

Saint Nicholas Parish

December 13, 2020

Seymour, Connecticut

THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT



Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas J Cieslikowski, Administrator
 Ken Ewaskie, Senior Deacon
 Mrs. Alese Kummer, Business Manager
 Denny McNamara, Cemetery Director
 Debi Durette, Coordinator of Religious Education
 Glenn Durette, Director of Music (Good Shepherd)
 Mark Silva, Director of Music (St Augustine)
 Art Paquette, Building and Grounds (St Augustine)
 Frank Parda, Building and Grounds (Good Shepherd)



Church of the Good Shepherd
135 Mountain Road

Vigil Mass Saturday 4:30 pm
 Sunday Mass: 11:00 am
 Weekdays (M,T,W,Th,) 9:00 am
 Sat. Confession 3:30 - 4:00 pm



St. Augustine Church
35 Washington Ave

Sunday Mass 9:30 am
 Handicap Accessible Side Entrance

Parish Website www.stnicholasct.org
 Email - stnicholasct@comcast.net
 Telephone 203-888-9243 - Fax 203-888-6016

Rectory Office Hours

St. Augustine	Mon. & Wed.	8am - 10:00am
Good Shepherd	Mon. & Wed	10:30am - 4:30pm
	Tue. Thur.	8am - 4:30pm
	Fri.	8am - 1pm

Baptisms

Registration is required.
 Please call the rectory office.

Marriages

Please contact rectory office at least
 six months in advance.

Office of Vocations

Phone: 860-242-5573

Web site: www.vocationshartford.org

Sick Calls

We are happy and honored to visit the sick
 or homebound.

Weekly Church Calendar

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By:	
Sat. Dec. 12 Good Shepherd	4:30pm	✠ Paula DiGiovanni	Ed Zehall & Family	Retirement Fund for Religious
Sun. Dec. 13 St Augustine	9:30am	✠ John Serra	Dolores Zaccaro	
Sun. Dec. 13 Good Shepherd	11:00am	✠ Katherine Andrew	Barbara & George Junko	
Mon. Dec. 14 Good Shepherd	9:00am	✠ Lisa Hoppe	Larry Hoppe, Father	
Tue. Dec. 15 Good Shepherd	9:00am	St. Nicholas Parishioners		Rosary after Mass
Wed. Dec. 16 Good Shepherd	9:00am	Mass Available		
Thu. Dec. 17 Good Shepherd	9:00am	✠ Micla Hicks Siler	A Friend	
Fri. Dec. 18		No Mass		
Sat. Dec. 19 Good Shepherd	4:30pm	✠ Christopher Gonzales 7th Anniversary	Mom & Family	
Sun. Dec. 20 St Augustine	9:30am	✠ Tony Bunk Sr	Kozloski Family	
Sun. Dec. 20 Good Shepherd	11:00am	✠ Basso & ✠ Cortello Family	Family	

December 2020	St Augustine	Good Shepherd
 Altar Wine	Available	Available
 SANCTUARY LAMP	Not Available	In Memory of Jachimowski & Gioielli Families
 Communion Hosts	In Memory of James Wityak	Thank You God

We are happy to welcome you back to St. Nicholas Parish. For the near future each weekend Mass will be limited to 100 Parishioners for The Church of the Good Shepherd and 50 Parishioners for St.

Augustine. You must register to attend the Mass of your choice.

Registration is now available on the Parish website.

<http://stnicholasct.org/latest-news/>

is on a first-come, first-served basis. No walk-ins are permitted at the door.

Please sign up for only one Mass. When you select a Mass time, hit "Submit and Sign-Up" at the bottom of the page and you will be directed to a page where you will fill out your name, and the number in your party. Then hit "Sign Up Now." You will receive a confirmation email.

The sign up Process to Attend a Mass must be done each week.





GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The prophet's words in the Book of Isaiah are bursting with hope: "The Lord ... has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord." As we enter the third week of Advent, these words may resonate more deeply for many of us as we look back on 2020. We know that for many of the world's people, struggle can be an everyday reality; however, after this year marked by pandemic, mourning, racial injustice, and mounting unemployment, the prophet's hope-filled words may hit home more acutely. Regardless of what 2020 has been like for us, Advent is a reminder that we have reason for hope: in Emmanuel, God with us. Let us prepare our hearts and our minds for Christ's coming through prayer, confident that the Lord will fulfill the promises of the prophet.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Light! Here in the Midwest in December we don't see nearly enough of it. Every year I consider purchasing a "happy lamp" and vow to "up" my Vitamin D intake. Perhaps that's why I was taken by the line in today's Gospel describing John the Baptist: "He came ... to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him." As predicted by John the Baptist and the prophet, Christ came to dwell among us, and remains within us through the Eucharist and the working of the Holy Spirit. We, like John the Baptist, can "testify to the light"

by sharing Christ's presence through our witness to others.

WITNESS Last week we focused on making God's kindness visible through our words and actions toward the people with whom we live and interact regularly; this week, let our witness focus on testifying to the light in our digital presence and encounters. Make your words be those that foster hope and promise rather than incite division.

Please pray for the health and wholeness in body, mind and spirit for:

Bob S	Terry A	Milton G	Arnie R	Barbara R
Linda B	Gerald A	Sandy M	A K	Charles H
Fernando P	Diane S.	Peggy O	Ron F	Louie A
Jim H	Bob B	Patricia T	Suzanne M	Elaine B
Jane W	Doreen O	Maggie D	Barbara O	



- Readings for the week of December 13, 2020
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
- Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
- Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
- Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Please Note:

That we are only reporting first name and initial of last name. We ask that if you have a name (1st name and 1st initial of last name) that you would like on the list, you must call the rectory (203-888-2081 - St. Augustine or 203-888-9243 - Good Shepherd) and resubmit the name. The name will stay on for 2 months and then be removed unless their name is resubmitted. Using this method we can keep names current. Thank you for your cooperation.

