

Saint Kathryn Parish

4 Dracut Road, Hudson, NH 03051 • Tel (603) 882-7793 • Fax (603) 595-1465



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you
who is Christ and Lord.” —Lk 2:11

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

One of my favorite classes in the seminary was aptly called "Eschatology." As our priest professor explained it to us on the first day, it was a study of death, judgment, heaven, and hell. It was one of those classes that at first seemed so depressing and macabre that turned out to be filled with hope and life. Isn't it strange how initial perceptions can be so wrong?

Perhaps the most beautiful thing that I took away from this course was the notion that we are already in the Kingdom—just not fully and completely. That still surrounded by sin, we nevertheless have the vision of glory that has been revealed to us in Christ. As Father often put it, "we are in the Kingdom—but not yet."

That's what it feels like today. We're at Christmas Eve, but still in the Advent season; the decorations are all out, but the celebration hasn't begun; we know that Christ has already come, but not for the final time in glory and majesty and power. I know that a lot of priests are struggling with this day because people have already begun to celebrate Christmas and that the atmosphere of the Fourth Sunday of Advent can be lost. But I'm trying to look at this from a whole other perspective—that this is exactly what the "subject" of eschatology is all about—we're here at Christmas—but not yet.

If we consider Christmas as only the historical commemoration of Christ's birth, we do a great injustice to the entirety of the season. While yes, we celebrate His Incarnation, we have to remember that the mystery of the Incarnation is not limited to an event two thousand years ago. Rather, the Incarnation is ongoing. Christ continues to come among us, not as the Babe of Bethlehem, but as the Lord of the universe. He will never come to us again as a baby, but will return in glory as the victorious Lord of all creation. His coming will not be in the silence of a cry at midnight, but will be in the sound of a final victory over sin and death. Indeed, as we mark this Fourth Sunday of Advent, we are acknowledging that we're still in a holding pattern, waiting for Jesus Christ to return. We're living out the sense that "we're here—but not yet."



As we keep our eyes focused on the Christ who will return in glory, we recognize that we spend, not only these four brief weeks of Advent, but the entirety of our lives, preparing for that moment when the Lord will come for us. This is not a doom and gloom moment, but instead the moment for which we live out our lives here on earth—preparing for the full experience of God's all-embracing love. It's that awareness that as we live today we know of God's love but look forward to loving Him in return without any obstacle, without doubt, without hesitation and enjoying that love in all of its fullness. Yes indeed—we've started to know it here, but look forward to knowing it completely. Such is the Kingdom—already here, but not yet.

As we get ourselves ready to celebrate the One who came in history, who comes in mystery, and who will come again in glory, we look beyond all of the trappings and recognize that the beauty we see today is but a foretaste of what shall one day be. As we get beyond the busy-ness, we pray that we will find peace in the One who is called the "Prince of Peace." As we wish one another a Merry Christmas, may the deeper meaning of that greeting include and eternity of Christmases with the One who came among us in the flesh once, who gives us His flesh today, and who will raise up our fallen flesh for all eternity.

To you and to all of your family and friends, we wish you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Until next week...God bless!

Father Joe

Christmas Flowers

Lillian and Tony Amorelli
The Anziano Family
Jack Applebee
The Auger Family
The Bargill Family
Joseph and Gloria Barros
The Battis Family
Ernest and Elizabeth
Beatrice
Thomas and Timmy
Bellefeuille
Rachel Belleville
Sister Odette Belisle
The Berthiaume Family
Mr. and Mrs. Walter
Berthiaume
Mr. and Mrs. John Biedron
Joseph M. Boucher
Mr. and Mrs. Henry
Bragiel
The Brewer Family
Deceased members of the
Brough and Felton
Families
The Bucchio Family
Marshall Bushey
The Byrne Family
Rosemarie Carr
AmberLee Carroll and all
deceased friends and
family of the Phillips
Family
Claire Cassidy
Ric Catalan
Gertrude and Henry
Chouinard
Lucien Chouinard
Antonio, Carmela, and
Bernadette Cioffi
Ciro, Loretta, and Maria
Colella
The Cook Family
Robert J. Costello, Jr.

