

**CHURCH & PARISH OFFICES**

12 Main St.  
 Pelham, NH 03076  
 603-635-3525 (office)  
 603-635-3919 (fax number)  
 Website: [www.stpatrickspelham.com](http://www.stpatrickspelham.com)  
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30-4:00

**Pastor**

Rev. Volney J. DeRosia - Ext. 15  
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**Deacon**

Deacon John Ross  
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**Faith Life Director**

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**Music Ministry**

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**FORMED**

To help you grow in your faith go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)  
 and sign in with the parish registration code **nr3434**  
 (all lowercase).

**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](mailto:fathervon@comcast.net).

**MASS SCHEDULE**

*Saturday* 4PM  
*Sunday* 8AM, 10:30AM, 6PM

**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**

*Wednesday* 8:30-9:30am  
 2:00-8:00pm

**FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY**

The Knights and the Women's Guild invite everyone to First Friday Rosary at 6pm in the chapel. The Rosary is followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 6:45 PM.

**RECONCILIATION**

*Saturday* 3pm to 3:30pm  
 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.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday February 17**  
4pm **The DiGiantommaso Families**  
requested by their family  
**Jane Melia** requested by Brother  
Knight Jim & Doreen Dolan

**Sunday February 18**  
8am **Arthur LaPointe** requested by  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Turgeon  
**Sandra Dudedoir Chapman**  
requested by her family  
10:30am **Frances Lawlor** "Birthday  
Remembrance" requested by  
Pat Lawlor  
**Norman M. French, 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary, requested by Anne T.  
French & family  
6pm **Intentions for all our  
Parishioners**

**Monday February 19**  
8am **Alexandrine Thivierge**  
requested by Theresa Goupil  
**Milton Floyd Keilitz, Jr.,**  
requested by Richard & Julie  
Bernier

**Tuesday February 20**  
8am **Mario Matos** requested by his  
wife Rita

**Wednesday February 21**  
8am **For all Saints**

**Thursday February 22**  
8am **Linda Bousquet** requested by her  
daughter Patty Kennedy

**Friday February 23**  
6pm **Robert Nielson Sr.,** requested by  
Donna Smith  
7pm Stations of the Cross

**Saturday February 24**  
4pm **Bernadette Bouchard, 33<sup>rd</sup>**  
Anniversary, requested by Joan  
Janos

**Sunday February 25**  
8am **Intentions for all our  
Parishioners**  
10:30am **Andrea Caggianelli** requested by  
his family  
6pm **Donna Ellenwood** requested by  
Kim Conway  
**Matilde Finco** requested by  
her children

## **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 following week:  
Offertory 2/11/18 \$7,000

Total funds collected for this week for parish expenses \$7,000

Thank you for your continued support  
~Fr. Von~

## **Capital Improvements**

collected as of 2/11/18  
\$1,715

Thank you for your generosity!

## **SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS**

**Feb. 25 Faith Life Formation**  
This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.

**Mar. 4 Capital Improvements**  
This collection helps with projects around the parish.

**Mar.11 Catholic Relief Services & Catholic Home Missions**  
Catholic Relief Services provides funding for Catholic Relief Services, USCCB Department of Social Development & World Peace, relief work of the Holy Father, USCCB's Migration & Refugee Services, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network. Catholic Home Missions Supports the strengthening of the Catholic Church where it is most financially challenged in the United States.

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

**The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> for President's Day.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Sunday, February 18

Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the K of C Hall  
Children of Mary, 11:45 AM, in the meeting room  
Confirmation I, 4:00 PM, in the school

### Monday, February 19

Choir Practice, 6:30 PM, in the church  
The Mass Teaching, 7:00 PM, in the youth room  
at the school

### Tuesday, February 20

Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Pastoral Council Meeting, 7:00 PM, in the  
meeting room

### Wednesday, February 21

Men's Morning Group, 6:00-7:00 AM, in the  
chapel  
Adoration, 8:30-9:30 AM and 2:00-8:00 PM  
Bible Sharing, 9:00 AM, in the school classroom  
Food Pantry, 1:00-3:00 PM

### Thursday, February 22

AA, 7:00 PM, in the K of C Hall  
Praise Band, 7:30 PM, in the church

### Friday, February 23

Fish Bake, 4:00-6:45 PM, in the parish center  
Stations of the Cross, 7:00 PM in the church