Testifying To The Light



This Sunday's Gospel reading tells us that John the Baptist came to "testify to the light." What does this mean?

We know that Jesus is the Light of Truth that shines in the darkness to draw us to eternal life. And we know that his Spirit enlightens us in the truth so that we can be saved from the destructive forces of our sins and follow our Savior to heaven. But what was the testimony given by John? How did he testify to the light? And how does this affect our lives today?

John's testimony was: "I am not the Christ. I am a voice. A voice in the wilderness. A voice in the desert." And his testimony brings us to the Light of Christ by challenging us with: "Where is your life arid and dry? Listen! Christ is coming to meet you there! Make a bee-line to him! Stop wandering around! Repent, change, do whatever is necessary to look for Jesus so that you can find him. He is coming to you!"

We've all experienced times when Jesus seems distant, unavailable, not present to us when we need him. What has opened your eyes to his presence? Whose voice has turned you back to God? It's time to do the same for others, to bring glad tidings to the poor (as it says in the reading from Isaiah), to heal the brokenhearted, to

proclaim liberty to those who are held captive in their sins, and to announce how to be blessed by a close friendship with the Lord.

We all have the same testimony and the same calling as John had: We are all supposed to be voices crying out loud enough to be heard above the din of the world. Many souls are lost in the wilderness of confusion, hopelessness, pain, heartache, and despair, not to mention sinfulness. Can we rightfully ignore their needs? Is it loving to be so quiet that they cannot hear the truth? Certainly not! Someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we ignored our baptismal calling to be the voice that could have helped others find him.

What kind of a voice do you have? Because we have Christ within us, our very lives are the voice. How we handle trials, revealing our faith in Jesus, is a voice that's audible to those who are lost in the wilderness. The more peace we have and the more love that we give, the louder is our cry.

Even if our vocal chords do not utter a single word, the way we live in the light is how we speak the truth of the light. The better we live the truth, the louder and clearer is our message.

What people choose to do with our message is up to them, but it's up to us to speak it so that they're given that choice.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

How has your life been changed by your faith in Jesus? What evil has been conquered, what darkness has been overcome? This is your testimony! Write a couple of pages about it to become more familiar with it. This will prepare you so that you can explain it to others when they ask you why you have faith..

Questions for Community Faith Sharing:

How has the Spirit of the Lord anointed you? What gifts do you have that enable you to give to the poor (i.e., the financially poor or the emotionally starving or the spiritually hungry) or to heal the brokenhearted? How has God used you to provide liberty to captives and release to prisoners? How are these a testimony that teach others about Jesus?

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Obligation: Mass or Communion?

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the *Code of Canon Law*. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (*Dies Domini*, no. 7). ©LPi



In an effort to keep in touch with the good parishioners of Saint Nicholas Parish, I have decided to write a weekly column to keep in touch. I will focus on the Gospel readings and any Church events for you! These parish updates will be e-mailed to the Parish E-mail list on **Monday afternoons**.

I encourage you not to forget about God during these trying times. Reading the Bible and even watching the Mass on TV are wonderful ways to keep our relationship with God close.

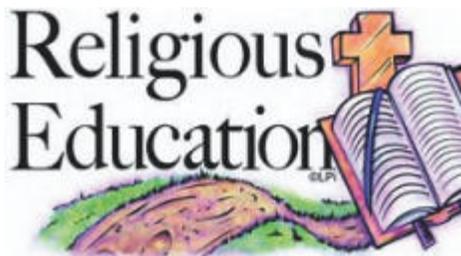
Know that I pray for all of you when I say my Masses. May God Bless all of you!



Wish Tree Labels

Wish Tree Labels are available in the back of Good Shepherd Church & St. Augustine Church for items for the Wish Tree. PLEASE use these same labels on your wrapped gift as they are color-coded to help facilitate distribution to different organizations. Please purchase items requested. PLEASE have as many gifts as possible to The church of the Good Shepherd by December 13th. NEW ITEMS ONLY. THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE is December 20th. Any questions call Carmie Potash - 203-888-5396. Thank you.

Religious Education 2020-2021



Even during this time of uncertainty, Saint Nicholas Parish will still have religious education instruction. It will, however, be very different from previous years. We will not be able to hold classes at Seymour High School for Grades 1-8 due to the inability of following required safety protocols for cleaning, small cohorts, and social distancing that is necessary to keep everyone safe.

Because of this, we are asking you, the parents/guardians of our students, to help them at home. We can assist you through the use of an assigned textbook provided when you register them. We would also give you the appropriate "Unit Quiz" which can be used as a traditional quiz, as an open book quiz, or as a guide to help your children focus on the most important information of the unit. We just ask that you return these completed "quizzes" to us and pick up the next unit quiz.

To adhere to the guidelines of social distancing, we will be stationed in the Fr. Keane Hall at Good Shepherd on Saturday mornings, 9:30 AM – 11 AM. This hall is in the back of the church. Please come in, wearing a mask, to register and receive the textbook and Unit 1 Quiz.

The following list are the initial dates for registration/pick-up of supplies:

11/14/20; 11/21/20; 12/5/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20

Additional Saturday dates for 2021 will be posted at a later time. Please note that snow/ice would cancel the affected Saturday.

Confirmation 2021:

Please watch the Confirmation link on the website for information about the start of instruction for the new class. If you have any questions, please call Debi or Glenn Durette at 203-735-3190.



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