Edward and Elizabeth
Cotter
Michelle Crawford
Matthew Crosson
Celine A. Cullen
Laurie Dashnaw
The Demers Family
Dick and Diane DeRosa
The Dionne Family
Henry Duato
The Duffy Family
George Eliopolos
George, Shirlene, Larry,
and Shirley Elliott
Mr. and Mrs. James Espie,
Jr.
Thérèse M. Farrell
The Florczak Family
Terry Ford
Mr. and Mrs. Rolando and
Salvation Formacion and
Family
The Francisco Family
The Frechette Family
Dick Frenette
The Gagnon Family
Shellie Galipeault
The Gibbs Family
Mary Gleason
Mr. and Mrs. August
Gosselin
Stamboelis Hadzipauajotis
Bud Haigis
Deceased members of the
Haigis, McNamara, and
Byrnes Families
Ada Hanright
The Hanson Family
The Hart Family
Albert L. Hartman
Erna J. Hartman
Mary Agnes Hartman
The Healy/Flannery
Family

Albert R. Hebert
Richard Hubbard
Howard Hurley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Howard
Hurley, Sr.
The Hutchins Family
John Ida
The Isabelle Family
James Jacoppi
Joseph and Lena Jacoppi
Donna James
Richard Jarry
Anna Jean
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin
Johnstone
Paul J. and Grace A. Jones
Gloria and James Joy
Father K.
John F. Keena
The Kelly and LeLievre
Family
James Kennedy
Siham Khadij
Louis Kmiec
Joseph S. Kulis
Thomas Lafferty
The LaFontaine Family
Raymond Lantagne
Leo and Eleanor Leduc
The Lemire Family
The Lemmo Family
Margaret Leonard
Martin F. Leonard
Wilfred and Pauline
Lepine
The Lingard Family
Bill and Mary Lynch
William P. Lynch, Jr.
Elaine Mallows
Anthony A. Marchilena
Anthony J. Marchilena
Kenneth J. Marchilena
Theodore and Gabrielle
Marshall

William and Thelma
Mattocks
The McCarthy Family
Phyllis McCarthy
Kenneth McKenna, Sr.
Margaret and John F.
Mearls
The Medeiros Family
Robert Melanson
Timothy R. Mercier
Rebecca Molander
Gerald and Pamela
Monette
The Murphy Family
James Murphy
John and Gerry Murphy
Ruthie Murphy
Domingo Nazareno
Helen and Rockwood
Nickles
David Noel
Marilyn Norton
The O'Keefe Family
Arlene and John O'Leary
James and Claire O'Neil
Margaret and James
O'Neil
The Ottino Family
The Painchaud Family
Andrew and Karolina
Palanski
Florence and David
Palmer
The Paradise Family
Ann and Maurice Pelchat,
Sr.
Anthony and Kathryn
Pierson
Lisa J. Pierson
John Matthew Pietrowski
Frank J. and Martha Ratto
Henry and Cecile Robert
Mark Robert
Ray Sampson, Jr.
Betsy Sargent
Guy and Anna Savio

Madelyn and George
Schell
Andrew Semplinski
Normand and Denis
Sigman
Lorraine Simoneau
John, Sr., Milli, and Bill
Smaldone
Sylvia Smaldone
Jacob and Mary Sojka
John Sojka
The St. Pierre Family
Arlene Steeves
Rudy, Betty Anne, and
Katherine Stefanec
John and Mona Strom
The Tarrant Family
The Tetrault Family
The Theroux Family
The Therrien Family
Marie and Samuel J.
Trombley
Stephen S. Trubacz
Domenic V. Tutela
Ed and Evelyn Unger
Anthony C. Vellante
Salvatore, Theresa, and
Anthony Vetrano
Tammy Wager
Peter and Melvina Walent
John Williams
John J. Winn IV
Mary V. and Jozef
Wozniak
Walter and Margaret Znoj
Louis Zuliani



Saturday, December 23 Vigil (The Fourth Sunday of Advent)

