ST. JOHN CHURCH

Established in 1843

MARCH 7, 2021

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM
5:30 PM (St. Sebastian)
Sunday Mass: 9:00 AM
11:00 AM & 5:00 PM (St. Sebastian)
Weekday Masses (Tues. & Thurs.): 7:30 AM in the Chapel.
(Mon. Wed. & Fri.): 7:30 AM (St. Sebastian)
Eucharistic Adoration: Begins in the Chapel after the 7:30 AM Mass on the 1st Thursday of each month, and ends at 9:00AM
with Benediction. (St. Sebastian Hour Adoration 1st Friday of each month, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM)
Confessions: Heard Saturdays, 3:15-3:45 PM.
Sundays, 8:15-8:45 AM.
Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil 7:00 PM & 8:00 AM
12:10 PM & 7:00 PM (St. Sebastian)

SACRAMENTS
Baptism: Please call the Rectory to register your child for Baptism.
Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least one year in advance.
Call the Rectory for more information.
Religious Education (Including First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation Preparation):
Classes are held at St. Sebastian Church – Mondays, Grades 2 & 3 from 4:45pm – 6:00pm and Sundays, Grades 1,4,5,6,7,8 & 9 from 9:30am-10:50am.

ST. JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL
87 South Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Tel: (860) 347-2978
Fax: (860) 347-7267
School Principal
Mr. Lawrence Fitzgerald

PASTOR
Rev. James Thaikoottathil, J.C.D
PAROCHIAL VICAR
Rev. Brian C. Maxwell

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Sister Lizzy & Sister Marykutty
Email: dremiddletown@gmail.com

PARISH & CEMETERY SECRETARY
Ms. Linda McCarty
PARISH BOOKKEEPER
Ms. Mary Ann Majors
PARISH CUSTODIAN
Mr. Bob Maxa
PARISH ORGANIST
Mrs. Joanne Swift
Email: joanne.swift@yahoo.com
(860-729-2538)

ST. JOHN RECTORY & PARISH OFFICE
19 St. John Square • Middletown, CT
(860) 347-5626 • Fax: (860) 638-3633
Email: stjohnsecretary@comcast.net
pastor.st.john.middletown@gmail.com
www.saintjohnchurchmiddletown.com
website: https://saintjohnmiddletownct.weebly.com/
www.norwichdiocese.org

The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
We are closed weekends and holidays
19 St. John Square, Middletown, CT 06457

PARISH COMMITTEE HEADS
Parish Council: Pamela Perrone (860-301-6449)
Building & Grounds: Dick Wendry (860-983-7707)
Fundraising Chair: Simonne Mularski (860-301-0825)
Finance Chair: Debra Liistro (860-402-3280)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 6
4:00 PM Vigil Solemn Mass
† David Renison by wife, Jeanne
5:30 PM (St. Sebastian Church)
Sunday, March 7
9:00 AM Third Sunday of Lent (Community Mass)
† John Cooke by St. John Parish
11:00 AM & 5:00 PM (St. Sebastian Church)

Monday, March 8
7:30 AM (St. Sebastian Church)
Tuesday, March 9
7:30 AM † Joseph Goiangos, III
Wednesday March 10
7:00 PM (St. Sebastian Church)
Thursday March 11
7:30 AM † Raymond Tremblay, by Family
Friday March 12
7:30 AM St. Sebastian Church
7:00 PM **Stations of the Cross (St. John Church)**

Saturday March 13
4:00 PM Vigil Solemn Mass
† Bruce Kelly by wife
5:30 PM (St. Sebastian Church)
Sunday, March 14
9:00 AM Third Sunday of Lent (Community Mass)
† Lorraine Phillippine, by Dick & Jan Wendry
11:00 AM & 5:00 PM (St. Sebastian Church)

Please keep in your prayers for those who are ill & for those with personal intentions: Dan Coyle, Fran Messina, William J. Dillon, Rachel Pranckus.

Sanctuary Lamp
March 6th - March 12th
For the people of St. John Church

REMINDER THAT NEXT WEEKEND MARCH 13-14TH

3rd Sunday of Lent
"You shall not carve idols for ourselves in the shape of anything…" EXODUS 20:4

How many "gods" do you put before God? "Idols" do not always take the shape of physical thing. Things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times, they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God's help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

COLLECTION REPORT 2021
February 27th & 28th

Envelopes:	
Weekly Offering:	$1,340.00
Online:	
Weekly Offering :	$ 550.00
Total	**$1,890.00**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ST. JOHN CHURCH

BUTTER BRAID PASTRIES FOR YOUR EASTER HOLIDAY

Help St. Theresa Guild raise funds while you enjoy Butter Braids. **They are $14 each & will yield about eight servings.** If you've never tasted one, now is your chance to enjoy these delicious, flaky, fruit-filled pastry breads. They arrive frozen, and you bake it fresh for any occasion. **DON'T MISS OUT!** Order now for delivery on March 22nd (***pick-up at St. Sebastian Church Hall***.) If you're interested, the order forms are available in our church vestibule. Make checks payable to St. Sebastian Church. You may drop it in our collection box or mail it directly to Pamela Perrone, 108 Rockfall Road, Middletown, CT 06457. **Order forms are due, March 8th.**

Mary's Way of the Cross
Walking with Mother of Jesus @ 7:00 PM

- Heartfelt & moving meditations on how Mary must have felt following her son at Calvary.
- A wonderful way to pray the Station of the Cross with Mary.
- A personal & inviting tone that reflects on Mary, Christ's suffering at Calvary and ones own life.

