



The Parish Community of
St. John the Evangelist

November 13-14, 2021

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m.
(Lower Level Chapel)

MIRACULOUS
MEDAL NOVENA

Mondays immediately
after the 7:30 a.m. Mass

RECONCILIATION

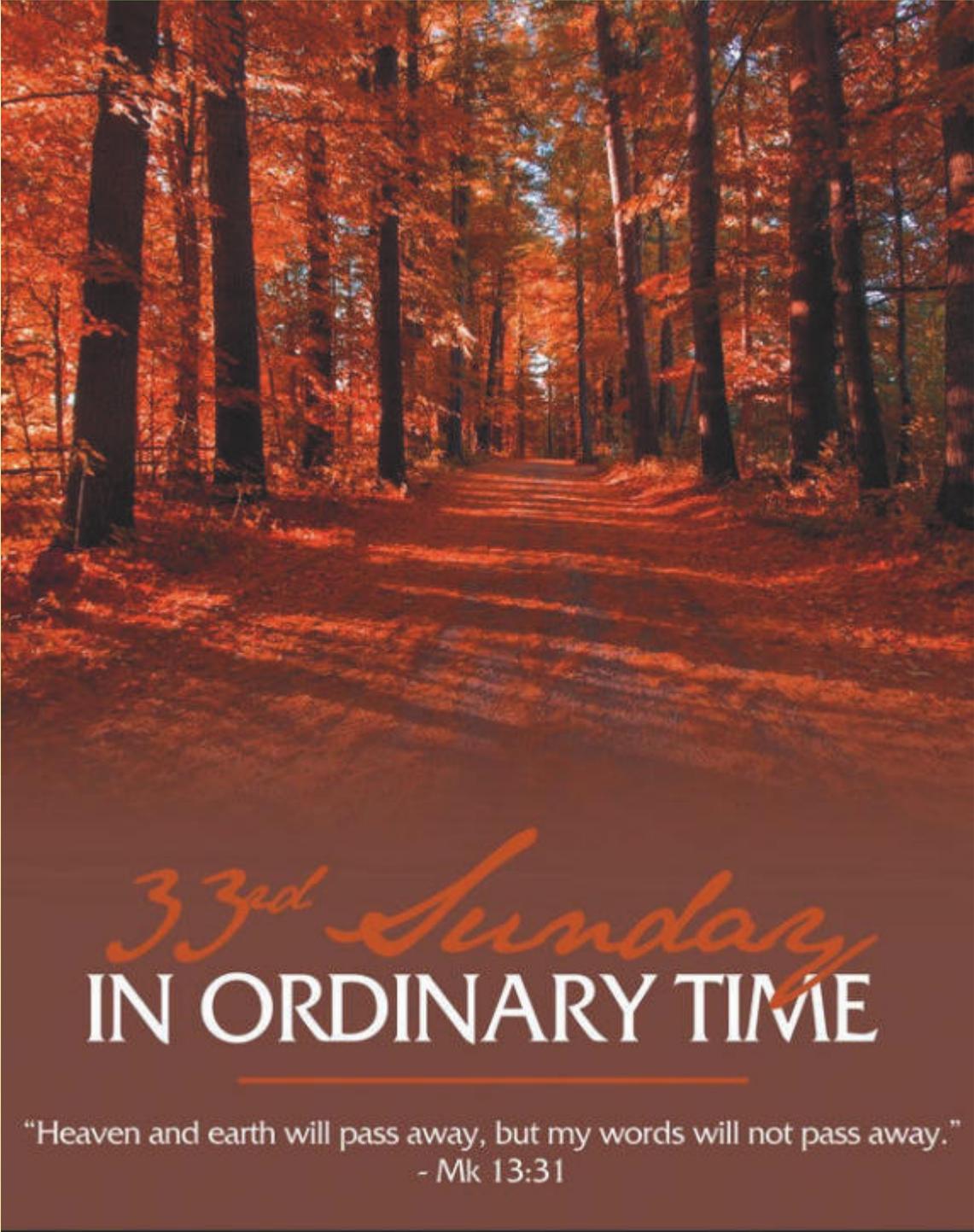
Saturdays
3:45 p.m.-4:15 p.m.

HOLY DAYS

As indicated in bulletin

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.



