

CHURCH & PARISH OFFICES

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

Pastor

Rev. Volney J. DeRosia - Ext. 15
Email: fathervon@comcast.net

Deacon

Deacon John Ross
Email: ualdrmfilt@comcast.net

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

Jeanne Dyjak 978-394-8894
Email: jeanned34@gmail.com

FORMED

To help you grow in your faith go to 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.

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. More information online: www.kofcpelhamnh.org



Saturday January 6
 4pm **Rena Cayer** requested by the Bedard family
Billy & Clara Wells, Anniversary Remembrance, requested by their son Leon

Sunday January 7
 8am **Rev. John Sledziona** requested by Donna Smith
Mary Gleason requested by Carol Martin
 10:30am **Raymond Letendre**, 15th Anniversary, requested by his wife Jeannine
 6pm **Intentions for all our Parishioners**

Monday January 8
 8am **For all Souls in Purgatory**

Tuesday January 9
 8am **Rev. Richard Wegman**
Paul Caron requested by the Lemieux family

Wednesday January 10
 8am **Sandi Clark Herrera** requested by David & Maureen Groff

Thursday January 11
 8am **George & Theresa Muldoon** requested by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Clark
Kevin Cao requested by the Lemieux family

Friday January 12
 8am No Mass

Saturday January 13
 4pm **John Fitzgerald**, 14th Anniversary, requested by his wife & children

Sunday January 14
 8am **Rev. Roland Blais** requested by Mr. & Mrs. Roger Turgeon
 10:30am **Wayne Montuori**, 1st Anniversary, requested by the Taylor family
 6pm **Intentions for all our Parishioners**

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 12/31/17	\$5,974
Teen Ministry	\$1,156

Total funds collected for this week for parish expenses \$7,130

Thank you for your continued support
 ~Fr. Von~

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:

Solemnity of Mary	\$ 689
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Thank you for your continued support
 ~Fr. Von~

SECOND ENVELOPES FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEKS

Jan. 14 Utility

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

Jan. 21 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.

Jan. 28 Faith Life Formation

This collection helps with expenses for Faith Life.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 7

Faith Life Classes, 11:30 AM, in the school
 Coffee & Donuts, 11:30 AM, in the K of C Hall
 Children of Mary, 11:45 AM, in the meeting room
 Sunday Adult Catechesis, 12:15-1:30 PM, in the school cafeteria
 Confirmation II, 4:00 PM, in the school

Monday, January 8

Choir Practice, 6:00 PM, in the church
 Faith Life Classes, 6:00 PM, in the school

Tuesday, January 9

Faith Life Classes, 6:00 PM, in the school
 Food Pantry, 6:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, January 10

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, January 11

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

Friday, January 12

Community Dinner, 5:30-7:00 PM, at the Congregational Church

STEUBENVILL EAST

REGISTRATION IS COMING!

All teens entering 9th grade – 12th grade are encouraged to attend this life-changing weekend. Steubenville East takes place on UMASS Lowell Campus and the dates this year are July 13-15. To learn more about what happens at a Steubenville East Conference you can visit this site: <https://lifeteen.com/events/steubenville-eat/>
 If you are interested, please contact Director of Faith Life, Adam Castor via email at faithlifeformation@comcast.net Don't delay! Registration opens on January 16th.

FIRST RECONCILIATION REMINDER

First Reconciliation will take place on Saturday, January 27th, at 10:00 AM in the church for all students who have been preparing to receive this Sacrament. We look forward to seeing you all there.

FOOD PANTRY

The Pelham Food Pantry is in need of **Canned Fruit and Juice or Sports Drinks.**

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

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

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord. While there are several different mysteries associated with this Solemnity (Jesus' Baptism and the Miracle at Cana where He turned water into wine), the mystery we most associate with this day is the revelation to the Gentiles through the Magi and the star. We know, of course, that the Magi bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Here are some things you might not know about the Epiphany story (much of this information was taken from the CD in our Lighthouse Catholic Media display: "Prepare the Way of the King" by Dr. Scott Hahn). First, in the Ancient Near East people did not bring gifts to kings, with the idea that "here's something I own, but I'm now giving it to you." Everything belonged to the king! It was his, so it wasn't a "gift" to him. The idea of bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus, the new-born King, was a way to say, "I recognize this is yours already, and I surrender it to you." Second, when we look at the Magi, they probably were not actually kings, nor simply star-gazers – they were magicians. They would have dabbled in the dark arts. They did occult practices that go against the law of God. Gold, frankincense and myrrh are all elements most likely used in their dark craft.

So what's going on here? The Magi, come before the Christ-Child and lay down their occult practices. In essence, they are saying, "I have been living my life seeking – seeking something beyond me: knowledge, power, authority – but now I have found what I am looking for, not in magic, but in You, Christ. I lay down my occult practices at your feet. I will not go back to what I was doing before – I will depart **'by another way'** (Matthew 2:12) the way of God." Epiphany is a call to conversion. We are invited to look at our lives and see if there are areas that we have not submitted to the loving authority of God, areas in which we have tried to grasp control and power. We can look to the example of the Magi and ask God for the grace to surrender to Him. Note, too, that it was through encounter with Christ – not simply study – that brought them to this moment. As they encountered the Christ-Child, they **"prostrated themselves and did him homage"** (Matthew 2:11). When we encounter Christ, when we come into personal contact with Him, He touches us in such a powerful way that we will *want* to surrender to Him. It is, after all, a surrender to joy, to love, to life!

