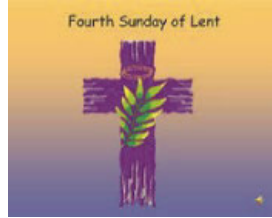


# Saint Nicholas Parish



**March 27, 2022**  
Seymour, Connecticut

## Parish Staff

Rev. Thomas J Cieslikowski, Administrator  
Joan Kayser, Office Manager  
Denny McNamara, Cemetery Director  
Debi Durette, Coordinator of Religious Education  
Glenn Durette, Director of Music (Good Shepherd)  
Frank Parda, Building and Grounds (Good Shepherd)  
Michael Vignola, Bulletin Editor, Webmaster Parish Website



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](http://www.stnicholasct.org)  
Email - [stnicholasct@comcast.net](mailto:stnicholasct@comcast.net)  
Telephone 203-888-9243 - Fax 203-888-6016

### Rectory Office Hours

Good Shepherd	Mon. to Thur.	9:00am - 4:00pm
	Fri.	Closed

### 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](http://www.vocationshartford.org)

### Sick Calls

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

## Weekly Church Calendar

Date	Time	Intention	Requested By:	Events
Sat Mar. 26 Good Shepherd	4:30pm	† Dolores Popowski	Downs Family	The Catholic Relief Services Collection
Sun. Mar. 27 St Augustine	9:30am	† Joseph Dilisio, Sr.	Wife Jean	
Sun. Mar. 27 Good Shepherd	11:00am	† Thomas Cieslikowski	Family	
Mon. Mar. 28 Good Shepherd	9:00am	Mass Available		
Tue. Mar. 29 Good Shepherd	9:00am	† Frank Marti Birthday in Heaven	Wife & Children	Rosary in Church
Wed. Mar. 30 Good Shepherd	9:00am	Mass Available		
Thu. Mar. 31 Good Shepherd	9:00am	Mass Available		
Fri. Apr. 1 Good Shepherd		No Mass		
Sat Apr. 2 Good Shepherd	4:30pm	† Cecilia Krohelski	Bob, Carmie & Daniel Potash	
Sun. Apr. 3 St Augustine	9:30am	† Helen Zielinski	Family	
Sun. Apr. 3 Good Shepherd	11:00am	† Joan Radin	Marian Sadlowski & Patricia Wolniak	

Mar 2022	St Augustine	Good Shepherd
 Altar Wine	In Memory of Kathleen E. Jachimowski Jamaitis and Edward J. Jachimowski	In Memory of Elene Tong
 SANCTUARY LAMP	Not Available	In Memory of Jachimowski & Gioielli Families
 Hosts	In Memory of Walter Fittig & John Martusis	In Memory of Al Mongillo

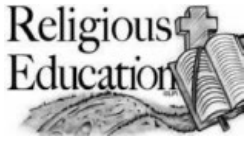
## Parish Giving

March 20, 2022		
Offertory Envelope	2nd Collection	Total Collection
\$4,911		\$4,911
Cathderaticum & CSSP	Total Stay in Parish	
\$334	\$4,577	
<b>Thank You for your Generosity</b>		

On Line Giving Offertory will be provided on a Monthly Schedule  
**February \$3,298**



## Religious Education 2022



Religious Education will continue this year, but its format will be the same as last year on account of the ongoing pandemic and all of its uncertainty. We will not be able to hold classes at Seymour High School for Grades 1-8 due to the inability of following the continued required safety protocols for cleaning, small cohorts, and social distancing that is necessary to keep everyone healthy and safe. Because of this, we are once again asking you, the parents/guardians of our students, to help them at home. We can assist you through the use of an assigned textbook and unit quizzes provided when

you register them. These "unit quizzes" can be used as a guide to help your child(ren) focus on the most important information in the unit. We just ask that you return these completed "unit quizzes" to us.

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 materials.

The following list are dates for registration/pick-up of supplies;  
3/26, 4/2, 4/9

Additional Saturday dates for 2022 will be posted at a later time. Please note that snow/ice would cancel the affected Saturday. If you have any questions, please call Debi or Glenn Durette at 203-735-3190.



If you would like to receive a statement for income tax purposes for donations made in 2021, please Contact Business Office, St. Nicholas parish at 203-888-9243. Provide name and Church envelope number.

Statements for OnLine Giving are accessed by logging on to the Parish OnLine Giving website

<https://www.osvhub.com/st-nicholas-ct/funds>

The Tax information is under the My Account tab.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring virtual marriage experiences. Some are on weekends and are seven sessions on weekdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm. We also have some in-person experiences for those interested. Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or visit them at <https://www.mectw.org/>.

Is your marriage bearing fruit? Don't wait until it is too late, take time for your marriage by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience

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

Jean D	Pat S	Michael V	Arnie R	Denise H
Darrin M	MT	Denny M	Suzanne M	Alice E
Peggy O	Steve S	AP	Rose S	Tom G
Diane O.	Joseph G			



#### 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 203-888-9243 - 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.

**Hear ye, Hear ye!** Notice is given that we will give thanks for all the time and dedication that Deacon Ken Ewaskie gave to the Church of the Good Shepherd and Saint Nicholas Parish. We will be ever grateful for all words of wisdom that he shared in his homilies and lectures. Those stories he started each homily with were always interesting and attention getting. He touched so many lives in all the Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals/Wake services he officiated during his lengthy career.

So join us on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the 11am mass in the Fr. Keane Hall at Good Shepherd Church, for a reception to wish Deacon Ken well as he fully retires from his clerical duties. Maybe you have a story about how he touched your life. Hope to see you there.

