

Sacred Heart Parish

Served by the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette
PO Box 482, 2 Hough Street, Lebanon, NH 03766-0482

(603)448-1262 Fax: (603)448-2139

www.sacredheartlebanon.org

email: sheartlebanon@myfairpoint.net

Pastor:

Rev. Dr. William V. Kaliyadan, M.S.

Secretary: Ann Kimball

Religious Education Director:

Karen R. Boucher Office: 448-1262
Home: 448-3930

Youth Ministry:

Debra Campbell 863-2120

Priest in Residence:

Rev. Richard Delisle, M.S.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Weekday Masses

Wednesday & Friday 8:00 AM

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00-4:30; anytime on request.

Sacrament of Baptism: Contact the Parish Office 3 months before the birth

Sacrament of Matrimony: Contact the Pastor 6 months before the wedding date.

Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick: Please notify the parish office immediately if any one in the family is seriously ill.

Communion for Homebound: Please keep us informed of our sick and others who may be incapacitated so that we might minister to those in need, at home, in the hospital or a nursing home.

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting or are here for the first time. If you attend Sacred Heart regularly and consider this your parish, please take time to register at the parish office. Make our church a home away from your home.

Parish Mission Statement

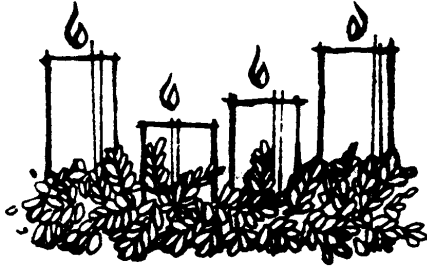
We, the People of Sacred Heart Parish, have the welcoming, loving presence of Jesus Christ as the center of our life, especially in the **Eucharist**. Through the ministry of the La Salette Missionaries we are committed to continuing the reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ.



Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19-20, 2009

O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.
— Psalm 80:15–16

MEMORIES AND DREAMS



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

There is an old saying that good gifts come in small packages. This is certainly borne out in today's scriptures. In the first reading the Lord announces that it is from Bethlehem, described as "too small to be among the clans of Judah" (Micah 5:1), that the Messiah would spring forth. In the Gospel story of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, we can only imagine Mary, probably a young teenager, a small woman, bearing within herself the greatest gift the world would ever know. These scriptures have much to say to us as we look forward to opening Christmas gifts over the next few days. Nothing in any package beneath any tree can compare to the gift given to the world two thousand years ago. As we share the joy of Christmas, let us remember the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who came into this world to save us and set us free. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

SAINT STEPHEN (first century) December 26

"A man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 6:5): thus Luke introduces Stephen, first of seven deacons chosen by the community for its ministry of charity, first to lay down his life in witness to Christ. As the church's first martyr, Stephen's life and death mirror the preaching and passion of Jesus, "the faithful witness" (Greek, martyr) (Revelation 1:5). Like Jesus, Stephen works "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8). Like Jesus, when falsely accused, Stephen's face radiates angelic serenity (Acts 6:15), though his tongue, like Jesus', is a two-edged sword. As the dying Jesus forgave his executioners, even making excuses for them, then commended his spirit into his Father's hands (Luke 23:34, 46), so Stephen intercedes for his murderers and begs Jesus to receive his spirit (Acts 7:60, 59). How fruitful both passions! The penitent thief inherits Paradise; Saul, who consented to Stephen's killing, is transformed into the fearless preacher Paul. Thus Stephen challenges us to bear witness not in words only, but by Christ-like forgiveness toward all. —Peter Scagnelli, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. He shall shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD (Micah 5:1-4a). **Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80). **Second Reading** — By Christ doing the will of God, namely, offering himself, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10). **Gospel** — Elizabeth speaks to her cousin Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:39-45).

Be a Sponsor and Support our Church Renovation

Chairs for Handicap Seating (16) – \$ 250.00 (each)

Wood Wall Mount Statue Pedestal – \$1000.00

New Kneeler - \$200 (each)

Refinish a Pew - \$400

Restoring Exterior doors - \$500 (each)

In the spirit of Christmas generously donate any amount towards construction of a new ADA Restroom, new Confessional, Painting, Tiling and Carpeting of the church.

