



Saturday December 10

4pm ~ Phillip John Cieszynski, Birthday Remembrance, **Robert Stanley Cieszynski**, Birthday Remembrance, requested by their family

Sunday December 11

8am ~ Robert Hall requested by Anita Hall & family

10:30am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Monday December 12

8am ~ Christopher Edwards, 23rd Anniversary, requested by his aunts Andrea & Georgette
Birthday Blessings for John Stephan McKenzie requested by his family

Tuesday December 13

8am ~ Irene Laforge requested by the Laforge family

Wednesday December 14

8am ~ Paul Sexton, 4th Anniversary, requested by James & Dorreen Dolan

Thursday December 15

8am ~ Robert Comeau, Birthday Remembrance, requested by his Godchild Linda
Brian McClelland requested by Patty Kennedy

Friday December 16

8am ~ No Mass

Saturday December 17

4pm ~ The Choquette & Loiselles Families, **Rita & Jerry Trottier** requested by Al & Shirley Choquette & family
Robert Comeau requested by his wife & family

Sunday December 18

8am ~ Aldo Larese, 34th Anniversary, requested by the Raby family
Ashley Nicole Drolet, 4th Anniversary, requested by Mom, Dad & Meaghan
10:30am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Sunday, December 11

Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the parish center
 Christmas Pageant Practice, 11:30 AM, in the church
 Cluster Penance Service, 2:00 PM, at Mary Queen of Peace in Salem
 Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school

Monday, December 12

The Chosen, 7:00 PM, in the youth room at the school

Tuesday, December 13

Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 14

Men's Morning Group, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the chapel
 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
 Confessions, 8:00 PM, in the church

Thursday, December 15

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

Friday, December 16

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

Saturday, December 17

Faith Life Community Gathering, 9:00-10:30 AM, in the school



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of **John (Jack) McDonough**, 18th Anniversary, by his wife & family

VOCATION

"I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you." Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Contact the Vocation Office at (603)663-0196 or email: mmason@rcbm.org

WITH PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY
 We pray for Lucy Devlin. We extend our sympathy to her family.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's Gospel, we hear that John the Baptist is in prison. He sends messengers to Jesus to ask Him if He is the One to come. Some have interpreted this as John pointing his disciples away from himself and to Jesus. While this is certainly a move that John could have made – after all, his whole ministry was to prepare the way for Christ, he pointed to Christ as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29, 36), and he said of Jesus, “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30) – I think it may be something else. It may be John in the darkness of prison is questioning if Jesus really is the Christ, questioning his own relationship with God. Some have tried to steer away from this possibility trying to defend John and his holiness, but even saints go through periods of desolation.

As I have mentioned before, I went to the Theology of the Body and the Interior Life conference a few weeks ago. There, we spent the week learning about St. Ignatius' 14 Rules of Discernment of Spirits. The bulk of the rules speak about spiritual desolation and how to combat it in our lives. One of the things we learned is that in desolation, the enemy (the world, the flesh and the devil) reinterprets the past and the future for us. When we are in desolation, the future looks impossibly bleak. In desolation, we can question the past: Did I really have an experience of God? Am I really loved by Him? Many times, we can think that we imagined all of it, and that God really wouldn't want to have anything to do with us.

I see this as a possibility of what St. John went through. He's in prison. He may now be starving (without his usual locusts and honey to munch on). He was probably beaten. He may have been tortured. Most likely, he didn't see much of the sun. He knew his death was imminent (though, with Herod's fascination of him, the delay could go on and on). When we are surrounded by things which cause non-spiritual desolation (discouragement, depression, etc.), they can lead to spiritual desolation (feeling separated from God, feeling repulsive to God, not seeing any future for our spiritual life). If John fell into spiritual desolation – which happens to every saint, which happens to every person who in some way is trying to grow in his or her relationship with God – that desolation may have reinterpreted his past: “Did I really hear God speak to me about who the Messiah is? Could I have imagined it? My whole ministry is a failure. Is this really what God wanted for me?” Without seeing the “winnowing fan” in the hand of Jesus, driving away sinners and bringing about the Kingdom of Heaven, John might very well have questioned everything.

Jesus' answer is clear, though: See the works I do. See how they manifest the Kingdom as spoken of by Isaiah. It is I. You have fulfilled your mission.

In our lives, we can get discouraged. When we fall into spiritual desolation, we may feel that all that we thought we knew about God is straw. We may end up thinking there is no hope for us because of the depth of our sin and inability to keep our resolves. The truth is that everyone goes through this. This is the normal spiritual life – ups and downs, intermixed with periods of tranquility. There's absolutely **no shame** in the fact that we are tempted, that we are attacked with desolation. We should not be surprised at all. *This is normal!* The important thing is what we do with ourselves during the desolation. John went to Jesus, revealing his own doubts. When we struggle, let us also go to Jesus and allow Him to dispel our darkness.

