

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street, Claremont, NH 03743

Established 1920



December 14, 2025

St Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Website: stjosephclaremont.org

Email: stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

603-542-5732

Pastor, Rev. Maria Sebastian Susairaj, HGN

Pastor's Mailing Address:

32 Pearl Street, Claremont, NH 03743

sebaafri@comcast.net

1-603-504-5430

Parish Finance Council

Rick Logan, Chairman

David Smith, Sharon Wood

Music Director

Richard Brown

Sunday, December 14, 9:15 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

For the soul (†) of Carol Braga
requested by the Braga family

Wednesday, December 17, 5:00 pm

For the People

Sunday, December 21, 9:15 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

For Donna Jenkins
requested by her sister and family

Today's 2nd Collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025		68 Souls
Offertory		\$1,312.00
Fuel		\$969.00
Grand Annual Fund		\$100.00
Christmas flowers		\$40.00
Add'l Christmas Craft Fair Fundraiser		\$25.00
Votive Candles		\$7.00
Funeral Masses (2)		\$400.00
Hall rental for Funeral Luncheon		\$200.00
Mass Intentions		\$10.00
12-7-25 TOTAL AT MASS		\$3,063.00
PARISH GIVING ONLINE		
Offertory		\$633.80
Church Maintenance		\$149.60
Fuel		\$50.00
Catholic Relief Services		\$300.00
Retirement Fund for Religious		\$198.60
TOTAL ONLINE		\$1,332.00
TOTAL MASS and ONLINE		\$4,395.00

PLEASE MAKE SURE

all checks are correctly written.

Check the date, the amount of the check (both words and numerals) and that it is signed.

Thank you!

ONGOING COLLECTION

Grand Annual Fund

October 2025 - October 2026

\$2,620.00

We thank our latest donor for helping this fund grow!



Christmas Flower Fund

Envelopes are available at the back of the church for donations for Christmas altar flowers.

Please write your memorial intentions clearly on the envelopes so the names can be listed in our bulletin during the Christmas season.

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 today in memory of Stuart Stone, requested by his wife Mary, children, and grandchildren.



Mass and Sanctuary Lamp Intentions may be scheduled in the Church Hall after Sunday Mass.

Mass stipend for Priest: \$10

Suggested donation for Candle Intentions: \$10.00.

Visit the parish website today to find out how the consistency of signing up for Parish Giving™ helps our parish community prosper.



thank you



**New Hampshire Catholic Appeal:
Future of Our Faith II,
Jesus, I trust in You**



Our parish continues to work toward raising this year's goal of **\$9,116.00** for the NHCA. Thanks to the generosity of 24 parish families and the refund of \$1,000 raised over our 2024 goal, we have now raised \$5,806.00 with a pledge of an additional \$20 for a total of **\$5,826.00**. This represents **64%** of our goal.

If you have not donated yet to the appeal, please consider doing so now. Envelopes are at the back of the church. Please make checks payable to NHCA and that they are correctly written.

You may also make your gift by using the QR code above or by going online to www.catholicnh.org/nhca

The Retirement Fund for Religious

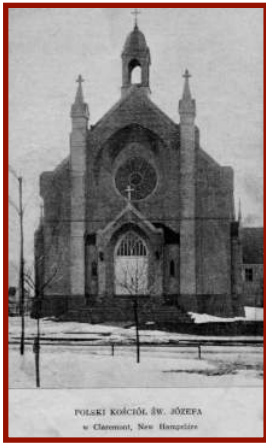
helps more than 20,500 elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have spent their lives in service —many receiving little to no pay. Now, their communities struggle to meet their basic care, medication, and daily living needs. Your generosity ensures they can age with dignity. Please give to this collection today in gratitude for their lifelong commitment.