## The Franciscan Mystery Players present: "The Sorrowful Mysteries"

This is a new and UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE OF HEALING presented by the FRANCISCAN MYSTERY PLAYERS, from Ste. Marie Parish Youth Group, Manchester, NH. With the use of special lighting and sound, this moving dramatic meditation promises to be a high point in our Parish's spiritual journey. Because of the intensity of the subject matter of suffering and death, it may not be recommended for very young children. We strongly encourage all our ADULTS and TEENS to attend this unique and prayerful presentation on **Friday, March 9, 2018 at 7:30 PM. DON'T MISS THIS!!!!**

## LENTEN CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Lent is an awesome time to purify yourself and get ready for Easter. There are several opportunities beyond the usual Saturday afternoon: Sundays 7:30-7:45 AM, 10:00-10:15 AM, 5:30-5:45 PM and Wednesdays, 3/7 and 3/21 at 7:00 PM. We also have our Lenten Penance Service at St. Joseph Parish in Salem on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM.

**We will have a 6:00 PM Mass on Fridays during Lent.**

### Acts of Mercy

#### How many      Spiritual

- Instruct the uninformed
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish sinners
- Comfort the sorrowful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive offenses
- Pray for the living and the dead

#### How many      Corporal

- Feed the hungry
- Clothe the naked
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Shelter the homeless
- Comfort the imprisoned
- Visit the sick
- Bury the Dead



This year for Lent  
do something that will  
**Change Your Life**

Join our Retreat,  
March 2-5, 2018,  
held at St. Patrick School.  
Sign up by contacting  
Fr. Von at 603-635-3525 or  
[fathervon@comcast.net](mailto:fathervon@comcast.net)

The retreat is free,  
and you sleep at home.  
Please indicate dietary restrictions.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As I mentioned in last weekend's article, I will be spending the next several weeks going deeper into the Ten Commandments. This week, we'll be looking at the first commandment:

**I am the Lord your God, you shalt not have any strange gods before Me.**

God gave this first commandment to the children of Israel just after He liberated them from the slavery of Egypt. For about 400 years, they had been in Egypt, and had been immersed in the pagan culture of Egypt. The Egyptians worshiped all sorts of gods (who, of course, were not really gods at all, but demons – creatures of God gone bad). God knew that He had to make it clear that the Israelites were not to worship anyone by Him, for there is only one God. When the people of Israel failed at this (making the golden calves), God then gave them the restrictions on food as well – they couldn't eat pork, for instance. Why? While the Egyptians worshiped all sorts of gods, many of them being animals (sheep, cattle, etc.), they did *not* worship pigs. Hence, the Egyptians ate a lot of pork. God forbade eating pork so that the people of Israel would have to eat the other "Egyptian gods"... and so make it that they could not go back to Egypt, and so help remove the idolatry from their hearts. (Of course, Jesus, knowing that this idolatry was finally removed from the Israelite hearts, declared all foods clean [see Mark 7:19], and so we can eat bacon again... and it is good!)

At the heart of this commandment is truth – when we worship things that are not God, we are harmed by it. God wants us to worship in truth, to worship He who alone is God.

While most people today do not worship Athena or Zeus, Ba'al or Molech, this first commandment is still broken in many ways. When we get involved in the "New Age," we're allowing a false spirituality to be a part of our lives. (Beware: if a spirituality does not come from the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we're getting involved with a spiritual power that is NOT God [see I John 4:1-3] – and there are only two sources of spiritual power – God and the devil.) God forbids us to go to horoscopes, fortune tellers, Tarot Cards, Ouija boards and the like not because they are bogus, but because they are real – and really draw us away from God. Getting involved in Wicca or Reiki open us to spiritual powers that go against God. Even Yoga is dangerous – and a sin – because traditional yoga puts the body in positions that give homage to Hindu gods. This goes directly against the first commandment of having no other gods.

