St. Mary Roman Catholic Church

32 Pearl Street, Claremont, NH 03743
Phone: (603) 542-9518
Website: www.stmaryparishnh.org
Email: stmarysclaremont@comcast.net

Pastor	Rev. Maria Sebastian Susairaj, HGN
Administrative Assistant	Mary K. Keating
Music Director	Joe Labrecque
Catholic Outreach Director	Denny Francis
ProLife Ministry Director	Juanita Sweet
Safe Environment Coordinator	Kevin Krawiec
Homebound Ministry Director	Steve Denis
Parish Hospitality/Security	Knights of Columbus Fr. Cote Council 1820

Please remember St. Mary's Renovation Fund in your will.

WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:00 PM
Sunday	8:00 AM / 10:30 AM

WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday / Thursday / Friday / Saturday	9:00 AM

MASSES AT OLD ST. MARY CHURCH

Saturday Morning Mass at 9:00 AM every week
(Memorial Day Weekend to October) at Old St. Mary Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday	9:30 AM
Saturday	3:00 - 3:45 PM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

EMERGENCY NUMBER: (603) 504-5430
This number is to be used to reach Fr. Sebastian outside office hours in cases of emergency.

CATHOLIC OUTREACH HOURS

Tuesday 2:00 PM

ADORATION CHAPEL—24/7

Please come by the Parish Office to receive the code and instructions.

ST. MARY CEMETERY Old Church Road

Please call the Parish Office for inquiries or other information regarding the parish cemetery.

September 7, 2025
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September: A Month Dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of September to Our Lady of Sorrows, a devotion that focuses on the profound sufferings and sorrows of the Virgin Mary. This devotion, which finds its roots in the 12th century, serves as a powerful reminder of Mary's deep connection to the Passion of Christ and her unique role in salvation history.

Origins of the Devotion

The devotion to the Sorrows of Mary began in monastic circles under the influence of saints like St. Anselm and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Their theological reflections on Mary's participation in the sufferings of Christ inspired the Cistercians and later the Servite Order (the Order of the Servants of Mary) to propagate this devotion. The Servites, founded in the 13th century, made it their mission to promote the devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

The devotion became particularly widespread in the 14th and 15th centuries, especially in the Rhineland and Flanders, where Confraternities of the Sorrowful Mother were established. These Confraternities provided a communal way for the faithful to meditate on Mary's sorrows and to participate in acts of reparation. The devotion gained further liturgical recognition when a provincial council in Mainz, Germany, in 1423, instituted the "Feast of the Sorrows of Mary" as a means of atoning for the desecration of her images by the Hussites.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

The Seven Sorrows of Mary, also known as the Seven Dolors, are key events in the life of the Virgin Mary that caused her immense sorrow. These events are deeply rooted in Scripture and tradition, and they invite the faithful to meditate on Mary's suffering, offering a path to deeper compassion and spiritual growth.

1. **The Prophecy of Simeon***Luke 2:34-35*When Mary and Joseph presented Jesus in the Temple, the prophet Simeon foretold that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction and that a sword would pierce Mary's soul. This prophecy revealed the future suffering of both Jesus and Mary, setting the stage for Mary's participation in her Son's redemptive mission.
2. **The Flight into Egypt***Matthew 2:13-14*After the visit of the wise men, an angel warned Joseph to flee to Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus to escape King Herod's wrath. The Holy Family's sudden departure and the uncertainty of life in a foreign land brought great sorrow to Mary, who feared for the safety of her Son.
3. **The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple***Luke 2:43-45*When Jesus was 12 years old, He remained behind in the Temple after a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph, unaware of His whereabouts, searched for Him anxiously for three days. This experience of losing her Son, even temporarily, caused Mary great distress.
4. **Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary***Luke 23:27*As Jesus carried His cross to Calvary, He encountered His mother along the way. Their eyes met, and Mary saw the agony and suffering of her beloved Son. Despite her sorrow, she remained steadfast, accompanying Him in spirit to His crucifixion.
5. **The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus***John 19:25-27*Standing at the foot of the cross, Mary witnessed the brutal execution of her Son. She heard His final words, entrusting her to the care of the Apostle John and, in doing so, giving her as a mother to all of humanity. Mary's heart was pierced with sorrow as she watched Jesus breathe His last.
6. **The Body of Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross***Mark 15:43-46*After Jesus' death, His body was taken down from the cross and placed in His mother's arms. This poignant moment, often depicted in art as the Pietà, symbolizes Mary's deep grief and her profound love for her Son. She held the lifeless body of the one she had brought into the world, mourning the loss of her child.
7. **The Burial of Jesus***John 19:41-42*Mary followed Jesus to the tomb, where His body was laid to rest. This final act of sorrow marked the end of her earthly relationship with Him, but it also held the promise of the Resurrection. Mary's faith in God's plan remained unshaken, even in the face of death.

