

# 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)

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)

1-603-322-1644

## Parish Finance Council

Rick Logan, Chairman

David Smith

Sharon Wood

## Music Director

Richard Brown

## Organists

Tristan Smith

Deborah Stone

**Sunday, February 25, 9:15 am**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

For the soul (†) of Simone Riviezzo  
requested by her daughter Mary Stone and family

**Wednesday, February 28, 5:00 pm**

For the soul (†) of William Walsh

requested by his family

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

**Third Sunday of Lent**

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

Today's 2nd Collection is for Church Maintenance.

<b>Ash Wednesday Feb. 14, 2024</b>	
Diocesan Collection for Central & Eastern Europe and Solidarity Fund for Africa	<b>\$753.00</b>
<b>Sunday Feb. 18, 2024</b>	
Offertory	<b>\$719.00</b>
Candles	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>2/18/24 TOTAL</b>	
<b>Parish Giving Online</b>	
Offertory	<b>\$137.48</b>
Fuel	<b>\$99.65</b>
<b>PARISH GIVING TOTAL</b>	
<b>\$237.13</b>	

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED  
in Parish Giving Sunday last week!**

We are grateful to everyone who has already signed up to make their donations online. We will continue to assist those who want to sign up for Parish Giving. If you want to get started right away, visit the Parish website at <https://stjosephclaremont.org/> and click on the Parish Giving button. Electronic Giving is safe and easy for you and good stewardship appreciated for the Parish. For additional information, please pick up a brochure at the back of the Church or visit Parish Giving at [www.parishgiving.org](http://www.parishgiving.org).

Laminated PARISH GIVING cards are on all tables at the back of the Church. If you make arrangements for online giving, you can place one of these cards in the Collection Basket in place of cash or check. When your Parish Giving transaction occurs you will receive an email confirmation and a thank you.



**Easter Flower Donations**

Envelopes are available at the back of the church. Intentions and donor names will be published in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.



**UPCOMING COLLECTIONS**

**March 3: Fuel** (moved due to Diocesan collection on 2nd Sunday)

**March 10: Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Home Missions**

**ONGOING COLLECTIONS**

2023 NH Catholic Appeal **\$2,916** (24 donors)

Grand Annual Collection **\$2,560.00**

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 Roger Sheehan requested by Sharon and Steve Wood.



**Masses and Sanctuary Lamp**  
Many dates are available for Sanctuary Lamp intentions.

They may be requested in memory of deceased loved ones; for God's blessings on someone marking a special occasion; or for an unnamed special intention.

Intentions may be scheduled with Sherri Smith in the Church Hall after each Mass or by leaving a message on the Rectory phone (603-542-5732). Suggested donations are \$10.00.

**Pecan Fundraiser**

Our inventory is getting low! Still available: **Cinnamon Glazed Pecans, plain Roasted Cashews, and plain Pecans.**  
Buy now before Easter!  
Available after Mass in the Parish Hall.

**Our Lady of Ephesus  
House of Prayer  
35 Fawn Ledge Lane;  
Jamaica, VT 05343**

**Weekday Mass**  
Monday- 9.00 am;  
Wed. to Fri. 4.30 pm

**Weekend Masses**  
10.30am

**Stations of the Cross**  
Fridays after 4.30 pm Mass and  
Sundays 3.00 pm; Refreshments

**March 1, 2024 - First Friday**  
3.30 pm Adoration  
4.30 pm Holy Mass and  
Stations of the Cross

**March 2, 2024 - First Saturday**  
Mass 10.30 am at Replica  
Confession: Before and after all  
masses and at any time by  
appointment  
Land- 802-896-6000m  
Cell- 802-839-0635  
<https://www.ourladyofephesushouseof-prayer.org/>

# Questions *and* Answers

For Catholics

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## Q. Why do we make the Sign of the Cross on our heads, lips and chests before listening to the Gospel?

