

The Pastor's Musings

Dear Family in the Lord,

In the midst of this summer growing season, we ponder today's Gospel (Matthew 13:24-43), in which we hear Jesus comparing the Church (aka *us*, His Body!) to a field where wheat and weeds grow side by side until harvest. Only then, we hear, are the good separated from the wicked. In the world, people of good and evil mix and mingle day by day much like the wheat and weeds. This prompts the question asked by many upright and impatient believers: Why does God, who is good, allow evil to flourish? They want immediate action! Such an attitude readily forgets that every human heart contains a tug of war going on between good and evil, right? Mine does! We are sinful people and should be conscious of our own failings. Life is more complicated than drawing clear lines between saints and sinners. The Church is not an exclusive community of the virtuous. (I like the expression: "I'm a practicing Catholic. I keep practicing and hope one day to get it all right!")



We are gathered as Church because we are sinners seeking salvation. The patience and mercy extended by God to our personal sinful situation is to be shown to those who faults are known to us. We all are in need of His mercy – the sight of a confessional in the church should remind us of that often – a reason to rejoice in His mercy ready to meet us, and an incentive to seek to extend that mercy to others. The confessional would be a useless piece of furniture if this were not the story!

There will be a day of judgement. There will be an accounting. But *we* won't be asked to be on the Judge's seat! And in the meantime, before that day of justice, there are many opportunities for mercy! For us, and for others! Our noticing of weakness in others should impel us to pray for them, give good example, and, with prudence and charity, and after prayer, speak of our concerns with love and with hope for repentance. We never simply look the other way, or choose to stay silent and uninvolved. Nor are we the "bouncer" at the door of an exclusive club! It's not always easy! He never said this discipleship thing would be. It's the whole "take up your cross" piece, right?

Weeds can never become wheat, but with the grace of God, sinners can become great saints! We must believe it, pray for it, do our part, and start with seeing ourselves as we are. The next time you find yourself getting annoyed, wishing God would just take action now and clean house... visit the church, and as you enter look to your right and left at the confessionals and then... refocus!

With You on the Journey,

The Week at a Glance

Monday, July 24

Tuesday, July 25

YM Fun Night (Ultimate Frisbee) 7:30PM (SC)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98

Wednesday, July 26

Prayer Cenacle – 2:00 PM (IC C)
K of C Mtg – 6:00 PM (IC H)

Thursday, July 27

Exposition/Adoration – 8:30AM-12PM (IC)
Wedding Rehearsal – 4:00 PM (IC C)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98

Friday, July 28

Wedding Liturgy – 1:30 PM (IC C)
Italian Class – 7:00 PM (EDPC LL)

Saturday, July 29

Rosary – 3:30 PM (IC C)

Sunday, July 30

Televised Parish Mass – 10 AM, Channel 98
Rosary – 1:30 PM (IC C)
NO SPANISH MASS TODAY

Sanctuary Lamp

At Immaculate Conception Church, the sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of Bernard Percarpio, as requested by Bob Rais.

The votives at the Mary altar will burn in memory of Bette Lloyd.

At the St. Joseph altar, the votives will burn for the intentions of Annette and Kensington.

Weekly Summer Adoration

Remember, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration each Thursday from after 8:00 AM Mass until 12:00 Noon Angelus. Also, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed most weekdays (Monday through Saturday), unless Fr. Gary is away, from 7:00 AM until just before Mass at 8:00 AM. A beautiful way to start the day and really prepare for Holy Mass. We are happy to see more and more taking advantage of this and hearing how enriching you are finding it! "Seek first the Kingdom... and all other things will be given..."



Another opportunity to accept Jesus' invitation, offered to His disciples then, as we read in Scripture, and to us now: "Come apart by yourselves... and rest awhile!"

