

The Parish Family of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church

Rectory: 79 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Church Entrance: 28 Hubbard Street (GPS Directions)



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- Mt 2:10-11

The Epiphany of the Lord~ January 3, 2021

Mass Intentions

Thursday 7:30 am	<u>December 31~New Year's Eve</u> +Wladyslaw Gacek Offered by His Loving Wife & Family
Friday 10:00 am	<u>January 1~ Solemnity of Mary</u> All Those Committed to Our Prayers
Saturday 4:00 pm	<u>January 2</u> +Marion Powell Offered By Barbara Penney & Ann Charton
Sunday 8:30 am Polish/English 10:30 am	<u>January 3</u> +Elzbieta Jastrzebska Offered By Her Loving Daughter & Family +David Kittle Offered By The Malon Family
Monday 7:30 am	<u>January 4</u> Living & Deceased Members of the Wiercioch & Wisnjeski Families
Wednesday 6:30 pm	<u>January 6</u> OPEN INTENTIONS
Thursday 7:30 am	<u>January 7</u> Living & Deceased Members of the Rosary Society
Friday 7:30 am	<u>January 8</u> OPEN INTENTIONS
Saturday 3:15 pm 4:00 pm	<u>January 9</u> Confessions +Mary A. Kokoszka Offered by Carole, Wiliam & Robert Kokoszka
Sunday 8:30 am Polish/English 10:30 am	<u>January 10</u> +Rosemary, Frank & Sophie Cichon Offered By Mary Pawelczak +Jane Opalacz Offered By Robert DelPrado

Anyone not comfortable with receiving communion can make an Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Weekly Collections

December 19-20

Offertory~ \$3358.
Fuel & Energy~ \$867.

stmarymiddletown.com/donate
Thank you for your generosity!

Marriage Preparation Classes to Meet Virtually

With the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the Catholic Family Services Office will be offering virtual or one-on-one marriage preparation classes for engaged couples. All formal live classes have been suspended through July 1, 2021.

Couples getting married in 2021 or beyond, should contact Mary-Jo McLaughlin at the Catholic Family Services Office to establish class dates. She can be reached Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 860-848-2237, Ext 312 or by email at mmclaughlin@norwichdiocese.net.

The Sanctuary Lamp

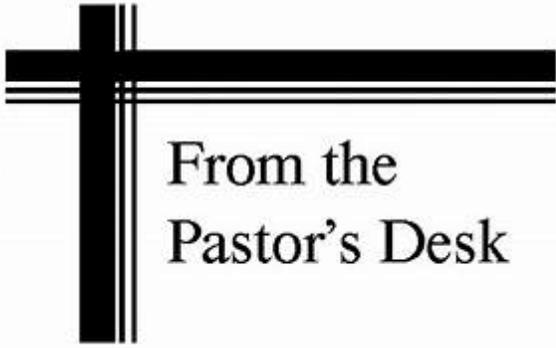
January 2-9

Is Lit in Loving Memory for
Catherine Gecewicz

"Happy Birthday Mom. We Love You."

Offered By The Gecewicz Family





From the Pastor's Desk

January 1, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Every year we used to organize our Annual Polish Dinner in October. Because of the coronavirus pandemic we could not hold it in 2020. So, we decided to have a fundraiser by selling raffle tickets and raise money for improvements at our church.

This year like never before we need your support during this crazy pandemic time. In my letter to you from September, 2019 regarding the Polish Dinner I wrote that we were planning on replacing the air condition system in the church. But because of many leaking problems we were forced to replace the roof on our beautiful church last summer. We also still need to replace the gutters. I'm thankful for all your donations towards our projects through the weekly collections and special donations.

All proceeds from selling the raffle tickets will go towards a new AC system for the church. All parishioners will be mailed one booklet of 10 raffle tickets at \$5.00 a piece, for a total contribution of \$50.00. You can win :

1st Prize is \$2000

2nd Prize is \$700

3rd Prize is \$300

I hope many of you will buy one or more booklets of raffle tickets and in this way support our parish community. This is also a great opportunity for non-regular contributors to St. Mary Church to make a difference by donating to this fundraiser.

You can return your ticket stubs and payment in any collection basket or by mailing to the rectory. State law requires that all unused tickets be returned.

The raffle drawing will be held at 5:00pm on March 6, 2021 in the parish hall.

From the bottom of my heart I wish to thank you for your participation.

