

# St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street

Claremont, NH 03743



November 26, 2023

## St Joseph Roman Catholic Church

stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

**Pastor, Rev. Maria Sebastian Susairaj, HGN**

sebaafri@comcast.net or 1-603-322-1644

### Parish Finance Council

Rick Logan, Chairman  
David Smith  
Sharon Wood

### Music Director

Richard Brown  
**Organists**  
Tristan Smith  
Deborah Stone

### Parish Office Hours

Wednesday, Nov. 29 10:00am to 1:00 pm 603-542-5732

### Solemnity of Christ the King

**Sunday, November 26, 9:15 am**

For the soul (†) of Benny Beebe  
requested by his sister Gianna

**Wednesday November 29, 5:00 pm**

For a special intention  
requested by Karl Eno

### First Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, December 3, 9:15 am**

For the soul (†) of Raymond Janelle  
requested by his family

Today's 2nd collection is for Church Maintenance.

<b>Upcoming Collections</b>	
Fuel Retirement Fund for Religious Church Maintenance	December 3 December 10 December 17
<b>Ongoing Collections</b>	
NH Catholic Appeal (24 donors)	\$2,366.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$2,330.00

Our monthly collection for fuel has been moved one week ahead to Dec. 3 because the Collection for the Diocesan Retirement Fund will be on Dec. 10.

Because this bulletin went to press before Nov 19, the collection for that Sunday will be reported in next week's bulletin.

### 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 & maintenance projects on the various parish buildings, 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!

### WHEN WRITING CHECKS

to St. Joseph Church, please mark the name of the collection (Offertory or Specific Collection) to be sure it is put in the right place.

### Safety & Security

Please remember to lock your car doors while attending any event in the church.

### Christmas Flower Fund

Envelopes are available in the back of the Church for donations for Christmas altar flowers. Please write your memorial intentions clearly on the envelope so that the donation list can be printed at Christmas

## THANK YOU!

to Ron Gilbert and Rusty Fowler who served as co-chairs for our Turkey Party and to the many people who worked behind the scenes to make this event happen.

### Congratulations to the Winners!!

Complete Thanksgiving dinner: Claire Willett  
Black Op gift certificate: Rick Logan  
Ham Grand prize: Susan Januszewski

We are pleased to be able to continue this traditional event and are grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success.

### Prayer List

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



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 David H. Smith requested by Sharon and Steve Wood.



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 or leave a message on the answering machine at the rectory. (603-542-5732)

### 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 are \$10.00.

**Confessions**  
**at St. Mary Church**  
Fridays 9:30 am  
Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm

### NEW OFFICE HOURS

Wed. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm or by appointment.  
Evening office hours have been discontinued.  
We thank Roy Stone, who has had the "night watch" since the start of office hours at the rectory.

### 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](mailto:sebaafri@comcast.net)

# Questions *and* Answers

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## 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. Do animals go to Heaven?

A. Every priest hears this question from children! It seems that the deep affection children (and all people) have for their pets leads them to a strong desire for a "yes" to this question. So the answer is... "yes," "maybe," "not exactly," and "you can hope!"

This difficult question does not have a clear and absolute answer. Therefore, any of the above answers could be correct. However, let's offer some clarity and possibilities regarding the afterlife and animals.

First of all, when we humans die, that is, when we die in this age in history before Jesus returns to establish "[The new Heavens and Earth](#)," we believe that our body and soul separate. The body dies and is "laid to rest" until Jesus returns in all His glory and brings about the resurrection of the body. Until then, the body is dead. However, human spirits live on. Our spirit cannot die and, thus, Heaven (or Purgatory or Hell) awaits our spirits after earthly death. Only humans, angels, and God have eternal spirits. Animals do not. Therefore, for now, when an animal dies, it is dead and there is no spirit that lives on in Heaven.

But wait just a moment! There is hope that your pet, and all creatures, will rise again. How and why? The reason you can have this hope is because from the very beginning of time, in the original state of holiness (the Garden of Eden) there were animals. So, even though animals do not have eternal spirits, they are physical and have what we may call an animal soul. An animal soul does die when the animal dies, but there is no telling what might happen at the resurrection of the dead! When Jesus returns in all His glory and all humans rise from the dead, will animals and all living creatures also rise? This is something you can hope for.

