

# St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street, Claremont, NH 03743

Established 1920



December 21, 2025

## St Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Website: [stjosephclaremont.org](http://stjosephclaremont.org)  
Email: [stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sebaafri@comcast.net)  
**1-603-504-5430**

**Parish Finance Council**  
Rick Logan, Chairman  
David Smith, Sharon Wood

**Music Director**  
Richard Brown

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

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

For Donna Jenkins  
requested by her sister and family

### Thursday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.

#### The Nativity of the Lord (Please note the earlier time)

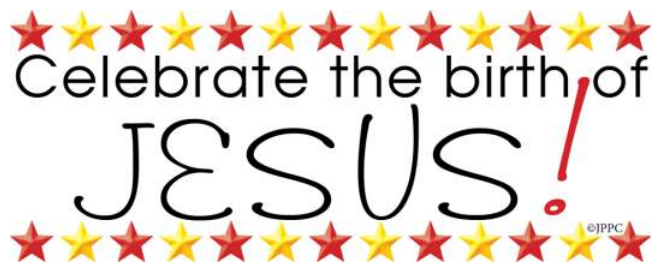
For the soul (†) of Rev. Stanley J. Piowar  
requested by St. Joseph Parish

### Sunday, December 28, 9:15 a.m.

#### Feast of the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph

For the soul (†) of Roger Sheehan  
requested by the Sheehan family

There is no 2nd Collection today.



<b>DECEMBER 8, 2025 HOLYDAY</b>	<b>73 Souls</b>
Offertory	\$369.00
Funeral Mass	\$200.00
<b>12-8-25 TOTAL AT MASS</b>	<b>\$569.00</b>

There is no Collection Table for Dec. 14 because this bulletin was sent to the printer on Friday, December 12, before the weekend Mass.

Next Sunday's bulletin will report the collections of both December 14 and 21.

**UPCOMING 2nd COLLECTIONS**

**December 25:** Special Collection for Fuel

**December 28:** Church Maintenance

**January 4:** No 2nd Collection

**January 11:** Fuel

**GRAND ANNUAL FUND**

**October 2025 - 2026 \$2,620.00**

We thank the donors who have contributed to this year's Fund since October 1, 2024.



**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!

**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.

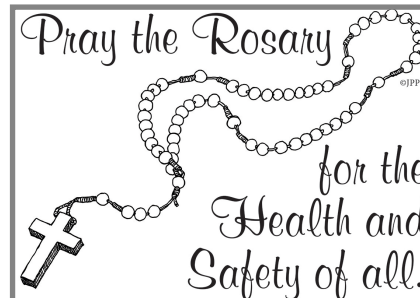
The Sanctuary Lamp burns 24/7 near the tabernacle in all Catholic Churches in honor of the True Presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It burns today in memory of Marianito and Belen Revilla requested by Emelda Jones and family.



**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.**



## Feast Days and Memorials

### December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)

Today the fourth purple candle, known as the Angels Candle, is lit. It represents God's immense love for humanity shown through Jesus and concludes the Advent journey toward Christmas. Laetare Sunday. Christ that has come to light the world. The white center candle, the "Christ Candle," will be lit. on Christmas Eve. It represents Purity and the life of Jesus Christ that has come to light the world.

### Dec 23: St. John of Kanty, Priest: 1390-1473

Born in Kęty, a small town near Oświęcim, Poland, Jan Kanty was a priest, philosopher, physicist and theologian. Also known by his Latin name, Joannes Cantius, he spent many hours copying manuscripts of the Holy Scriptures and other scholarly works. His work in physics helped to develop theories that anticipated the work of Galileo and Newton. He was well-known in Kraków for his generosity and compassion toward the poor, especially needy students at the university.

### Dec. 26: St Stephen, the First Martyr

Stephen was one of the first seven deacons of the Church who were ordained to assist the twelve Apostles in carrying out the practical needs of the people under their care. They took on the responsibility of feeding the poor, much like modern day social workers. The Sanhedrin accused Stephen of blasphemy because of his preaching. It is said that St Paul, when he was known as Saul of Tarsus, a persecutor of the early Church, witnessed Stephen's trial and execution by stoning shortly before he himself encountered the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus. It is a British tradition to collect money for the poor throughout the year and distribute it on Boxing Day, the feast of St. Stephen.

### Dec 27: St John, Apostle, Evangelist

Patron of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors

John was one of the Twelve Apostles who were called by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. Also referred to as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple, he was the younger brother of St. James the Great, another one of the Twelve. John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only one not to die a martyr's death.

John, standing faithfully at the cross, was called to be the guardian of Mary. "When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son! Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household" (John 19: 26-27)

According to tradition, after Mary's Assumption into Heaven, John went to Ephesus, and was later banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek Island of Patmos. It is believed that this was where he wrote the Book of Revelation. He is also credited as the author of three Epistles and one Gospel.

READINGS FOR THE  
WEEK

### December 21 - 27, 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



### Opłatki for Christmas

Two package sizes: \$3 & \$4

Available in the church hall after Mass  
stjosephclaremont@gmail.com  
Call Sharon Wood at 603-542- 6454.

**Hymns for  
the Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Entrance Antiphon: Choir**

**Offertory Hymn: No. 200**  
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

**Communion: Choir**

**Recessional Hymn: No.190**  
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Verses 5 - 7



**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love)**

Today the fourth purple candle, known as the Angels Candle, is lit. It represents God's immense love for humanity shown through Jesus and concludes the Advent journey toward Christmas.

**MASS READINGS  
A/486**

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

**CHOIR REHEARSAL**

**Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025**  
**1:00pm**  
**All are welcome to Join!**

**CONFESSIONS**

**St. Mary Church**  
**Friday 9:30 am**  
**Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 pm**

**STO LAT! (100 Years!)**

St. Joseph Parish  
is celebrating 100 Years  
since the first Mass  
in our new upper church!

**December 25, 1925**



**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*

Fr. John Loughnane  
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

Please pray for  
the repose of the soul of  
John Arsenault,  
brother-in-law of Mary Brown.

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



**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

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES**

**Please send information for the Jan 4th bulletin by 5pm Tues. Dec. 23.**

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>

**THANK YOU**  
to all who helped with  
the  
**COFFEE HOUR**  
last Sunday, to all who  
brought something to  
share, and all who came.



## *A Christmas Message from Our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

As we gather around the manger this Christmas, our hearts are drawn once again to the humble stable of Bethlehem, where God became one of us. In the silence of that holy night, heaven touched the earth; the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. The birth of Jesus is not just a story to be remembered — it is a gift to be received, a hope to be renewed, and a love that continues to live in our midst.

Christmas reminds us that God comes to us not with power and grandeur, but with simplicity, gentleness, and peace. He enters our homes, our families, and our hearts quietly, asking only that we welcome Him with faith. Like Mary and Joseph, like the shepherds who came in haste, may we bow before the mystery of God's love and allow the light of Christ to guide our steps.

As a parish family, we have walked together this year—praying, serving, celebrating, and supporting one another. For this we are deeply grateful. May this sacred season strengthen our unity, deepen our compassion, and inspire us to carry Christ's peace into our community and our world.

May the Child Jesus bless your families with joy, fill your homes with laughter, and grant you renewed hope in the New Year 2026. Let us celebrate not only with our voices and traditions, but with hearts open to God who is Emmanuel—God with us.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and grace-filled New Year.

Christ is born—let us adore Him.

Merry Christmas.

Fr.Susairaj Maria Sebastian HGN

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St. Jude,  
Patron of the Impossible.



pray for us!



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Associate Broker

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