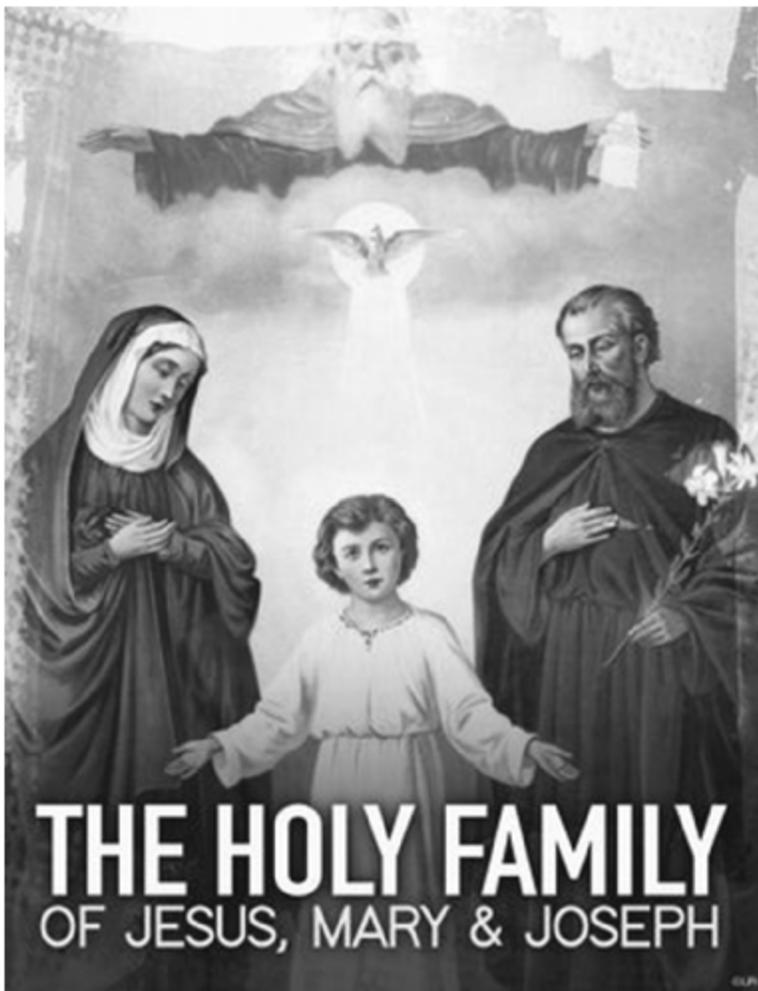
God Bless you all,

Fr. Richard Sliwinski, Pastor

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year 2021, without Covid-19. Amen.



CHURCH RAFFLE



THE HOLY FAMILY

OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

Dear Lord,
Bless our family.
Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and
mutual love that You found in Your own family
in the little town of Nazareth.
Saint Joseph,
pray for the head of our family.
Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom,
and the prudence he needs
to support and direct those under his care.
Mother Mary,
pray for the mother of our family.
Help her to be pure and kind,
gentle and self-sacrificing.
For the more she resembles you,
the better will our family be.
Lord Jesus,
bless the children of our family.
Help them to be obedient and
devoted to their parents.
Make them more and more like You.
Let them grow, as You did,
in wisdom and strength and grace
before God and man.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
by your intercession, love, and holy example,
make our family and home
more and more like Yours,
until we are all one family,
happy and at peace
in our true home with You.
Amen.



USE THE Light of God

“Where is that thing?” mumbled Bob as he searched frantically on his dimly lit desk for the current electric bill. “I know I put it right on top of these papers this morning!” Growing in frustration and bordering on anger, he flies stuff around, moves books and opines why simple tasks need to be so hard. Enter his wife, who calmly says, “Maybe it would help if you put the light on, dear.” The desk light goes on and lo and behold, there is the electric bill right where Bob left it earlier. All it took was a little light!

We stubbornly refuse to turn on the lights! Either we are distracted, determined, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Or perhaps, we fail to do the obvious. We would rather live our lives with the dimmest of lights or even in total darkness. Why are we afraid to do something so that we can actually see? It might help us to find quicker and better answers to problems, the meaning of life, relationships, happiness, and what is ultimate truth. Yet, we stumble along, moving things from one side to the other, getting angry, feeling cheated, being unsettled, resigning ourselves to the agony of defeat once again.

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.” The light has come into the world in the person of Jesus Christ! We no longer have to fumble in the darkness. We have been gifted with the illumination we need to see our way through things and find what we really are looking for. All these years later, however, so many are still reluctant to accept him. Perhaps they are unconvinced, disinterested, preoccupied, stubborn, apprehensive, or all of the above. Everyone has their own reason for not wanting to turn on the switch.

But there are so many answers to so many of our problems in this humble Child of Nazareth. A simple birth teaches us about God’s tender wedded relationship with humanity. It speaks to the expanse of God’s salvation across the globe, and the incarnate Divine wonders and blessings that are a part of our life moment to moment. It calls us to understand the design of world order God intended as found in the Beatitudes, the sacredness of every human life and all of creation and the meaning of things we struggle with most, like suffering and death. We have a lot of Good News to share, not just with a privileged few but with all the world. All races and creeds can receive God’s healing word. God continues to manifest himself even now! Use the light to find what you are really looking for!

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