Dear Family in the Lord,

The mustard seed in today’s Gospel (Mark: 4:26-34) reminds us of an important and central truth of the Christian life: the seed of God’s life within us, planted at Baptism, grows slowly and invisibly within us. We cannot rush the growth of the seed in the earth, nor can we rush the growth of the seed in our hearts. There is nothing we can do to hurry it. Because our path to perfection can seem so frustratingly slow to us, we can often be tempted to lose heart, give up, or “settle.”

Many of us have the uneasy feeling that, after many years of struggling with the Christian life, we are no nearer to God – at least not as we might expect! There appears to be no mastering of our spiritual shortcomings. The same old sins keep recurring, preventing our progress on the roadway to perfection. Patient endurance and unbounded hope are virtues we need to develop. How easily we forget that God looks at our attempts and our desires, and He rewards our efforts, our commitment to keep trying, and not our excellence. We fail to realize that His grace can work through our human weaknesses and limitations and can accomplish what is beyond our dreams. We need to commit ourselves to perseverance, to being open to His grace and on the lookout for ways we can pull in virtue, not simply try to strong arm vice. He gives us the great gift of the Sacrament of Penance to put us on track again and “boost” our efforts with His grace!

We tend the seed of the Word of God planted in our hearts by prayer and the Sacraments, which dispose us to perform good works and acts of loving kindness, in this way to “coax” the seed within to blossom. There is no age at which we cannot grow in God’s grace. May the signs of life budding around us renew our hope and help us kick our efforts up a notch as we nurture the seeds planted within us, that we might give God the glory by the fruitfulness of our lives!

With you on the Journey,

The Pastor’s Musings

Week of June 17, 2018

The Week at a Glance

Monday, June 18

Tuesday, June 19

Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98

Wednesday, June 20

Prayer Cenacle – 2:00 PM (C)
RCIA Team Potluck/Meeting – 5:00 PM (PO)

Thursday, June 21

Exposition/Adoration – 8:30 AM-Noon (C)
Frassati Fraternity – 6:00 PM (PC grounds)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98
Wedding Rehearsal – 5:00 PM (C)

Friday, June 22

Wedding Liturgy – 3:00 PM (C)
Wedding Rehearsal – 4:15 PM (C)
Italian Class – 7:00 PM (SO)

Saturday, June 23

Wedding Liturgy – 1:00 PM (C)
Rosary – 3:30 PM (C)

Sunday, June 24

Televised Parish Mass – 10 AM, Channel 98
Choir Practice Spanish Mass – 1:00 PM (CLL)
Rosary – 1:30 PM (C)
Spanish Mass – 2:00 PM (C)

KEY:
At 98 Summer Street:
C = Church
CLL = Lower Level of Church
VH = Vianney House (rectory next to Church)

At 845 Woodbury Avenue:
PC = Parish Center (lower level of former church)
PO = Parish Office (former rectory)
YC = Youth Center (lower level of office)

On Austin Street:
SO = SHARE Office (lower level Vianney House)

At 315 Banfield Road:
SPA = St. Patrick Academy

Traveling Vocation Icon

This week, Regina Schladenhauffen will receive the Icon of Jesus Knocking at the Door into her home and intercede in a special way for Joe, Dan, and all in formation, for those discerning, and for many vocations to rise up from our community.
Intentions For Holy Mass

Monday  JUN 18  Feria (weekday)
8:00AM  Alice Barrett, by the Alice Barrett Fund

Tuesday  JUN 19  St. Romuald
8:00AM  Michelle McCrystal Provost, by the McDuffie Family

Wednesday  JUN 20  Feria
8:00AM  David Best and James Gyugo, by Sue Ford

Thursday  JUN 21  St. Aloysius Gonzaga
8:00AM  Helen M. Demars, by Estate Fund #2

Friday  JUN 22  St. Paulinus of Nola
St. John Fisher, St. Thomas More
8:00AM  Joel Lastinger, by Del & Kevin Herzog

Saturday  JUN 23  Feria
8:00AM  Michael Barrett, by Annie Osborn
4:00PM  Vigil  Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Kathie King by her mother Alice Kerrigan

Sunday  JUN 24  Nativity of St. John the Baptist
8:30AM  Jim Birt, by Teresa & Bruce Brady
10:30AM  Ann & Frank Splitz, by the McDonough Family
2:00PM  in Spanish  Celebrant’s Intention
4:30PM  Pro Populo (For our Parish Family)

To schedule Mass intentions or for sacramental records, please see Marilyn Chavez at the parish office, 845 Woodbury Avenue, or call 436-4555.

