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.

February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

First Sunday of Lent

1st

A reading from the Book of Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

THE LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.

Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

PSALM 51

℟ **(cf. 3a) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me. ℟

For I acknowledge my offense,
and my sin is before me always:
"Against you only have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight." ℟

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me. ℟

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. ℟

2nd

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 5:12-19

[For the shorter form (5:12, 17-19), omit the text in brackets.]

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned [—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one, the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one who sinned. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal.] For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

AT THAT TIME Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written:

One does not live on bread alone,/ but on every word that comes forth/ from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

He will command his angels concerning you/ and with their hands they will support you,/ lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, *You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.*" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written:

The Lord, your God, shall you worship/ and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

February 21, 2026—March 1, 2026

Sat. Feb 21	**Vigil of First Sunday of Lent (StJ)**
4:00 PM	Joanne Garren (†) By Family
Sun. Feb 22	**First Sunday of Lent (StJ)**
10:30 AM	Albert and Carol St. Pierre By Mary K. Keating
Mon. Feb 23	**Lenten Weekday (OSM)**
9:00 AM	Brian Denis (†) By Charles & Doreen Kusselow
Tue. Feb 24	**Lenten Weekday**
	No Mass
Wed. Feb 25	**Lenten Weekday**
	No Mass
Thur. Feb 26	**Lenten Weekday (OSM)**
9:00 AM	Brian Denis (†) By Charles & Doreen Kusselow
Fri. Feb 27	**Lenten Weekday (OSM)**
9:00 AM	Louis Millette By Mary K. Keating
Sat. Feb 28	**Lenten Weekday (OSM)**
9:00 AM	Special Intention By Les & Sandra St. Pierre
	Vigil of Second Sunday of Lent (StJ)
4:00 PM	Roy and Marie Lucier (†) By Mike & Sharon Gilbert and Steve Denis
Sun. Mar 1	**Second Sunday of Lent (StJ)**
10:30 AM	Shane and Caitlyn McNeal By Steve Denis

The Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory will be prayed after each Mass during the week in Lent.

GiveOnline
easy. fast. secure.

Please consider online contributions to St. Mary Parish. Visit our website and click on the "Give Online" button.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK. . .

Mon. Feb 23	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tues. Feb 24	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wed. Feb 25	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thurs. Feb 26	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Fri. Feb 27	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Sat. Feb 28	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Sun. Mar 1	Gn 12:1-4/2 Tm 1:8-10/Mt 17:1-9

PARISH OFFERING

Sunday Offertory - February 15, 2026

Envelopes (46)	$1,545.50
Loose	$1,073.00
Diocesan Catholic Schools	$616.00

Online Giving

Offertory	$496.06
Capital Campaign	$690.09

Upcoming Second Collections

Fuel	March 7/8
Catholic Relief Services	March 14/15
Church Maintenance	March 21/22

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

Michael Aaron	Carol Fontaine	Mary O'Grady
Mark Baril	Dennis Fontaine	Mary Ouellette
Marc Bissonnette	Bill Garren	Denise Pantanella
Georgette Boudreau	Geoffrey Houle	Janet Ruest
Paul Boudreau	Timothy Houle	Nancy Ruest
Eliott Brown	Gregg Howe	Paul Ruest
Michael Cirre	Ricky Kaynew	Nancy Sammataro
Sandra Colby	Don Keating	Christine Snyder
Scott Colpas	Al Kulacz	Andrew St. Pierre
Christine Currier	Donna Kulacz	Barbara St. Pierre
Dana Davidson	Robert Labelle	Edward Stone
Norman Dion	John Laushance	Mary Sullivan
Susan Doody	Diane Lavigne	Ryan Sullivan
David Doster	Matthew Limoges	Pauline Trottier
Nichole Dunkel	Fr. John Loughnane	Louise Unger
Jimmy Dunn	Patrick Lozito	Gary Vezina
Charles Eastman	Sylvia Michaud	Jennifer Viger
Frank Emig	Mark Miller	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 Candle Memorials will be temporarily on hold until Our Eucharistic Lord returns to St. Mary Church.

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—First Sunday of Lent

Processional Hymn: #239—The Glory of These Forty Days

Offertory Hymn: #240—Hosea (Come Back to Me)

Communion Hymn: #238—Lord, Who Throughout These 40 Days

Recessional Hymn: #243—Forty Days and Forty Nights

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARKING AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

1. There is **no street parking** allowed on Elm Street. St. Joseph Church has **two parking lots**: one behind the church and the other on Elm Street, on the left side of the Rectory. Snow will be cleared so that all available parking spaces will be accessible.

2. **One-way traffic will enter the Elm Street driveway between the Rectory and the Church** and continue on to find a parking space in the large lot behind the church. Drivers may stop at the side door for passengers to get out there and be assisted to the door by Security/ Ushers. An **ELEVATOR** is located at the far end of the side entry doorway. Exiting the parking lots after Mass will be via Gold Street at the back side of the lot.

3. **Please be considerate** of parishioners with mobility issues by leaving them the parking spaces closest to the entry door (alongside the church, behind the rectory, immediately behind the church) However, following a storm, the possibility of snow and ice sliding off the roofs make it risky to park along the side or directly behind the Church. Please avoid those parking places under wintry conditions.

4. Once Mass starts, if the side entrance facing the Rectory is unattended it will be locked and only the front door unlocked. Security/ ushers will be in the back of the Church and in the vestibule area to assist.

5. **We ask for your patience** as these changes begin and we will soon become more comfortable with them.

Campaign Corner

We are still hopeful that the work will be completed by Holy Week but do keep it in your prayers so there is no unanticipated delay! We ask that everyone please fulfill their pledges and thank you to everyone who has made their final donations.

One more picture of the staging in the main body of the church before it's time for them to dismantle and move to the wings. It's massive and quite impressive in person!

Visit the parish website to see more pictures of the project progress!

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

Life is a Gift from God

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.

Calling all parents/caregivers of adults with special needs (18+ years old)! We are looking to connect with others within the Catholic community to start a ministry within our local area for those of all abilities. The mission of the ministry is to provide opportunities for participants to grow spiritually, offer prayer support for others, make lasting friendships, and use their individual gifts and talents in supporting each other allowing God's light to shine through each of them! If interested in finding out more, please contact Kathy Prieto at Kathy@prietos.us

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Reminder that sacramental classes will begin on Sunday, March 1st. Class time will be from 9:15 to 10:00 am, and will be held in the classroom on the second floor of the chapel (next to St. Mary Church). All children should be registered for classes, as well as having their baptism certificates available. Questions, please call or text Kevin Krawiec at 1-603-801-6130.

Traveling Statue of Mary

A program of the New Hampshire State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Parishioners are encouraged to welcome the statue into their home for a week or two and gather family, friends, or neighbors to pray the rosary daily during the statue's stay. Pamphlets and blessed rosaries are provided.

To sign up call Steve Denis at (603) 558-5209.

Knights of Columbus Aluminum Can Drive

Sat. February 28th — DROP OFF BY 4:00 PM...St. Mary Rectory Garage
Sun. March 1st — DROP OFF BY 10:00 AM...St. Mary Rectory Garage

Aluminum cans only! Rinse out cans, do not crush them.
5 cent plastic soda bottles marked VT accepted.