Furthermore, [Isaiah 11:6](#) speaks prophetically about this new age to come. That passage says, "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them." So is this a literal statement? Is it proof that animals will rise? Or is it just symbolic and figurative? Hard to tell. However, for that reason, it is worth having hope that animals will have some share in the new Heavens and Earth to come!

### Readings for the Week - November 26, 2023

Today, Nov 26: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Mon. Nov 27: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

Tues. Nov 28: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

Wed Nov 29: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

Thurs Nov 30: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Fri. Dec 1: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

Sat. Dec 2: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36

### 33rd Sunday'in Ordinary Time

**Entrance Hymn: No. 284**  
"Christ Is the King"

**Offertory Hymn: No. 286**  
"Jesus Shall Reign"

**Communion: (Choir)**

**Recessional Hymn: No. 287**  
"To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King "

Today's Mass  
Readings are found  
on page #677.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 29**  
**6:30 pm.**  
**New members welcome!**

**1-20 RAFFLE**  
**to benefit the Fuel Fund**  
**(\$20 ticket)**  
**for sale in Church Hall after Mass**  
Drawing at Dec.10 Coffee Hour  
Do not need to be present to win.

**PECANS FOR SALE**  
in the Church Hall after Mass

### WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!

Fr. Sebastian is pleased to announce that the website for St. Joseph Church was launched Wednesday afternoon November 15th! You may find it at [stjosephclaremont.org](http://stjosephclaremont.org)

We send a big thank you to Alexander J. Rementer, Director of Information Technology at John Patrick Publishing who worked with our staff here at St. Joseph's to bring this effort to fruition. The website development is a benefit that our Parish receives in addition to the printing of our bulletin. It does not incur any cost and offers the option of Electronic Giving.

More information and training will be forthcoming from the Parish Finance Council in the near future. Please log in and take a look around!



## Christmas Craft Fair

**Saturday December 2nd**

**9am – 1 pm**

**St Joseph's Church Hall**

**58 Elm St**

**Claremont, NH**

**Refreshments Available**

Handicap Accessible



Welcome in the 2023 Christmas Season  
with

## The Area Choir's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Concerts

at South Congregational Church  
20 Church Street, Newport, NH

**Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 pm**

**Sunday, December 3 at 3:30 pm**

*Maximum capacity anticipated at the afternoon concert*

**Sunday, December 3 at 7:30 pm**

Susan Cancio-Bello, Director of Music  
Alexander Stewart, Pianist & Bell Choir Director  
Beverly Caldon, Organist  
Katie Parker Ames, Flutist

The Earle Pollard Memorial Bell Choir

*The Sterling String Quartet\**

\* Made possible by a grant from The Choral Arts Foundation of the Upper Valley

*No admission charge, there will be a free-will offering at each performance.*

### 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](http://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!

Go to [formed.org](http://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!

### The Area Choir

is composed of singers from many churches in NH and VT. Steve Wood and Karen Parker, from St. Joseph Church, and Mark Lafontaine from St. Mary's are members of this year's choir. Karen and David Parker's daughter Katie is a featured musician in the program. Please plan to attend one of the performances as the choir celebrates this milestone year!

## Feast Days and Memorials

### Nov 26: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universezzzz

This feast day was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as the Feast of Christ the King. It was intended to proclaim Christ's royalty over all and to remind us not to live our lives as though God did not exist. As the Creator of the universe, He has supreme power over all things. He is God and our Redeemer. We belong to Him and He is Head of the Church.



### Nov 30: Feast of St Andrew, Apostle

#### Patron of fishermen, singers, Scotland, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine

Andrew, an apostle of Jesus, a "Protoclete" or First Called, is mentioned in the Gospel of Luke as being Simon Peter's older brother. In the Gospel of John, he is described as having been a disciple of John the Baptist and as the apostle who told Jesus about the boy with the loaves and fishes. Following Jesus' death and resurrection, he is said to have preached around the shores of the Black Sea and in what is now Greece and Turkey. Condemned to crucifixion and feeling unworthy to be nailed to the same kind of cross as Jesus, he asked to be bound to an X-shaped cross, now known as "St. Andrew's Cross."

### The end of the Year of Grace, 2023



Photos from the Turkey Party were taken by Father Sebastian.



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St. Jude,  
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pray for us!

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