



Saturday December 16

4pm ~ The Choquette & Loisselle Families and Rita & Jerry Trottier requested by Al & Shirley Choquette & family
Julia Lawlor, Birthday Remembrance, requested by Pat Lawlor

Sunday December 17

8am ~ Aldo Larese, 35th Anniversary, requested by the Raby family
Robert Comeau, Birthday Remembrance, requested by his wife & family

10:30am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Monday December 18

8am ~ David Moffitt requested by Will & Ginnie
Michelle Doiron requested by Gail Gionet

Tuesday December 19

8am ~ Roger Aubrey Sr. requested by Joan Berard
Liette Goyette requested by Patty Kennedy

Wednesday December 20

8am ~ Velma C. McManaman requested by a friend
Norman Coombs requested by his family

Thursday December 21

8am ~ Rev. John Sledziona, Birthday Remembrance, requested by Donna Smith

Friday December 22

8am ~ No Mass

Saturday December 23

4pm ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Sunday December 24

8am ~ Robert & Anita Hall requested by their family

10:30am ~ Robert N. DiMartino, Birthday Remembrance, requested by his sister Angela Delorfano

4pm ~ Christmas Memorials

7pm ~ Christmas Memorials

Sunday, December 17

Coffee & Donuts, 9:00 AM, in the parish center
 Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the parish center
 Christmas Pageant Practice, 11:30 AM, in the church

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

Monday, December 18

Discernment of Spirits, 7:00 PM, in the youth room at the school

Tuesday, December 19

Women's Bible Sharing, 9:00-10:00 AM, in the youth room at the school
 Blood Drive, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM, in the parish center

Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 20

Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-9:00 PM
 Food Pantry, 1:00-2:30 PM

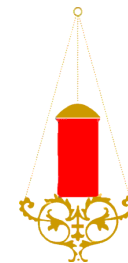
Women's AA, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the school
 Confessions, 8:00 PM, in the church

Thursday, December 21

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

Friday, December 22

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



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of **Tina Wurst**, 4th Anniversary, by her family

WITH PRAYERFUL SYMPATHY
 We pray for Pamela Martin and Joey Coutu Sr. We extend our sympathy to their families.

Our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass will be taped live on PTV Channel 22 starting at 3:30 with the children singing Christmas Carols.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last week, we began looking at the Liturgy of the Word, and I spent some time going over how the cycle of readings is set up. I want to emphasize again that the Sacred Scripture is the living word of God in our midst. When it is proclaimed at Mass, we encounter the risen Lord Jesus. It is so important to prepare ourselves for this encounter, which is why I keep encouraging people to read the readings throughout the week, and pray and become recollected before Mass. This opens us to hear Him speaking to us!

Sometimes people ask why we use the Old Testament, since we are a New Testament people. We still use the Old Testament readings because, they, too, are the word of God. While they may be harder to understand because of distance in culture, they still bear the word of God to us. The Fathers of the Church told us that there is an intrinsic harmony between Old and New Testaments – after all, it's the same God speaking. The New is concealed in the Old, and the Old is revealed in the New. Without the context of the Old Testament, the New Testament makes no sense, and the New Testament brings fulfillment to the promises of the Old Testament.

After the readings are done, we move into the homily. The homily is not a sermon. A sermon can be about anything. The homily is a liturgical act, which means it is tied directly into the Mass. It may be on the readings, the season or feast of the day, or about the Mass in general (for instance, connected to the Eucharist), but it always must be part of the Mass, not somewhere out of left-field. The homily is not merely informational, but formational and transformational – helping us on our pilgrim way to the Heart of Christ.

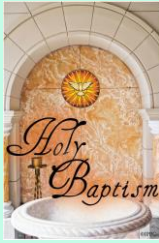
On Sundays and solemnities, after the homily comes the Creed. This is usually the Nicene Creed, but could be the Apostle's Creed. I want to spend some time looking at the Nicene Creed over the next several weeks.