Spiritual Significance of the Devotion

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows is not merely a reflection on the past but a powerful spiritual practice that invites the faithful to unite their own sufferings with those of Mary. By meditating on her sorrows, believers can find strength and consolation in their trials, knowing that Mary understands their pain and accompanies them on their journey of faith.

This devotion also deepens one's understanding of the mystery of the Incarnation and the redemptive suffering of Christ. Mary's sorrows are a testament to her unwavering faith and her participation in the salvific work of her Son. Through this devotion, the faithful are drawn closer to the heart of the Blessed Mother, who leads them to a deeper relationship with Jesus.

The month of September, dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, offers Catholics a unique opportunity to reflect on the profound sufferings of the Virgin Mary and their connection to the Passion of Christ. Through this devotion, the faithful are invited to meditate on the Seven Sorrows of Mary, to seek her intercession in their own trials, and to grow in compassion and understanding of the mystery of suffering. As they journey with Mary through her sorrows, they are drawn closer to her Son, who is the source of all hope and redemption.

September 6, 2025—September 14, 2025

Sat. Sept 6	**Vigil of Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
4:00 PM	For the People
Sun. Sept 7	**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:00 AM	Mary Ann Kingston (†) By Kingston Family
10:30 AM	Al and Ruby Hill (†) By Kingston Family
Mon. Sept 8	**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
9:00 AM	Dan Murray By Mary K. Keating
Tue. Sept 9	**St. Peter Claver, Priest**
	No Mass
Wed. Sept 10	**Weekday**
	No Mass
Thur. Sept 11	**Weekday**
9:00 AM	Rev. Paul Lamb (†) By Mary K. Keating
Fri. Sept 12	**Weekday**
9:00 AM	Souls in Purgatory By Tom & Cindy LaCasce
Sat. Sept 13	**St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Church Doctor**
9:00 AM	John Keating By Mary K. Keating
	Vigil of the Exaltation of the Cross
4:00 PM	Christopher Walters (†) By Kingston Family
Sun. Sept 14	**Exaltation of the Cross**
8:00 AM	For the People
10:30 AM	Eduardo Otero (†) By Elvira Otero

Next weekend we will welcome Fr. Sebastian's Superior, Rev. Matthew Kallikat, as the celebrant for all Masses. He will be visiting Fr. Sebastian from Friday to Wednesday.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK. . .

Mon. Sept 8	Mi 5:1-4/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
Tues. Sept 9	Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19
Wed. Sept 10	Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26
Thurs. Sept 11	Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38
Fri. Sept 12	1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk 6:39-42
Sat. Sept 13	1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49
Sun. Sept 14	Nm 21:4-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17

PARISH OFFERING

Sunday Offertory – August 31, 2025

Envelopes (45).....$1,648.00
Loose.....$1,579.00

Online Giving

Offertory.....$401.09
Capital Campaign.....$550.24

Upcoming Second Collections

Fuel	September 6/7
Church Maintenance	September 13/14
Catholic Outreach	September

Donations to Catholic Outreach should be made payable to "Catholic Outreach—St. Mary Parish."

New Hampshire Catholic Appeal checks should be made payable to "New Hampshire Catholic Appeal."

Capital Campaign checks should be made payable to "God's House, Our Home."