UPCOMING 2nd COLLECTIONS

Dec. 21: No 2nd Collection

Dec. 25: Special Collection for Fuel

Dec. 28: Church Maintenance



Translation:
St. Joseph Polish Church
in Claremont, NH



Translation:
Very Rev. M. W. Sekiewicz
Current Parish Priest St.
Joseph in Claremont, NH

If you tune in to radio station WCNL Country (AM 1010 / FM 94.7), you may have heard a familiar story about our church. Thanks to Mary Brown for working with General Manager, Steve Smith, to arrange for this radio ad about the 100th Anniversary of our church and our Mass on Christmas morning.

“This Christmas, St. Joseph Church in Claremont has an extra reason to rejoice. One hundred years ago—on Christmas Day, 1925—the very first Mass was celebrated in our beautiful upper church. A century of faith, hope, and community... all beginning on the day our Savior was born.

This year, continue the celebration with us! Everyone is warmly invited to our Christmas Day Mass, Thursday, December 25th, at 9AM at 58 Elm Street in Claremont. Bring your family, bring your friends, and let’s give thanks together for 100 Christmases of God’s grace at St. Joseph Church. For the full story of our centennial and all our Christmas season events, visit stjosephclaremont.org.

From all of us at St. Joseph Parish... may your Christmas be filled with peace, love, and the light of Christ.

St. Joseph Church, Claremont.
A century of welcoming you
home for Christmas.”

READINGS FOR THE
WEEK

December 14 - 20, 2025

Sunday Is 11: 1-10; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 18; Rom 15: 4-10; Mt 3: 1-13

Monday Gen 3: 9-15, 20; Ps 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38

Tuesday Is 40: 1-11; Ps 96: 1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13; Mt 18: 12-14

Wednesday Is 40: 25-31; Ps 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11: 28-30

Thursday Is 41: 13-20; Ps 145: 1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab; Mt 11: 11-15

Friday Zec 2: 14-17; Jdt 13: 18bcde, 19; Lk 1: 26-38

Saturday Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17: 9a, 10-13

PRAYER

When life gets too hard to stand...

kneel.

The Story of Christmas Oplatek

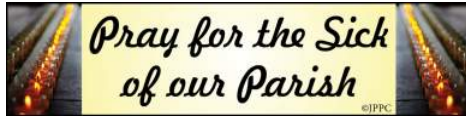
Our traditional Christmas wafer, known in Polish as Oplatek (oh-pwah'-tek), is simply made of flour and water and stamped with Christmas images, such as a Nativity scene. At the Wigilia (Vih gill' ee ah)dinner on Christmas Eve, a piece of oplatek is set at every place. The head of the family starts the tradition by praying for his family—those present and those absent, and sharing oplatek with each person at the table. One by one they break off a small piece as it is offered to them with a blessing such as “I wish you good health, happiness, and good fortune in the year ahead, and after this life, an eternal crown in heaven.” The small piece is placed on the tongue and consumed. Each person shares their oplatek in the same way, extending the blessing in a symbolic act of good will, peace and forgiveness for past hurts. Pieces of oplatek are often placed inside Christmas cards sent to family and friends who will not be able to join us for Christmas, allowing them to share it too. Special pink wafers are shared with household animals

Grammar		Pronunciation
(singular)	Oplatek	(Oh pwah' tek)
(plural)	Oplatki	(Oh pwaht' 'kee)



Oplutki for Christmas

Two package sizes: \$3 & \$4
Available in the church hall after Mass
stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com
Call Sharon Wood at 603-542- 6454.



Fr. John Loughnane
 John Arsenault
 Mark Baril
 Ashley Booher
 Brooke
 Jean Brown
 John Casey
 Elissa Coburn
 April Colle
 Chris Currier
 Eva Jane Demers
 Jean Drena
 Emma
 Frank Fahey
 Betty Gierko
 Carol Girard
 Isabella Gowell
 Gianna Gregorutti
 Stephen Grogan
 Betty Hayward
 Deborah Hemingway
 Christine Hunter
 Annette Lambert Huntington

