

ST MARGUERITE d' YOVILLE PARISH



Sacred Heart

58 MAIN ST.
NO. STRATFORD, NH 03590

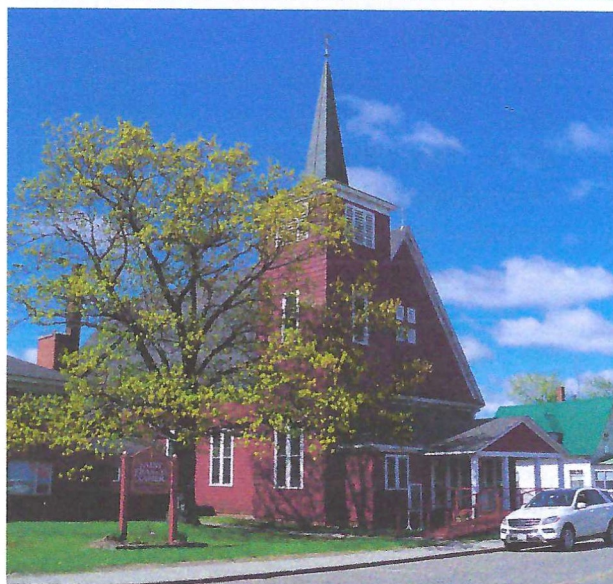
PARISH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Daniel R. Deveau

Deacon:

Rev. Mr. Michael Johnson



St. Francis Xavier

11 STATE ST., PO BOX 247
GROVETON, NH 03582

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

Sacred Heart	Sunday Morning	9:00 am
St. Francis	Saturday Evening	4:00 pm
	Sunday Morning	11:00 am

WEEKDAY

Wednesday thru Friday 9:00 AM (Check Parish Bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE

Office Telephone: **636-1047**
Office Secretary: Mrs. Tina Hunt

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Call Rectory for an appointment

MARRIAGE

Please contact the Rectory 6 mos.
prior to your tentative date.

CONFESSIONS

St. Francis Xavier Church
Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm (Also by appointment)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Francis 636-1047

Christian Formation:
Children ages 4-15 years

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sacred Heart 9:00 am Mass
St. Francis 11:00 am Mass

GENERAL INFORMATION

New Parishioners, WELCOME! Please call our Parish Secretary as soon as possible to register.

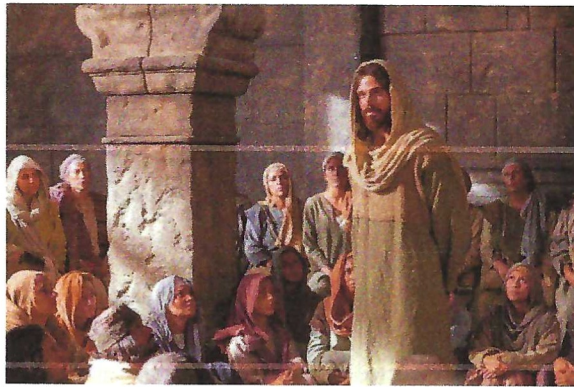
Parish Website: <https://stmargueritedygroveton.org>

Thirtieth Sunday Ordinary Time

October 25, 2026

"Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2). The people of God must take God as their model. He is loving and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in mercy. In his fidelity, he cares for those who cannot help themselves. The widow, the alien, and the orphan are under his special protection. (Exodus 22:22; Deut. 14:29)

The people bound to God by covenant must also show their fidelity by caring for the powerless. All the detailed laws of the covenant lead back to this basic principle: the sole demand of **God is love**.



Jesus says that the second commandment is like the first. In fact, it is the manifestation of the first. If you love the Lord your God with your whole being, that love will show itself in the feeding of the hungry, sheltering of the homeless and the migrant, and the release of the oppressed. Jesus, the *supreme revelation* of the Father's love (John 3:16), showed the depth of that love by giving his life for us when we are powerless (Romans 5:6). The sign that we are his disciples is our love for one another (John 13:35). (*St. Andrew Bible Missal*)

+*+*+



What are the Catholic origins of Halloween? Driving or walking down some streets in October, seeing

houses gaudily strewn with fake spiderwebs, skeletons, and repulsive cadavers, you'd never know there was a Catholic connection to Halloween. Some Christians have considered withdrawing totally from this "holiday," since it seems like the domain of the devil.

But the *proper* celebration of Halloween is very much part of Catholic tradition.

Halloween is another word for "All Hallows Eve"—the eve of All Saints' Day. In the older Church calendar, the Vigil of All Saints was a liturgical event. It had its own Mass, where the priest would vest in purple, the usual color of the vigils. He would done white in the evening for the First Vespers of All Saints, which marked the beginning of the Church's celebration of the holy day.

