

# St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street

Claremont, NH 03743



December 3, 2023

## St Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Website: [stjosephclaremont.org](http://stjosephclaremont.org)

Email: [stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com)

## Pastor, Rev. Maria Sebastian Susairaj, HGN

Pastor's Mailing Address:

32 Pearl Street, Claremont, NH 03743

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

1-603-322-1644

## Parish Finance Council

Rick Logan, Chairman

David Smith

Sharon Wood

## Music Director

Richard Brown

## Organists

Tristan Smith

Deborah Stone

## Parish Office Hours

Wednesday, Dec. 6 10:00am to 1:00 pm

603-542-5732

## First Sunday of Advent

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

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

## Wednesday December 6, 5:00 pm

For Bradley Anderson and  
for the soul (†) of John Sheehan  
requested by Deborah and Roy Stone

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

**Thursday December 7, 5:30 pm**

For the soul (†) of Tomasz Wilczoch  
requested by the Wilczoch family

## Second Sunday of Advent

**Sunday, December 10, 9:15 am**

For the soul (†) of Stuart Stone  
requested by Mary, Jonathan, Lianne,  
Christian and Nicholas Stone

**Today's 2nd collection is for Fuel.**

<b>Offertory November 19</b>	\$776.00
Campaign for Human Development and the Black & Indian Missions	\$229.00
Fuel	\$100.00
Candles	\$38.00
Mass Intentions	\$20.00
Fundraiser (Turkey Party)	\$1,973.00
<b>11-19-23 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,136.00</b>
<b>Offertory November 26</b>	\$643.00
Church Maintenance	\$408.00
Grand Annual	\$100.00
Candles	\$44.50
Christmas Flowers	\$10.00
<b>11-26-23 TOTAL</b>	<b>1,205.50</b>
<b>Upcoming Collections</b>	
Retirement Fund for Religious Church Maintenance	Dec 10 Dec 17
<b>Ongoing Collections</b>	
NH Catholic Appeal (24 donors)	\$2,366.00
Grand Annual Collection	\$2,430.00



December 8th  
is a Holy Day of Obligation.  
Masses will be  
Dec 7 5:30pm St Joseph Church  
Dec 8 9am at St Mary Church

**Prayer List**

Rev Msgr Donald Gilbert  
Fr. John Loughnane  
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

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 Rectory's answering machine (603-542-5732)



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 Ian Pierce requested by Mary and Richard Brown.

Our Marian Candelabrum will be lit on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in memory of Stuart Stone requested by his wife Mary.



**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.

Donations for All Souls Day Intentions totaled \$365.00. We thank all those who contributed.

**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.

**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.

Because of the need to reschedule, the Mass on Sunday, Nov. 26 was offered in memory of Maria Bertoni Beebe and Benny Beebe, requested by Gianna Gregorutti.

**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!

# Questions *and* Answers

©JPPC

## For Catholics

Copyright © 2022 My Catholic Life! Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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. I have a friend who seems to be questioning her religion. She isn’t sure she even believes in God. What can I tell her?**

A. Well, first of all I’d say she is fortunate to have a friend like you who is concerned for her and for her faith! Oftentimes, the number-one reason a person rediscovers God is because of the care and concern of a friend or family member. So stay close to her and keep talking to her. But the question is, “What can I tell her?” I think the best way to answer this is to first look at why people seem to question their religion and belief in God in the first place.

Questioning God, or one’s religion, is very common. And believe it or not, I’d say that doing this is actually an essential part of growing in faith. As long as it’s done the right way!

I think we can “question” our faith in one of two ways. First, the unhealthy way to question is to doubt our faith. Doubts can enter in for a variety of reasons. Perhaps some very difficult situation has entered someone’s life. They can wonder why God let this happen. Or perhaps someone is lured away from God by the passing pleasures of this world or becomes steeped in materialism, one’s occupation, or some sin.

In these cases, it can happen that a person begins to doubt God’s existence because they either don’t understand God or they feel guilty about how they are living. Doubting God is the easiest way to temporarily get rid of that guilt. People can also believe in God but begin to doubt their religion. I can think of people who have left the Catholic Church, for example, and discovered God elsewhere.

Oftentimes this happens because of some hurt they experienced by members of our Church. This simply reveals the fact that the human part of our Church is imperfect. But what is important to point out is that the divine part of our Church is always perfect and that’s the number-one reason to continue to seek God within the context of a religion, which in this case is the Catholic Church. We, as Catholics, believe that despite the imperfections within our Church on a human level, God still guarantees that the fullness of true faith is found within the Catholic Church. So for those who have been hurt or confused within our Catholic Church, it is always important to give it a second chance.

There is also a “healthy” way to question our faith and religion. This is where we simply and humbly admit that we don’t have all the answers and don’t understand everything. But this questioning doesn’t lead to doubts; rather, it leads to a zealous search for the Truth. This is the kind of questioning that Mary entered into when she asked the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation, “How can this be?” She didn’t doubt, but she did want greater understanding. Indeed God, throughout her life, continued to give her greater insight and understanding when the time was right.

