

From your Youth Minister...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this day that we celebrate the fathers in our lives, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on my own father. My dad loves being outside in the garden more than anything else. As a kid, I remember my mom getting frustrated with him because he spent more time tidying around his plants than tidying around the house (still true to this day). My dad puts his entire self into his work in the yard- helping his hydrangeas flourish, planting his rock garden and "Kennedy" flower garden, tending to his various trees, and growing and harvesting vegetables. Even though he has set plans and hopes for what his gardens will be and look like each year, he has come to accept the transformations that occur apart from his copious watering and extensive TLC. I believe throughout his life, my dad has also been transformed by his gardening in many ways- learning to give up full control of outcomes, to go with the flow, to have a reverence toward and sorrow for plants lost, and to have a childlike awe and excitement about any and all thriving things.

I see my dad and his gardening as deeply connected to how we are called to allow God's grace to fully enter into our lives and to let it transform us. In today's Gospel we hear Christ say, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit..." (Mk 4:26) Though my dad adores gardening, the seeds he plants have the power to grow without any intervention from him, just as the kingdom of God does not *need* us to grow. We are offered to become participants in it as a gift. At the end of the day, it's God who is in full control. In control of the high trees becoming low and low trees being lifted up, green trees withering and withered trees blooming (Ez 17:24). Yet, at the same time, if we work towards beautiful gardens by preparing the soil and work to bring about the kingdom of God by preparing ourselves to live as disciples of Christ, our work is not in vain. We will be transformed into the beautiful children of God who we are called to be.

In many ways, my dad as a gardener is directly related to my dad as a father. To detach from the outcomes of parenting and to put full trust in God, while at the same time preparing my sisters and I to grow to the best of his abilities. As Psalm 92 says, "it is good to give thanks to the Lord." I would like to give thanks to the Lord but also thanks to my earthly father for being a really fantastic dad and for giving his life to lead my family in total partnership with my mom. I hope we all can take some special time today to be grateful for the great men in our lives and for the God who placed them there.

Happy Father's Day!

Hollis Dunlop

6/24 Youth Group - MEL'S in Litchfield!!

Come and celebrate the end of the school year! In place of our regularly scheduled youth group (aka NO 6PM youth group on the 24th)- we will take a trip over to Mel's for some go-karts, mini golf, laser tag and batting cages! Meet Hollis there at 6PM- if you need a ride please reach out. (There will still be pizza!) The cost is \$27.50 per person but bring some extra for ice cream too!

Teens Feeding the Hungry

This Wednesday, June 20th, the youth group will be answering Christ's call to feed the hungry by serving at Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter from 4PM-7PM. All teenagers 15 and over and any interested parishioners are welcome to join us! Those under 15 may come as well if they have parental supervision. We will meet at the parish at 3:30PM and leave from there. **Please sign up with Hollis in advance.**

Vacation Bible School Next Week!!

Are you registered yet for our exciting voyage?? Get your registration in NOW as we set sail **next week, June 25th at 9AM!!** We have an outstanding crew ready to embark, and we would love to have your kids and grandkids join us - So come aboard!! VBS is a daycamp for children Pre-K through 5th Grade If you are interested in attending or volunteering for VBS, please call the Parish Office at 432-8711, stop by the Welcome Center, or visit stmarksnh.org for more information. All are welcome!

Parish Picnic ~ SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars...the St. Mark Parish Picnic will be held on **Sunday, July 29th!** Please join us for hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings... plus a lot of FUN! If you would like to be on the Picnic Planning Committee, please call the office at 432-8711.

~ SAVE THE DATE ~

**2nd Annual Wine Tasting
November 2, 2018**

2018 Sacramental Preparation Registration

All eligible youth *enrolled in the 3rd through 9th grades in the 2018/2019 school year*, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday, November 17 at St. Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St., Manchester.** To accommodate all St. Mark's families, there are three sessions now open for enrollment to choose from.
Session 1: Mon July 9 - Fri July 13 (9AM - Noon)
Session 2: Mon Aug 6 - Fri Aug 10 (6PM - 8PM)
Session 3: Tue Evenings in Oct (6PM - 8PM)

Confirmation Day Details

The Most Reverend Peter Libasci, Tenth Bishop of Manchester will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Date - Saturday, November 17, 2018

Place - St Joseph Cathedral, 145 Lowell St, Manchester
The following three liturgical services will be celebrated:
11:00AM, 1:30PM and 7:00PM.

ALL forms can be found at our website stmarksnh.org, the Welcome Center or the Parish Office for your convenience. They can also be dropped off at the Parish Office, the Welcome Center or mailed to 1 South Road, Londonderry, NH. 03053.

Adult Faith Formation

Join us this Monday, June 18, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Lounge for Adult Faith Formation! We are nearing the completion of our journey through the Gospel of Mark! We will explore the literary and spiritual depth of our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection as told by our patron, St. Mark the Evangelist!

If you haven't yet joined us, or perhaps you've missed a few sessions, be not afraid! You can pick up and explore the Scriptures with us right where we left off! Light refreshments and great fellowship, as always. Looking forward to seeing you there!

This Week @ St. Mark's!!

Monday, June 18:

7:00 PM Adult Faith Formation (Lounge)

Tuesday, June 19:

6:00 AM Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, June 22:

6:00 PM Scout Meeting

Saturday, June 23:

9:30 AM Al Anon (Room 209)

Mission Appeal

The second collection this weekend is for the African missions of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The Brothers through their representative, Brother Donald Tardif, SC, are asking for your prayers and financial support. The Brothers of the Sacred Heart are religious educators who staff schools and other establishments in over thirty countries. Your contributions will especially benefit young men who are preparing to enter religious life and needy students in the African countries of Kenya, Lesotho, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please be generous.