Samuel Januszewski
 Tina Lange
 Carol Logan
 The Lord family
 Matt
 Michael
 Karen Ouellette
 Linda Patch
 Brenda Ruest
 Janet Ruest
 Nancy Ruest
 Paul Ruest
 Sonya Sheehan
 Joan Silver
 Bob St. Aubin
 Darlene St. Aubin
 Barbara Trask
 Janice Vilgats
 Daniel Walsh
 Joshua White
 Lawrence Woodward



Christmas Masses
St. Mary Church
 Wednesday, December 24
 Christmas Eve, 4 pm
 Thursday, December 25
 Midnight Mass: 12:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Church
 Thursday, December 25
 Christmas Day: 9 am Mass
Please note the earlier time than our regular Sunday Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 A Holy Day of Obligation
St. Joseph Church
 New Year's Eve
 Wed. Dec. 31: 5:30 p.m.
St. Mary Church
 New Year's Day,
 Thurs. Jan. 1: 9:00 am

To add a name to our Prayer List, please ask the person's permission first, then call Sharon Wood at 603-542-6454 or email stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

The Traveling Statue of Mary Program is a program of the New Hampshire State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Parishioners of St. Joseph and St Mary Churches are encouraged to welcome the statue into their home for a week or two and gather family, friends or neighbors to pray the rosary together. Pamphlets and blessed rosaries are provided. Call Steve Denis at 603-558-5209

Welcome
Come Worship With Us
 JPPC®

**Hymns for
the Third Sunday of Advent**

Entrance Hymn: Choir

Offertory Hymn: No. 194
"On Jordan's Bank"

Communion: Choir

Recessional Hymn: No.190
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
Verses 1 - 4



CHOIR REHEARSAL

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2025

1:00pm

All are welcome to Join!

Winter Weather Cancellations

If it becomes necessary to cancel the Wednesday afternoon Mass, choir rehearsal, or other church events because of the weather, we will again post the cancellation on the WMUR-TV notification system.

Please check their website or on-air broadcast for our listing.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

The Dec. 21st bulletin has already gone to the printer.

**Please send information by
5pm Wed. Dec. 17 for Dec. 28**

stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com
or call Sharon Wood at 603-542-6454

Current and past bulletins may be
seen online at

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



**Third Sunday of Advent (Joy)
Gaudete Sunday**

Advent Candles, shining brightly in the midst of darkness, are symbols that remind us of Jesus, who came as Light into our dark world.

During this 3rd week of Advent, the rose colored candle is lit and priests may wear rose colored vest-ments, to express joy in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

This Sunday is called "Gaudete Sunday" because when the Mass was said in Latin, the opening antiphon was "Gaudete in Domino semper" — "Rejoice in the Lord always."

**MASS READINGS
A/483**

Memorial Acclamation
"We proclaim
your death, O Lord, and
profess your resurrection
until you come again."



**CONFESSIONS
St. Mary Church**

Friday 9:30 am

Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 pm



**COFFEE HOUR
AFTER MASS
TODAY**

**All are Welcome
No Charge
Free Will Offering
Please Join Us!**

Diocesan Vocation Awareness

"I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you."

Are you called to be sent by Jesus as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office
(603) 663- 0196 or
email: cmartel@rcbm.org



**CDA Court #892
Christmas Luncheon
TODAY 1:00 pm
St. Joseph Church Hall**

If you use email and would like to be placed on the Parish email list to receive timely updates to our church schedule, please send us an email.
stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

**Roman Catholic Homebound
Ministry**

Homebound visits are made on the second Monday of every month. Father is assisted by one of the

Lay Ministers of the Holy Eucharist:

Steve Denis, Jackie Merrill,
Bill Pamplin, Gary Lambert.

If you or someone you know would like to receive a visit from Father Sebastian,

please call

Steve Denis at (603) 558-5209.

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Administrator
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164 Old Springfield Rd.
Charlestown, NH 03603
administration@thecampbellhouses.com

St. Jude,
Patron of the Impossible.



pray for us!



Bonnie Miles
Associate Broker

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 Message and data rates may apply.

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Welcome to Our Church!



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

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BEFORE YOU GET IN A RIDE SHARE

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