

# ***The Parish Family of Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church***

Rectory: 79 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Church Entrance: 28 Hubbard Street (GPS Directions)



# First Sunday of Lent~ February 21, 2021

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> 3:15 pm 4:00 pm	<b><u>February 20</u></b> Confessions +Eleanor & Hank Novicki Offered By Robert Del Prado
<b>Sunday</b> 8:10 8:30 am (Polish) 10:30 am	<b><u>February 21</u></b> Gorzkie Zale +Antoni Margas & Jan Margas Offered By the Margas Family Living & Deceased Members of the Rosary Society
<b>Monday</b> 7:30 am	<b><u>February 22</u></b> +Fr. Fred Pilatowski and His Brother +Fr. Augustine Pilatowski Offered By Ted & Anne Nowakowski
<b>Wednesday</b> 7:00 pm	<b><u>February 24</u></b> OPEN INTENTIONS
<b>Thursday</b> 7:30 am	<b><u>February 25</u></b> +Maria Cameron Offered By Susan Sienko
<b>Friday</b> 7:30 am 7:00 pm	<b><u>February 26</u></b> OPEN INTENTIONS Stations of the Cross
<b>Saturday</b> 3:15 pm 4:00 pm	<b><u>February 27</u></b> Confessions +John J. Ziomek, Jr. Offered By His Loving Mom & Dad
<b>Sunday</b> 8:10 8:30 am (Polish) 10:30 am	<b><u>February 28</u></b> Gorzkie Zale +Adam Wilczynski Offered By His Loving Parents +David Furgess On The Occasion of His Birthday Offered By Leah Tomaszewski

Pray for your intentions through the intercessions of St. Jude, patron saint of difficulties and desperate cases.



Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church invites you to join us in praying the Saint Jude Novena every Wednesday at 7:00 pm until April 14, 2021.

### Weekly Collections

**February 13-14**

Offertory~ \$3166

Air Conditioning~\$589.

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**Thank you for your generosity!**

### Rectory News

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing guidelines, the rectory office is only open for emergency issues.

If you wish to reserve masses or a Tabernacle candle for loved ones, please email or mail your list of intentions to the rectory office.

[office@stmarymiddletown.com](mailto:office@stmarymiddletown.com)

79 Main St. Middletown, CT 06457

### *The Sanctuary Lamp*

February 14-20

Is Lit in Loving Memory for

**Bruce F. Sienko**

Offered By His Loving Daughter Susan





## Lenten Message, 2021

MOST REVEREND  
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

**“And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.” Matthew 6:18**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In the Gospel reading offered for our reflection each Ash Wednesday, the Lord instructs His disciples that when we pray, fast, and perform works of charity, we are not to do so in a public manner that would draw attention to ourselves or with the praise and admiration of others. Instead, we are instructed to give “in secret”, to go to our “inner room” to pray, and to give no outward indication that we are fasting. The Lord is cautioning His disciples to be on guard against behaving like hypocrites who do these things in an overtly public manner that they may appear, in the estimation of others, to be holy and righteous. By contrast, the Lord correctly reminds us that these spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are done, not for us, but in supplication and praise to Almighty God as well as for the good of our neighbors that we are called to serve. So it is that the Lord promises that we will be rewarded for our efforts in these areas, not by the world, but by the “Father who sees what is hidden.”

As we begin another Lent, particularly after a year that has been very difficult for so many, it is important for us to remember that nothing escapes the loving gaze of our Heavenly Father. The physical separation necessitated by the ongoing pandemic has resulted in many changes to the way we live our lives of prayer and the manner in which we practice our Catholic faith. Due to the restrictions placed on public worship gatherings, and the fear experienced by many in the face of this pandemic, members of the faithful have been unable to attend Mass in person and receive our Lord in Holy Communion. This has constituted a great spiritual sacrifice for many. Similarly, we have been unable to celebrate the major feast of our faith as we normally would with family and friends. In addition, many in the health care field and front-line workers have made great personal sacrifices in service to others. These challenges, difficulties, and sacrifices, along with many others, have been borne by individuals, largely in secret. It seems, therefore, that the Lord wants to reassure us that the sacrifices and suffering of this past year have not gone unnoticed by our heavenly Father who will reward our fidelity.

There is also, however, a continued challenge contained in these timely words of our Lord: we must never grow complacent with regard to the development of our spiritual lives, no matter the challenges and the external circumstances or limitations we face. It is likely that we will continue to be called upon to sacrifice and to endure comparable challenges for the foreseeable future. Recognizing this reality, we must resist the temptation to close in on ourselves or to despair. We can and should be confident that God is inviting us, here and now, in the midst of these present circumstances, to embrace the Cross in the quiet depths of our hearts. He is likewise inviting us anew to make use of the spiritual discipline of this Lent together with the tools of prayer, fasting, and works of charity to grow closer to Him and to one another, despite our physical separation. If we persist in this work, we can be assured that the Father, who sees our hidden, will reward us with an abundance of His grace.

May Mary, our mother and model, who stood with great love and fidelity at the foot of the Cross, continue to accompany us through these challenging times as we journey together to the enduring light and hope of Easter.

God bless you and may you have a Holy Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Cote".

Bishop of Norwich

# RAFFLE TICKETS FOR SALE

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.

All unsold tickets must be returned.

Please continue to check the bulletin  
for further announcements.



*One Faith  
One Family*



"Be here, while we have the opportunity, let us do  
good for all, first especially to those who belong  
to the family of the faith." - Galatians 6:10

**Commitment Weekend March 13-14, 2021**  
2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Thank you for your past support of the  
**Annual Catholic Appeal** which provides funds  
for many of the pastoral, educational, and charitable  
ministries of the Diocese of Norwich. As we embark on  
our 2021 ACA, ***One Faith, One Family***, we thank God  
for the strength and love we have received from him  
during this past year, when we, relying on our  
**ONE FAITH**, have uplifted our brothers, and  
sisters in our **ONE FAMILY**. The ACA in-pew  
collection will take place in our parish on  
**March 13-14, 2021**. Please give prayerful  
consideration when contemplating your sacrificial gift to  
the appeal. The future of our ministries depends on it.

**In 2020 our parish goal was \$24,622.. We achieved  
78.71%, or \$19,379.13. This year's goal is \$22,867.**



# Lenten Season

**(all Masses and services will be held in the church)**



## **Weekdays Masses**

Monday – 7:30am  
Wednesday – 7:00pm (St. Jude Novena)  
Thursday – 7:30am  
Friday – 7:30am

## **St. Jude Novena**

**Every Wednesday** at 7:00 pm  
(February 17 until April 14)



## **Stations of the Cross**

**Every Friday** during Lenten season  
7:00pm– (English /Polish)

## **Polish Lamentations (Gorzkie Zale)**

**Every Sunday** (starting February 21 )

8:10am - (before Polish Mass which starts  
8:30am each Sunday)

## **Lent Confessions:**

Every Saturday – 3:15pm-3: 45pm  
March 27 (Saturday) – 3:00pm- 3:45pm  
March 31 (Wednesday) – 7:30pm



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