



Saint John XXIII Parish

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INFANT JESUS

121 Allds St, Nashua

SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

25 Library St, Hudson

December 29, 2024

HOLY FAMILY

Very Rev. Robert Glasgow, V.F.
Pastor | (603) 880-4689, rglasgow@rcbm.org

Rev. Ethelbert Orabucho
Priest Associate

Rev. Leandro Cardoso
Brazilian Ministry

Linda Morello
Parish Secretary | (603) 882-2462

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, 4:00 PM St John Evangelist
Saturday, 6:00 PM Infant Jesus
Saturday, 7:30 PM (Brazilian) Infant Jesus
Sunday, 8:30 AM St John Evangelist
Sunday, 10:30 AM Infant Jesus
Daily Mass (Tue/Thu), 8:30 AM Infant Jesus
Daily Mass (Wed/Fri), 8:30 AM St John Evangelist

CONFESSION

Saturday, 3:30 PM St John Evangelist
And after daily Mass, or by appointment.

BAPTISM

Parents must attend a Parent Baptism Class before the baptism of their child. The class is offered on request.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the office at least six months prior to the wedding date. The diocese requires Marriage Prep.

VISITS TO THE HOMEBOUND AND SICK, ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the office to request home or hospital visitation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

RCIA is the process of formation offered to those who seek to become Catholic. For information, please call the office

GUARDIAN OF THE REDEEMER

Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife. —Mt 1:24

The excerpts below are from the first homily of Pope Francis' pontificate. His topic was the role of St Joseph, custos [Lt., keeper/custodian/guard] and protector of the redeemer. Elected as the bishop of Rome and successor St Peter on 13 Mar 2013, Pope Francis chose to be installed on 19 Mar 2013, the Solemnity of St Joseph. Pope St John Paul II's apostolic exhortation *Redemptoris Custos* [Guardian of the Redeemer, 15 Aug 1989] speaks of the role of St Joseph at greater length.



THE HOLY FAMILY [detail]
by Bartolome Esteban Murillo (d. 1682)

DEAR Brothers and Sisters, I thank the Lord that I can celebrate this Holy Mass for the inauguration of my Petrine ministry on the solemnity of St Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the patron of the universal Church. It is a significant coincidence, and it is also the name-day of my venerable predecessor [Josef Ratzinger]: we are close to him with our prayers, full of affection and gratitude.

In the Gospel we heard that "Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife" (Mt 1:24). These words already point to the mission which God entrusts to Joseph: he is to be the custos, the protector. The protector of whom? Of Mary and Jesus; but this protection is then extended to the Church, as Blessed John Paul II pointed out: "Just as St Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model" (*Redemptoris Custos*, 1).

How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unflinching presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the

anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus.

How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God's presence and receptive to God's plans, and not simply to his own. This is what God asked of David, as we heard in the first reading. God does not want a house built by men, but faithfulness to his word, to his plan. It is God himself who builds the house, but from living stones sealed by his Spirit. Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!

The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as St Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!

Whenever human beings fail to live up to this responsibility, whenever we fail to care for creation and for our brothers and sisters, the way is opened to destruction and hearts are hardened. Tragically, in every period of history there are "Herods" who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women.

Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world! But to be "protectors", we also have to keep watch over ourselves! Let us not forget that hatred, envy and pride defile our lives! Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!

Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, St Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

Today, together with the feast of St Joseph, we are celebrating the beginning of the ministry of the new Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter, which also involves a certain power. Certainly, Jesus Christ conferred power upon Peter, but what sort of power was it? Jesus' three questions to Peter about love are followed by three commands: feed my lambs, feed my sheep. Let us never forget that authentic power is service, and that the Pope too, when exercising power, must enter ever more fully into that service which has its radiant culmination on the Cross. He must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service which marked St Joseph and, like him, he must open his arms to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-46). Only those who serve with love are able to protect!

In the second reading, St Paul speaks of Abraham, who, "hoping against hope, believed" (Rom 4:18). Hoping against hope! Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like St Joseph, the hope that we bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God.

To protect Jesus with Mary, to protect the whole of creation, to protect each person, especially the poorest, to protect ourselves: this is a service that the Bishop of Rome is called to carry out, yet one to which all of us are called, so that the star of hope will shine brightly. Let us protect with love all that God has given us!

I implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, St Joseph, SS Peter and Paul, and St Francis, that the Holy Spirit may accompany my ministry, and I ask all of you to pray for me! Amen.

OFFERING

15 Dec '24 (3rd Sunday Advent): \$3,391.00

22 Dec '24 (4th Sunday Advent):
not available at press time.

THANK YOU for your generosity!

MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 29 (Sun), 10:30 AM	Theresa Duchesne (req. by Lori & Doug Fowler)
Jan 4 (Sat), 6:00 PM	George & Evangeline Nadeau
Jan 5 (Sun), 10:30 AM	Sr. Alice Breault, CSC (req. by Ladies of Ste. Anne)

The Code of Canon Law confirms the practice of offering Mass(es) for particular intentions is ancient: "The Christian faithful who give an offering to apply the Mass for their intention contribute to the good of the Church and by that offering share its concern to support its ministers and works" (945 §2).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Day of Obligation MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Vigil Mass
(31 Dec, Tue)
5:30 PM (SJE)

Holy Day Mass
(1 Jan 2025, Wed)
10:00 AM (IJ)

2025 PAPAL PRAYER INTENTIONS

JANUARY

For the Right to an Education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

FEBRUARY

For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

MARCH

For Families in Crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

APRIL

For the Use of the New Technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

MAY

For Working Conditions: Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfilment, families might be

sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanized.

JUNE

That the World Might Grow in Compassion: Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion on the world.

JULY

For Formation in Discernment: Let us pray that we might again learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life, and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

AUGUST

For Mutual Coexistence: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

SEPTEMBER

For Our Relationship with All of Creation: Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

OCTOBER

For Collaboration Between Different Religious Traditions: Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

NOVEMBER

For the Prevention of Suicide: Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

DECEMBER

For Christians in Areas of Conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

Thank
You

THANKS to everyone who supported this year's FOOD PANTRY GIVING TREE! THANKS, too, to everyone who helped prepare and decorate the churches for Christmas!

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The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

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