Our reflection of God’s generosity to us!

Weekend of June 9/10, 2018

| Envelopes/EFT | $ 12,549.00 |
| Loose         | $ 2,038.76  |
| **Total**     | **$ 14,587.76** |

Last weekend 215 envelope/23 Online Giving users contributed 86% of our income.

20/20 WINNERS$  
$25 Winners ~ Week 18

# 240  Maggie Ferrer  
# 173  Gloria Entenmann

To all our dads, we extend our gratitude for your loving witness and our wishes for blessing on this day! We lovingly lift up in prayer all our dads who have gone before us in death as well. All enrolled in the Father’s Day Spiritual Bouquet are remembered at all Masses this weekend, with names presented and placed before the altar at each Mass, then remaining on St. Joseph’s altar for the remainder of the month.

Each Fall we begin a series of no obligation “Come & See” Inquiry sessions as part of our RCIA process. These are for adults who were never brought up in any faith, never baptized or baptized in another Christian faith, or maybe baptized Catholic but not brought up in the faith, maybe never having received First Communion and/or Confirmation. Some folks who come are invited by family or friends. Some have been coming to Mass here with their spouse and family for a while, but are not Catholic. If you, or someone you know, might want to explore the Catholic faith you/they would be most welcome! Over the summer we invite folks who would like a bit more info on this process to reach out to us so we can set up a time to meet individually and informally. You can send an email to Fr. Gary at frgary.ccnh@gmail.com or Brenda, our RCIA director, at faithformdir.ccnh@gmail.com, or call 603-436-4555 to set up a time to meet for information without any obligation.

Sanctuary Lamp & Votives

The sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of John E. McCooey Sr., as requested by his children.
NEW! **Special Vocation Monstrance**
In 2004 Pope (now Saint) John Paul II blessed numerous monstrances to travel around the world for times of adoration and intercession for priestly vocation. As a follow up to our wonderful response to recent 40 Hours Devotion for Vocations here, we will be welcoming the monstrance for a time while it is here in NH. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in it on Thursday, June 28, from 7:00 to 7:55 AM, then 8:30 AM to 12N, and then during a Holy Hour for Vocations from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Plan to join us as we lift up our seminarians, those discerning priestly vocations in our parish, and all those the Lord may be calling. Save the date!

NEW! **Congratulations, Ethan!**
Today Ethan Bald will officially be recognized in a Court of Honor as an Eagle Scout. We congratulate him on this great achievement as he is now the third of the Bald brothers to become Eagle Scouts. We are very grateful for the witness to faith and generous service Ethan has given in his life as a member of our parish family as well! Blessings!

NEW! **Summer Adoration Hours**
The Blessed Sacrament will continue to be exposed for adoration every weekday (Monday through Saturday) before morning Mass from 7:00 to 7:55 AM. Additionally, on Thursdays Exposition will take place after Mass from 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. (After Labor Day we will return to the extended time, until 5:00 PM.) Take advantage of these opportunities for some heart to Heart time with Him!

NEW! **Frassati Fraternity**
This Thursday, June 21st, will be our next gathering for food, fellowship, and deepening our faith. All guys in their 20s and 30s are welcome. To get a count for food, please email Fr. G by June 19th at frgary.ccnh@gmail.com. We meet in the lower level of the parish office at 845 Woodbury Ave. Use side door labeled “St. JP II Youth Center.”

NEW! **Recently Baptized**
We warmly welcome Miette Jolie Shinkle, who was given new life through water and the Holy Spirit in our parish community! To her 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! **Wedding Bells!**
Next weekend, Karrah Standish & Nicholas Augelli and Katherine Hutchinson & Shane Ryan will pledge life and love in the sacrament of Marriage 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.