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES... *A wise person once said, "Flowers are for the living. Memorials should be eternal." As Catholics, we believe in the Resurrection, life after death, and that we will spend eternal life with Jesus Christ and our departed loved ones. We miss those who have died and passed into God's hands. Our memories of them are precious, and we seek ways that will not only memorialize them, but also celebrate their lives and what they represented. A gift in memory of a loved one can be a fitting tribute, and can also benefit the mission and future of our parish.*



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

AND ON EARTH, PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE

WELCOME

It is with the joy of this holy season that we welcome everyone who has come to worship at this celebration of the savior's birth. If you are a newcomer, a visitor, a relative of parishioners, a familiar face, or someone we will soon know better, your presence here honors us for you bring the presence of Christ into this place. Join us as we give thanks and praise and glory to God!

The entire parish ministry staff wishes you all the Lord's joy and peace today and through the days of the year to come.

AN INVITATION

If you are not already an active member of this community, consider sharing in what we have to offer. Our parish is here to assist all who wish to know God more deeply. We serve the community through outreach, education, social activities, sacramental preparation, and comfort to the sick and those who mourn. Feel free to call on us if we can be of service to you in any way.

The origin of Christmas celebration: Many scholars believe that Christmas came to be placed on December 25th in order to counteract a pagan celebration called the *Birth of the Unconquered Sun*, a feast established by the Roman Emperor, Aurelian, in A. D. 274. Since December 25th was the date of the winter solstice (the year's shortest day, after which the days began to lengthen again showing the victory of the sun over darkness), it was chosen as the date of rejoicing. When Christianity was approved as the official religion of the Roman Empire, the Church chose this day to celebrate the birth of the true *Sun* – the Son of God who conquers the power of darkness. Another theory gives biblical support for celebrating Christmas on the 25th of December. It claims that the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist to Zachariah occurred during the feast of Yom Kippur, around September 25th, placing the birth of John after nine months on June 25th. Since the angel tells Mary that Elizabeth is in the sixth month of her pregnancy, the Annunciation event and the conception of Jesus took place around March 25th leading to Jesus' birth after nine months, around December 25th.



**We Wish
You A
Merry Christmas**

Christmas is a season which lasts for twelve days, concluding on Epiphany (12th night), which should remind us to continue to share our joy at the coming of the Messiah some 2000 years ago and again at Parousia for which we all pray (Eucharistic acclamation – “Lord Jesus come in glory”). As we celebrate the incarnation of the Word of God this Christmas, we must make a conscious effort to remember that Jesus is always with us in the Eucharist, and to share our joy with others.

CHRISTMAS *Joy*

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve Masses at Sacred Heart Parish are 4:00 pm

Living Crib and Children's kChoir

6:00 pm- Contemporary Music

11:45 pm – Christmas carol;

12:00 –Mass Choir

Christmas Day- 10:00 AM - Folk Group

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

at Sacred Heart

The dinner is held at **12:00 noon on Christmas Day** in the Sacred Heart Church Hall.

All are welcome. Free of charge.

Needed, cookies (350 dozen) and volunteers to prepare food, serve and deliver meals-on-wheels, wash dishes and clean up. To arrange for transportation, meal delivery, please call:

Jane Mason at (603)252-9469 or Cathy Schneider (603)-475-4643.

Website: <http://www.lebanonchristmasdinner.org>

E-mail: lebanonchristmasdinner@comcast.net

MARY, the MOTHER OF GOD

NEW YEARS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31, 2009- 7:00 Pm

Friday, January 1, 2010 - 10:00 Am

Due to Sacred Heart church painting and renovation beginning December 29th Holy Eucharist and all other sacraments will be celebrated in the parish hall. We hope to be back in our newly painted Church by Easter. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this time of renovation and refurbishing. During this time of Christmas, please consider supporting this renovation by making a generous donation to our building fund. **A Blessed Christmas and New Year.**

GIVING TREE - Thank You for the Gifts

Thanks to all who purchased Christmas gifts for the needy in our area. Your spirit of generosity helps to make the presence of Jesus come alive for our brothers and sisters in need.