So what can you tell your friend? First, simply tell her you care and that you want to listen. Try to understand her questions and confusion. Try to discover if she was hurt or is angry. When you can get at the source of her current struggle, you will be in a better position to offer her direction. Often the best way to do this is to share your own personal faith in God and love for your religion. And pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you in this and give you the right words to say at the right time. And pray for her daily.

Armed with this approach, I trust that God will help you make a difference in your friend’s life!

[www.mycatholic.life](http://www.mycatholic.life)

### **Readings for the Week - December 3, 2023**

Sunday, Dec 3: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Monday Dec 4: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday Dec 5: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday Dec 6: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday Dec 7: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday Dec 8: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Saturday Dec 9: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### First Sunday of Advent

#### Entrance Hymn: No. 193

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

**Offertory Hymn: No. 195**  
"Creator of the Stars of Night"

**Communion: (Choir)**

**Recessional Hymn: No. 196**  
"O Come, Divine Messiah"



### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Wed. Dec. 6

6:30 pm

New members  
welcome!

Today's Mass Readings are  
First Sunday of Advent / B  
on page #478.

### Confessions at St. Mary Church

Fridays 9:30 am  
Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm

### THANK YOU

to all who worked on or  
otherwise supported our  
Christmas Craft Fair.

### THANK YOU

to all who brought in or  
contributed  
to having fresh flowers or plants  
on our Altars during the  
Liturgical Year.

### Oplátky for Christmas

\$3 for a packages of four  
traditional Polish wafers inside an  
illustrated envelope with the story  
of the tradition printed on the back.  
Available in the church hall after  
Mass, in the rectory during  
Wednesday office hours or  
call 603-542- 5732 or  
stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

### Raffle Tickets

to benefit the **Fuel Fund**  
**(\$20 ticket)**

for sale in Church Hall  
after Mass

Drawing at next week's Coffee  
Hour

Don't need to be present to win.

### Winter Weather Cancellations:

If it becomes necessary to cancel  
the Wednesday afternoon Mass,  
rectory office hours or choir rehearsal,  
we will again be using the WMUR-TV  
notification system. Please check the  
cancellations listed on their website or  
broadcast on air.



### Coffee Hour

Next Sunday Dec. 10  
All are welcome!  
Free Will Offering

### Knights of Columbus 3rd Degree

Monday Dec. 11, 7pm

Council Chambers,  
St Mary's Gym



### 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

**PECANS may be  
purchased  
in the church hall  
after Mass.**

### Safety and Security

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

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 an email to:

**stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com**

You can view our bulletin, and other valuable  
information, on our new website at  
**stjosephclaremont.org**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The email address uses **St Josephs**  
(plural) but the website address is singular (**St Joseph**)

### 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!

### CHANGE IN BULLETIN DEADLINE

Because of the upcoming holiday  
schedules at JCCP, our bulletin printers,  
there are much earlier deadlines for us to  
send them our completed bulletins.

If you have something you would like to  
see put into our bulletin in the next two  
weeks, please send it ASAP to  
[stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com)

## Feast Days and Memorials

### Dec 3: First Sunday of Advent (Hope)

Advent, derived from the Latin word for 'coming,' is the name given to the four weeks before Christmas when we prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world. The First Sunday of Advent falls on the Sunday that is closest to November 30, St. Andrew's Day, and can range from November 27th to December 3rd.



The lighting of an Advent Wreath is a long-held European tradition. The gradual lighting of the four candles, one on each Sunday of the Advent season, combined with the liturgical colors of the candles, help to symbolize not only our expectation and hope in Our Savior's first coming into the world, but also in his Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world. The wreath itself, a circle of evergreen, is also symbolic of everlasting life. The seedpods, nuts and cones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection, and fruits represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life.

### Dec 4: Feast of St. John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church, c675-749

#### Patron of pharmacists, icon painters, theology students

John Mansur was born into a wealthy Arab-Christian family in Damascus, Syria, and held a high position in the court of the caliph. He chose to resign and enter a monastery in Jerusalem. At this time veneration of images was outlawed by Emperor Leo III, who ordered all statues, icons, and mosaics to be destroyed. John of Damascus became known for his writings in defense of the practice, explaining the objects were venerated, not worshiped. He is also known as one of the most important writers of hymns in Eastern Orthodoxy.

### Dec 6: St Nicholas, Bishop, 270-343 AD

#### Patron of children, brides, perfumers, poets, bankers, pawnbrokers, travelers, sailors, fishermen, dock workers, brewers, prisoners

St. Nicholas, the 4th C. bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, is called Sw. Mikolaj in Poland, and celebrated as a saintly and dignified figure who was known for his charity. Traditional commemorations of St. Nicholas Day recreate the story of the good bishop coming down from Heaven with an angel helper and traveling on foot or in a sleigh pulled by a white horse. Wearing a bishop's robe and carrying a crozier, he visits homes in the countryside. When children spot him, they cry out, "He has come! He has come!" Gifts of holy pictures, red apples or oranges, and pierniki (gingerbread or spice cookies) are given along with comments on their behavior over the last year. If such an event isn't held, St. Nicholas comes as children are sleeping and leaves treats under their pillows or in cleaned and polished shoes left out the night before.



