

The Pastor's Musings

Dear Family in the Lord,

Our much anticipated "Surge of the Heart" Parish Mission is just a week away! We will have opening night next Sunday at 7:00 PM, and continue the following Monday and Tuesday, October 2 and 3, at 7:00 PM in church. I can't encourage you strongly enough to join us, and to invite friends, whether active or inactive Catholics, or not Catholic at all, to experience laughter, inspiration, and enrichment!

Jon Leonetti is a lay evangelist, nationally-known speaker, author, and radio host. He will give practical and effective ways to live, know, and grow in our Catholic faith. Sharing exciting stories and using a great sense of humor, Jon will inspire and challenge us in our call to holiness. Each night will have a distinct topic. I hope you've rearranged your calendar by now and will plan to be at all three, but, if for some reason you can't, please come to what you can since each night is distinct.

Next Sunday, the first Mission talk will be "Who is God and why does that matter?" On Monday, Jon will focus on outlining the lives of some of the most fascinating and inspiring people ever to have walked the planet! On the final night, Jon will help us live in relationship with Jesus in the messiness of everyday life. Sound practical? It sure is! His style is compelling and will awaken in us a renewed sense of joy and commitment as disciples of Jesus!

Maybe somebody you know can begin to consider "coming home" to their Catholic faith? Maybe some questions will be answered or preconceived ideas called into reflection? Extend invitations to family, neighbors, and friends! These evenings will wrap up in an hour and are "family friendly," especially if you plan to bring middle school or high school youth! So many young adults talk to me about wanting to ignite their lukewarm faith or grow beyond the minimal formation they received as kids in the faith. These nights of Parish Mission are a great opportunity!

We began having yearly Missions, of various types, when I arrived here as pastor. Our first was in Lent of 2012 and set the theme that would unfold over the years: Renew, Rediscover, and Reconcile! This year's speaker is very unique. He's a family man with young kids, a man of deep and enthusiastic faith, articulate, and blest with a great sense of humor (just look at that last quote on the flyer in today's bulletin to get a hint of that). I am hoping, and praying really hard, that you will accept my invitation, my URGING, as your pastor who loves you deeply and wants all the best for you and your family! See you next Sunday night to experience "Surge of the Heart" – Corpus Christi Parish Mission 2017!

With you on the Journey,

The Week at a Glance

Monday, September 25

SPA School Mass – 9:15 AM (IC C)
Bring It Home! – 5:30-7:30 PM (SPA)
Hey, I was wondering... – 6:30 PM (IC C)

Tuesday, September 26

Peter Scripture Study – 9:00 AM (SC H)
Peter Scripture Study – 6:30 PM (SC H)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98

Wednesday, September 27

Prayer Cenacle – 2:00 PM (IC C)
Rivier Retreat – 6:30 PM (EDPC)
K of C Mtg – 6:00 PM (IC H)

Thursday, September 28

Exposition/Adoration – 8:30AM-5PM (IC)
Contemporary Group Practice – 7PM (IC C)
Walking with Purpose – 5:00 PM (SC H)
Televised Parish Mass – 7 PM, Channel 98

Friday, September 29

Men's Retreat at Camp Fatima
Wedding Rehearsal – 3:30 PM (IC C)
Wedding Rehearsal – 5:30 PM (IC C)
Italian Class – 7:00 PM (EDPC LL)

Saturday, September 30

Men's Retreat at Camp Fatima
Walking with Purpose Coffee – 9 AM (SCH)
Wedding Liturgy – 10:00 AM (IC C)
Wedding Liturgy – 1:00 PM (IC C)
Rosary – 3:30 PM (IC C)

Sunday, October 1

Men's Retreat at Camp Fatima
Children's Dismissal – at 8:30 Mass (IC)
Televised Parish Mass – 10 AM, Channel 98
RCIA – 11:30 AM (SC)
Music Ministry Rehearsal – 11:45AM (IC C)
Choir Practice Spanish Mass – 1:00 PM (ICH)
Rosary – 1:30 PM (IC C)
Spanish Mass – 2:00 PM (IC C)
Parish Mission 2017 – 7:00 PM (IC C)



Traveling Vocation Icon

This week, **Steve & Suzy Gagnon** will receive the Icon of Jesus Knocking at the Door into their 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.