Intentions For Holy Mass

- Monday JUL 24 St. Sharbel Makhluf**
8:00AM *Peter Braseth, by the Maloney Family*
- Tuesday JUL 25 St. James**
8:00AM *Fred Murray (13th anniversary),
by his Family*
- Wednesday JUL 26 St. Joachim & St. Anne**
8:00AM *Nene Coleman Caskie, by Daniel White*
- Thursday JUL 27 Feria (weekday)**
8:00AM *Helen Demars, by Memorial Fund #1*
- Friday JUL 28 Feria**
8:00AM *Bob & Hildreth Allard and
Daniel & Mildred Coughlin,
by Bob & Peg Allard*
- Saturday JUL 29 St. Martha**
8:00AM *Glenn MacDonald,
by Lisa, Michael, & Brady Roche*
- Vigil 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
4:00PM *Frank Rey, by Paul & Josephine Russo*
- Sunday JUL 30 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
8:30AM *Theresa Greener, by her husband Bill*
10:30AM *Pauline Hussey, by her Family*
NO SPANISH MASS TODAY
4:30PM *Pro Populo (For our Parish Family)*

To schedule Mass intentions or for sacramental records, please see Marilyn Chavez at the Eileen Daly Pastoral Center, or call 436-4555.

Our reflection of God's generosity to us!

Weekend of July 15/16, 2017

Envelopes/EFT	\$ 8,070.00
Loose	\$ 2,062.87
Total	\$ 10,132.87

Last weekend 223 envelope/15 Online Giving users contributed 80 % of our income.

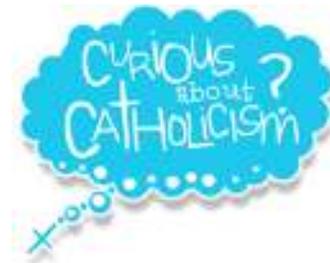
Poor Box Donations \$ 715.46



Internet commerce and electronic banking have become accepted as a normal way of conducting transactions for many people. Our parish has an electronic giving tool called Online Giving, through which you have the option to manage your contributions online. Online Giving helps the parish streamline cash flow, especially during vacation season, and allows us to improve our efficiency in posting contributions to your giving history in the parish database. To learn more, please visit our parish website: www.corpuschristinh.org!

Curious About Catholicism?

Each year in September we offer a series of "Come & See" Inquiry nights as part of our RCIA process for adults who were never baptized, or baptized in another denomination, or baptized Catholic but not brought up in the faith, perhaps never receiving First Communion or Confirmation. There's no obligation, just information. Folks often come



with a Catholic spouse, family member, or friend. You? Someone you know? No need to wait till Fall is around the corner! Fr. Gary warmly invites you to shoot him an email and set up a time to get together with him in a relaxed and informal manner at his house, our

parish rectory – Vianney House. Maybe enjoy a cool drink, ask any questions? He will also have an information brochure you can take with you to help you as you consider checking out the Church a little closer through the Fall Inquiry sessions. Just email him at frgary.ccnh@gmail.com to set up a time to meet, chat and... maybe even meet Hershey & Buddy! ☺

Hey! I Was Wondering...

Wondering *what?* Who was wondering? This could get to be like "who's on first?" for those of us who remember Abbott & Costello!

This is actually the title of a weekly information series that Fr. Gary is planning to offer starting this Fall. All are invited! You can bring friends – Catholics, non-Catholics, inactive, or active. Come to any, or make it a weekly "date" to join in! The weekly topics will be printed in the bulletin four weeks in advance so you know what's coming. If it's a topic that strikes you, a question you've had, or an insight you'd like to deepen... come!



So, where are the topics coming from? YOU! We will soon have flyers out for you to take and write down anything you would like to see become a week's focus in the weekly series. So... start thinking about what you've always wanted to know... and DONT BE AFRAID to ask! Watch for startup date info soon! Formation in faith is a lifelong process... let's grow together!



Registration is now open for the 2017-2018 year! Registration forms and calendars are available at the entrance to the church or register online at BringItHome.org. We appreciate your prompt registration, as it helps us in planning.

