

The Parish Family of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church

Rectory: 79 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Church Entrance: 28 Hubbard Street (GPS Directions)



www.stmarymiddletown.com

Pastor	Rev. Richard Sliwinski
Administrative Assistant	Maureen Czentnar
Director of Religious Education	Susan Ferraiolo
Bulletin Editor	Maria Furno Appell
Website Administrator	Karen Hoover
Trustees	John J. Ziomek, Sr Susan Sienko

Office Hours Mon thru Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Telephones Rectory/Cemetery (860) 347-2365

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Email

Office	office@stmarymiddletown.com
Pastor	pastor@stmarymiddletown.com
Faith Formation	faithformation@stmarymiddletown.com
Bulletin	bulletin@stmarymiddletown.com

St. John Paul II Regional Catholic School

Mr. Lawrence Fitzgerald, Principal
87 South Main Street, Middletown
(860)347-2978 Website: <http://www.jprii.org/>

Holy Mass Schedule

Monday, Thursday & Friday at 7:30 am

Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

Sunday at 8:30 am (Polish/ English) & 10:30 am

Confessions

3:15 pm Saturday or by appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the rectory office

Baptism

By appointment

Wedding

Arrangements must be made six months in advance

Our Church is equipped with an personal PA system for the hearing impaired. Please ask an usher for assistance. We extend a warm welcome to visitors, and hope that you find our community a place to nourish your faith. Please introduce yourself to the Pastor and call the rectory to register.

Third Sunday in Advent~ December 13, 2020



Saturday December 12
3:15 pm **CONFESSIONS**
4:00 pm +Deceased Members of the
 Kowaleski Family
 Offered by Mary Kowaleski

Sunday December 13
8:30 am +Dian Smoloski
Polish/English Offered By John Smoloski
10:30 am +Andy DiSilvestro
 Offered By His Loving Wife & Children

Monday December 14
7:30 am +All Souls in Purgatory
 Offered by Irene & Ted Piech

Wednesday December 16
 NO MASS

Thursday December 17
7:30 am +Franciszk Tomczak
 Offered By Mary Tomczak

Friday December 18
7:30 am +Henry & Jean Zawisa
 Offered by Kathy & Walt Kendrek

Saturday December 19
2:45 pm **CONFESSIONS**
4:00 pm **Thanksgiving for Blessings Received**
 Offered by Mary Kowaleski

Sunday December 20
8:30 am +Bruce & Anne Sienko
Polish/English Offered By Their Loving Daughter Susan
10:30 am +Ruth DelPrado
 Offered By Her Loving Husband Robert



Weekly Mass Attendance

December 5-6

Saturday 4:00 pm ~ 34
Sunday 8:30 am ~ 51
Sunday 10:30 am ~ 67
Total ~ 158

The church capacity is 100 people per service.
We are within our safety limits.
There is plenty of room to safe distance in church.

Weekly Collections

December 5-6

Offertory~ \$1836.
School Support~\$971.

ONLINE DONATIONS

November ~\$2905.

stmarymiddletown.com/donate

Thank you for your generosity!

Tax Statements

Any parishioner requiring documentation of their annual contributions to the church please contact the rectory during business hours. Statements will be printed and mailed out in January.

Address Change

Please inform the rectory of address changes. We continuously update our files to avoid returned correspondence.

Advent Confessions

In preparations for Christmas, additional confession times have been scheduled.

Saturday, December 19~ 2:45-3:30 pm
Wednesday, December 23~ 7:00 pm



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

The Sanctuary Lamp

December 13-19

Is Lit in Loving Prayer for
Peace, Love & Tranquility
This Christmas Season





ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

Confessions

Saturday, December 19~ 2:45-3:30 pm
Wednesday, December 23~ 7:00 pm

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve ~ December 24th

4:00pm (English)

10:00 pm (English/Polish)

Christmas Day ~ December 25th

10:30 am (English)

Feast of Mary Mother of God ~ January 1st

10:00 am

Oplatki Christmas wafers



Oplatki
Christmas
Wafers

can be purchased in the foyer of the church or in the rectory office during business hours.

The cost of these wafers is \$5.00 per package, with all the proceeds going to help the poor in our sister parish in the Dominican Republic.

Christmas Remembrance Masses

At Christmastime we share many different gifts. One of the greatest spiritual gifts for your loved ones would be remembering them at the Masses on

Christmas Eve (4:00pm and 11:00 pm)

Christmas Day (10:30 am)

New Year's Day (10:00 am)

which will be celebrated for their intentions.

If you wish to remember them, you can by using the special "Christmas Mass Remembrance " envelope, which you should have received in the envelope packet.

Please complete the envelope and place in any collection basket or mail directly to the rectory. The envelopes will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas season.

Additional envelopes are available in the church foyer and at the rectory.

O Come All Ye Faithful



As of November 20th our parish has donated **\$18,038.63** or **73.26%** of its goal.

16.64% of our parishioners are participating
We are striving for as close to **100%** participation as possible

With your donation, our ACA supported ministries do the work of Christ every day. From a Seminarian, *"During these difficult times due to the pandemic, with so many people facing their own challenges, we truly appreciate your contributions to the ACA and our education. It is truly through your prayers and support that future priests are being formed for the glory of God and His church!"* If you have not made your contribution to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal, **"One Faith, One Family"**, or would like to make an additional gift, please contact the Development Office at (860) 886-1928 or go online to www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org.

Thank you to everyone for your support!

VIRTUAL BINGO

THURSDAY DECEMBER 31 2020

3:30 - 5PM

GREAT PRIZES AND FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Cards are \$6 each and will be emailed, Bingo played through internet!

To register go to <https://bit.ly/3kohQtJ> or call Marianne at (860)848-2237 ex. 304

GOD IS THE JOY OF MY SOUL

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.



Third Sunday of Advent



DIOCESAN ADVENT MISSION

The Advent Mission is
online each Thursday

7:00 - 7:45pm

December 3rd: Patience,
10th: Love, & 17th: Peace



Advent is a time for waiting, a time for preparation, and a time for prayer. The Diocese of Norwich has prepared a mission that brings Advent to your phone, tablet, and desktop to create the perfect opportunity for prayer, reflection, discussion, and preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

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TO REGISTER, CONTACT MARIANNE NICHOLAS AT
(860)848-2237 EX. 304 OR
M.NICHOLAS@NORWICHDIOCESE.NET

Seminarian Christmas Gift Card Campaign

Gift tags for the eight seminarians in our Diocese are available in the foyer of our church. Please consider purchasing a gift card (grocery, drugstore, gasoline) which will be gifted at Christmas. These gift cards will assist them with their personal living expenses or ministry related items during their academic year. Thank you for your continued prayers for vocations and assisting with this special show of support for the future priests.

Advent Angel Giving Tree

Boy Scout Troop 41 is once again sponsoring the
Advent Angel Giving Tree
to benefit **ABC Women's Center**,
which is a local faith-based pregnancy resource center.

Please take an
angel ornament,
and return your
unwrapped gift
by 12/20.
Thank you for
your support.



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