This coming Friday, March 5th, Stations of the Cross will be held at **St. Sebastian Church.** The following 3 Fridays, **March 12, 19th and 26th will be held at St. John Church.**

Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations

On **Thursday, March 18, 2021**, come join in praying with Bishop Cote a Eucharistic Holy Hour for Vocations. This month the holy hour will be at St. John Church, Cromwell, from 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Come pray for those who are called to priestly or consecrated religious life. Pray for our seminarians and those in the process of applying to the Diocese. Jon our Diocesan Prayer Team for Vocations by emailing the vocation office for more information at **vocations@norwichdiocese.net** and check out our website at god-calls.com!

Lenten Reflection: Week Three

The l40 days of Lent are the perfect Opportunity for us to do some…

Spiritual Spring Cleaning

For many of us, cleaning is the last thing we want to do. We take care of lots of other tasks, leaving cleaning at the end of the chore list. We rationalize and make excuses so we don't have to face cleaning up. We know in our rational minds that putting off cleaning something up, only makes the cleanup harder. There will be more clutter, more dirt, dust, more to clean up, if we procrastinate . We like it when we are done cleaning but generally not before?

Our lives are in need of spring cleaning because at times we neglected to do what was necessary to clean and enliven ourselves spiritually. We let the clutter of life build up & weigh us down . Like a dirty window that becomes hard to see out of over time. Our souls become burdened with the things of this world and the light of Christ cannot be seen shining through us.

So during lent we are given this time out to clean up our spiritual lives through prayers, fasting, penance, and sacrifice; reconnecting in a meaningful way with the roots of our faith. The religious beliefs and practices we participate in during lent help clean away the dirt that has collected over time and brings for the shine and sparkle of renewed faith and trust in God.

- **Every time we pray we grow and shine brighter!**
- **Every time someone sees Christ in us, we grow and shine brighter!**
- **Every time we forgive and are forgiven, we grow and shine brighter!**
- **Every time we are enriched by a sacrament, we grow and shine brighter!**
- **Every time we learn something new about our faith, we grow and shine brighter!**
- **Every time we acknowledge God at work in our lives, we grow and shine brighter!**

Begin a spiritual spring cleaning so the light of Christ can be bs seen shining through you! What a sparkling gift would be for the Risen Jesus!

2021 ACA LAUNCH

Recently many of you received a letter & brochure describing the many programs and ministries that the Diocese supports through the Annual Catholic Appeal. Today, we will watch a heartfelt message from Bishop Cote thanking you for your prayers and kindness during the pandemic. Over the next week, as you reflect on your many blessings, please remember God calls each of us to be generous in thought, word, and deed. We thank you for any sacrificial offering that you are able to make. Please bring your completed envelopes to church next weekend or if you have not received one, you may find one in the pews.

Help Stop State Sponsored Suicide

Politicians in Hartford are again considering assisted suicide legislation. The Public Health Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly is considering legalizing a form of suicide in our state commonly referred to as "aid-in-dying" or "physician-assisted suicide". The Committee has raised *House Bill 6425 "An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients".*

Modern hospice care and the proper use of pain medications render suicide unnecessary, and we need to be mindful of the threat that a suicide mentality poses to vulnerable people and to people with disabilities

Many people believe that a physician is deeply involved in this process. This not true. The physician orders the mixture of medications, the patient must then consume the deadly cocktail of drugs without assistance. Many times without even a physician or nurse present.

We should never allow legislators to establish suicide as a solution to medical issues. Don't let the state persuade us that it's dignified for an ill person to sign their own execution order. Don't let the state create an environment where ill people will feel they have a "*responsibility to die*".

Catholic teaching condemns physician-assisted suicide because it, like murder, involves taking an innocent human life:

Suicide is always as morally objectionable as murder. The Church's tradition has always rejected it as a gravely evil choice: To concur with the intention of another person to commit suicide and to help in carrying it out through so-called "assisted suicide" means to cooperate in, and at times to be the actual perpetrator of, an injustice which can never be excused, even if it is requested. Saint Augustine writes that "it is never licit to kill another: even if he should wish it." True "compassion" leads to sharing another's pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear. (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, no. 66).

TAKE ACTION:

Go to the website below, read more on the issue and then sign the petition to stop the legalization of assisted suicide in Connecticut

www.ctstopsuicide.org ***Connecticut Catholic Public Affairs Conference***

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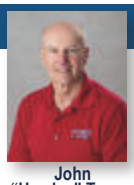
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