

**Saturday December 18**

4pm ~ **The Choquette & Loisselle Families** and
Rita & Jerry Trottier requested by the
 Choquette family
Robert Stonis, 2nd Anniversary, requested by
 his mom

Sunday December 19

8am ~ **Robert Hall** and **Alexander & Alma
 Boisvert** requested by Anita Hall & family
 10:30am ~ **Intentions of all our Parishioners**

Monday December 20

8am ~ **Francis Silva** requested by Donna Cook
Health & Blessings for Christine Maiwald
 requested by Gary & Debby Anderson

Tuesday December 21

8am ~ **Norman Coombs, Sr.**, 7th Anniversary,
 requested by his family
Health & Blessings for Charlotte Grace
 requested by Gary & Debby Anderson

Wednesday December 22

8am ~ **Bonny Bordeleau**, 1st Anniversary,
 requested by the Cronin family
Dr. David James and **Gladys Dyer** requested
 by Joyce

Thursday December 23

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

Friday December 24 Christmas Eve

4pm ~ **Christmas Memorials**
 7pm ~ **Christmas Memorials**

Saturday December 25 Christmas Day

Midnight ~ **Christmas Memorials**
 9:30am ~ **Christmas Memorials**
No 3:00 PM Confessions
No 4:00 PM Mass

Sunday December 26

8am ~ **Intentions of all our Parishioners**
 10:30am ~ **Patrick J. Cannon** requested by his
 son

**Sunday, December 19**

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

Monday, December 20

Advent Retreat, 7:00 PM, in the youth room at
 the school

Tuesday, December 21

Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, December 22

Men's Morning Group, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the
 chapel
 Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-8:00 PM
 Food Pantry, 1:00-2:30 PM
 Women's AA, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the school
 Confessions, 7:00 PM, in the church

Thursday, December 23

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

Friday, December 24

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



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of
Tina Wurst, 2nd Anniversary, by her sister
 Kathleen Jean

**The Deadline for Christmas Memorials
 is this Monday, December 20th.**



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This weekend's Gospel is about the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Mary sets out in haste to go to visit her cousin Elizabeth when she finds out from the Archangel Gabriel that Elizabeth is pregnant. There, the baby St. John the Baptist encounters Christ the Savior for the first time. In his joy, he leaps in the womb of Elizabeth. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, then blesses Mary three times: "**Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.... Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled**" (Luke 1:42, 45). I'm going to reflect on this passage and what it may mean for our lives.

First, when Mary finds out about Elizabeth's need, she goes "in haste." God calls us all the time. He might show us the needs of another that we can meet. He might show us how we are to act in a certain situation. He might be whispering to us, inviting us to pray. Do we respond *in haste* to the Lord? Do we act immediately or do we procrastinate? I think of how St. Francis of

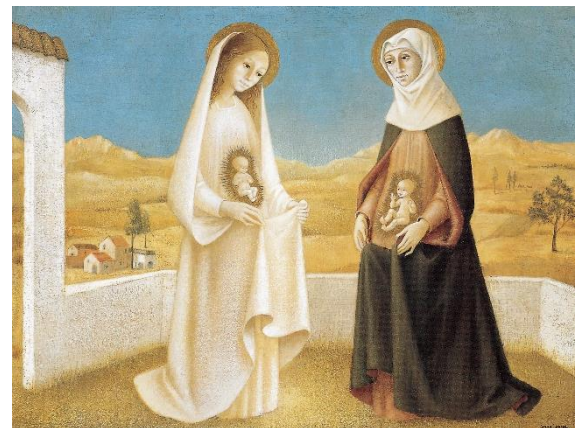
Assisi was known for stopping in the middle of the street to pray, as soon as he felt God calling him. The more we obey God, the clearer His voice becomes for us. The more swiftly we respond to Him, the more swiftly we receive His grace.

St. John the Baptist is so overjoyed at meeting Christ (from one womb to another), that he literally leaps for joy in his mother's womb! Are we excited about meeting Jesus? As we move toward Christmas, does the prospect of encountering Jesus excite us? Or are we so overwhelmed with the "stuff" of the season – cards, shopping, decorating, parties, wrapping, cold weather, dark days, sickness (COVID!), and everything else! – that we don't get excited, but exhausted! This is a season of peace, yet peace seems to be the last thing we can get! Jesus desires to visit us, but we need to take a step back from the chaos to recognize His love visiting us!