Okay, let's say that you don't do any of the things mentioned above. Still, my experience is that this first commandment is the *least* confessed commandment of all of the commandments, yet, it is also one that is most often broken. Why do I say this? When we sin – every time we freely choose sin – we're saying there is something in our lives more important than God. This can become a god to us. For instance, St. Paul says that greed can be idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Things can take over our hearts. Relationships with other people can become more important than our relationship with God. Whenever we break any of the other commandments, we are in some way breaking this first one – we say we don't trust God to be God, we make ourselves or other things or people greater than the God of the universe who loves us. This commandment is a commandment against pride (when we place ourselves as the moderator of what is good and evil, especially as seen in relativism), as well as anything that goes against proper priority.

Fr. Larry Richards puts it this way: If at the end of the day you're asked, "Did you eat today?" and you answer "yes." Then you're asked, "Did you pray today?" and you answer "No" – you love food more than you love God. Did you get on your phone today? Did you check your Facebook page today? Did you watch TV today? Did you talk to your husband or wife, girlfriend or boyfriend today? If you answer "yes" to any of these, but "no" to praying, the hard truth is that you love those things more than you love God. And this breaks the first commandment.

God didn't make this commandment because He's selfish; He made it because, like every good parent, He loves us. He wants us to grow, to flourish, to be healthy and good in the things that matter most – the things of eternity. He loves us enough to tell us that having things or people as a greater priority than Him hurt us and keeps us from becoming the best-version-of-ourselves.

I pray that, with the help of God, we can break down all of the idols in our lives, and place God first in our hearts.



**July 9-13, 2018**  
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Registration Cost: \$45.00**

Last year, over 140 children, teens and adult volunteers from all over the diocese attended our summer camp fondly called VBS. If your child hasn't yet experienced this themed week of games, music, skits, crafts and food – then what are you waiting for?! Early registration is now open and forms are at the back of the church. Volunteer opportunities are also available for 20 teen service hours and they fill up fast! If interested or for more information, please contact Christine Lemieux at [christine@lemieux-design.net](mailto:christine@lemieux-design.net)



### **FISH BAKE**

The Knights of Columbus will be serving fish dinners every Friday through Lent, February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00-6:45 PM, in the Parish Center. The dinner is a freshly baked piece of haddock with green beans, mashed potato and a roll. Prices are \$11.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors. Take-out orders, please call 635-3829 any time after 4:00 PM.

### **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The St. Patrick Women's Guild grants three \$500.00 scholarships each year to graduating seniors who will be furthering their education. Applications for these scholarships are now available in the Guidance Office of Pelham High School, in the Parish Office, and in the Sacristy of the Church. Application should be turned in to the Guidance Office at Pelham High School or to St. Patrick's Parish Office by Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

### **NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**

Want to learn a method of family planning that's **healthy, reliable, and marriage-building**? Thanks to modern scientific research, you can learn to observe and interpret the natural signs of fertility and reliably plan your family. Keeping your body free of chemicals, and improving your marriage – what's not to love?! Natural Family Planning Course here at St. Patrick Parish on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, Mar 17<sup>th</sup> and Apr 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturdays) from 7:00-9:00 PM. Teachers are Barbara and Paul Donovan. Register at [ccli.org](http://ccli.org) or call Barbara and Paul at 603-463-7456. Check out the Couple to Couple League's Facebook page to see what former students are saying about the lasting positive effects of NFP on their marriages!

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Here at St. Patrick we have a Prayer Shawl Ministry. These shawls are made by many volunteers and are either knitted or crocheted. If you know of someone who is sick or needs comfort, please call the parish office to receive one. We have many shawls of varying colors. The Prayer Shawls are free. On the other hand, if you are interested in making prayer shawls, the parish office has instructions. Just call us at 603-635-3525 and we will get the instructions to you.

**We are in need of Prayer Shawls we only have four left.**

Are you looking for a way to enhance your prayer life during Lent? Prayer and fasting are a great team. Fasting every Wednesday and Friday can help us grow in faith, get rid of bad habits and invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts. To learn more about the ancient practice of fasting, go to our website: [livethefast.org](http://livethefast.org), call us at 888-276-3475 or email us [info@livethefast.org](mailto:info@livethefast.org)

### **STEUBENVILLE EAST FREE WILL OFFERING**

On March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> the young people of St. Patrick Parish will be at the exits after Masses collecting funds to help them get to Steubenville East. Every year these young men and women give up a weekend of their summer for The Lord and they always come back refreshed, renewed and truly changed. We are so thankful for the support you have given to them in past years and we pray that you will consider supporting them once again.