Parish News

NEW! *Sound System*

We apologize in advance for any distractions you may encounter if you drop into church this week for personal prayer, but, the good news is that the installation of the new sound system will be underway and, hopefully, up and running next weekend. Again, many thanks to the benefactors and donors to the free will offering that is making this much-needed improvement to our church possible!

NEW! *Spiritual Gifts*

Would you like to prayerfully remember a departed loved one, maybe on their anniversary of death or birthday? Or, maybe remember and ask birthday blessings for a relative or friend who is living, or pray for healing of illness, or remember a wedding anniversary or other significant day? You could do this in some of the following ways as a spiritual gift for them in the House of the Lord!

- Have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for the intention for a week (Offering: \$15/week)
- Have the two votive candles burn for a week at the altar of St. Joseph or our Lady (Offering: \$10/week)
- Have flowers adorn the high altar for a week (two bouquets for \$100)

Contact Mary Kay in our office if you would like to reserve a date now. These, like the Mass Intentions, fill up quickly. She has some cards you can send to one who is living telling them of the spiritual gift you are offering for them.

NEW! *No Spanish Mass Next Sunday*

Because Fr. Brian Kennedy will be away on a mission trip, there will be **NO Spanish Mass next Sunday, July 30th**. The Spanish Mass will resume on Sunday, August 6th.

NEW! *Nudges About Priesthood?*

Know of any guy who pauses now and then and wonders why the Lord nudges him every once in a while about considering priesthood? Maybe he tries to turn up the volume on everything else to drown out the quiet (but persistent!) voice? Maybe he feels unworthy (who is?) or that he disqualified himself because of some of his past sins or choices, or stuff he's still struggling with? (God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies those He calls!)

Maybe you know someone? Maybe this is you? Take a look at the latest issue of PARABLE, the diocesan magazine we have mailed to all parish homes – check out the article about Fr. Rich Roberge (a classmate of Fr. G) and the article by Fr. Andrew Nelson (the pastor Seminarian Joe is with this summer). Both beautifully tell the story of this life! Read it – pray about it if it's you being nudged, or pray about who to pass it on to if you see qualities in someone that you suspect might be building blocks for the Lord to form His future priest. And, as always, with Fr. Gary and three Seminarians living among us in Vianney House – an invitation to dinner, to talk, to ask questions... is just an email request away! Reach out to Fr. Gary at frgary.cnh@gmail.com.

New 20/20 Series!



The next 20/20 Raffle series will begin in September. Tickets cost \$20 each and are good for 20 weeks. Each Sunday for 19 weeks, we draw two numbers to win \$25 each. On the 20th week is the final drawing, with prizes of \$500, \$300, two at \$100, and two at \$50. Tickets for the next 20/20 series are available after Masses in the coming weekends or during the week at the Eileen Daly Pastoral Center, 436-4555.

NEW! *Anniversary Celebration*

Bishop Libasci invites all couples who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th or beyond Wedding Anniversary (anytime during the year 2017), to attend a Special Anniversary Mass. This celebration will be held on **October 15th** at 2:00 PM at St. Joseph Cathedral, Manchester. **If you are celebrating one of these “milestone” anniversaries, please contact the parish office by September 22nd.** We will need your last names, first names, and a mailing address. Please also indicate your special anniversary year. By providing your name to your Parish Office, you will be registered and receive an invitation. There is no need for the couple to RSVP.

NEW! *Recently Baptized*

We warmly welcome **James Jepson** and **Isabella Santosuosso**, who were given new life through water and the Holy Spirit in our parish community! To their parents and godparents we extend our congratulations and prayerful support as they live out the commitment they made to be “the first teachers of these children in the ways of faith.” In the words of the Rite, “may they be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith in what they say and do.”

NEW! *Congratulations!*

Corpus Christi parishioner Colleen McDonough, a 2017 graduate of Portsmouth High School, was recently presented Portsmouth Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow recognition. Colleen is the youngest recipient of the honor, given to “a person who has performed outstanding service recognizing the ideas of Rotary,” because of her many volunteer activities with the club's Interact program. Well done, Colleen!