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**Old News**

**Open House for Corpus Christi Parishioners**
Thursday, June 21st
9:30 – 10:30 AM
RSVP to admissions@saintpatrickacademy.org

**SHARE**

Know Someone In Need?
You can help less fortunate Portsmouth, Greenland, New Castle and Newington (parish territory) residents by donating to the Portsmouth Catholic SHARE Fund. This parish service fills the gaps in services provided by existing community programs. SHARE provides financial assistance for such needs as rent deposits, car repairs and utilities. Please SHARE by making a donation today by using the special SHARE envelopes in the Church or mailing your gift to SHARE, 845 Woodbury Ave, Portsmouth, NH 03801. Every cent goes directly toward emergency basic living needs for Portsmouth residents in immediate need. You can also contribute via the Poor Box.

**Attention Business Owners and Generous Parishioners!**
Please consider advertising in our bulletin. Jim Bochiechio and Jillianne Snow will be working during the month of June on setting up the advertising sponsorships for our bulletin. Advertisements can be purchased for a business or family, or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting community service organizations like emergency pregnancy counseling or the battered women’s shelter, etc. We need and appreciate your help.

If you are interested or would like more information, please call Jim directly at 781-389-2198. Thank you in advance for your generous support, and please patronize our advertisers!
“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3

When we joined the Immaculate Conception Parish in the fall of 1997, it would have been hard to imagine the journey God had planned for us and our family. Our Church and its community have been the center of our lives and a home where we have developed wonderful and lasting friendships and delved deeply into the beauty and gifts of our Catholic faith. For this we are eternally grateful.

The last 21 years have been marked with many milestones: our marriage, children’s sacraments, a litany of ministry opportunities too numerous to capture in writing, and treasured friendships developed as we labored together in the Lord’s vineyard. Like the sower, we shared much joy in the scattering of seeds. It is our hope that our shared ministries will help to make a difference in our community and bring the gift of faith to those seeking and searching for God.

In 2014, Jim’s work as a physician relocated to the Upper Valley of New Hampshire. This employment change required a change of Jim’s residence during the week. As time progressed, the burden of separation as a couple became heavy for each of us. The vocation of marriage is a call to a life of holiness and service within our relationship and family. This is challenging when we live apart from each other.

This past November, God called us to care for two young children in our family. Like many in our community today, the opioid crisis hit home as these distant relatives were placed in the custody of the State. Our “Yes” to accepting these two young children into our home is a fiat of surrendered love – one that we each make in our own unique way. Although we didn’t really understand why or how, we knew that they needed two parents who could love and nurture them to wholeness and holiness. This was a call that needed to be shared – together.

Given the dynamics of our new family and inevitable adoption of our 13-month old Grace and 4-year old Benjamin, we will be relocating to the Upper Valley this summer. It is obvious to see the hand of God in the rearview mirror of our shared life. We look forward with eyes of faith, knowing that God is journeying with us. We have been blest with beautiful children, treasured friends, a warm and receiving faith community, and wonderful employment. We will be returning to the Seacoast area frequently to spend time with our local family and hope, on occasion, to see our friends at Corpus Christi Parish. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the love you have shown us during our time here. We ask for your prayers as you remain in our prayers and hearts.

With our eternal gratitude, Deacon Jim & Roxanne

Hey Guys aged 14 to 18, You’re Invited!

Our Diocese will be sponsoring a week of fun, diverse activities such as hiking, swimming, canoeing, sports, and games, along with opportunity for prayer, reflection, and building relationship with others guys of faith your age.

This opportunity is for guys who would like to enjoy a great week of summer activity and gain some insights on how to discern (figure out) what God might be calling you to in life – this is NOT JUST for guys open to priestly vocations, but, rather, for any guys wanting to pull God into the mix as they try to figure out college, career, and what they may have ahead of them in life. The week is called QUO VADIS days – taken from the Latin for the question “Where are you going?”

See the flyers at the church entrances for more information and registration, or visit qvdays.org. You can also contact Fr. Matt Mason at mmason@rcbm.org or 603-663-0196, or just see Fr. Gary with any questions. Donation for the week is just $50.00 with all meals, lodging, and activities included! (If unable to pay, no problem, we’ll cover it. Just see Fr. G.) Consider it guys, and don’t wait too long to sign up!
REVEALED

Help our teens encounter the love of God revealed in Christ. BUY STOCK – Become a Steubenville East SHAREHOLDER – DIVIDENDS guaranteed!

The weekend of July 13 – 15, 12 teens and 3 adults from Corpus Christi Parish will travel to Lowell, MA for the Steubenville East Youth Conference. This is a dynamic, Eucharist-centered retreat for teens in grades 9-12. Our teens will join with thousands of others who will journey to encounter Christ in community and the Sacraments, grow closer to Him through prayer, and be encouraged to live as His disciples.

