

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS.146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10

R: Lord, come and save us.

The LORD God keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

R: Lord, come and save us.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.

R: Lord, come and save us.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R: Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading

Jas 5: 7-10

A Reading from the letter of St. James

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain,

brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

THE GOSPEL

Mt 11: 2-11

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

R: Glory be to You, O Lord.

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see?

Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.*

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading

Is 35: 1-6a, 10

A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Events

We'd love to have you attend!

Many of the programs scheduled to take place before the pandemic are ready to restart. Most dates and times have not yet been determined – that depends on you. *If you are interested in any of these programs, please call or email the office to let us know and tell us what days/times are best for you to attend.*

A Hug From God – Prayer Shawls

Join us for an afternoon or evening of fellowship and refreshments as we make Prayer Shawls to be given to patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Adult Bible Study

On Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in the classrooms, we enjoy a potluck supper before starting class. Leave with both your belly and mind filled!

Sip & Paint

Come explore your creative side with friends as an artist guides you in the production of a masterpiece.

Cooking with the Saints

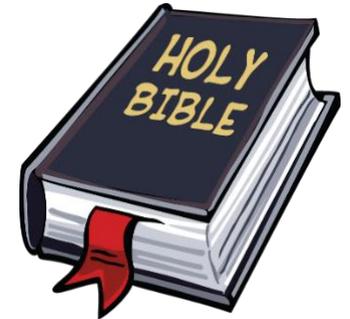
For anyone interested in Food, Faith, Fellowship, & Fun, join your friends for an afternoon or evening discovering the “Divine connection between food and faith in God” as you help to prepare a meal.

Rosary Stringing

Join us for an afternoon or evening of fellowship & refreshments as we string rosaries from kits to be given to patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Or take home a kit to make and bring back!

The Bible in a Year

Are you thinking of a New Year's resolution already? As we make plans to better ourselves, the area often lost or forgotten is our faith life. The best way to start the year off right is to make the commitment to encounter God's Word every day. This coming year, beginning on 1 January, we have the opportunity to join Catholics in listening to *The Bible in a Year* podcast with Fr. Mike Schmitz. In 365 days, we will read through the entire Bible, with Fr. Mike acting as our guide and offering insight and prayer along the way. Maybe you've always wanted to read through the Bible and never knew where to start – this podcast is the solution.



The Bible in a Year was the #1 Apple Podcast for two years in a row, reaching millions of people around the world and transforming their lives. Each daily episode is 20-25 minutes long, making it easy to listen to while going on a daily walk, drinking your morning coffee, or driving into work. For 365 days, we won't just read the entire Bible...we'll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in our lives today!

To begin this journey through the Bible, visit <http://AscensionPress.com/bibleinayear>. The podcast is completely free and available on all major podcast apps and YouTube.

A Great Big THANK YOU...



To all those who helped make last week's Christmas Fair a big success! The weather wasn't great, but attendance was steady throughout the day. Several people who won raffle baskets remarked that it was good to see our church bouncing back from the pandemic when so many others have yet to do so.

Without the help of all of you who donated raffle items and volunteered your time to set up, clean up, and staff the various stations during the day, none of this would have been possible. **Thank you!**



Prayer Blanket Project Update

Gearing up to make more blankets

Father has already started to give the blankets **you** helped make to those who need the extra-soft reminder of God's comfort and our community's support during their trials. They've brightened the day of those who received them – according to the pediatric chaplain, the smile of the two-year-old girl in the pediatric ward who received the penguin blanket lit up the room as she clenched the blanket tightly to her.

Of course, **we are still collecting donations toward more fabric.** A second batch has been purchased and will soon be ready for your assistance in completing them. As Father has said, the need for these blankets is great and the supply not enough to meet that demand.



The fabric costs approximately \$40 per blanket. **There is a donation box at the back of the church, on the table near the bulletins.**

Many thanks to Mercy Tabernacle for the donation of four pre-packaged blanket kits to the project and to all those who've already made generous contributions towards the purchase of fabric!

SPECIAL MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to sponsor a Mass to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion, please contact the office at 203-377-9901 or email sjosparishpncc@outlook.com

Christmas Mass Schedule

Since Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, we will follow the regular Mass schedule for the weekend – 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass.



Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Retreat coming up

The Annual Winter Youth Retreat for the Eastern Diocese will take place on **27-28 December 2022** at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. This is an overnight lock-in event – the kids and counselors are camped out in the church hall overnight on air mattresses – that starts at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and ends Wednesday afternoon. It's a fun way for youth of the diocese to meet/catch up with each other while learning more about their religion in lecture sessions, activities, and community service projects.

Cost per person is \$25. To register for this event, please contact Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich at robnem21@aol.com. See the bulletin board or the office for more information.

The Lord's Kitchen needs your help!