Blood Drive Update

The June 7 Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by St. Mark's Knights of Columbus was a SUCCESS!! We had 27 donors who signed up and about 12 walk-ins! Thank you to all who donated their blood so that others may live and thanks to those Knights who gave of their time to help with registration and refreshments. The next Blood Drive will be in October with the date to be announced.

The Poor Box for June, July & August

Donations to the Poor Box for the summer months will benefit our local food pantries. The hungry in our community, especially those with children, have an increased need for food during the summer months when the schools (providing subsidized lunch programs) are not in session. This is often the time when the food supplies at the Food Pantries are the lowest. Please consider helping those in need by donating to the Poor Box this summer!! Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intention Book for 2019

Our Mass Intention Book for 2019 is now OPEN. Please call the Parish Office at 432-8711 or stop by our Welcome Center to schedule your masses today.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We are SO excited that Children's Liturgy of the Word will continue during the summer. Please join us at the 9:30 AM mass where children ages 4-8 years of age will be dismissed to hear the inspiring Gospel message at an age appropriate level.

Are You Called to Be a Catechist?

Our staff has been working hard for the last few months to plan an engaging and dynamic Sacramental Prep Program for this Summer and Fall. Even with all of the time and the effort that we have put into planning this program, it will not be successful without a strong team of catechists working with us. Which is why we are creating ECHO, Evangelizing Catechists for Heroic Opportunities! We want to offer catechists time for spiritual renewal and chances to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ. Time commitments vary. We are recruiting Sunday School teachers, teachers aids, youth ministry witnesses, Adult Formation researchers and presenters, and more! If you are at all discerning the call to share the Faith with others in a new and exciting way please reach out to Hollis or Brandon!

Homeless Care Package Collection

The Outreach Committee and Youth Group are teaming up to do a collection for Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter for our homeless brothers and sisters in the area now until the second weekend of July. We are asking for any NEW washcloths, tubes of toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hair brushes, combs, travel size shampoos & conditioners, bars of soap, mens and womens socks, feminine products, winter hats and fleece or wool blankets. The items will be sorted and prepared by our Session I Sacramental Prep students.

Tootsie Roll Drive ~ HUGE SUCCESS!

Over this past Mother's Day weekend, St. Mark's Knights of Columbus collected \$2,170.00 to benefit the Londonderry Early Education Program and N.H. Special Olympics! We would like to thank everyone involved for making this possible, taking time away from their families to oversee donation collections. A special thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause, this could not have been successful without you!

Happy Father's Day!

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen

Sacrificial Giving (June 9 & 10)

Operating Funds

Offertory Envelopes (164)	\$5,106.50
Loose Cash & Checks	\$2,032.00
Electronic Giving (3)	\$85.00
WeShare	\$3,825.99
Social - Coffee & Donuts	\$43.00
Mass Donations	\$35.00
Religious Education	\$425.00
Total	\$11,552.49

Designated Funds

Capital Development	\$249.00
Special Holy Day - Ascension - Fathers Day	\$721.00
Total	\$970.00
Grand Total	\$12,522.49

Mass Intentions for June 16 - June 24

6/16 Saturday, 5 PM:

People of the Parish

6/17 Sunday, 8 AM:

Michael MacNeil by Patricia MacNeil & family

6/17 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Dennis Lescarbeau by Marie & Family Lescarbeau

6/17 Sunday, 11 AM:

James & Gloria Ciccolo by their family

6/18 Monday, 9 AM:

Pasquale & Elena Ciervo by his son Angelo & family

6/19 Tuesday, 9 AM:

Robert Liljegren by The Beliveau family

6/20 Wednesday, 9 AM:

Intentions of Cathy Reardon

6/21 Thursday, 9 AM:

Intentions of Betty Miloro

6/23 Saturday, 5 PM:

Russell Kelley by the Kelley family

6/24 Sunday, 8 AM:

People of the Parish

6/24 Sunday, 9:30 AM:

Ruth Callahan by Angeline Lemere

6/24 Sunday, 11 AM:

Mary Perkins by Sam & Mary Ann Boldeia

Parish Contact Information

Parish Office	(603) 432-8711
Parish Email	info@stmarksnh.org
Web Page	stmarksnh.org
Office Hours	Mon-Thurs 9:30AM- 4 PM
Fr. Mike	frmike@stmarksnh.org
Deacon Tom	dctom@stmarksnh.org
Claudia Dominguez	claudia@stmarksnh.org
Hollis Dunlop	hollis@stmarksnh.org
Lisa Olsen	info@stmarksnh.org
Brandon Sargent	brandon@stmarksnh.org
Artie Carew	artie@stmarksnh.org

Pastoral Council	Justin Paré
Finance Council	Kevin Cronin
Music	Artie Carew (603) 546-5503
Outreach	Dianne Zdankiewicz (603) 434-7991
Knights of Columbus	Brian Roche (603) 889-3284
Men of St Joseph	Bill Donroe (603) 432-6066
Prayer Line	(603) 432-7425
Safe Environment	Claudia Dominguez (603) 432-8711
Al-Anon	Saturdays, 9:30 - 11 AM
Birthright	(603) 434-3000
NH Catholic Charities, Windham	(603) 893-1971

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents are asked to participate in the baptismal catechesis program prior to their child's baptism.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM or by appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples should contact the parish office at least six months in advance and before making any other wedding arrangements.

Sacrament of the Sick

Please call us to request the Sacrament of the Sick or to receive communion in the home.

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesdays, 6:00 AM-11PM / First Fridays 8 PM-12 AM