So that's the Magi. I just want to touch on one other piece of the story – the Star. It is a wonderful thing to notice that *all of creation* proclaims God's praise (cf. Psalm 19). Do we notice? Do we see how God is working in all of creation? A lot of times we think of God as a "deistic" God – whereby He created everything and then steps back and watches, not getting involved at all. That makes as much sense as saying a builder could not enter into a house that he made! Our understanding of God is not "deistic" but "theistic"... He is present in all of creation, moving with His love. He is not watching us from a distance, but is closer to us than we are to ourselves (closer than marrow is to the bone, as one of my professors would say). God uses everything – everything – to be a sign of Him. Even the evil in the world He allows because He is going to change that evil into an even *greater good*!

This also shows that Science is not opposed to Catholicism! God's constant presence in the universe points to this truth: Science and Catholicism are not at odds; they are two different ways of looking at the same truth. We believe that God created the universe with *order* – and that is an underlying assumption of every scientist – that there is a discoverable order to the universe. This order permeates the huge movement of galaxies, stars and planets, as well as the tiny movement of molecules, atoms and electrons! To expound on this point, some people look at the creation account in Genesis (Genesis 1 about the 6 days of creation) and argue that it goes against what we know by science. But they are looking at the same reality from two different standpoints – one is that of a scientist, the other is that of a poetic, romantic lover. If you ask a groom to describe his bride's eyes, he would undoubtedly describe something very different than her optometrist would (unless she happened to be marrying her optometrist!). Yet no one would argue that his description is wrong; he is a lover and is describing the lover's view of the eyes. The Bible describes creation from a poetic, romantic lover's point of view (remember, the summary of the Bible is "God wants to marry us"). It describes events in a very different way than a scientist would, because the Bible is attempting to relay a deeper truth and mystery than simply the historical, scientific account of what happened, play by play.

All of this is to say that the mystery of the Epiphany points to the truth that God is moving all around us, in all of creation, and if we have eyes to see, we will recognize His incredible and intimate love.



"A Birthday Celebration!"
JESUS Across THE Border:
January 19, 2018
St. Joseph the Worker Shrine
Lowell, MA
7:30-11:00 PM

Join JESUS Across THE Border, the umbrella organization that unites over 17 different young adult Catholic groups, at our next monthly event! Our evening begins at 7:30 PM with Eucharistic Adoration and Praise & Worship led by Brandon Fitts of LIFT Ministries. Fr. Richard Clancy joins us again as the main Mass celebrant at 9:00 PM and following Mass, we will have a pizza networking social. There may even be cake to celebrate our first birthday! This is a fantastic opportunity for the over 17 Catholic young adult groups to network with one another and for YOU to get to know the many groups out there with one another and for YOU to get to know the many groups out there that are ready to support you in your faith journey. Please email Billy Beauchesne at JESUSaCROSStheBorder@gmail.com or visit <https://facebook.com/JESUSaCROSStheBorder> for more information.

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### **ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

St. Joseph Regional Catholic School in Salem, NH invites you to their Open House for coffee and donuts on January 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00 PM. We want to thank you for supporting and for praying for us. Tours of the school will be available. Our younger visitors are welcome to make a special winter craft with some of our students. Please come see the great things happening at St. Joseph. Questions? Contact [info@sjrcs.com](mailto:info@sjrcs.com) or 603-893-6811 X19.

### **NASHUA CATHOLIC REG. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL S'mores and Tours Open House for Prospective Families January 19, 2018 6:30-8:00 PM**

With a Challenging academic curriculum and authentic Catholic faith formation, Nashua Catholic offers leveled classes where every student receives personal attention to be successful. Our science and math programs include a large science lab, and a growing STEAM program supported by MakerSpace, computer and Chromebook labs, and 3-D printers. Outside of the classroom, NC offers 14 athletic teams, over 10 clubs, and numerous opportunities for student service and leadership. A vibrant, two-year junior high school, Nashua Catholic recently earned the U.S. Department of Education's 2017 National Blue Ribbon School Award. Call today to schedule your visit, and get a first-hand look at what makes Nashua Catholic so special. For more information call 603-882-7011 or email [ncrjhs.org](mailto:ncrjhs.org)

### **ADORATION**

If school is cancelled, Adoration will be cancelled. If school is delayed, there will be no morning Adoration but there will still be Adoration from 2:00-8:00 PM.

In either case, we will still have a morning Mass.

### **THE MASS: THE JEWISH ROOTS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Join Father Von on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM this winter as he explores the Mass and the Jewish roots of the Eucharist. Included are a video presentations by Dr. Brant Pitre, professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary, in New Orleans. Find out more about ancient Jewish beliefs about the Passover of the Messiah, the miraculous Manna from heaven, and the mysterious Bread of the Presence.

Dates: **January 15, 22, 29** and **February 5 & 19, 2018**. Location: Youth Room at St. Patrick School.