

# St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

58 Elm Street, Claremont, NH 03743

Established 1920



## 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. 27, 10:00am to 1:00 pm

603-542-5732

### Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 24, 9:15 am

For the People

### Solemn Mass of Christmas by Candle Light Christmas Eve, 4:30 pm

For the soul (†) of Fr. George Majka  
requested by Connie Barth

### Wednesday December 27, 5:00 pm

For the soul (†) of Kevin Breault  
requested by Bill and Nancy Alexander

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday, December 31, 9:15 am

For Katey Comstock and Roger Sheehan  
requested by Roy and Deborah Stone

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24**

There will be no  
Second Collection  
at this Mass.

Because this bulletin went to  
press before December 17,  
that Sunday's collections  
will be reported next week.



**Prayer List**

Rev Msgr Donald Gilbert	Fr. John Loughnane
Brenda	Chris Currier
Jean Drena	Frederick Gallant
Carol Girard	Isabella Gowell
Stephen Grogan	Deborah Hemingway
Halford Jones	Tim Roberts
Brenda Ruest	Janet Ruest
Roger Sheehan	Barbara Trask
Becky Trombley	Chee Chee Tyrrell

**Christmas Flower Fund**

Envelopes for donations are at the back  
of the church. Your intentions will be  
printed in the list in next week's bulletin.



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)

This afternoon, December 24th,  
Confessions will be available  
in our Church at 4:00 pm

**Solemn Mass of Christmas  
by Candle Light  
4:30 pm.**

There will be a  
Second Collection for Fuel

**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.

**Grand Annual Collection**

In October we began our parish's Grand Annual Collec-  
tion. 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!

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  
Joseph & Ashley Januszewski  
requested by their family.**



**ONGOING COLLECTIONS**  
NH Catholic Appeal (24 donors)  
**\$2,716.00**  
Grand Annual Collection  
**\$2,430.00**

**Confessions**  
**St Mary Church**  
**Friday 9:30 am**  
**Saturday 3:00-3:45**

Celebrate the birth of  
**JESUS!**  
©JPPC

# *Christmas Flower Memorials*

*In memory of*

*John Barth*, requested by his family

*The Brown and Gaudette families*, requested by Richard & Mary Brown

*Edgar and Giselle Condon*, requested by Ann-Marie Fowler

*Augusta and Leona Girard, Alfred and Helen Loiselle*, requested by Donald & Amarylis Girard

*Lena Jewell*, requested by Celeste & David Bourque, Sr.

*The Marcotte and Arsenault families*, requested by Mary and Richard Brown

*Bill Matthews*, requested by his grandsons, Dominic and Dante

*Carl and Leona Rice, Carl and John Rice*, requested by Beverly Rice

*Frank and Simone Riviezzo*, requested by Mary Stone and family

*Stuart Stone*, requested by Mary Stone and family

*Tomasz Wilczoch*, requested by Mirka Wilczoch

*We thank all who contributed. Names will be added next week for additional intentions.*

**Wesołych  
Świąt  
Bożego  
Narodzenia**

**Merry  
Christmas!**



## **Readings for the Week - December 24, 2023**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Vigil)** Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Night)** Is 9:1-6 Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 Ti 2:11-14 Lk 2:1-14

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Dawn)** Is 62:11-12 Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12 Ti 3:4-7 Lk 2:15-20

**Monday, December 25, 2023 (Day)** Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

**Tuesday, December 26, 2023** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 Mt 10:17-22

**Wednesday, December 27, 2023** 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a and 2-8

**Thursday, December 28, 2023** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 Mt 2:13-18

**Friday, December 29, 2023** 1 Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 Lk 2:22-35

**Saturday, December 30, 2023** 1 Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 Lk 2:36-40

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Entrance Hymn: No. 190**  
"Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"  
Verses 5-7

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

**Communion: (Choir)**  
**Recessional Hymn: No. 200**  
"Savior of the Nations, Come"

Fourth Sunday of  
Advent Mass  
Readings / B  
Page #487.

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

**Wed. Dec. 27**  
**6:30 pm**  
**New members**  
**welcome!**

**January 1st, 2024**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**  
**Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year**  
because it falls on a Monday.

