a quarter-inch from Heaven, and receiving Communion allows us that taste of heaven.

So why, many times, does it not feel like heaven?

Some of this is because God hides Himself so as not to overwhelm us – He wants us to choose to love Him, and His unmediated presence would be too much for our humanity. That being said, we are called to act on faith to open ourselves to the grace of the Sacraments. When we are ill-prepared or not in a state of grace, we can be dulled to the graces God gives us – and even block their effect in our lives.

St. Paul talks about this in his first letter to the Corinthians. Just after sharing the story of the Institution of the Eucharist, he warns the Corinthians:

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying. (I Corinthians 11:27-30)

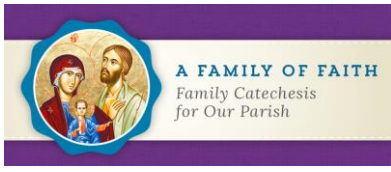
Did you catch that? If we receive the Eucharist unworthily, we are not receiving the Bread of Life, but the bread of death – we “eat and drink judgment” on ourselves. This doesn't mean we need to be scrupulous and freak out about our sins, but rather we need to make sure we repent of our sins before we receive Communion. This means, for venial sins, taking the Penitential Act (“Lord, have mercy...”) at the beginning of Mass seriously. If we have mortal sins on our souls, we need to make sure we get to Confession. And if we are in a state of unrepentant serious sin (for instance, being in a sexual relationship not sanctioned by the Church – a marriage blessed in the Church), then, for the sake of the safety of our souls, we refrain from sacramental Communion until we have rectified the situation. (If you are in this situation, please reach out to me – I will do everything in my power to help you make things right with the Church.)

There is a story of a disciple of the famous atheist Voltaire writing to him about a problem. The disciple wanted to become an atheist and reject the Church, but he found he had a strange attraction to the Eucharist. He asked Voltaire how he could get over this “superstitious” belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Voltaire responded by telling him to

Keep receiving Communion; in fact, go five and six times a day. As you do, say to yourself, “I do not believe; I hate God; this is superstitious.” Not only that, counseled Voltaire, go out and commit dozens of mortal sins, but keep going to Communion, deliberately wanting to destroy your faith and curse your silly God. Four months later, the proud young man wrote back to say it had worked, that he was now a committed atheist. That young man used the Eucharist to divide – that is, to sever – his union with God (p. 225 *Priest for the Third Millennium* by Timothy M. Dolan)

While we may not choose to curse God as we go to Communion, our unrepentant sins – especially mortal sins – will work to sever our relationship with God... so how can we truly be in Communion with Him?

We are called to prepare our souls for receiving this most intimate of relationships – our Communion with God. He desires to be for us the Bread of Life, to draw us into perfect union with His Heart. As we prepare to receive Communion for our next Mass, let us look to come into true communion with Him, repenting of anything that stands between us.



FAITH LIFE FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

“Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

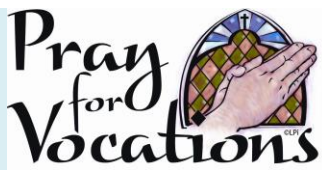
~Matthew 5:23-24

In April we will continue our conversation about one of Jesus’ greatest teaching moments in the Gospels, The Beatitudes. These teachings are so central in the teaching ministry of Christ because they show us what it looks like to live as a Catholic in the world. We cannot only be Catholic on Sundays when we gather for worship. The grace of the Sacraments should change everything! We are made new when we come into communion with the Lord in the Sacraments and He calls us to a new way of living. This is why love of God and love of neighbor are the two greatest commandments.

March was wonderful, and I want to thank all of you for the prayers. So many young people drew closer to the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and First Communion. Congratulations to all of you!

This month, let us live out what we profess at every Holy Mass. Let us live as true believers in the Lord, Jesus.

In Christ,
Adam Castor
Director of Faith Life



“He had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.” Pray for those who God is boldly calling forth to serve Him and His people as religious brothers. If you are considering this joy-filled vocation, talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Matt Mason, the Vocations Director at 603-663-0196 or mmason@rcbm.org.

NEW HAMPSHIRE CATHOLIC APPEAL

This week we kickoff the **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II, One Bread, One Body**, an initiative for our Diocese to grow and expand ministries in the Church in New Hampshire. It has consolidated six of our annual collections under one Appeal along with the Catholic Charities NH in-pew special collection appeal and the *Parable* magazine drive. I am grateful to all who donated to the NHCA last year. The New Hampshire Catholic Appeal again will help fund essential services and ministries like the care for our retired priests, education and formation of seminarians, Catholic education, *Parable* magazine, the Community Services program Catholic Charities NH and more. Everyone in our parish will receive a copy of the Appeal materials so that you can learn more about the NHCA and how you can participate. As you consider making your gift, please consider what you have given to these individual collections (Seminarian Fund, Retired Priest Fund, Parish to Parish Support Fund, Catholic University of America and USCCB, Catholic Education/Catholic Schools, N.H. Missionaries Abroad and Migrant & Refugee Ministry in NH) plus to *Parable* Magazine and the Catholic Charities NH Special collection appeal. Our parish goal this year is \$54,308 and any money raised over the goal will be rebated to our parish to use for our parish needs. Last year, we were short \$10,689, we have to make up the short-fall from our operating budget.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting donations for Birthright www.birthright.org 1-800-550-4900 and passing out flowers to moms after the Masses on Mother’s Day weekend. Please come prepared to help out this worthy cause while celebrating mothers. Mother’s Day falls on May 12th this year.

