



Saturday December 30

4pm ~ Dr. Anthony Caruso requested by John & Joyce Keslo
In Honor of the Holy Family requested by Donna Taylor

Sunday December 31

8am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners
10:30am ~ Celine Martin, 1st Anniversary, requested by the Martin family
Ruth Gaebel requested by Donna Smith

Monday January 1 New Year's Day

9:30am ~ William Costa, 12th Anniversary, requested by his family

Tuesday January 2

8am ~ Mrs. Alice Martin requested by a friend
William Gerow, Sr. requested by a friend

Wednesday January 3

8am ~ Paul Kennedy, 2nd Anniversary, requested by Patty Kennedy

Thursday January 4

8am ~ Mr. & Mrs. Andre Turgeon requested by Mr. & Mrs. Roger Turgeon
Roger D. Bergeron, 1st Anniversary, requested by his sisters Blanche Petroski & Jeanne DiRocco

Friday January 5

8am ~ Michael Perruccio requested by John & Christina Vogl
Mary Gerow requested by a friend

Saturday January 6

8am ~ Don & Liette Goyette requested by Doug & Laura Masson
John Donovan, Birthday Remembrance, requested by his family
4pm ~ Wayne Montuori, 7th Anniversary, **In Honor of St. Joseph** requested by the Taylor family

Sunday January 7

8am ~ Raymond Letendre, 21st Anniversary, requested by his wife Jeannine
10:30am ~ Intentions of all our Parishioners

Sunday, December 31

No Coffee & Donuts
Men & Women AA, 7:00-8:00 PM, in the school

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM
Women's Guild Meeting, 6:30 PM, in the parish center

Wednesday, January 3

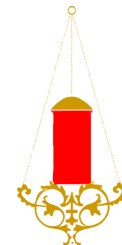
Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-9:00 PM
Food Pantry, 1:00-2:30 PM
Women's AA, 7:00-8:30 PM, in the school
Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7:00 PM, in the parish center

Thursday, January 4

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

Friday, January 5

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



This week the Sanctuary Candle is in memory of **Hazel Belanger** by her family



"I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." If you feel God is offering you the gift of a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life as a sister, brother, or consecrated virgin, talk to your priest or reach out to Fr. Matt Mason, the Vocations Director at 603-663-0196 or mmason@rcbm.org.



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you had a blessed Christmas Day, and are having a great Christmas season. Now, we'll return to our examination of the Mass.

Two weeks ago, I began discussing the Nicene Creed. The Creed begins:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

First, the words "I believe." Prior to the retranslation of the Mass, we used to say, "We believe." There was a beauty to that, recognizing that it is not just my personal faith, but the faith of the whole Church, in which I participate. However, in being more faithful to the Latin (*Credo*), "I believe" also points to the truth that I cannot just ride on the coattails of the greats in the Church, but **I** must assent to the faith, I must be a part of this faith. Believing in God is not just a passive stance – like

believing that the earth is about 93 million miles from the sun (depending on the time of year). Belief in God is not just belief in His existence, but also in His goodness, in His love, in His omnipotence, and in His care for my life, among other things. Believing in God means I am staking my life on this truth.

The we say that we believe "in one God." This is the basis of Biblical faith. Of all the religions in the world, only the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) believe in one God. All the others believe in many gods, demons, or nothing. We're saying God is *one*, unique. He is incomparable to any other being. In fact, when He reveals His name to Moses at the burning bush, He reveals that He is not *a being*, but *Being Itself*. He is the ground of all being, and nothing in existence can *be* without Him.