Parish News

NEW! *New Season in Full Swing!*

The Lectio: Peter Bible Study is underway, and Walking with Purpose, sponsored by our Women's Ministry, launches next Saturday. Our Men's Ministry retreat will be this coming Friday through Sunday, September 29 through October 1. The Bring it Home! Family Faith Formation program kicks off today, and tomorrow, our Choir is back at 10:30 Mass and other choral groups are enhancing our song weekly with a varied schedule. Things are going strong, and St. Patrick Academy is off to a great start to this academic year, with construction moving right along on the new school! Fr. Gary is shedding some light on questions put forth in weekly *Hey! I Was Wondering* Sessions.

Renovations at the former St. Catherine Rectory are coming to completion this week. We are looking to being moved in and operating our parish offices out of our new home by mid-October. Plans are underway for the Fall Fun Day Fair coming at the end of October.

Thanks to so many invested and enthusiastic folks who are plugging in and helping to make all of this possible, both from our staff and parish family as a whole, the faculty and staff at the Academy, and ready and willing volunteers!

NEW! *Blessing of Animals*

We invite you to bring your pets for blessing as we anticipate the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on October 4 and give thanks for animals, a wonderful gift of God's creation, who brighten our lives and warm our hearts. The Blessing Rite will be at 1:00 PM **next Sunday, October 1st**, in front of our Immaculate Conception Church. Please be sure all pets are caged or on leashes for the safety of all!

NEW! *Eucharistic Adoration*

More are discovering the great grace and gift of one-on-One time with Jesus! We invite you to take advantage of opportunities for adoration offered here six days a week! Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place Monday through Saturday from 7:00 to 7:55 AM. On Thursdays, in addition, the Blessed Sacrament is then exposed for ongoing adoration through the day from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Remember, outside of these hours, the church is open every day from 7 AM to 8 PM for your prayerful visits before Jesus present in the Tabernacle! Don't miss the opportunity!

NEW! *Men's Retreat*

Green flyers at the church doors have details and how to register. **Tomorrow is the deadline!** Join other men in our parish for a time of faith, fellowship, and reflection, next Friday evening through Sunday afternoon at Camp Fatima. Presented by our Parish Men's Ministry and Fr. David Affleck. All men, of all ages, are welcome!

NEW! *Music Ministry?*

Interested in being involved? Feel free to email Lisa at musicdir.ccnh@gmail.com or see her in the loft after the 10:30 AM Choir Mass for more info about Choir and other Choral groups and opportunities. You'd be most welcome!

NEW! *Month of the Rosary*

Next Sunday opens the month of October, traditionally dedicated as the Month of the Holy Rosary. A group moves over to the side pews in front of our Lady's altar right after the 8 AM Mass, Monday – Saturday, to pray the Rosary together, and, each Saturday it is prayed communally at 3:30 PM before Holy Mass. All are welcome! Maybe this special month is time to begin? Or, maybe pray a "decade a day" with the kids at home, or drop in to church for a visit and some time of meditation on the mysteries and prayer in union with Mary? Make a special effort this coming month!

NEW! *Raffle Packets*

Thanks to all who took a packet, with \$25 worth of raffle tickets and a letter outlining ways you might consider helping us with this year's Fall Fun Day Fair on October 28! Please make raffle returns via the collection in envelope marked "Raffle." All proceeds from raffle sales are 100% profit, since all the cash prizes are the generous donation of the benefactors listed on the tickets, and the printing of the tickets themselves is donated by New England Printing. The raffle is the biggest source of revenue for this important annual fundraising effort. Please do all you can to sell at least the \$25 enclosed and, if you can, feel free to pick up more tickets at the office or just take another packet! We had great response in packets going out... now... time for them to come back! Note the ways you can help and details about the event day elsewhere in this bulletin. Can we count on you to be part of this once a year all out community effort? Thanks to all involved in behind the scenes prep already!