A. The first and simplest answer to this question comes to us from the rubrics. The rubrics for the Mass are the instructions given to us in the Roman Missal, and they tell us the structure of the Mass. They tell us when to stand, sit, kneel, respond, etc. They also tell us that we are to make the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips, and hearts just prior to the reading of the Gospel.

But your question is probably more about the “why” we do this. The answer is simple. This gesture of signing ourselves with the Cross is a way of praying, “May the Lord be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.” It is said prior to the reading of the Gospel as a way of prayerfully inviting Christ to come to us in these ways as His sacred Word is proclaimed. The hearing of the Gospel must change our minds, it must be proclaimed by our lips, and it must affect our hearts. By our hearts, we especially mean our wills, affections, emotions, and passions.

The next time you sign yourself with the Cross before the Gospel, make sure that it’s more than just an external gesture; make sure it is also a prayer and an invitation to Christ.

**Lenten Rules of Fasting and Abstinence:**  
**All Fridays in Lent are days of Abstinence from meat.**  
**Good Friday is a day of Fasting as well as Abstinence.**



Sunday March 10  
after Mass in our Parish Hall.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

No Charge!

Free Will Offerings Accepted

### St Joseph Church Hall

#### Bread & Soup Penitential Meal

11:00 am to 12:00 noon

No Charge, Free Will Offerings accepted

12:10 pm

Stations of the Cross

*PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER TIME THAN  
LAST YEAR*

*We hope this change in time will allow  
some of our older parishioners, who may  
not want to come out during the evening  
hours, to participate.*

### St Mary's Gym

#### Knights of Columbus Benefit Fish Fry

4:30 to 6:00 pm

\$15.00 a plate; dine in or take-out  
Beer-battered fish and onion rings,  
hand-cut fries, hush puppies, cole slaw,  
tartar sauce, soda

Proceeds to benefit K of C activities and St  
Mary Church  
Maintenance Fund

Information: Kevin Kraviec 603-801-6130

**FRIDAYS IN LENT**

### Grand Annual Collection

In October we began our parish's Grand Annual Collection. This is not 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

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Hymns for February 25, 2024

Entrance Hymn: No. 413  
" 'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here"

Offertory Hymn: No. 239  
"The Glory of These Forty Days"

Communion: Choir

Recessional Hymn: No. 237  
"From Ashes to the Living Font"

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

**Wed. Feb. 28**  
**6:30 pm**  
**New members**  
**welcome!**

Mass Readings  
Second Sunday  
of Lent  
B 506



**Sunday February 25, 2024**  
Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;  
Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19;  
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**Monday February 26, 2024**  
Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and  
13 Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday February 27, 2024**  
Is 1:10,16-20;Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-  
17, 21 and 23 Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday Feb. 28, 2024**  
Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31: 5-6,14,  
15-16; Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday Feb. 29, 2024**  
Jer 17: 5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4  
& 6; Lk 16:19-31

**Friday March 1, 2024**  
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;  
Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21;  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday March 2, 2024**  
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20;  
Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12;  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

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 answering machine  
(603-542-5732) or at  
stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

### Prayer List

Rev Msgr Donald Gilbert	Fr. John Loughnane
Brenda	Anne Cherry
Paula Cote	Chris Currier
Jean Drena	Frederick Gallant
Isabella Gowell	Stephen Grogan
Deborah Hemingway	Karen Ouelette
Tim Roberts	Brenda Ruest
Janet Ruest	Barbara Trask
Chee Chee Tyrrell	

### CONFESSIONS

St Mary Church  
Saturday  
3:00 to 3:45

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

3pm Tuesdays

If you have something you would  
like put into our bulletin, please  
send it to  
stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com

### 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.

### Safety and Security

Please remember to lock  
your car doors when 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)**

### Homebound?

Schedule a visit with  
Fr. Sebastian on the  
2nd Monday of the month.  
Contact him at  
sebaafri@comcast.net

Did you miss getting a printed copy of our  
bulletin because of travel, illness or snow?  
Past copies are available.  
Email [stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephsclaremont@gmail.com)  
or tell Sharon Wood at Mass and  
a copy will be located for you.