In the first centuries of the Church, the Church held fast to the revelation that there is only one God, and that Jesus is Lord. This led to two questions: 1) How can God be one yet three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit); and 2) How can Jesus be two, yet one (God and man)? Over the centuries, the Church sought clarity on these points. There was much discussion, arguing, fighting, and some were exiled and others put to death because they held to the orthodox faith. In time, the Church clarified these points at different Councils, primarily at Nicaea (325), Constantinople I (381), Ephesus (431), Chalcedon (451).

Over time, we came up with language for our Trinitarian theology and dogmas, stating that there is one God – singular in nature – but three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are not comingled (different aspects of the same person), yet not separate gods – one, yet three; three, yet one. We also were able to come up with language for speaking of Christ – that He had two natures: He was fully human and fully divine. Yet, He existed as one divine Person, and that divine Person in His divine nature was joined to His human nature in a hypostatic union. (It's okay if the words are a bit much... we're talking about mysteries that are and will always be beyond our human intellect to comprehend!)

A theologian named Arius had claimed that Jesus was not fully divine – that He was a quasi-divine being, the first and highest creation of the Father. He also claimed that Jesus was not fully human. The Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople I worked to reverse this heretical thinking. Arius said that there was a time when he (Jesus) was not. The Council of Nicaea authoritatively stated, "There was never a time when He was not." People bled and died defending this teaching.

This is important background for the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially when we get to the part of "born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father." More on the Creed next week.



Please welcome into our parish family the following children who were recently baptized here at St. Patrick. They are: **Stevie Jean Sacca, Emmanuel Osvaldo Sanchez** and **Hannah Rae Vaughn**. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

**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 Day – January 1st
 The Solemnity of Mary 9:30 AM



You are invited to a Christmas Concert at Mary Queen of Peace with Marie-Line Morin, soprano. The concert is Sunday, January 7th, 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://facebook.com/morin.marieline)



“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me.” God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Matt Mason, the Vocations Director at 603-663-0196 or mmason@rcbm.org.

Confessions during Advent

During Advent we have Confessions on Sundays before each Mass, and on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Thank you to the following parishioner who will be praying for vocations during this week:
-The Robertson Family-
 All parishioners have the opportunity to participate in the program. Interested? Please email stpatsharvestteam@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The Christmas Pageant will be at 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 17th**. To sign up or get more information, please email Wendy Williams at garywendy6@comcast.net

+++++

SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

Looking for Singers and Musicians for the Advent Season to join the Praise Band. Practice is on Thursday evening at 7:00 PM in the Church. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Gary & Wendy Williams at garywendy6@comcast.net

Creation Corner: This weekend Isaiah can barely contain his joy at the knowledge that salvation is coming. He tries in several ways to express this joy and ends by saying that justice and truth will spring up in the same way “As the earth brings forth its plants.” The gift of Christ coming is like the gifts God provides us in Creation!



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

Monday Night Teachings
St. Ignatius of Loyola's
14 Rules for
Discernment of Spirits
Join us Monday Nights at 7:00 PM
in the youth room

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 12/10/23

Offertory Envelopes	\$5,692
Offertory Electronic Giving	\$1,778
Total Offertory	\$7,470
Immaculate Conception	\$1,879
Total Collected	\$9,349

Thank you for supporting our parish
~Fr. Von~

Retired Religious
collected as of 12/10/23
\$2,263
Thank you for your generosity!

- SECOND ENVELOPES
FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS**
- Dec 24 Faith Life Formation**
This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.
- Dec. 31 Evangelization**
To help promote the faith in our community through Retreats, Community Dinners, Charity and so much more.
- Jan. 7 Capital Improvements**
This collection helps with projects around the parish.
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.

FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Peterson Council, No. 4442 are having a free Christmas Dinner on December 25th, from 1:00-3:00 PM, at 37 Main Street, Salem, NH. The meal is Roast Beef au jus w/Baked Potato or Chicken Breast w/Rice Pilaf.

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