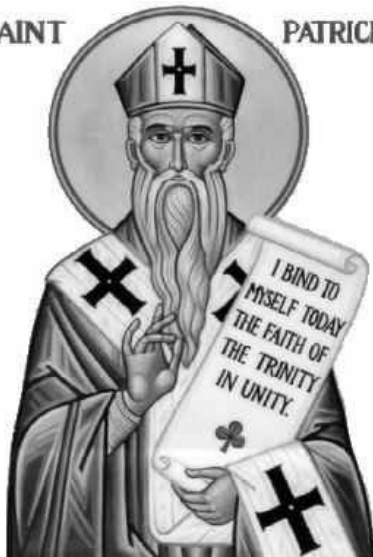


SAINT

PATRICK



# St. Patrick Parish

*Living Catholic Tradition in Nashua*

29 Spring St., Nashua, NH 03060  
Tel. 603-882-2262 Fax: 603-577-9817

*Website: [www.stpatricksnashua.org](http://www.stpatricksnashua.org)*

## PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Michael Kerper**  
Pastor

**Rev. John Healey**  
Priest-in-Residence

Rosemary Daly, Office Manager  
Jean Dickson, Bookkeeper  
Gary McDonald, Music Director  
Rel. Educ. Paul & Jennifer Murano

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**  
*Help for those in Need*  
Tel. 603-821-5267

**Mass Schedule**  
Mon. - Fri. 12:05 PM (Daily Mass)  
Sat. 4:00 PM (Organ & Cantor)  
Sun. 7:00 AM (Quiet Mass)  
9:30 AM (Organ & Cantor)  
12:00 PM (Organ & Choir)

**Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)**  
Sat: 8:00 AM  
Second Sunday of each Month  
at 12:00 PM

**Confession**  
Sat.: 3:00 PM  
Sun. 9:00 & 11:30 AM  
Tues. through Fri. 11:30 AM

**Office Hours**  
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Fri. - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Cemetery Office**  
Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Tel. 603-881-8131



**LITURGICAL CALENDAR  
& INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015 - Vigil ~ Holy Family of  
Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

4:00 PM Adam and Evelyn Gureckis  
By Judy Gureckis Farrar

**Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015 ~ Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph**

7:00 AM Claire Gagnon  
By a Friend

9:30 AM Estelle Gosselin (living)

12:00 PM People of the Parish

**Monday, Dec. 28, 2015 ~ The Holy Innocents**

12:05 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory  
By Estelle Gosselin

**Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015 ~ St. Thomas Becket**

12:05 PM Bertha LaPlante  
By Richard & Shirley Levesque

**Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015 ~ 6th Day within the  
Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**

12:05 PM Deceased Members of the  
Bolen and Daly Family  
By Jim and Rosemary Daly

**Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015 ~ Vigil ~ Solemnity of  
Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

4:00 PM Priest's Intention

**Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 ~ Solemnity of Mary, The  
Holy Mother of God**

7:00 AM Priest's Intention

9:30 AM Priest's Intention

**Saturday, Jan. 2, 2015 - Vigil ~ The Epiphany of  
the Lord**

4:00 PM Priest's Intention

**Sunday, Jan. 3, 2015 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord**

7:00 AM Priest's Intention

9:30 AM People of the Parish

12:00 PM Benefactors of the St. Vincent  
De Paul Society

*Thank you for respecting God's Holy Presence by keeping mobile phones and other electronic devices outside of this Sacred Place.*

***GIFTS FOR THE LORD'S WORK***

**Weekend of Dec. 12 and 13**

From (189) Envelope Users:	\$6,136.00
From All Others - Checks:	\$1,337.00
- Cash:	\$1,677.00
Electronic Giving Users (18)	\$ 645.00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>\$9,795.00</b>

**Mass Count: 822**

**Retired Religious**

**Weekend of 12/13/15 \$2,699.00**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

**Weekend of Dec. 12 & 13 \$1,093.00**

Poor Box money is used to assist people in temporary need who approach our Parish for financial assistance with clothing, food, utilities, rent, prescriptions, etc. Indirect assistance is also provided through funds given to several local charities, including the Corpus Christi Food Pantry and the Nashua Soup Kitchen. Donations are never used for parish expenses. Your continuing contributions allow our Parish to fulfill the Lord's command to help "the least of my brothers and sisters."

Our St. Vincent de Paul members conduct confidential personal visits to provide spiritual and financial support as necessary. If you know of persons, either in or outside the Parish, who might benefit from our assistance, please encourage them to call our dedicated phone line at 821-5267.

**THANK YOU!**

**NEW YEAR'S  
PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

In observance of the New Year's holiday, St. Patrick Parish offices will close at 12:00 noon on Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015 and reopen on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 9:00 AM. Masses for The Feast of the Holy Mother of God are posted in the bulletin and on our website.