YOUTH MINISTRY FOR DECEMBER

Youth ministry is open to everyone in grades 6-12
Annual Youth Ministry Christmas Party on
Sunday, December 18th, from 5:30-7:00 PM.

Join us for games, Yankee swap, and celebration!
This gathering will take place in the youth room
at the school.

**Please register for this event by emailing
Adam at faithlifeformation@comcast.net**

SAVE THE DATE

Stuebenville East in Springfield, MA on the
weekend of **July 21-23, 2023**. Registration will
open soon!

STAY UP-TO-DATE

If you want to receive reminder emails about
Youth Ministry events happening at our parish
and neighboring parishes, please email Adam
Castor at faithlifeformation@comcast.net and he
will add you to the Youth Ministry mailing list.



FAITH FORMATION

Faith Life for the Month of December

Advent is one of the most beautiful times to live
our faith as a family. We prepare to celebrate the
birth of our Savior but we are also reminded of
the hope that Jesus' Second Coming will bring as
well. Advent is a time to renew our hope!

"The season of Advent, restores this horizon of
hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is
founded on God's Word. A hope, which does not
disappoint, simply because the Lord never
disappoints! He is faithful! He does not
disappoint! Let us think about and feel this
beauty."

- Pope Francis

During this beautiful season, this will be our
focus in the Faith Life Program. What does this
look like? How can we anchor our lives in Christ
and restore our hope during Advent?

- Take time for family prayer
- Attend Holy Mass together and discuss what
you see and hear during the Sacred Liturgy.
- Visit those who might be lonely during these
times
- Serve the poor
- Sing lots of Advent and Christmas Carols
- Invite someone to join you for Holy Mass on
Christmas morning.

These are just a few ways we can quiet our
hearts and anchor once again on Jesus, who is
the source of hope!

I pray that you all have a blessed Advent and
Christmas.

In Christ,
Adam Castor

Director of Faith Life

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS

Christmas Eve – December 24th

Christmas Eve Mass 4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Mass 7:00 PM

Christmas Day – December 25th

Midnight Mass 12:00 AM
Christmas Day Mass 9:30 AM

New Year's Eve – December 31st

The Solemnity of Mary 4:00 PM

New Year's Day – January 1st

The Solemnity of Mary 8:00 AM
The Solemnity of Mary 10:30 AM

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant will be before the 4:00 PM
Mass on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Pageant rehearsal will be on Sunday
after the 10:30 AM Mass (approximately 11:35
AM) on December 11th and 18th. To sign up or get
more information, please email Wendy Williams
at garywendy6@comcast.net

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

If anyone would like to remember their love
ones you can do this through the Christmas
Memorials. The deadline is Monday,
December 19th. You can drop it off in the
Parish Office or drop it into the collection
basket at Church during Mass.

MONDAY NIGHT TEACHING

Monday Night Teaching Series will be watching and discussing "The Chosen" Series. The dates are **December 12th & 19th, at 7:00 PM** in the youth room at the school. There will be more episodes in the New Year.

HELPING CENACOLO

This January, Fr. Von will be traveling to minister to Cenacolo in Florida. Cenacolo is a place for young people in darkness to find light through prayer, work and community. Many that go to Cenacolo are addicts. If you would like to help Cenacolo, gift cards to Home Depot, Lowe's or generic (ie Visa gift cards) would be appreciated. Please get them to Fr. Von or to the Parish Office no later than January 3rd.



You are invited to a Christmas Concert at Mary Queen of Peace with Marie-Line Morin, soprano. The concert is Sunday, January 1st, at 2:00 PM. Free offerings will be welcomed. Benefits will go toward a Listening Ministry project to be implemented in the Church, details are available on [facebook.com@morin.marieline](https://www.facebook.com/morin.marieline)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Advent Penance Service, Sunday, December 11th, 2:00 PM, at Mary Queen of Peace, Salem, NH

Holy Hour for Life, Tuesday, January 3rd, 6:00-7:00 PM, in the church

Community Dinner, Friday, January 13th, from 5:30-7:00 PM, in the parish center

Men of St. Joseph, Saturday, January 14th, 7:00-9:00 AM, in the parish center

Blood Drive, Thursday, January 19th, from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in the parish center

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 12/4/22

Offertory Envelopes \$5,981

Offertory Electronic Giving \$2,265

Total Offertory \$8,246

Total Collected \$8,246

Thank you for supporting our parish

~Fr. Von~

Capital Improvement

collected as of 12/4/22

\$1,872

Thank you for your generosity!

SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

Dec. 18 Maintenance

This collection helps with the Church and School grounds.

Dec. 25 Utility

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

Jan. 1 Capital Improvements

This collection helps with projects around the parish.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council had its selection process last weekend. We welcome Jennah Costa and Maureen Groff to the Council. Mary Hammar will come back for a second term. Thank you to Linda Merrill and Roberta Wilson for their years of service to the Council.

The Cluster Advent Penance Service is being held on this Sunday at 2:00 PM at Mary Queen of Peace in Salem, NH

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 603-635-7669
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