The next part is "the Father almighty." God reveals Himself to be Father. This first person of the Blessed Trinity shows us that He is *personal*, not a "cosmic force." We can know Him and be known by Him. This is distinct from the "deistic" understanding of God, which is analogously like a "watchmaker" – he makes the watch, winds it up, and then lets it do its thing. God as Father, though, is intimately involved in the moment to moment existence of the universe – not just creating at the beginning of time, but continuing to create everything in each instant of its being. Therefore, He is *almighty*. Sometimes, we have the image of God and Satan as the yin and yang – light and darkness fighting each other, with equal power, and we don't know how it's going to end. This is a lie! God is *almighty!* The difference between God and Satan is greater than the difference in size between the Empire States Building and an ant. In fact, the difference is greater than the difference between the size of the whole universe and a single electron. God is *all-powerful!* Satan has greater spiritual power than us, but our Daddy is so much bigger than that bully! God wins. Period.

God is "maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible." We believe that God created everything from nothing (the technical term is *ex nihilo*). It's not that God made everything from some pre-existent cosmic sludge, or took part of Himself to make the universe. No, He made everything from literally nothing. He made *all* things – everything that is tangible, and every spiritual being (angels, demons, etc.).

"So, did God make evil?" is often a question. Evil is not a being itself, but a twisting of the good, a deprivation. Demons are angels that chose not to follow God. Evil is good that has been twisted. For instance, if I sin by lying, I am using the good things that God made – my intellect and will, my vocal chords, lungs, and mouth to speak. But it is lacking the full truth. It is a lack; the good is twisted. So, God did not make evil, because evil isn't a thing, but a twisting of the good. But He did make all things that are.

Next week, we'll move into the section on the Son.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Thank you to the following parishioner who will be praying for vocations during this week:

-Joanne Glynn-

All parishioners have the opportunity to participate in the program. Interested? Please email stpatsharvestteam@gmail.com



On behalf of the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund, we wish to thank you all for your help again this year with the "Children's Gift Program." Your generous support is greatly appreciated by the GNF and the families of the children we help.

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
January 8, 15, 22 and 29.

ONLINE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GOUP: CATHOLIC CHARITIES NH

Have you recently lost a spouse or a loved one? Are you struggling to navigate this difficult time? If so, Catholic Charities NH is here to help with our "Bereavement - Experiencing Loss, Being Lost and Finding Your Way Again" online support group. The five-session program will be held via Zoom on Wednesdays at 1:30 PM, starting January 24, 2024 and running through February 21st. You will learn about the dynamics of grief, explore different coping strategies, and have an opportunity to connect with others in similar situations.

To register, visit www.cc-nh.org/beravement or call Louise at 603-752-1325; ext. 4573. There is no cost to attend.

NEW YEAR'S MASS
New Year's Day - January 1st
The Solemnity of Mary 9:30 AM



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) - SAVE THE DATE

SCUBA is coming! This summer, kids will be *DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD!* Mark your calendars for July 8-12, 2024 (9:00 AM - Noon). Open to campers ages 5-12.



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)

Creation Corner: This weekend Simeon tells Mary that Jesus will be "a sign that will be contradicted...so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Jesus will challenge us; He will not make it easy. Our response to Him will be "revealed" by our words and actions. How will we reveal ourselves when we are forced to choose between comfort and justice?

ALTAR FLOWERS

If anyone would like to sign-up to sponsor the Altar Flowers for 2024-2025, please contact the parish office at 603-635-3525.

SANCTUARY CANDLE

If anyone would like to sign-up for the Sanctuary Candle in memory of a loved one for 2024-2025, please contact the parish office at 603-635-3525.



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

SAVE THE DATE
Our Parish Mission
March 10th – 12th.
More information to follow

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 12/17/23

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Offertory Envelopes | \$5,907 |
| Offertory Electronic Giving | \$1,633 |
| Total Offertory | \$7,540 |

Maintenance \$2,111

Total Collected \$9,651

Thank you for your continue support
~Fr. Von~



**SECOND ENVELOPES
FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS**

Jan. 7 Capital Improvements

This collection helps with projects around the parish.

Jan. 14 Utility

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

Jan. 21 Faith Life Formation

This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.

Jan. 28 Maintenance

This collection helps with the Church and School grounds.

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

First Friday Mass is this Friday, January 5th, at 8:00 AM
First Saturday Mass is this Saturday, January 6th, at 8:00 AM

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