As an aside, the Church's tradition speaks of Mary as the new Ark of the New Covenant (Ark as in "Raider's of the lost..." not "Noah's"). Mary bears the presence of God (in Jesus) as the Ark of the Covenant bore the presence of God. In II Samuel 6, we hear of David bringing the Ark into Jerusalem. David was so excited to have the Ark coming, that he danced and leapt before the Lord. So did John the Baptist.

Finally, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, blesses Mary three-fold. While we may not have the same blessings as Mary, we all can seek to claim the blessing of those who believe "**that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled**" (Luke 1:45). God speaks His words of love to us. He promises to be a good Father to us. Do we trust Him. Do we act as if what He says is true?

Many of you received my Christmas card with "The Visitation" by Bradi Barth (to the right). I invite you spend time with Mary and Elizabeth, John and Jesus meditating on this mystery. Allow the grace of the Visitation to touch your life as we come to an end of the Advent Season and prepare for Christmas.





**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 5:30 PM

New Year's Day – January 1st

The Solemnity of Mary 9:30 AM



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 19th.**

To get more information, please email Wendy Williams at garywendy6@comcast.net

Vita Nova invites you to join us for:

Out of the Woods ~ Into the Water
Men's Retreat on January 7-9, 2022

Save \$25 if you register before December 13th

Learn More & Register Today

<https://vitanova.org/catholic-mens-retreat>

ADVENT RETREAT

Join Fr. Von for a mini Advent Retreat on **Monday, December 20th from 7:00-8:00 PM** in the youth room at the school. You do not need to register.



"It is by God's will that we have been sanctified." How is God calling you to grow in holiness? If He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at (603) 663-0196 or email: mmason@rcbm.org.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends, others are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00 to 9:30 PM. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information, or to apply, call at or visit them at <https://wwmema.org/>. "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Take time for your marriage by participating in the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience.

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

We welcome Karen Lamoureux to the Pastoral Council. Obie Okoye and Cyndee Tourville were selected for a second term to the Council. They join our other incredible Council Members: Mary Hammar, Linda Merrill, Roberta Wilson, Linda Beauchesne, Brian Lamoureux and Danielle Troy.



A Family of Faith - December

"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." - John 1:14

The Season of Advent is a great time of preparation to celebrate this amazing Truth. God took on flesh, became His creation, in order to save it. At the end of November, we paused at our community gathering to talk about Advent and how we can prepare as a family for the Birth of Christ. I thought I might take the time to share some of the ideas and traditions we discussed.

-The Advent Candles and Wreath

Just as we light another Advent Candle at Mass every Sunday of the season it is also tradition to mirror this in our own homes. Do we have our Advent Wreaths out so that we may pause at home in prayer in preparation for the Savior.

-Family Advent Covenant

What is a promise you can make as a family this Advent Season to better prepare for the Solemnity of Christmas?

-Advent Sacrifice Manger

Each family created a simple manger, which starts empty at the beginning of the season. With each act of love, sacrifice or extra prayer prayed the manger is slowly filled with pieces of hay. This is how we can best prepare for Christmas, by serving others.

-Birthday Party for Jesus

On Christmas Day, let us plan a great celebration! This is the Holy Solemnity of Christmas! Let us leap with Joy and sing praises to His name.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas Season to every one of you.

You are invited to a **Christmas Concert at St. Matthew Parish** with Marie-Line, soprano and Brian Quist, pianist. The concert is Sunday, January 2nd, at 2:00 PM. Free admission – donations will be welcomed. For more information, or details go to [Facebook.com@morin,marieline](https://www.facebook.com/morin,marieline).

MONEY

The Bulletin had to be transmitted early due to Christmas. The offertory collection will be in next weekend's bulletin.



SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

Dec. 26 Faith Life Formation

This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.

Jan. 2 Capital Improvements

This collection helps with projects around the parish.

Jan. 9 Utility

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

Jan. 16 Diocesan Seminarian Fund

This collection funds the education and formation of men discerning the priesthood for the Diocese of Manchester. Your contribution helps promote vocations to the priesthood. **Our assessment for this collection is \$1,068.**

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

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CAMP FATIMA/BERNADETTE

We are pleased to announce that Bishop Libasci is making scholarships available to youth aged 6 to 15 to attend Camps Fatima and Bernadette in 2022! This is possible in accordance with the terms of a bequest received by the diocese. The youth must be Catholic and residing in New Hampshire. If interested, please contact the Parish Office for an application.

Confessions times in Advent: Saturdays 3:00 PM and Sundays 7:30 and 10:00 AM. Wednesday, December 22nd at 7:00 PM.

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
2:00-8:00pm

For more information, or to sign up for Wednesday Adoration, contact Kathleen Garon at 978-482-5380

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