**Claremont Warming Shelter at Trinity Episcopal Church Needs Volunteers**  
**Open on nights that go below 28 F, as long as there are enough funds and volunteers.**  
**Monday to Thursday, 9pm to 8am; Friday to Sunday. 7pm to 8am.**

**Opening Hospitality Volunteers** work 2 hours when the shelter opens  
**Morning Hospitality Volunteers** work 2 hours when the shelter closes.

The **Overnight Host Team** must have some background in direct services, crisis management, EMS,  
working with those in recovery or with mental health issues or some other relevant experience.

If you are able to help, please pick up an information sheet in the church hall after Mass,  
and contact Trinity Administrator, Shelly Page, at 603-542-2103 or [welcome@trinityclaremont.org](mailto:welcome@trinityclaremont.org).

## Feast Days and Memorials

### Feb 28: St Gregory of Narek, 950-c1003, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Saint Jude Thaddeus and Saint Bartholomew, apostles, are believed to have traveled to Armenia to share the Gospel. In 301, the Armenian king was converted and Christianity became the kingdom's official religion. Thus Armenia was the first nation to do so.

Gregory, son of an Armenian prince and nephew of the founder of the Monastery of Narek, grew to become a monk, theologian and renowned poet. He has been venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015. St. Gregory of Narek is best known for his Book of Lamentations, a major work of mystical literature.

Although the Armenian Church separated from the Church of Rome over disagreements on doctrine, it remained an Apostolic Church, being founded by Apostles. Its sacraments and life of prayer continued, but sadly, so did the division with the Pope. In recent decades, greater attempts at unification have been made. Honoring this saint is the most recent attempt by the Roman Church to more fully unite with the Eastern Church of Armenia.

## ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Please take a look at some of the excellent resources available online on Catholic websites. There are videos, activities for children and families, and many more inspirational and educational materials available at no cost.

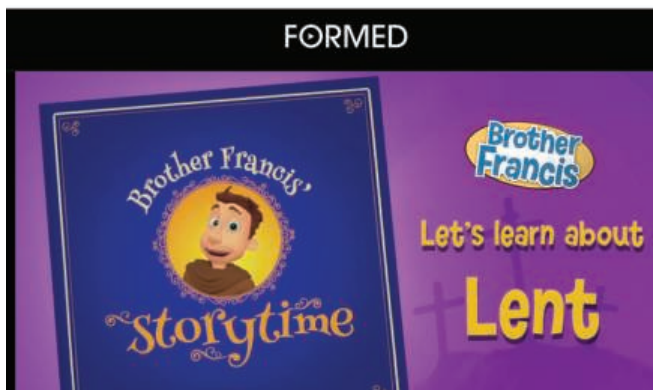
### For example:

1. **FORMED:** A premier online platform filled with over 4,000 Catholic studies, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books and even cartoons for children. Fr. Sebastian has arranged for both St Mary and St Joseph parishioners to access the site, and he would like us to take advantage of this. 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! (From The Augustine Institute)

For example: **Lent with Brother Francis:** <https://watch.formed.org/lent-with-brother-francis>

**AND Drawing Closer to God: A Catholic Art Show for Children**

2. **HOLY HEROES: LENTEN ADVENTURE:** Sign up for a daily email with links to downloadable activities for children; there are some links to FREE materials among those for sale; [lentenadventure.com](http://lentenadventure.com)



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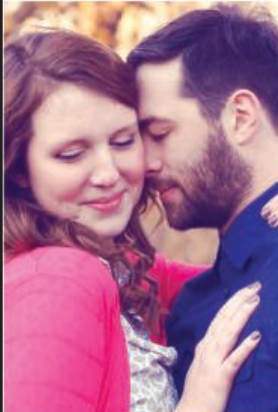
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