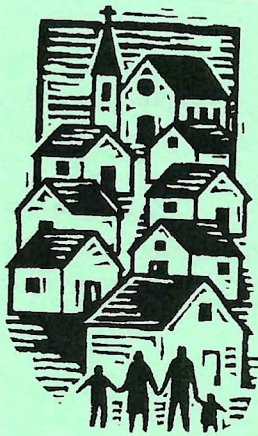
Together, the Vigil (October 31st) the Feast of All Saints (November 1st), and the Commemoration of All Souls (November 2nd)

formed a comprehensive picture of the Catholic view of the afterlife.

Then, there are the Vespers of the Dead—sometimes called "Black Vespers," since the priest would vest in black, the color of death and mourning. These Vespers were not officially said on Halloween, but rather after Second Vespers on All Saints' Day, looking toward All Souls' Day. In the Catholic region of Brittany, a devotion developed of saying these Vespers on Halloween itself. It seems these Breton folk were quite solemn on Halloween and kept the importance for the dead at the forefront of their Vigil doings.

In the British Isles, festive All Hallows' Eve tradition arose that will sound familiar to us. Children would go door-to-door begging for a "soul cake" and promising in return to pray for the deceased of the giver's family. The Halloween tradition of dressing up is also potentially connected with this custom, an excellent Halloween/All Saints costume—St. Michael.

Because of her Protestant leanings, Queen Elizabeth I forbade the tradition associated with All Souls' Day. But the customs escaped her anti-Catholic, anti-fun edicts and have made their way down the centuries to us today.



Bringing Home the Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 25, 2026

The Other Side of Love

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

Dennis is one of the local street people who lives around the parish where I live. He is usually pleasant and courteous and wants to do things right, though he also struggles with his own set of demons. For the most part, Dennis seems to be finding his way through the mazes of life, as people do in their own fashion. In some ways, the parishioners have become a family for Dennis, or at least a part of the family scattered about the neighborhood. Frequently he will be gone for a time, and we will wonder what happened to Dennis, only to find

him drifting back among us.

These days Dennis is angry with us. For whatever reason, Dennis brought his assembled belongings and took up residence on our garage roof. The roof is flat and has a two-foot-high wall around the edge, a place that affords a bit of shelter from the wind. Soon, however, the parish came up with a list of reasons why it would be best if Dennis did not live on our garage roof—safety, security, and insurance among them. So Dennis was asked to move on, and that's why Dennis is angry with us.

The parish staff tries to be sensitive and caring about the street people. They try to let them make their own way when that is what they want to do. Yet at other times the staff needs to do what is best for everyone involved in the parish. It's not always easy to know how to love someone. †

Sunday Readings

Exodus 22:20–26

You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.

1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord.

Matthew 22:34–40

[Jesus said,] "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

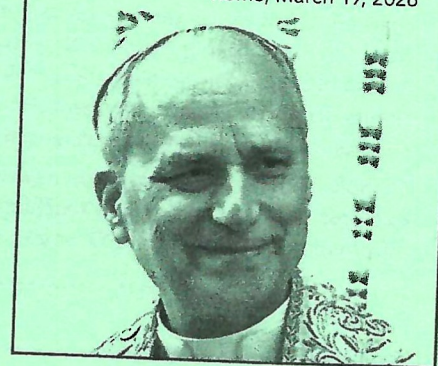


It's not always easy to know how to love.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

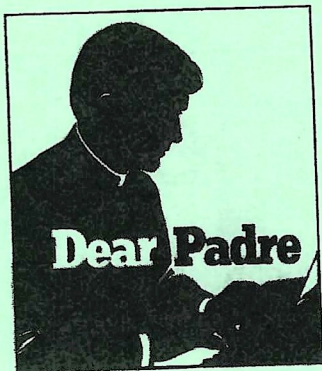
Health cannot be a luxury for the few.... Universal health coverage is not merely a technical goal to be achieved; it is primarily a moral imperative for societies that wish to call themselves just. Healthcare must be accessible to the most vulnerable, then, not only because their dignity requires it but also to prevent injustice from becoming a cause of conflict.

Address to conference participants,
Rome, March 19, 2026



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I ever wonder how best to show love?
- Can I be more sensitive to others?



Dear Padre,
I occasionally need to be reminded why I should remain Catholic. Can you help?

