

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street

Claremont, NH 03743



St Joseph Roman Catholic Church

stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

Pastor, Rev. Maria Sebastian Susairaj, HGN

sebaafri@comcast.net or 603-542-9518

Parish Finance Council

Rick Logan, Chairman

David Smith

Sharon Wood

Music Director

Richard Brown

Organists

Tristan Smith

Deborah Stone

Parish Office Hours

Wednesday, Oct 18 6:30 to 7:30 pm 603-542-5732

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 22, 9:00 am (earlier time!)

For the soul (†) of Tomasz Wilczoch
requested by his mother.

Wednesday, October 25, 5:00 pm

For the soul (†) of Paul St. Martin
requested by Tom DeVoyd.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 29, 9:15 am

For the soul (†) of Rev. Stanley J. Piowar
requested by Connie Barth.

Today's 2nd Collection is for World Missions.
Please write checks payable to St. Joseph Parish.
Total donations will be sent to the Diocese.

Offertory Oct. 15

Offertory	\$735.00
Polish Cooking Class	\$267.00
Candles	\$73.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$10.00
Total	\$1,085.00
Upcoming Collections	
Church Maintenance	Oct 29
Ongoing Collections	
NH Catholic Appeal (24 donors)	\$2,466.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$40.00

WHEN WRITING CHECKS

to St. Joseph Church, please mark the name of the collection (Offertory or Specific Collection)

Feast of All Saints Wednesday, Nov. 1 A Holyday of Obligation

Masses

9:00 am St. Mary Church
5:30 pm St Joseph Church

November is dedicated to All Souls.

Envelopes to be placed on the altar during the month of November are at the back of the church.

Please write the names of your memorial intentions on the envelope and put it in the collection basket with your donation.

Welcome Home
Father Sebastian!

Prayer List

Rev Msgr Donald Gilbert
Fr. John Loughnane
Chris Currier
Carol Girard
Isabella Gowell
Deborah Hemingway
Halford Jones
Tim Roberts
Brenda Ruest
Janet Ruest
Roger Sheehan
Barbara Trask
Chee Chee Tyrrell

To add a name to our Prayer List, please ask the person's permission first, and then notify Sherri Smith in the Church Hall after Mass. The Prayer List will be updated in the next bulletin.

The Sanctuary Lamp burns 24/7 near the tabernacle in all Catholic Churches in honor of the True Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns this week in memory of Julius and Gladys (Kudej) Fray requested by Sharon and Steve Wood and family.



Our Marian Candelabrum will be lit today in memory of the Polish immigrants who founded St. Joseph Church.

Masses and Sanctuary Lamp

Intentions may be scheduled with Sherri Smith in the Church Hall after each Mass or at the Rectory during Wednesday office hours by phone (603-542-5732) or in person.

Suggested donations: \$10.00

Questions *and* Answers

For Catholics

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One of the best ways to learn is to ask questions. Interestingly, the most significant summary of our Catholic faith was written by St. Thomas Aquinas (called the *Summa Theologica* – Summary of Theology) and is set up in a question-and-answer format. It's hard to believe an answer if you don't understand the question it is addressing. The Q&A below is no *Summa Theologica*, but hopefully some of these reflections will answer questions that are important to you.

Q. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? Why was she so young?

A. These two questions are actually hard to answer with accuracy. In many ways, the answers remain a mystery.

From a theological perspective, we can say that God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus because she, herself, was the Immaculate Conception. This means that she was the only fitting mother for God in the flesh. Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother in a miraculous way in that she was conceived without sin. God chose to bestow upon her a "preservative grace," meaning, God preserved her from all stain of sin, including Original Sin, at the moment of her creation in the womb of her mother. Of course, He did this so that she would be a fitting vessel for God the Son to become incarnate in her womb. The grace that preserved her came from the Cross of her Son Jesus, but it transcended time so as to free her at the moment of her conception. Thus, her Son was her Savior, even though He had not yet been born in time. If that's confusing, try to ponder it for a while. It's a great mystery of faith and a deep one also.