Food insecurity is a growing issue for individuals and families, even in a thriving town like ours. For many years we've helped out at the Lord's Kitchen serving hot meals to those in need.

But we need more hands!

It's not a large commitment – a few hours on one Wednesday every four to six weeks – but the impact on the community is huge. Meals are served from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church on Main Street. Allow a little time on either end for setup and cleanup and you're done!

If you think you can volunteer this small amount of time, or would like more information, please contact the office via phone or email.



TODAY'S READINGS: SEE CENTER INSERT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Wanda Cople, Nancy Anzalone, Jean Macionus, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Rich Lasecki, Joyce Bresh, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Judy DiLorenzo, Frank Bonitatebus, Lizzie Mast, Carol Murdzia, Dom Zumbo, Tom Nuckowski, Greg Baktis, Martha Lesnick, Bill Homa.

For those new to our church (and even those who aren't!)



To follow along with the Mass, begin on **page 63** in the Mass booklet. Father will announce which page to turn to for the Canon at the appropriate time and where to pick up the service following the Canon.

And please remember – there is no eating or drinking inside the church proper (small bottles of water excepted).

Items for the bulletin

Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is Thursday. Items turned in after Thursday are not guaranteed inclusion in that Sunday's bulletin.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

Tuesday, 13 December 2022 – Adult Bible study 6:30 p.m. in the classrooms.

Tuesday-Wednesday, 27-28 December 2022 – Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Retreat, Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA

†**Sunday, 15 January 2022** – Memorial Mass for †S. Shah, given by Linda Chehy

Sunday, 8 January 2023 – Post-Holiday potluck brunch.

Sunday, 22 January 2023 – Annual parish meeting after Mass

Sunday, 29 January 2023 – Coffee & Catechism. Topic: "The Last Four Things – Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell."

†**Sunday, 5 February 2022** – Memorial Mass for †Michael Chernesky, given by daughter Barbara

Altar Flowers – no more until Christmas

For the duration of Advent, flowers are not allowed to adorn the altars until Christmas.

Contact Fr. Tom or Dee Smith for dates after that if you wish to donate for a particular week. Also, please let them know if the flowers will be in memory or celebration of someone so the donation can be acknowledged. There are vases in the cabinets in the right side altar room if you want to donate flowers for the side altars.



Colossal Kielbasa to offer Holiday Platters

For the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, Colossal Kielbasa is once again preparing platters for order. For those interested, flyers are available in the foyer. Deadline for ordering for holiday delivery is Saturday, 10 December 2022.





Interested in serving on the Parish Board?

It's a great way to give back to the parish community. The Parish Board is responsible for guiding the parish along in its day-to-day

operations, the upkeep of the church and its property, and spearheading events of fundraising and outreach to the community. Anyone interested in possibly serving on the board should speak to Jeanine May or Father Tom for further information.

ONE WEEK LEFT!

Feed hungry children this Christmas

When the schools go on holiday break, those children who depend on the free meals provided during a school day for their daily sustenance lose their food source. To that end, in conjunction with Sterling House, we will be collecting single-serve breakfast/lunch items to donate so these children will not go without.

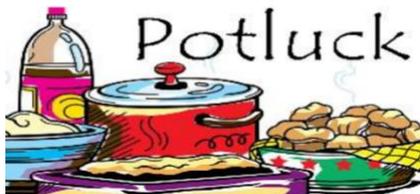
Please bring in your donations by **NEXT** Sunday, 20 December, so they can be packaged up for the children to take home for the vacation.

Coffee & Catechism



Due to Christmas falling on the last Sunday of the month, the next Coffee & Catechism session will take place on Sunday, 29 January 2023, after Mass. The topic will be: "The Last Four Things – Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell."

Holiday Potluck brunch



Join us in the church hall after Mass on Sunday, 8 January 2023, for a Holiday Brunch. Bring your favorite breakfast or lunch dish to share with everyone. Coffee and orange juice will be provided.

St. Joseph of Stratford National Catholic Church



December 10-11, 2022 – Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Contacts

PASTOR
Fr. Tom Walsh

CHAIRPERSON
Jeanine May

VICE
CHAIRPERSON
Dee Smith

Financial
Secretary
Barbara
Chernesky

Office
Administrator
Lisa Vasas

Dear Parishioners,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

This is Jesus' response in today's Gospel passage (Matthew 11:2-11) to a question posed to him by the disciples of John the Baptist, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Notice how Jesus answers, that his presence is signaled by the wounded who are made whole. The same is true for us. How, as expressions of Christ's presence in the world do we bring healing and wholeness to the least of our brothers and sisters? Do we commit ourselves to love like God?

Grace and peace,
Fr. Tom

Mass Times

Vigil Mass – Saturday 4:00pm Sunday morning Mass – 9:30am.

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