NEW! *Vocation Support Association*

Last Fall, a number of parishioners committed to tangible support for our seminarians as part of our "VSA." The Association is for those willing to offer prayerful and personal support, occasional notes, cards, etc. and, if possible, give \$10 a month for the fund that helps us provide for various needs – books, auto repairs, car insurance, and other incidentals that come up. A letter will soon be going out to all who are in the Association to inquire about signing up for another year, and forms will be at church doors soon for those who would like to commit for this coming year. The offering can be made up front for the year, quarterly, bi-annually or monthly, or, even if you are unable to give financially, you shouldn't hesitate to join – your personal support and prayers mean a lot! Watch for more! This parish manifests its support for vocations in so many ways, whether VSA, the Traveling Icon, or all that so many do to make the three men who call our Vianney House "home" know they have support, love, and care!

Sanctuary Lamp & Votives

The sanctuary lamp will burn this week in memory of Edith O'Brien Titus, as requested by Frances Lebel.

The votives at the Mary altar will burn for Kevin Cody, on the occasion of his ordination, as requested by Kate & Glen Gordon.

At the St. Joseph altar, the votives will burn in memory of Jill Armitage, requested by her husband Phil.

NEW! Liturgical Ministries?

The Fall season is a great time to submit your name and be trained to serve in our various liturgical ministries. Would you like to proclaim God's Word as a Lector, or minister the Body and Blood of the Lord as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or offer hospitality as a Greeter? Would you like to join our team of dedicated women who care for the sanctuary, sacristy, altars, and things related to the Liturgy as part of our Martha & Mary Ministry? How about children in grades 4 and up willing to be altar servers? High school youth and young adults interested in serving as Masters of Ceremony at Mass? If you are willing to serve our parish in any of these ways, please call Mary Kay in our office or email her at aa1.cnh@gmail.com and give her your name, ministry of interest, and contact info. She will then pass the info on to those who will contact you to give you more info and training.

NEW! Wedding Bells!

Next Saturday, **Lyndsey & Ralph Bens** and **Shaylagh McCole & Robert Cerulli** 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.

NEW! Called Home to the Lord

We remember in prayer the repose of the soul of **David "Woody" Wooldridge**, husband of parishioner Madeline Wooldridge. To his family we extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayerful support as well.

NEW! US Lighthouse Service Memorial to be held at Calvary Cemetery

On **Saturday, September 30th**, at 2:30 PM, US Lighthouse Service markers will be placed on the grave sites of distinguished lighthouse keepers Leander White and Henry Cuskley at Calvary Cemetery. The ceremony is open to the public. The grave sites are located near the far right side of the cemetery as you face it from Middle Road. *Friends of Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouses* thanks the generous donors who have made this event possible. There are plans to mark more grave sites of keepers of the Portsmouth Harbor and Whaleback Lighthouses in the future.



Are you interested in getting together with a group of women to explore your faith? Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Bible study for women that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ through personal study and small group discussions.

Stop by our table in the back of the Church for more information and to sign up! And mark your calendars to join us for our "Connect Coffee" event **next Saturday, September 30th**, at St. Catherine Hall from 9:30-11:00 AM. We have prepared a place for you!

For more information, please contact Lisa Bald at 207-337-0934 or corpuschristiwwp@gmail.com.

Families Living the Good News

Bring It Home!

A Corpus Christi Parish Program

Sessions begin September 24/25!

Have you registered? Forms are available at the entrance to the church or register online at www.bringithomeccnh.org. Brochures with additional information are available at the entrance to the church or call Brenda or Brittany at 436-4555.

Sign up Now!

Friday, September 29th ~ 4:00 PM Arrival
Sunday, October 1st ~ 1:00 PM Departure

Camp Fatima

32 Fatima Road, Gilman Iron Works, NH 03837

*Look for the green flyer with all the details
at the church doors!*



October is Respect Life Month. Once again, we will have the opportunity to unite with others all over the country in 40 Days for Life, prolife campaign of prayer, fasting, and witness! To date, 13,305 babies have been saved and 86 abortion clinics have closed.