PRAYER LIST

Call the parish office to add/continue a person on the prayer list

Marc Bissonette	Renee Honeman	Dennis Palmer
Paul Boudreau	Geoffrey Houle	Bill & Barbara Pierce
Eliott Brown	Timothy Houle	Janet Ruest
Todd Burley	David Immic	Nancy Ruest
Rev. Daniel Cogut	Don Keating	Paul Ruest
Sandra Colby	Paul Keating	Christine Snyder
Scott Colpas	Al Kulacz	Andrew St. Pierre
Christine Currier	Donna Kulacz	Barbara St. Pierre
Dana Davidson	John Laushance	Edward Stone
Norman Dion	Diane Lavigne	Mary Sullivan
Susan Doody	Matthew Limoges	Ryan Sullivan
Jimmy Dunn	Fr. John Loughnane	Enola Surrell
Charles Eastman	Jerry Malone	Pauline Trottier
Frank Emig	Sylvia Michaud	Louise Unger
Joan Flaherty	Mark Miller	Jennifer Viger
Carol Fontaine	David Montano	Jeff White
Dennis Fontaine	Mary Ouellette	Barbara Woodin

Give a gift of the greatest prayer for your loved ones, living or deceased. Contact the Parish Office to schedule. The 2026 calendar is now available.

The Sanctuary Lamp in St. Mary Church will burn this week in thanksgiving for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Welcome New Parishioners... Just moved to this area? We welcome you to St. Mary Parish!
Parish registration forms are available in the back of the church or on the parish website.
Please contact the Parish Office at stmarysclaremont@comcast.net or (603) 542-9518 if you have questions.

HYMNS—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Processional Hymn: #290—Crown Him With Many Crowns

Offertory Hymn: #435—Praise to the Holiest in the Height

Communion Hymn: #361—O Sacrament Most Holy

Anima Christi: #699

Recessional Hymn: #432—Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

ST. MARY'S GIGANTIC INDOOR YARD SALE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
GYM - MAIN STREET
CLAREMONT, NH

OVER 100 TABLES
THOUSANDS OF ITEMS FOR SALE – NUMEROUS ANTIQUES
FURNITURE
LAY AWAY SERVICE
CARRY OUT SERVICE
FOOD/BEVERAGES

Welcome Fall Bake Sale

FOLLOWING:

September 13, 4:00 mass

September 14, 8:00 & 10:30 masses

Call Gail Leclerc-Roberts @ 603-543-4187 to coordinate your support.

FREE WILL DONATIONS

Campaign Corner

The masonry work should be completed this week and new gutters installed. New stone steps for the main entrance are ordered but will not be here for several weeks. Please avoid the front main entrance and use the other entrances for the church. See the parish website for more photos, album **St. Mary Church Renovation**.

Catholic Outreach—St. Mary Parish

If you or someone you know needs assistance with food or living expenses, please call Denny Francis of Catholic Outreach at 603-543-0551

St. Mary ProLife Ministry

Contact Juanita Sweet or the Parish Office

Roman Catholic Homebound Ministry

If you or someone you know would like to receive a visit from Fr. Sebastian, please call Steve Denis at (603) 558-5209. Visits are made on the 2nd Monday of every month. Father is assisted by one of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

New Hampshire Catholic Appeal:

We are grateful to all parishioners who have given to the New Hampshire Catholic Appeal. As of today, our parishioners have raised **$5,950.81** toward our goal of $32,657.00. Approximately 90% of the funds raised above this Appeal goal are returned to our parish this year of appeal. If you have not made your gift yet, please mail your gift in an Appeal envelope or make your gift online at www.catholicnh.org/nhca. Envelopes are available in the church. We need the support of all of our parish families to reach our parish goal. Please make all checks payable to **New Hampshire Catholic Appeal**.

Parish Yard Sale—September 6, 2025
Parish Picnic—September 21, 2025
Parish Penny Sale—October 4, 2025

PARISH PICNIC

COMING SOON: Food, Fun and Fellowship at our annual St. Mary's parish summer potluck picnic. Sunday September 21st from 12 - 3pm, on the grounds of St. Mary's school. The Knights of Columbus will be providing hamburgers/ cheeseburgers, sausage and peppers, corn on the cob (as availability allows), as well as soda/ water. Each family can bring a favorite dish to share with fellow parishioners. Plenty of lawn games to play and challenge Father.

Come as we celebrate the end of Summer and the start of Fall.

A sign -up sheet will be in the back of the church to give us an attendee count for food purchasing.