Mass Intentions



Offering of a Mass -- It is the custom of the Catholic Church to offer and apply a Mass for anyone, whether living or deceased, following the intention of the person. It is the practice of the Church to celebrate many Masses for the dead and to pray for all the dead in each Mass. Offering a Mass with a special intention is not only a sign of love for our beloved, but it is also helpful for the soul for whom the Mass is offered.

OUR ALTAR MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Eucharistic Ministers: 4:30 Curt & Sharon Jacques

8:00 Gary Shepard, Lynn Smollin

10:30 Michele & Steve Gerow, Anne Jette

Lectors: 4:30 Sharon Guaraldi, Laurette Dupree

8:00 Brian Sites, Peggy Wardrop

10:30 John Hinck, Ariana Haidari

Altar Servers: 4:30 Justine, Calvin & Emily Hunnewell

8:00: William Sagraves, Joseph Flanagan,

Julia Surgenor 10:30: Monica Theriault, Ben Lang,

Kalen Mullin, Kayleigh Campbell

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Part time Religious Education Coordinator for St. Helena/St. Mary Parish. We are looking for a dedicated Catholic to coordinate and oversee the religious education program for the children and youth of the parish. Please submit a letter of interest, resume and two letters of reference on or before January 15, 2010 to the following address: St. Helena/St. Mary Church, 36 Shaker Hill Road Enfield, NH 03748 Attn: Search Committee For further information call the church office at 632-4263..

HOSPITAL VISIT...

If you or someone you know is going to the hospital, please call the rectory. We would like to pray with you and for you while you are ill or undergoing surgery. If you want a visit from a priest from the parish please specify and give your consent. This is required by the new hospital policy on privacy.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

YEAR END GIVING

Many people enjoy using Christmas and year's end as a special time to give to their favorite Catholic institutions and also positively impacts their federal and state income taxes.

All gifts made on or before December 31 is tax deductible for the tax year in which your gift is made. Make a return to God of your blessings at Christmas and support our parish or our outreach ministry.

OUR MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

TUESDAY	22 ADVENT WEEKDAY (P)
7:00 PM	Gertrude Forrest-Special Intention /Son & Daughter
WEDNESDAY	23 ADVENT WEEKDAY (P)
7:40 AM	Novena to Our Lady of La Salette
8:00 AM	Isabelle McNamara & Maureen Hiner / Martha & Family
THURSDAY	24 CHRISTMAS EVE (W)
4:00 PM	Roland A White / Barbara & Family
6:00 PM	All Parishioners
MIDNIGHT	Wilfred & Jeanne Tremblay / Family
FRIDAY	25 CHRISTMAS DAY (W)
10:00 AM	Celia Romano Pike/Husband Stephen
SUNDAY	27 STEPEHN, MARTYR (R)
4:30 PM	William Carrington/ Wife Barbara & Family
8:00	All Parishioners
10:30	Phil Langan / Ann & Karen

\$\$\$ \$ STEWARDSHIP REPORT \$\$\$ \$
To meet our weekly budget expenses we need \$5,500

Offertory Collection: \$5,132.00
Retired Religious Collection: \$1,396.00

The Finance Board wishes to thank you for your support in helping to meet the expenses of our parish!

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AT MASS...

If you are having a special Mass intention on the weekend, please see an Usher 10 minutes before Mass if you wish to bring up the gifts during the Offertory.

Spirit of Childhood

O good holy Nicholas, you who brought joy to children, put in my heart the spirit of childhood about which the Gospel speaks.

Church Renovation: We need your Help

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 AT 2:00 PM

A few weeks ago, a letter was sent to your homes explaining about the upcoming renovation of our church. We plan to begin this renovation after Christmas and hope to finish before Easter. During the renovation and painting time we will celebrate the Eucharist and all other sacraments in the parish hall. In order to prepare the parish hall for worship, **we need your help on Sunday, December 27 at 2:00 pm.** Please come to help us and be part of this church renovation. Thank you for your support and participation.