### Dec 7: Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, 347-397

#### Patron of Beekeepers, beggars, learners, and of Milan

Born to a Roman Christian family in Belgic Gaul (present-day Germany) Saint Ambrose is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He felt that giving to the poor was merely a repayment of God's resources, which were intended for everyone equally. He believed that the liturgy was a tool to serve people in worshipping God, and ought not to become a rigid and invariable from place to place. He is said to have advised Augustine of Hippo to follow local liturgical customs. "When I am at Rome, I fast on a Saturday; when I am at Milan, I do not. Follow the custom of the church where you are," he stated. This advice remains today, and is translated in English as the saying, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."



### Dec 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This holy day was established on December 8, 1854 when Pope Pius IX pronounced in *Ineffabilis Deus* that the Blessed Virgin Mary was given the grace to be sinless at the instant of her conception. He proclaimed, "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin."

[www.catholic.org/](http://www.catholic.org/)

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/>

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/around-the-world/customs/poland>

<https://mycatholic.life/>

[www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

Family Owned & Operated

# Stringer

Funeral Homes, Inc. and Crematorium

146 Broad Street, Claremont, NH  
(603) 543-3146 [www.stringerfh.com](http://www.stringerfh.com)

*Directors*  
Michael D.Stringer Scott W. Stringer

R. E. *24/7 Emergency Service*

# HINKLEY

Co., Inc. (603) 543-3571  
[www.rehinkley.com](http://www.rehinkley.com)

Heating Oil • Kerosene • Diesel Fuel  
Propane • Air Conditioning • Plumbing  
Systems Design • Installation & Service  
~ Fully Insured ~

8 Lane Ridge Rd. • P.O. Box 832  
Claremont, NH 03743

St. Jude,  
Patron of the Impossible.



pray for us!

**Discover the Catholic Difference**

Rely on the **Knights of Columbus** to help protect your family's future.

**A name you know and trust. An organization you can believe in.**

Contact me today to learn more about our products

**Kevin Brown**, FICF, LUTCF, CLTC®  
MDRT

Assistant General Agent  
603-305-0204  
[Kevin.Brown@kofc.org](mailto:Kevin.Brown@kofc.org)



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
SAMANTHA JOSEPHSON

S A M I  
STOP ASK MATCH INFORM

**ASK**  
#WHATSMYNAME  
BEFORE YOU GET  
IN A RIDE SHARE

 American Red Cross

**Make a Difference in Your Community**

# VOLUNTEER

with the American Red Cross

Join today at [redcross.org/Volunteer](http://redcross.org/Volunteer)

 Automotive Service Excellence  
**Master Auto Technician**

**FAIR AND HONEST SERVICE**  
ALL MAKES AND MODELS

# ROBERTS AUTO SERVICE LLC

Complete Car & Truck Service And Repair

**Tim Roberts**  
9 Little Ascutney Road  
Perkinsville, Vermont 05151  
**802-384-3708**



**Mallory's Army Foundation**  
United Together In The Fight Against Bullying...  
Don't Just Teach Kindness... BE KINDNESS!

[www.MallorysArmy.com](http://www.MallorysArmy.com)  
(973) 440-8657 • [info@mallorysarmy.org](mailto:info@mallorysarmy.org)

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:  
Text MALLORYSARMY to 22828 to get started.



 Message and data rates may apply.

**Thank You**  
to our  
bulletin sponsors!

Your continued support has not gone unnoticed by your parish community and is SO appreciated!

**Weekly Bulletin Sponsors:**  
In addition to your weekly bulletin advertisement, you also have FREE access to your very own FindingFABER™ account! The FindingFABER™ app allows you to post realtime promotions/coupons, flash deals, information and listings at any time - 24/7, day or night! As a current sponsor, you should visit [www.FindingFABER.com](http://www.FindingFABER.com) to get started! Your posts are available to the entire community, not only our parishioners! We encourage you to take advantage of this exciting, FREE resource! As with any new app, the more it is used the more exciting it becomes!

*You may be asking yourself, "who or what is Finding FABER?"*

**Parishioners:** If you visit your app store, and download the FindingFABER™ app, you can see and more importantly use, the deals and info posted by our bulletin sponsors! Just show your phone when you find a sponsor while using the app! The more the app is used, the better it will get!

**catholicmatch®**  
New Hampshire



[CatholicMatch.com/dateNH](http://CatholicMatch.com/dateNH)

**Welcome to Our Church!**



Local, trusted, proven, effective, supportive, referrals, relationships, affordable, repetitious, versatile, lasting.

This describes the power of... **Church Bulletin Advertising**

Placing an ad in the parish bulletin supports the parish while building your business  
- THAT'S A WIN WIN!  
Call 1.800.333.3166 TODAY!