Additionally, Mary chose to remain free from sin throughout her life. Just as Adam and Eve were born without sin, so was Mary. But unlike Adam and Eve, Mary never freely chose to sin throughout her life. This made her the perfect vessel for the Son of God. Her body and soul were perfect, making her the perfect instrument.

But this only answers your question from one perspective. You might also be wondering, "But why Mary?" This is a question that is hard, if not impossible, to answer. It's most likely a matter of God's mysterious will. Perhaps God, who can see all things and knows all people even before they are born, looked at all women from all time and saw that Mary was the one who would never freely choose to sin. And perhaps for that reason God chose to gift her with the Immaculate Conception. But this is ultimately a mystery of faith that will be revealed only in Heaven.

As for your second question, "Why was she so young?" this might be easier to answer from a historical perspective. Today, in the twenty-first century, it's uncommon for a fifteen-year-old girl to marry and have a child. But it wasn't that way back then. When Mary had Jesus, she was seen, not as a dependent child, but as a young woman ready to start a family. So it's always important to try to understand the culture of the time when considering questions of history.

Grand Annual Collection

In October we began our parish's Grand Annual Collection. This will not be a one-time collection taken up at a weekend Mass, but an ongoing collection to build a fund for larger repair and maintenance projects on the various parish buildings, both current and future—similar to our Renovation Fund in past years. Grand Annual Collection envelopes are available at the back of the church. If you are not able to bring your weekly offertory or other donations to Mass, you may mail them to St Joseph Church, 58 Elm Street, Claremont, NH 03743 or bring it to the Rectory during Wednesday office hours..

Thank you for your generosity!

**Polish American Heritage Sunday
Hymns**

are in the printed programs
at the back of the church.

Mass Readings are on page #662.



Polish Month Coffee Hour
after Mass today!
All are invited!
No charge!
Free Will Offerings
welcome.



Welcome, Father Adrian!

Rev. Adrian Frackowiak, Administrator of St. Gabriel Parish,
Franklin and Tilton, is our celebrant this morning.

**Father Adrian will hear confessions before Mass,
beginning at 8:30 am.**

**CHOIR
REHEARSAL**

Wed. Oct 25

6:30 pm

**New members
welcome!**

HOMEBOUND?

Schedule a visit with Fr. Sebastian on the 2nd Monday of the month..

Call St Mary Parish Office
603-542-9518
or email

sebaafri@comcast.net

LASAGNA DINNER

Saturday Nov. 4th

4:30 - 6:30 pm

Dine In or Take Out

Tickets \$15

available at the door

**Proceeds to go towards the
purchase of a chest freezer
for the Parish Hall.**

**Donations also accepted
for this fund!**

RAFFLE TICKETS

on sale in Hall after Mass or at
the rectory during Wed. office hours.

1-20 Raffle to benefit the

Fuel Fund (\$20 ticket)

Drawing at Dec.10 Coffee Hour

ALSO

\$5/ticket Complete Turkey Dinner

**\$5/ticket Black Ops Arms \$100
gift certificate**

Drawings for these at the
Turkey Party on Nov, 19

Do not need to be present to win.

PLEASE REMEMBER

when visiting St Mary Church,
to park on the street,
in the parish lots across the
street,

or in the parking garage..

The lot next to St Mary Church
belongs to Grace River Church.
We have been asked not to use it.

**Confessions
at St. Mary Church**

Fridays

9:30 am

Saturdays

3:00 - 3:45pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

St Joseph Church Hall

Nov 11

Veterans Day Pancake Breakfast

Nov 12

Monthly Coffee Hour after Mass

Nov 16

Turkey Party

Dec. 2

Christmas Craft Fair

Dec. 10

**Coffee Hour and
1-20 Raffle drawing**

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Send information to be included
each week to

stjosephclaremont@gmail.com

by 3pm on Tuesday.