We ask that you would prayerfully consider supporting our teens in this wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth. By “buying stock” in our teens, you become a Shareholder. The Dividend for your donation will be beyond estimation!

Estimated Expenses for Steubenville – $300 per teen
Our teens pay $235 to attend the conference. We need your help to offset the travel expenses, cover chaperone conference fees, provide group t-shirts, and assist families who cannot currently afford the Steubenville fees.

Current Share Price: $25

Name: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________
Home Address: ____________________________

Stock Options: Please choose one:
___ SPONSOR
   ___ 12 Shares = $300 (sponsors one teen)
   ___ 6 Shares = $150 (½ the cost of a teen)
Sponsors get a free T-Shirt!
Size _______ (Youth S – adult 4XL)

___ CONTRIBUTOR
Specify your donation amount:
___ Shares x $25/share = $ ________

___ BUY 2 Shares ($50) and get a free T-Shirt
Size _______ (Youth S – adult 4XL)

___ PRAYER WARRIOR
My support will be to pray for the teens before, during, and after the conferences.

Shareholders Reception:
To thank you for buying stock in our teens, we would like to invite you to a special Shareholder’s Reception on Sunday, July 22nd, 9:30-12 PM. We will have coffee & donuts and you’ll get to see pictures and hear the teens share about their retreat experience.

___ Yes, I will attend the Shareholder’s Reception.
   Number of persons to attend: _______
___ No, sorry I cannot attend

Ways to Donate:
Make checks payable to: Corpus Christi Parish
• Drop your donation into the collection basket with “Steubenville East” in the memo line.
• Drop your donation off at the parish office or mail to Brittany Molda, Corpus Christi Parish: 845 Woodbury Ave. Portsmouth, NH 03801

Questions? Contact Brittany Molda (Youth Minister) at 603-418-4290 or youthmin.cecnh@gmail.com

Community Events

Summer Faith Study Program
This year marks the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI’s encyclical Humane Vitae. This is the document in which the Pope, in 1968, set out the Church’s position on the matter of birth control. Many people were expecting the Catholic Church to change her teaching and accept birth control, but of course, the Church did not do so. With the benefit of the passing of 50 years, you will see through this study how the Holy Father’s words concerning the consequences of accepting birth control turned out to be prophetic. This is a timely study that will help you to appreciate the awesome beauty of our faith and understand the Church’s position on many of the life issues currently in the news. The program consists of home study, class discussion, and video presentations by Fr. Frank Pavone. We invite you to join us even if you’ve never participated before. You’ll be glad you did! The Tuesday morning or Thursday evening five-week program will be held at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton, and it begins the week of July 2. The cost for materials is $15. For more information or to register, contact Judi Park at 603-926-6131 or judepark@gmail.com.

Divorce Support Group
Catholic Charities would like to offer a Divorce Support Group in the Fall of 2018. A good support group requires at least six to eight members in order to be beneficial for all involved. If you are interested in participating in this group, please call Sr. Helene at 603-332-7701.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter
Happy Father’s Day! Take time for your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next weekends will be offered September 15 – 16 in Medway, MA, and December 7 – 9 in Duxbury, MA. For more information, call Stephen & Michelle O’Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at https://wwmema.org/.

Summer Journaling Group
What is a journaling group? Maybe you are looking for a new way to encounter Christ in prayer? Focusing on the New Evangelization as our theme, and through the study of the Sacraments and their accompanying graces and gifts, we will spend eight sessions listening to a teaching, and sharing from our scriptural study and journaling. Journaling as a form of prayer is when we listen to what God says to us and record it in a private journal. Sharing of our journal entries as a group helps us to see how God is working in our lives. It is always voluntary and all sharing is kept strictly confidential. Even if you have never journaled before, it is a practice which draws us more deeply into the center of our being where Christ is found. There is no charge for this class, but a donation to cover costs of materials is helpful. Classes begin Tuesday, June 26, at 6:30 – 8:45 PM at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Rochester. Pre-registration is required by Monday, June 25. FMI call Jackie Morganti at 603-332-3576.

“I have come to cast fire upon the earth! How I wish it were already blazing!” Luke 12:49