NEW! *Wedding Bells!*

Next Friday, **Julianna O'Neill & Michael Chandler** will pledge life and love in the sacrament of Marriage here in our parish. We extend our congratulations and prayerful best wishes to them! May He who brought you together bless you in abundance in the years ahead as you live out this wonderful vocation.

NEW! *Called Home to the Lord*

We remember in prayer the repose of the soul of **Alberta Healy**, whose Funeral Mass was recently celebrated in our parish. To her family we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support as well.

Celebrating 70 Years!

Last week, Sr. Mary Gregory Pickford not only observed her 93rd birthday, she also celebrated 70 years of living out her vows as a Sister of Mercy! It has been wonderful to have her as a part of our parish family while she enjoys her retirement here in Portsmouth. We wish her many blessings and thank her for the blessings her ministry has bestowed upon our community.



Congratulations and Best Wishes Sr. Gregory!

FROM SEMINARIAN JOE

Greetings!

Let me begin by saying how thankful I am to the Lord for all He has done and given me through your love, kindness, generosity, prayers and support! The surprise 30th Birthday Party you threw for me was unbelievable and certainly unexpected! That Saturday night was the first surprise party I have ever had, and that was also the greatest number of people with whom I have ever celebrated a birthday! I have to commend you all for keeping the event so well under the radar. Seriously, I had no idea!

It was almost overwhelming when I arrived and heard the chorus of over 180 people belt out "Happy Birthday..." – overwhelming in that I was shocked and surprised at the demonstration of your thoughtfulness in the time invested, talent shared, storms weathered earlier in the day – the risk even to personal safety that people selflessly offered.

It was quite a humbling experience to be sure. I think that the outpouring of love that you all demonstrated is incredible, to say the least! In reflecting on my experience in the week following, I couldn't help but be reminded of St. Augustine when he wrote: "Since you do not yet see God, you merit the vision of God by loving your neighbor. By loving your neighbor you prepare your eyes to see God." St. John puts it clearly: "If you do not love your brother who you see, how can you love God whom you do not see? God is love, and he who remains in love remains in God. Love your neighbor then, (and here's the line that really struck me), see within yourself the power by which you love your neighbor; there you will see God as far as you are able." By your selfless acts of charity demonstrated in what you did for me, you gave me one of the greatest gifts of all, a kind of glimpse of Who we all long for!

While I look forward to being back with you in August, I will miss the people from St. Mary and St. Ignatius Parishes where I am serving this summer. The assignment has been great for sure! I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer. Know of my prayers for all of you! And, as always, please pray for me! In His Love,

~ Seminarian Joe



Youth Ministry

The Fun Continues!

Have fun, eat food, and bring a friend! Come as you are, when you can! All middle school & high school teens are welcome.

- Tuesdays from 7:30-9 PM
- Youth Room at the parish offices (former St. Catherine rectory):
- *July 25th: Ultimate Frisbee
- *August 1st: Movie Night
- *August 8th: Glow-in-the-dark dodgeball
- *August 15th: AMP
- *August 22nd: Campfire & S'mores

For more information or questions, please contact Brittany at youthmin.ccnh@gmail.com.

NAMI Family-to-Family

We Can Help

"Family to Family" is an educational program that is **FREE** for family members, partners, and friends of individuals over the age of 17, who have mental illnesses such as: anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, borderline personality disorder, panic disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **Is there someone in your life that has one of these illnesses?**
- **Have you been struggling to understand their illness and how to help them, and your family to cope?**



The "Family-to-Family" course is taught by local trained volunteers who have family members with a mental illness. In this course you will learn about these illnesses and their treatments; how to improve communication with your loved one; solve problems; find the help you need; and take care of yourself.

Family-to-Family is a FREE, 12-session class. Registration is required.

