

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
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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.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time~ January 17, 2021

Mass Intentions

©,FPC

Saturday January 16
3:15 pm **Confessions**
4:00 pm +Anne T. Sienko
Offered by Her Loving Daughter Susan

Sunday January 17
8:30 am +Adam Wilczynski
Polish/English Offered By His Loving Parents
10:30 am +Ruth DelPrado
Offered By Robert DelPrado

Monday January 18
7:30 am **Living & Deceased Members of the**
Rosary Society

Wednesday January 20
6:30 pm +Ada Bartosz & Bogolan Scieray
Offered By The Margas Family

Thursday January 21
7:30 am **OPEN INTENTIONS**

Friday January 22
7:30 am **Living and Deceased Members of the**
Wisnieski & Wiercioch Families

Saturday January 23
3:15 pm **Confessions**
4:00 pm +John & Mary Zowaleski
Offered by Ryan Morrissey

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*



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

January 9-10
Offertory~ \$2309.
Air Conditioning~ \$237.

December Online
\$3740.

stmarymiddletown.com/donate
Thank you for your generosity!

Project Rachel Rosary

Please join the Office of Faith Events staff online the third Tuesday of each month as we pray the Project Rachel Rosary for an end to abortion and healing for those who have been involved in an abortion.



The next Rosary will be Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Contact Liza Roach at lroach@norwichdiocese.net to receive a link for the Rosary.

The Sanctuary Lamp

January 17-23

Is Lit in Prayerful Memory of the
**Deceased Members Of Our
Parish Family**





Diocese of Norwich
Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

January 4, 2021

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

January 22, 2021 marks the 48th anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The day is set aside as a day of prayer and penance. Traditionally, each year in Washington, D.C. there is the National March For Life. The theme of this year's march (which will be held on January 29) is "Together Stronger, Life Unites".

Defense of the unborn is a pastoral priority of Pope Francis. He often speaks about the "throw away culture". In doing so he echoes the clarion call of Saint John Paul II who noted in his encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*: "It is no less true that we are confronted by an even larger reality, which can be described as a veritable structure of sin. This reality is characterized by the emergence of a culture which denies solidarity and in many cases takes the form of a veritable 'culture of death'. This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic, and political currents which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency. Looking at the situation from this point of view, it is possible to speak in a certain sense of a war of the powerful against the weak: a life which would require greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless, or is held to be an intolerable burden, and is therefore rejected in one way or another." (EV, 12) Who can be more weak and vulnerable than an unborn child?

At its core, the issue of abortion is fundamentally a spiritual problem. Do we have the trust in God that the developing life within will have enough food, money, resources, love, and support? If not, where is the Christian community? This past year the U.S. Bishops launched a year-long service project to mark the 25th anniversary of *Evangelium Vitae* - The Gospel of Life. The service project is titled "Walking With Mom's in Need". If our pro-life witness is to be effective, we need to be on the front lines of caring for moms in need. In doing so we are heeding the call of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to go to the margins of society.

One of the bright lights in our culture is the work of crisis pregnancy centers/services. Recent ultrasound technology has now been made readily available so that pregnant mothers can see the miracle of life growing in their womb. Many abortion-minded women have changed their minds with the gift of this technology.

As the U.S. Bishops have noted, defense of the unborn is a "pre-eminent priority" for U.S. Catholics. We turn to the Lord of Life and beseech His aid and guidance. God doesn't need large numbers. Remember, in the Old Testament Gideon was successful in battle with just a handful of men. If we are to transform the "culture of death" into a "culture of life" everyone is called to a conversion of heart. Prayer can obtain all things. May the Lord hear our prayers and pleas for a culture that values and treasures human life.

Thank you for your work in God's vineyard and thank you for all you do to build a culture of life in the Diocese of Norwich.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

Raffle Fundraiser

Every year we looked forward to our annual Polish dinner and raffle, but now due to the pandemic we have had to cancel. We decided to have at least a fundraiser by selling raffle tickets.

On March 6, 2021 we will hold a drawing.

1st Prize is \$2000

2nd Prize is \$700

3rd Prize is \$300

Each raffle ticket booklet will contain 10 tickets at \$5.00 each. All proceeds will go towards a new AC System for the church.

Soon everyone will receive a mailer with tickets and a letter from our pastor. Please continue to check the bulletin for further announcements.



CHURCH RAFFLE

Marriage Preparation Classes

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**.





Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary.

Speak Lord, your servant is listening.

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