Monday Night Teachings

33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

Group discussions will be held on April 29th, May 13th & 20th at 7:00 PM in the youth room at the school. The Consecration Preparation begins on May 1st.

TECHNOLOGY TIPS: INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a popular photo sharing app; it is the number one social media platform used by teens. Here are some tips for parents whose children want to use Instagram:

- Instagram states that users should be a least 13 years old
- Private accounts are safer because the user has to approve follower requests
- Advise children not to share photos of friends without their permission
- Remind children to only post appropriate photos and comments
- Be aware the in-app private messaging can occur
- Consider obtaining your own account to understand how Instagram works

For more information about child safety, visit www.catholicnh.org/safety



Our Common Parish Home

**Saturday, May 4, 2024 9:30 AM-1:00 PM
(Weather Permitting)**

Help us keep our Parish Home looking beautiful... we are looking for volunteers to help with our annual spring cleanup of the parish grounds. This year we will be focusing on the grounds around the Church and Rectory. Pizza lunch to follow in the school. All are welcome but we ask children to be accompanied by an adult. Please call the Parish Office to sign up so we can get a head count. Please also let us know if you can bring rakes, brooms, wheelbarrow, etc. for the effort. **(Rain date of Saturday, May 18, 2024).**

CREATION CORNER: This weekend St. John urges us to "love not in word or speech, but indeed and truth." It is not enough to say the right words; our *deeds* – what we *do* – is *how we love*. This past week we celebrated Earth Day. There is no shortage of words about caring for Creation, from corporate pledges to campaign speeches. But what do we as an individual, as a Church, or as a nation *do*? That is how we love Creation.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

In order for the parish to meet its regular expenses, our offertory and other designated parish collections must bring in **\$8,700** per week.

Parish Collections for the week of 4/21/24

Offertory Envelopes	\$4,999
Offertory Electronic Giving	\$1,992
Total Offertory	\$6,991

Faith Life	\$1,540
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Total Funds Collected	\$8,531
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Thank you for supporting our parish
~Fr. Von~

SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

May 5 Capital Improvements

This collection helps with projects around the parish.

May 12 Catholic Communication

This collection supports diocesan and national efforts to ensure a Catholic presence in the media as well as Catholic communications programs and evangelization in NH.

May 19 Utility

This collection helps with the cost of utilities for the Church, Rectory, Parish Center and School.

Your contributions toward the support of the parish and its ministries are greatly appreciated.



Coffee and Donuts and Children's Crafts will be hosted by the Women's Bible Sharing Group this weekend. Please come and join us.

CHURCH & PARISH OFFICES

12 Main St.
Pelham, NH 03076
603-635-3525 (office)
603-635-3919 (fax number)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00

PARISH WEBSITE

Website: www.stpatricks-pelham.com

Pastor

Rev. Volney J. DeRosia - Ext. 15
Email: fathervon@comcast.net

Priest in Residence

Msgr. Richard J. Kelley
Email: rkelly4372@gmail.com

Faith Life Director

Adam Castor 603-635-1447 Ext. 14
Email: faithlifeformation@comcast.net

Business Manager

Therese Soucy - Ext. 11
Email: therese42852@comcast.net

Secretary

Kathleen Jean - Ext. 10
Email: kathy7421@comcast.net

Music Ministry

Gary Williams 603-508-9288
Email: garywendy6@comcast.net

Steve Caruso 603-401-0837

Help Souls on their way to Heaven

When Fr. Von gets called to anoint people who are dying, he calls on a group of people to pray a **Divine Mercy Chaplet** for them.

If you would like to join this ministry or want more information, contact Fr. Von at (603)-635-3525 or fathervon@comcast.net.

PRAYER LINE

Please contact Lillian Murgia at 603-635-2634 or Lmurgia_871@comcast.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4PM
Sunday 8AM, 10:30AM

WEEKDAYS MASS SCHEDULE

Monday through Thursday 8am
Friday No Mass
First Friday and First Saturday 8am

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Day 8am, 10am & 7pm

ADORATION

Monday-Thursday 6:30-7:40am
Wednesday 8:30-9:30am
2:00-9:00pm

For more information, or to sign up call the Parish Office at 603-635-3525

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3pm to 3:45pm
or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Please contact the Parish Office for arrangements

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule a baptism. Parents are required to meet with the pastor and participate in a baptismal catechetical session prior to the celebration of the sacrament.

MARRIAGE

Arrangements with the parish must be made at least nine months prior to the wedding. Fulfillment of a Diocesan, pre-marriage program is required.

FORMED

To help you grow in your faith go to www.formed.org to register, go to pelham.formed.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Care to join the Knights of Columbus? Please contact Erick Wright at 603-635-8772 or eqwright@comcast.net. More information online: www.kofcpelhamnh.org