Whether our faith was inherited at birth or adopted later, it's healthy to periodically reexamine our beliefs and practices with the intent to grow closer to God. Saint Paul uses the metaphor of moving beyond milk to solid food to explain our maturing faith. (See Hebrews 5:12–14). Questions or doubts are not necessarily signs of crisis or disloyalty to God or the Church. Indeed, it's often when we challenge pat answers that God moves us to a deeper meaning and stronger relationship—that is, if we're steadfast on the path to holiness. People remain Catholic for numerous reasons, including:

- the Church's belief in God's goodness to us through the sacraments;
- a 2,000-year tradition of living the gospel in a universal, multicultural community of faith;
- a proven track record as an agent for personal and spiritual growth and social transformation.

When Church members' behavior is contrary to Christ's mission, and our confidence to remain is tested, it's good to recall that the Church is divinely fortified and humanly composed. People remain Catholic because the Church exists to bring us into full communion with God, through Christ, by working toward the fullness of the kingdom. "The Church 'is the visible plan of God's love for humanity,' because God desires 'that the whole human race may become one people of God, form one body of Christ, and be built into one temple of the Holy Spirit'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 776). †

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Building a Christ-centered Family" by Mike and Alicia Hernon

The grace to be a parent flows from the sacrament of matrimony, and that sacrament needs to be renewed and refreshed continually. So if you want to build a life of faith in your home, love God first. Second, love your spouse. Third, love your children. Once we lay the foundation of love and relationships in our home, how can we teach and experience the faith with our children in a practical way? As Catholics, we are blessed to have many things we can do to create "Catholic muscle memory." Habits, routines, rituals, and traditions that we establish in childhood can keep children connected to the family and to the faith even as they enter adulthood.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

PRAYER

All-embracing God,
teach us to welcome the
stranger, to speak for
the voiceless, to share
generously, to love as
you love. We pray in
Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 26—31

Monday, Weekday: Eph 4:32—5:8 /
Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday, Weekday: Eph 5:21–33 /
Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday, Sts. Simon and Jude:
Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Thursday, Weekday: Eph 6:10–20 / Lk
13:31–35

Friday, Weekday: Phil 1:1–11 / Lk 14:1–6

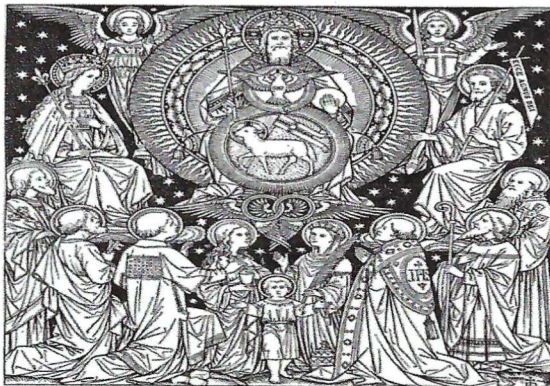
Saturday, Weekday: Phil 1:18b–26 /
Lk 14:1, 7–11



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The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of:
Neil & Mary Maillet
 From: **Nov. 1 to Nov. 7, 2026**
 requested by: **Margaret Dingman.**

Rest in Peace, please pray for the repose
 of the soul of **Rick Woodward.**



Mass Intentions
Sacred Heart

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

9:00 AM † All Saints

† For the intention of all Parishioners.

Next weekends special collections
will be for our Church Debt &
All Saints.

St. Francis Xavier Church

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026- No Mass

Thursday Oct. 29, 2026

9:00 AM † Mass

Friday, Oct. 30, 2026

9:00 AM † Mass

Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026

4:00PM † **Lionel Croteau**, req. by Family.

† **Therese Gagne, 40 Year anniv.**
 req. by Richard & Nicole Plourde.

† **Roland Gagne, 42 Year anniv.**
 req. by Richard & Nicole Plourde.

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

11:00 AM † All Saints

† **Kenneth Maclean**, req. by Barbara
 and Family

† **Greg Lamm**, req. by Jack & Gail
 Donnelly.

SUNDAY, NOV. 1, 2026
ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

Heavenly Father, Today we honor and remember
 the saints, those wonderful men and women who
 lived their lives faithfully following You. Thank
 you for their exmple and for the way their lives
 still inspire us to love and serve You better.

Amen

Parish Financial Report

For the week ending 10/18/2026

St. Francis Xavier **Sacred Heart**

Offertory: \$ 1683.00 \$ 137.00

Debt: \$5.00

Fuel: \$15.00 \$ 5.00

Donation: \$ 100.00

World Miss Sunday: \$ 800.00 \$82.00

Tithing: \$ 150.00 from St. Joseph of
 Nashua

*Thank
 you!*

Thank you for your generosity!

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