**ST. PATRICK & HOLY CROSS CEMETERIES**



St. Patrick Parish has two beautiful cemeteries located in Hudson, NH - St. Patrick Cemetery on Derry Road and Holy Cross Cemetery on Ledge Road. For more information on available lots, please contact Margie Gray at 603-881-8131.

**WEDDINGS**

Brian Daly and Anna Stauble

**UPCOMING LATIN MASSES**

12:00 Noon

January 10, 2016

**The Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph**

Saturday Mornings

8:00 AM

*(Church opens at 7:30 AM)*

December 26, 2015

**St. Stephen**

January 2

**Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

January 9

**Feria**

January 16

**St. Marcellus I**

January 23

**St. Raymond of Pennafort**

January 30

**St. Martina**

**LATIN/ENGLISH MISSALS AVAILABLE**

1962 Roman Catholic Daily Missals in Latin and English are available for purchase for \$50.00. Contact Jack McGreevy at 603-888-5824 for more information or to obtain your missal.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

St. Anselm once described theology as “faith seeking understanding.” It’s time to satisfy that natural curiosity in the new year. Adult enrichment continues at St. Patrick’s on Sunday mornings, as well as Monday evening, open to all people over 16 years of age. Jump on board to delve beneath the surface on the basic mysteries of our Catholic faith. Fun, informal, and enlightening. For more info, email Paul at [faithformation.st.patrick@gmail.com](mailto:faithformation.st.patrick@gmail.com).

**Music & Texts for Vigil Mass  
at 4:00 PM**

Liturgy of the Word Missalette

**The Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Texts and Readings pgs. 47 -50

Collegeville Hymnal

**Processional: #225 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**Communion Antiphon:** pg. 50

*Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.*

*Baruch 3:38*

**Recessional: #208 Joy to the World**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

**Happy Christmas Season!**

Faith Formation classes will resume January 10/11. Please visit us on our Facebook page at:

[www.facebook.com/  
StPatrickNashuaFaithFormation](http://www.facebook.com/StPatrickNashuaFaithFormation)

**WEEKLY READINGS**

**Dec. 28 through Jan. 3**

**Monday:** 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

**Friday:** Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

**Sunday:** Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

## ***“Building on Our Past, Securing Our Future” Capital Campaign***

As was announced before Christmas, our parish has embarked on a capital campaign with a goal of raising \$850,000.

There are a number of updates and improvements we would like to make at the parish. Much work has already been started and will be completed soon. The major projects underway are: installation of new boilers in the Parish Center, construction of a new confessional easily accessible to handicapped people, new external lighting for the church, electrical work, asbestos removal in the gym, and a complete review of our security needs.

A special invitation to attend a campaign reception will be mailed to all registered parishioners this week. Please select the date and time that is most convenient for you and return the reply card by mail or in the Sunday collection.

### **Up-Coming Receptions Save the date**

**Sunday, January 10th  
After the 12 Noon Latin Mass**

**Wednesday, January 13th  
1:15 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Friday, January 15th  
7:00 PM**

**Monday, February 1st  
6:00 PM**

**Wednesday, February 3rd  
1:15 PM & 7:00 PM**

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE**

***January 1st is the  
Feast of Mary  
The Mother of God  
(a Holy Day of Obligation)***

**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
*Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015*  
**4:00 PM****

**NEW YEAR'S DAY  
*Friday, January 1, 2016*  
**7:00 AM  
9:30 AM****



## MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Below is a list of Parish meetings being held in the Parish Center this week. (PAL uses the gym Monday through Saturday, unless otherwise arranged in advance).

**Please note:** Religious Education classes are on vacation. Classes will resume January 10 and 11.

**Knights of Columbus Coffee and Donuts** will be held on **Sunday, January 3, 2016** after the 9:30 AM Mass in the Center. Come and welcome in the New Year with other members of the St. Patrick community.

*Please note: Schedule is subject to change. To schedule a meeting or an event in the Center, please contact Rosemary Daly in the Office at 603-882-2262.*

## Thanks to Fratello's

Fratello's, our new neighborhood restaurant, provided us with an abundance of pasta, sauce, and salad for our light luncheon after the Latin Mass on December 13. Thank you for your kindness. Everyone enjoyed the great food!

## Christmas Mailing

If you didn't get our Christmas mailing you're not registered or we have an incorrect address. Please help us maintain our database by letting us know. Please call Rosemary at 882.2262.