4:00PM—+Thomas Malone, by his wife, Joan

Sunday, December 24 (The Fourth Sunday of Advent)

8:30AM—+Pauline Lemoine, by her husband, Bernie
10:30AM—For the People of the Parish

Vigil (The Nativity of the Lord)

4:00PM—For the People of the Parish
7:00PM—For the People of the Parish
Midnight—For the People of the Parish

Monday, December 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)

10:00AM—For the People of the Parish

Tuesday, December 26 (Saint Stephen)

7:00PM—+Clyde Balevre, by his wife, Anne, and son, Steven

Wednesday, December 27 (Saint John)

8:30AM—+Carmella Bucci Alviti, by Father Joe

Thursday, December 28 (The Holy Innocents)

7:00PM—+Joseph Burda, by his wife, Suzanne

Friday, December 29 (Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord)

8:30AM—+George Laurencelle, by Ken and Denise Barbin

Saturday, December 30 (Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord)

8:30AM—+Carmella Bucci Alviti, by Saint Kathryn Religious Goods

Vigil (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)

4:00PM—+Gerald DesRoches (2nd Anniversary), by his wife and family

Sunday, December 31 (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph)

8:30AM—+Pauline Lemoine, by her husband, Bernie
10:30AM—Intentions of Peter Tekin, by his family

Vigil (The Solemnity of Mary)

6:30PM—For the People of the Parish

Monday, January 1 (The Solemnity of Mary)

10:00AM—For all Priests, by the LeClair Family

Monday, December 25th

Merry Christmas!
Parish Offices and Store Closed

Wednesday, December 27th

Adoration/Chapel (5:30-8:15A and 1:00-7:00P)
Evening Prayer and Benediction/Chapel (7:00P)

Friday, December 29th

Moms' Group/RM 1 (9:30-11:00A)

PARISH CALENDARS

Our parish calendars for 2018 have arrived and are available for you to take this weekend and next (as supplies last) from the narthex as our Christmas gift and thank you to you for all of your support.

FORMED

A second Christmas gift to our parishioners, benefactors, and friends is the wonderful "Formed" program produced by the Augustine Institute. We give this subscription to you to use and to share with your friends to grow in your faith. Sign up today at <https://formed.org>. Our code is 748649. (Click "Register: Sign up for free with your parish code." Then enter the access code.)

Share this information with your family and friends. What will you find there? There are plenty of talks and lectures, there are Catholic movies to watch, aids to prayer, the entire Symbolon and Catholicism series, things for parents, for teens, sacramental preparation—you name it—it's there! And, if you've missed any of the Lectio series (Eucharist, Peter, Evangelization), you can catch up here. Sign up today!

Why would you ever want to miss an opportunity to grow in your knowledge of the faith? This is such an informative and entertaining site—you don't want to miss a moment!

	SANCTUARY LAMPS
	Mary and Chester Sojka

VOCATIONS 101



Did you ever stop to think that every calling—to the single life, marriage, religious life, or priesthood—is a vocation? Every one of us who are baptized have a particular “call” from God, the first and foremost is to live out the Christian life as best as we can. Some are called to a particular vocation in the Church in a role of service and witness through the priesthood or consecrated life. Would you like to explore this idea of God’s call for you a little more? Father Joe is always ready to talk about vocations. Send an email to frjoe@stkathryns.org and let’s talk!

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEWS

From all of us who volunteer and staff Saint Kathryn’s Religious Goods Store, thank you for your support this season and for sharing the faith with others through the gifts that we carry.

Our purpose is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in whatever way we can—through devotionals, music, religious articles, books, medals, and statues. In each case, we pray that God will become more and more a part of the lives of those who receive them! Merry Christmas to all!

VETERANS’ BREAKFAST

The 2nd annual Saint Kathryn Veterans’ breakfast will be on on Saturday January 6, 2018 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the parish hall. All veterans, family members, guests, and supporters are invited. Menu will include eggs to order: scrambled and omelets, french toast, pancakes, corned beef hash, hash browns and coffee, milk and juice.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for our Fourth Annual Celebration of the Service of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday, January 3, 2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

This annual service has become a well-loved custom in our parish since its introduction a few years ago.