**There will not be Mass at**  
**St. Joseph Church**  
**on Monday, New Year's Day.**

January 1, 2024, 9:00 am  
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God  
will be celebrated at St Mary Church.

### Winter Weather Cancellations:

If it becomes necessary to  
cancel Wednesday 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.

### Oplátky for Christmas

\$3 for a package 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.

**How do you say it?**  
"Oh-pwah' tek" (singular)  
"Oh-pwah' key" (plural)



Depiction of the traditional Wigilia Dinner  
on Christmas Eve in a Polish home.

**How do you say it?** "Vee-gheel'-yah"

### 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)

### PECANS

"Chocolate Covered  
Cinnamon  
Turtles and Cashews"

**For Sale**  
**after Mass**  
**in our 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 an email to:  
**[stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com)**

You can view our bulletin, and other valuable  
information, on our new website at  
**[stjosephclaremont.org](http://stjosephclaremont.org)**

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

### Safety and Security

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

### 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 & Memorials

### 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.

### Dec. 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Patrons of small children

This Feast Day remembers the infants who were killed at the order of King Herod. In his attempt to find and destroy Jesus, he instead ended the lives of thousands of infant boys. By their deaths, these Innocents saved Jesus from death. The feast is traditionally celebrated soon after Christmas, acknowledging the connection their deaths have with the birth of Our Lord. Prayers are asked for young children who have perished by abortion, starvation, and war.

### Dec. 29: St Thomas Becket, Bishop, 1118-1170, Martyr

As Archbishop of Canterbury, he defended the freedoms and rights of the Church, and was killed on the orders of Henry II. He was canonized only three years after his death and is considered the most famous martyr of the Middle Ages.

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

<https://mycatholic.life>

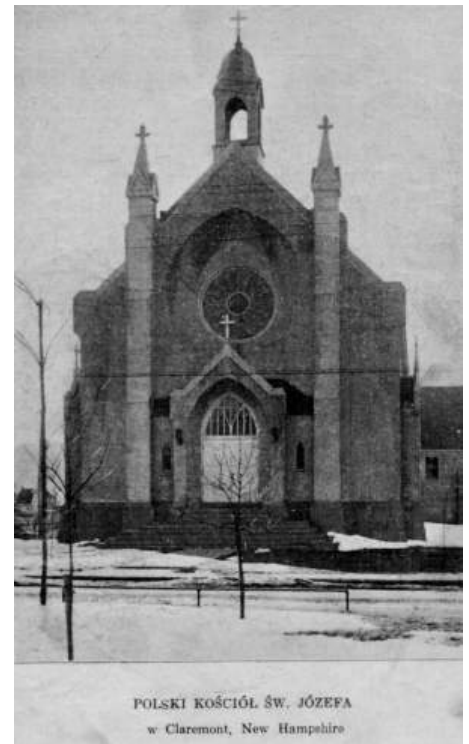
## At Christmas We Celebrate the History of St Joseph Church

In 1920, land on Elm Street was purchased by the Thaddeus Kosciusko Society, a group formed by Polish immigrants in Claremont to manifest their Roman Catholic heritage. Rev. Fr. Francis Wawer, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Bellows Falls, Vermont, helped them to establish a Polish church in Claremont. In June of 1920 Bishop J. E. Guertin assigned Rev. Marjan Godlewski, former Polish army chaplain as the first pastor for about forty families.

In July of 1921, the parish's second pastor, Rev. Adam Oraczewski, oversaw the construction of the church. The first Mass was celebrated in the one-story, flat roofed building on Christmas Day of 1921.

Christmas Day again marked an anniversary in the history of our church. The church building was completed in December of 1925 and the Mass on Christmas Day marked the 4th anniversary of the first Mass in the original church building. A formal dedication of the church was held in warmer weather on May 31, 1926.

Thus we have several "anniversaries" that we can celebrate! We recognize 1920 as the year when the first pastor was assigned and our Parish was founded. The first Masses on Christmas Day in our one-story church building in 1921 and in the completed building in 1925, and the formal dedication in 1926 offer us more opportunities to remember and thank God for His blessings on all who have worshiped here over so many years.



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!