The campaign runs from September 27th through November 5th. Consider joining us for sidewalk witness and prayer in front of the Lovers Health Center, 559 Portsmouth Ave. in Greenland, where abortions are performed in our area. You can go anytime between 7AM and 7PM that day or any day. Our parish has been assigned to pray there on Mondays.

In order to attract more young adults, 18 and older, a college scholarship in the amount of \$4040 is being offered to those who participate in the campaign. To apply for the scholarship they must download the 40DFL App. Contact our parish campaign co-coordinator Jackie McCoy at 603- 531-1662 or Joe Gagnon at 603- 373-0094 if you have any questions.

Community Postings

NEW! NH Night of Worship

Join with churches from around the state for NH's third state-wide Night of Worship on **Friday, September 29th**, from 7 to 9 PM at St. Marie Church, 378 Notre Dame Avenue in Manchester. FMI, visit NHAlliance.net or [Facebook.com/reviveNH](https://www.facebook.com/reviveNH).

NEW! Crafters Wanted

Crafters, be a part of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal's annual Holly Days Fair on November 18th! This year's theme is "Olde Tyme Church Bazaar," a Christmas Day for your family, friends, and neighbors! For an application, contact Janie Traynor at 603-216-7269 or jtgang@traynortax.com.

NEW! Attention Parents!

Children and their parents are invited to Salt + Light, a comedy for kids, starring TV star Frank Runyeon, on Sunday, October 1st, at 5:00 PM at St. Pius X Church in Manchester. FMI, visit www.frankrunyeon.com.

NEW! Catholic Divorce Healing Program

The Parish of the Ascension in southeast Maine is pleased to announce a new session of divorce ministry called *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*. The 12-week program covers topics like shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more. You will cry, laugh, and be encouraged. Join us, beginning **Thursday, September 28th**, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Center (upstairs) of St. Raphael Church, located at 6 Whipple Road in Kittery. The program continues every Thursday for 12 weeks (except Thanksgiving). Pre-registration is required to ensure that we have enough Personal Study Guides and to ensure the program is right for you. For more information, please contact Frank at 207-467-3868 or f.h.patch@gmail.com.

NEW! 3 Day Vigil

St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Mary Parishes will host a 3-day vigil of prayer for those who have fallen away from our faith, beginning with Mass at 6:30 PM on **Tuesday, September 26th**, at Holy Trinity Church in Somersworth and ending with Mass on **Thursday, September 28th**, at 6:30 PM. All are welcome.



RISING OF THE MOON

Join us! All are invited on **Friday, October 27th**, to the Community Campus in Portsmouth at 6:00 PM for a FUN night out that will support Catholic education!

For the first time ever, Saint Patrick Academy will host **The Rising of the Moon Auction & Raffle**. This incredible night out will include games of chance, fantastic prizes, entertainment, and NBA star Paul Ryan, who will give a witness to the Catholic Faith.

Tickets are just \$25, and include great food. Raffle Tickets for a \$500 prize are just \$10 each. Both are available now by calling (603) 436-0739 or online at www.SaintPatrickAcademy.org. We hope to see you there!



SAINTPATRICKACADEMY.ORG
(603) 436-0739

Saint Patrick Academy is a Catholic school that fosters a love for the good, the true, and the beautiful. Students in Preschool through Eighth Grade receive a truly joyful and holistic education.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius

Have you been seeking a way to:

- Grow in prayer?
- Fall more deeply in love with the Lord?
- Live in more authenticity and freedom?
- Discover your true identity in Christ?
- Discern God's will for your life?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Lord may be inviting you to meet Him through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Through a series of scripture-based prayer experiences on the life, ministry, passion, and resurrection of Jesus, you will encounter the Lord more personally and powerfully than ever before, transforming your prayer, deepening your relationship with the Lord, and bringing new freedom and purpose to your life. Join us on this grace-filled journey with our Lord.

WHERE: St Michael Parish, Exeter
WHEN: Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 PM
TUITION: \$55

For information, please call Brian & Jan Moran at 603-929-2152 or visit their parish website: stmichaelparish.org.