*Father Tom*



**Why We Are Worthy Of Love**

Who is worthy to receive the love and unconditional forgiveness of God? During every Mass, we pray, "Lord, I am not worthy... but say the Word and my soul shall be healed." Jesus illustrates in this Sunday's Gospel reading that we are all worthy, but not because of what we do -- rather, it's because of what Jesus *did* do: He died on the cross to take our sins into death so that we can rise up with him in the perpetual Easter experience of unity with God.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, it's not what the son did that made his return home acceptable. It's not his repentance that made him worthy of receiving his father's love. It's what the father did. He loved his child. Unconditionally. He loved him even while he was far away, even while he was straying in a sinful lifestyle.

The dad's unconditional, faithful love was his gift to the son even while the son was rejecting it.

The gift that the son gave to his dad upon his return home was an open heart to receive the love that had always been available.

During every Mass, we come to church as prodigal children. It doesn't matter that we think we've been good Christians all week long. In some way or other, we have turned our backs on God's full, unconditional, faithful love. This is why we always start Mass acknowledging that we have sinned. Let's take this opportunity very seriously!

Next, we listen to the Word that heals our broken relationships with God. The homily should always be carefully planned to enhance this, but if it's not, Jesus is nonetheless speaking to you through his Holy Spirit; listen in your heart. Jesus, who is the Word made flesh, has already begun to respond to your presence at Mass.

In the Offertory, we offer ourselves to the Father; it's our moment of surrender: "I no longer deserve to be called your child, so do with me as you will." What God wills is for us to be restored to a fully loving, give-and-take relationship with him and his family. And thus, in the grandest moment of the Liturgy, we receive the Eucharist as a gift of unity with God and with his whole family, the Church. (Those who cannot receive the Communion of the Host and Cup are graced with a Spiritual Communion.)

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

In what ways do you feel like a prodigal child? Do you feel separated from God to any degree? What sins do you need to confess so that you can turn around and head back home? Your Father is waiting with open arms!

**Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:**

Describe a Prodigal Son type of experience. Are you waiting for a lost child or friend to return to the Church or to your love? In what way have you been the child running away from God? What made you decide to return home? How did God receive you back? What convinced you that his love is unconditional and always available?

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- **Readings for the week of March 27, 2022**
- **Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/ Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- **Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54
- **Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- **Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30
- **Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47
- **Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- **Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53
- **Next Sunday:** Is 43:16-21/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
- • • • •
- **Observances for the week of March 27, 2022**
- **Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent
- **Monday:**
- **Tuesday:**
- **Wednesday:**
- **Thursday:**
- **Friday:** April Fools' Day
- **Saturday:** St. Francis of Paola, Hermit
- **Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Lent
- • • • •



It is important that when you give to any charitable organization, you are confident that the funds received are being used wisely. Be assured that your gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal supports the ministries and programs indicated in the 2022 Appeal literature! Organizations such as Seymour-Oxford Food Bank, Master's Table Community Meals, Ansonia, & St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Derby right here in our own community received funding from the Appeal's Vicariate Outreach Program that makes a difference in the lives of our local neighbors. Please visit the Appeal website at [www.archdioceseofhartford.org](http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org) to learn more and make your gift today. All funds contributed to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal are used exclusively for the purposes outlined in the Appeal literature, which can be found at <https://archdioceseofhartford.org/appeal/>

**No Appeal funds are ever used for legal fees or settlements**



This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to **reveal Christ's Love** to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

### Some Extra Special Time



Fr. Tom will hear confessions on the Mondays of March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 6:30pm (or later if needed) at Church of the Good Shepherd. There will be no confession on Holy Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> of April.

## Divine Mercy Sunday

will be celebrated on Apr.24 the Sunday after Easter, as instructed to St. Faustina by Jesus.

This Devotion offers complete forgiveness for the temporal punishment (Purgatory time) we have accumulated due to our sins even though confessed and forgiven. A "clean slate"!



To obtain this forgiveness we must go to Confession during Lent and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday (Saturday vigil is acceptable.) Even with COVID restrictions and if we are not able to get to Church we are still able to receive forgiveness and the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday if we on Divine Mercy Sunday:

1. Truly desire to receive them with all our hearts.
2. Trust that we are able to receive them.
3. Make an Act of Perfect Contrition (one that expresses our sorrow for our sins because of our deep love of Jesus). Go to Confession as soon as we reasonably can.
4. Make a Spiritual Communion asking Jesus to come into our hearts.

An excellent explanation of what Divine Mercy Sunday offers (including a Plenary Indulgence) can be found on YOU TUBE, "Divine Mercy Sunday Reflections 2020" .

**The greater the sinner, the greater the right to the mercy!**

### TEAM, INC. Programs 203.736.5420

#### VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

TEAM offers free tax preparation and filing between Feb. 1st to April 15th through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. IRS-trained volunteers help taxpayers prepare basic tax return forms, where the primary source of income is from wages and salaries. The tax returns are filed electronically at no cost.

#### VITA aims to:

- Increase the number of working families that qualify for the [Earned Income Tax Credit](#) (EITC) and the [Child Care Tax Credit](#) (CTC)
- Reduce the amount of EITC and CTC tax dollars lost to tax preparation fees
- Increase the number of free tax preparation sites
- Promote the use of EITC and CTC dollars as a gateway to asset building through financial literacy training

#### Eligibility Requirements

VITA offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people (annual household income of \$54,000 and below, or 200% of [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#)).





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