Marking the events of salvation history from the fall of Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ in song and in Scripture, we have the opportunity to quiet our hearts and minds and reflect on the wonderful message of Christmas after the busy-ness of the day.

Please join us and invite your friends and family to come to hear the familiar stories from the Scriptures and hear and participate in beautiful music in our magnificent church.

Mark your calendars today—Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. here at Saint Kathryn’s!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM BISHOP LIBASCI

December 2017 Christmas

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On that Silent Night, that Holy Night, when stars shone brightly in a winter’s sky, a great multitude of angels appeared to the shepherds tending their flocks near Bethlehem. Soon, the sounds of mystical voices began to surround them: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth, PEACE to those on whom His favor rests.” (Lk.2:14). At this Christmas Season the Catholics of New Hampshire join our voices with theirs as we praise God and bring a message of New Hope that is the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Led by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we are working by God’s grace to invite all people of good will to experience the faith that moves us. I’m talking about regular people – you and me and people all around us– who are looking for and have found the meaning of Christmas to be relevant at every stage of life!

Throughout the coming year the Church in New Hampshire will continue to feed the souls and strive to meet the material needs of the people of New Hampshire—it is our work and the visible gift of faith at work!

And as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, I pray that this New Year will bring to you and to all the world the profound peace of knowing Christ. May He reign this coming year in the homes, hearts and lives of all, and may all of humanity experience His enduring love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, D.D.

Bishop of Manchester

FAITH FACTS

Did you know that Saint Francis of Assisi was the first to produce a life-sized, living crèche?

In the year 1223, Saint Francis, a deacon, joined his fellow Franciscans at the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas. Greccio was a small town built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. The people had cultivated the fertile area with vineyards. Saint Francis realized that the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass, so he found a niche in the rock near the town square and set up the altar. However, this Midnight Mass would be unlike any other Midnight Mass.

Saint Bonaventure (d. 1274) in his *The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi* recorded the story:

“It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [Saint Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was made glorious by many and brilliant lights and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [Saint Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His Name for the tenderness of His love, He called Him the Babe of Bethlehem. A certain valiant and veracious soldier, Master John of Greccio, who, for the love of Christ, had left the warfare of this world, and become a dear friend of this holy man, affirmed that he beheld an Infant marvelously beautiful, sleeping in the manger, Whom the blessed Father Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. This vision of the devout soldier is credible, not only by reason of the sanctity of him that saw it, but by reason of the miracles which afterwards confirmed its truth. For the example of Francis, if it be considered by the world, is doubtless sufficient to excite all hearts which are negligent in the faith of Christ; and the hay of that manger, being preserved by the people, miraculously cured all diseases of cattle, and many other pestilences; God thus in all things glorifying his servant, and witnessing to the great efficacy of his holy prayers by manifest prodigies and miracles.”

Although the story is long old, the message is clear for us. Our own Nativity scenes which rest under our Christmas trees are a visible reminder of that night when our Savior was born. May we never forget to see in our hearts the little Babe of Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin. Moreover, we must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely would one day give way to the wood of the cross. May we too embrace Him with all of our love as did Saint Francis.

MARRIAGE CELEBRATION DINNER



Saint Kathryn’s Parish is pleased to announce a parish-wide **Celebration of Marriage** in honor of **World Marriage Day**. The event will take place on **Saturday February 10, 2018**. The evening will kick off with 4:00 p.m. Mass followed by renewal of vows for our married couples and witness to the vows for our engaged couples. We will then share in a wonderful meal, dessert and reflections on marriage in our parish hall. All married and engaged couples are encouraged to attend this fun-filled evening as we celebrate marriage, share in prayer,

reflection and fellowship together as a community! Additional details and sign-ups for this event will be distributed shortly after the new year.

REFLECTING GOD’S GENEROSITY TO US

December 10th Offertory:	\$ 11,025.27
Retirement for Religious:	\$ 4,305.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$ 1,764.00

Due to the early publishing deadline, the offertory for December 17th will be published in the December 31st bulletin. Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish. Our weekly budget for the parish is \$11,900.