## CORPUS CHRISTI CHAPEL ADORATION

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM  
43 Franklin Street, Nashua, NH

## Community News

### ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

St. Christopher School will hold Open Houses for prospective students and their families on Thursday, January 7, 2016 from 9:30-11:00 AM, as well as on Sunday, January 10, 2016 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Located at 20 Cushing Ave in Nashua, St. Christopher School offers a superior Catholic elementary education with high academic and moral standards for students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through six. In addition to English, science, social studies, mathematics and religion, students receive weekly instruction in Spanish, music, art, computer skills, physical education, and library science. The traditional curriculum is enhanced by advanced technology, a playground and outdoor classroom, and many extracurricular activities like band, drama, math and science clubs, and sports. Financial aid is available. No reservation is necessary for the Open House, but parents are welcome to call the school at 882-7442, ext. 114 or visit them on their website at [www.StChrisSchoolNH.org](http://www.StChrisSchoolNH.org).

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Sick is offered each Friday after the 12:05 PM Mass for all who wish to receive it. The Sacrament of the Sick is not reserved for people facing imminent death. Contact the office at 603-882-2262 to make individual arrangements.

### PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI WITH BISHOP LIBASCI

April 18-26, 2016

Bishop Libasci will lead a pilgrimage in honor of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis I. Visit the Holy Doors of Rome, participate in a Papal Audience, tour the Eternal City, and pray and renew your faith in tranquil Assisi. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today! Registration deadline is February 28, 2016. (Single - \$3,895; Double - \$3,350; Triple - \$3,250; Quad - \$3,195). Contact Canterbury Pilgrimages at (800) 653-0017 to make your reservation or for information.



## *The Christmas Martyrs*

Amid Christmas joy, it seems very strange, even offensive, to insert three very bloody feasts within the Christmas Octave. Yet here they stand: the execution of St. Stephen, the first martyr, on December 26; the slaughter of many small boys by Herod on December 28; and the murder of St. Thomas á Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, on December 29. Shouldn't these commemorations of violent events be transferred to a less festive time, sparing us temporarily from the anguish of innocent suffering? Perhaps. But the Church has always kept these three feasts in their original slots. Why? To insist that martyrdom, even by awful techniques, is a joyful – not mournful – event.

This sense of joy is especially difficult to experience when we consider the Holy Innocents, the numerous little boys massacred by the agents of King Herod. St. Matthew reported this tragedy in chapter 2:16-18. Herod, who had inadvertently learned of the Christ Child's birth in Bethlehem from the Magi, perceived Him as a dangerous political rival. Hence, he decided to kill Him. Because it was impossible to locate Him quickly, Herod simply ordered the execution of all boys under the age of two living within the area of Bethlehem, assuming that the broad net would surely catch the Child. Though St. Joseph promptly fled with the Child and His Mother, the other boys were slaughtered. How can anyone regard this as a joyful event?

We find an answer by looking at the biblical and liturgical texts. St. Matthew quoted a passage from Jeremiah: "*A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly; it is Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted because they are no more*" (Jeremiah 31:15). For St. Matthew, these words predicted the understandable response of the boys' mothers: overwhelming grief! Living as they did about 30 years before the preaching of Christ, these poor women necessarily had a pre-Christian view of the world. As such, they had only a vague sense of "life after death," and so indeed their boys "*are no more.*" One can understand their perpetual and bitter sorrow.

The Christian perspective, of course, boldly affirms that God can – and will – transform death into life, the corpse into the risen body that resembles the Resurrected Christ. In light of this well-founded hope, the initial grief must gradually give way to joy.

For a spectacular portrayal of the horror and grandeur of the Holy Innocents, see [The Massacre of the Innocents](#), a massive Italian poem of 113 stanzas written by Giambattista Marino (1569-1625). Much of the work is shockingly graphic in its description of the murders. But Marino balanced the blood and gore with beautiful and tender images of the "Boy Saints" in Heavenly Glory. Here's a sample:

Tiny innocents, who bear the name  
Of our Redeemer inscribed on your brow,  
Gentle lambs, doves without blame,  
Immaculate victims – you who now  
Shine bright in your own blood's flame,  
Washed by angels who kneel and bow,  
Pure offerings from a guilty blade,  
Holiest sacrifice to Heaven made.

We were taken ere our lives had begun  
And saw Heaven before we saw the Sun.

The liturgy also abounds with joy arising from our belief in the ultimate resurrection of the dead. The second antiphon from the Office of Readings expresses it so clearly: *They have been redeemed from among men to be the first fruits for God and the Lamb: they are without stain before the throne of God.*

The remembrance of the martyrs, especially the Holy Innocents, enhances Christmas joy, for the experience of the martyrs reminds us that Life – not Death – will eventually prevail, even in the most dismal situations.

*Fr. Michael Kerper*