Classes meet: Wednesdays, August 30 – November 15
6:00 – 8:30 PM

Location: Portsmouth
To register: Please contact either teacher
Pam Brazeau John Dixon
603-502-6580 603-531-9297

Or email: namiseacoast@gmail.com



85 North State St., Concord, N.H.
603.225.5359
www.naminh.org



Traveling Vocation Icon

This week, **Maddie Alana** will receive the Icon of Jesus Knocking at the Door into her home and intercede in a special way for Joe, Mike, Dan, and all in formation, for those discerning, and for many vocations to rise up from our community.

Community Postings

Trip to Cap de la Madeleine

Several members of Corpus Christi Parish are organizing a trip to Canada. We'll visit Sacre Coeur De Beauvoir in Sher-brooke, Cap de la Madeleine Shrine, Notre Dame Cathedral, and St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal. The trip will be Monday through Thursday, **August 21 – 24**. The cost of the pilgrimage is just \$725 per person, double occupancy. Price includes lodging, three breakfasts, three dinners, and chartered luxury coach. For more information, please contact Egizia Brown at 603-512-4754 or egziabrown@comcast.net.

Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents

The Emmaus Ministry is a Catholic ministry for parents whose children of any age have died of any cause, no matter how long ago. Losing a child under any circumstance is horrific. Focusing on the spirituality of the grieving process can help tremendously. All are welcome to attend a one-day spiritual retreat on **August 5** at St. Anthony Shrine in Boston. For more information on this and other retreat times and locations, call 617-542-8057 or visit www.emfgp.org.

Free Enrichment Opportunities!

Be sure to check out ascensionpresents.com, part of the Ascension Press website, which offers free podcasts, videos, and engaging discussions by popular presenters such as Jeff Cavins, Fr. Mike Schmidt, and more!

Women of Grace

Become the woman of grace God created you to be! *Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life* is a dynamic program for Catholic Women, encouraging study participants to come to a fuller understanding of their dignity and vocation as daughters of God. They'll dig deep into Catholic teaching to examine their gift of authentic femininity using the study text, "*Full of Grace*," sacred Scripture, the Catechism, and citations from Vatican II and other magisterial documents, as well as the biographies of 16 Catholic women saints. As they learn the great gift of authentic femininity and how to live it out in the world today, hearts are healed, lives are changed, and souls are saved! The program will be offered on Wednesdays from 10AM to Noon, beginning **September 20th** (10 weeks), at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton. Cost is \$40 for materials (financial assistance available if needed). Registration deadline is 9/8/17. For more details, please contact Kathy Allen at 603-957-0048 or kallen77@gmail.com.

FORMED



FORMED.org is a new online platform offering the *Best Catholic Content – All in One Place!*

Through the generosity of a private donor, our parish has been gifted with **FORMED**. Dive deeper into prayer, explore the scriptures, learn about the Sacraments, and so much more! On **FORMED** you can watch popular Catholic films, access best-selling eBooks, view outstanding video programs, and listen to audio programs from Lighthouse Catholic Media!

How do I sign up for free access?

- Visit www.FORMED.org.
- Click on "Register Sign up free using your parish code."
- Enter our parish code – **DCTJND** – (all caps) and submit.
- Set up your own user name and password. You will receive a confirmation link.
- Just confirm your registration and ENJOY.

For details about **FORMED**, please contact Roxanne, Office of Evangelization, at 603-502-8041.



Free "Formed" App. is now available from the App Store for download on your tablet or phone!



Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton is hosting a Vacation Bible School and it is coming soon! VBS will run August 7th through 11th from 9AM to Noon each day, except for Friday, which is extended to include a potluck lunch. It's a fun week for all, but space is limited, so sign up ASAP (no walk-ins please)! Cost is \$50 per child, \$80 for two children, with a max of \$200 per family. Children from 4 years old (must be potty trained) through those entering grade 5 in the fall can participate. Please visit <https://form.jotformpro.com/cfortin/vbs2017> for a registration form. For more information, contact Sherry Impastato at simpastato@olmmparish.org.