Saint Kathryn’s now offers the option of “Online Giving.” Find out more on our parish website at www.stkathryns.org.

When shopping for Christmas, please consider a gift to our parish.

We are blessed with so many generous and faithful parishioners and benefactors.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Schedule, 2017

December 24, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses will be celebrated on December 23 at 4:00 p.m. and on December 24 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

December 24, Christmas Eve

*4:00 p.m. Mass (Church and Chapel) with keyboard, choir, and cantor
7:00 p.m. (Church) with keyboard and cantor

Mass at Midnight

Carols begin at 11:30 p.m. (Church)
Mass at Midnight (12:00 a.m.) (Church) with keyboard, choir, and cantor

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. (Church) with keyboard and cantor

December 30-31 The Feast of the Holy Family

Masses will be celebrated on December 30 at 4:00 p.m. and on December 31 at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

December 31—Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary

6:30 p.m. Mass (Church)

January 1—Solemnity of Mary

10:00 a.m. Mass (Church)

January 3 Fourth Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

7:00 p.m. (Church)
Adoration will take place until 6:45 p.m.
with simple reposition of the Blessed Sacrament taking place at that time.

*With the "rush" of Christmas past,
why not take the time to sit back
to reflect on the wonder of Christ's coming among us
as proclaimed in the Scriptures, Christmas carols, and choral music?*

*This is a well-loved custom in our parish.
If you haven't participated yet, plan to do so this year.
You won't be disappointed!*

**The 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve is traditionally very crowded. Please plan to arrive early if you want to sit together with your family. No seats may be reserved in anticipation of others coming to join you. If you want to sit together, you must arrive in the church together.*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saint Kathryn Parish ☩ 4 Dracut Road, Hudson, New Hampshire 03051-5006
Telephone: 603.882.7793 Fax: 603.595.1465
Website: www.stkathryns.org Facebook: Saint Kathryn's Church

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Joseph M. Cooper , Pastor	fjoe@stkathryns.org
Deacon Raymond V. Marcotte , Permanent Deacon	deacon.ray@stkathryns.org
Sister Janice Rooney, SNDdeN , Catechetical Leader	sr.janice@stkathryns.org
Charlene Maniotis , Parish Secretary	charlene.maniotis@stkathryns.org
Jennifer LeClair , Religious Education Secretary	jennifer.leclair@stkathryns.org
Peter Krauss , Bookkeeper	peter.krauss@stkathryns.org
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Robert Oliver , Facilities Technician	bob.oliver@stkathryns.org
Rick Wickham , Business Manager	rick.wickham@stkathryns.org
Rick Balboni , Religious Goods Store Manager	rick.balboni@stkathryns.org

PARISH OFFICE

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Closed Friday/Weekends

PARISH RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Masses: 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m.
Daily Mass: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Tuesday, Thursday: 6:30-6:50 p.m.; Saturday: 9:15-10:00 a.m. and 3:00-3:45 p.m. Also by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Catechesis takes place with the parents prior to scheduling a date for the baptism. For more information, please contact Deacon Ray in the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Engaged couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance of the proposed date of the wedding. Please refer to the marriage policy as found on the parish website.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK/COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Arrangements may be made for Communion to the Homebound or for the Sacrament of the Sick by calling the parish office. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should be celebrated at the outset of an illness or when there is a change in the person's condition. The Sacrament should also be received prior to surgery.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The diocesan policies are available by calling the parish office or by consulting the diocesan website at www.catholicnh.org.

OPEN FOR YOU!

The main door of the Church is open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; the Emmaus Chapel, in the office building, is open 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily.

Welcome! If you are new to our community, we hope you have felt welcome! If you are a visitor - occasional or frequent - we're glad you joined us! If you're considering parish membership introduce yourself to the pastor after Holy Mass to get the process underway!

**ST. KATHRYN PARISH
HUDSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

03-0779

December 24, 2017 – Week 58