Our current bulletin may be viewed
online at

[https://www.jppc.net/onlinebulletins/
9021template.pdf](https://www.jppc.net/onlinebulletins/9021template.pdf)

Safety and Security

Please remember to lock
your car doors while at-
tending any event in the
church.

October is the Marian Month of the Holy Rosary

Feast Days and Memorials

Oct. 22: Pope St. John Paul II (1920-2005)

How fitting that the feast day of our beloved Polish Pope would be in October, as we celebrate Polish American Heritage Month! Born Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, he became the first non-Italian Pope in the history of the Papacy on Oct. 16, 1978. Much can be found about his life in books, magazines, and online. It is said that the archbishop who refused his request to join a monastery as a young man, told him, "You are destined for greater things." So he was!

October 23: St John of Capistrano, 1386-1456, Priest

Patron of Jurists, Military Chaplains

The son of a former German knight, St John was a lawyer in Naples, governor of Perugia, and a prisoner of war before entering the Franciscan community. Devoted to the holy Name of Jesus and His Mother, John traveled throughout Italy, Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia preaching penance and establishing numerous communities of Franciscan renewal. At the age of seventy, he led a victorious Christian army against the Turks in the great battle of Belgrade.

Oct 24: St Anthony Mary Claret, 1807-1870, Bishop

Patron of Textile Merchants, Weavers, Savings, Catholic press,
Technical and Vocational Educators

Born in Spain, the son of a weaver, young Anthony took up weaving himself before following his desire to be a Jesuit priest. He could not enter that Order because of his ill health, but he served as a secular priest. He founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known today as the Claretians, and the order of Claretian nuns known as the Apostolic Training Institute of the Immaculate Conception. He served as the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba in Cuba for seven years, before returning to the court of Queen Isabella II as confessor, remaining with her when she went into exile. St. Anthony Mary Claret had the gift of prophecy, performed many miracles, and participated in the First Vatican Council.

Oct 28: Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

This feast day is shared by two of the original followers of Jesus who suffered martyrdom together. Simon, surnamed the "Canaanite" or the "Zealot" for his rigid adherence to both Jewish and Canaanite laws, preached in Egypt before traveling to Persia with St. Jude. Jude's parents were Clopas and Mary, a cousin of the Virgin Mary. He was also known as "Thaddeus" (Courageous). St. Jude is the patron saint of those in despair or in hopeless situations.

More information about these and other saints is available at:

franciscanmedia.org/

my.catholic.life/saints/

catholic.org/

Readings for the Week - October 22, 2023

Today! 10-22: Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3-5, 7-10; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

Monday, 10-23: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday, 10-24: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday 10-25: Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8; Lk 12:39-48

Thursday 10-26: Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 12:49-53

Friday 10-27: Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday, Oct 28: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16

HAVE YOU HEARD OF "FORMED"?

It's a premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books and even cartoons for children. Best of all, it's FREE. Both St Mary and St Joseph parishioners can access the site and Fr. Sebastian would like us to take advantage of this opportunity. Go to formed.org, click on "sign up," type in our church's zip code (03743) and select the St Mary Church pop-up. You'll be surprised at what you will find to watch, listen, and learn!

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St. Jude,
Patron of the Impossible.



pray for us!

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Kevin Brown, FICF, LUTCF, CLTC®
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Assistant General Agent
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SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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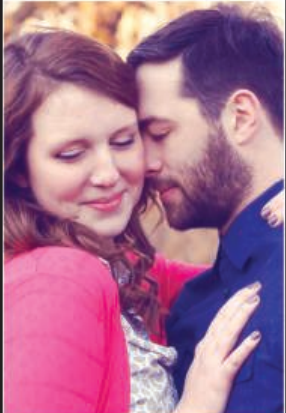


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