33rd Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”
- Mk 13:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

35 William Street, Pittston PA 18640

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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,



There is no doubt now that we are heading quickly towards the end of the church year. The church year runs differently than the calendar year. It will end in just one week, on the 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time, which is also the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The readings become apocalyptic, that is, readings that point us towards the “end times”. The Church is preparing us for the season of the coming of the Son of God, the long-awaited, much-prophesied Messiah. The short season of Advent ushers in the Christmas season and serves to prepare us for this great event. Each year we celebrate it with great fanfare and much preparation. All kinds of things go into that preparation. Most importantly should be our spiritual preparation which often takes a back seat to the temporal celebrations and arrangements that take place at that time of year. The early followers of Jesus believed his return to be imminent. After his death and resurrection, it was thought that his triumphant return would bring the known world to an end and that it would (or could) be soon. Obviously, that was not to be the case. Even this weekend's first reading from the prophet Daniel speaks of these “end times”. Truth be told, we have no idea when this might be. In reality, people have predicted it wrongly for all sorts of reasons and with all sorts of dire events and consequences many times. They have been incorrect. What we do know is that every one of us will eventually arrive at the end of our mortal life and meet our Lord face-to-face. This time of year gives us an occasion to think about how we live. It allows us to examine how our lives are going and how we might improve. The coming season of Advent, in its hustle and bustle in making the necessary preparations for the season of Christmas, should allow us to find some time to reflect and prepare inwardly for this enormous public event of the birth of Jesus Christ. Perhaps we can begin now.



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
“But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” - Mk 13:30-32

Scripture from the Lectionary for Mass ©2011, 1998, 1985 CEB

~ *Father Elston*

LECTIO DIVINA

As mentioned several weeks ago in my homily, here are the steps to this scriptural spiritual exercise that I hope will help us reflect even more deeply on a small section of the weekend reading. The term simply means "Divine reading". You may use any part of scripture you would like. Every week there will be a suggestion.

The steps include:

1. Read the passage slowly and carefully.
2. Pray. Have a loving conversation with God.
3. Meditation. Think deeply or dwell upon a spiritual reality within the text.
4. Contemplation. Rest a while in God's presence.
5. Action. Consider what spiritual or temporal action the passage may encourage.



This week's suggestion...

"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky."

This is only a suggestion. You may always use whatever passage you prefer. Together let us accept the invitation to "go deeper" into God's saving word and see ourselves in the midst of it, being called to live the word each day!



A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JACKSON

Dear Parishioners,

We celebrated World Mission Sunday last month, and on that weekend we prayed for all the Missionaries working around the world and we supported their mission work with our generosity. Our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters throughout the world is very much appreciated. Pope Francis calls us all to support the work of his mission worldwide and reminds us that to be on mission is to be willing to think as Christ does to believe with him that those around us are also our brothers and sisters. As you know, every year missionaries come from different parts of the world to make their Mission Appeal in our parishes in the Diocese of Scranton. But these past two years, no missionaries were able to come because of the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions. This year we also participate in the Mission Cooperation Appeal program of the Diocese. It is a blessing for me to be part of this program and make this Mission Appeal for the Oblates of St. Joseph Province in India.

The Congregation of the Oblates of St. Joseph has opened its mission in India in 1982 and within these almost 40 years the Oblate province has been blessed with so many good vocations and our priests are working in various parts of India and abroad. We are trying to carry out the dream and vision of our Holy Founder, St. Joseph Marelllo. In the present day, the Oblates serve in many different capacities, depending upon the needs of the bishops where we serve. We, the Oblates of St. Joseph in India, dedicate ourselves by giving special emphasis on the moral and Christian education of the youth. As part of our charism, we undertake schools, orphanages, technical schools, parishes, and other social institutions. We, the Oblates, are open to the missionary spirit of the Congregation and we offer our service in its needs of the General Curia and in other provinces of the Congregation.

A few years ago, the Oblates expanded its mission to the Northeastern states of India, especially in Assam (Archdiocese of Guwahati). Our priests and seminarians are working among various tribal groups for their human and Christian formation. We are mainly involved in the areas of education, health, pastoral services, and other developmental activities. We are aiming to have the integral growth of the people: faith formation, basic education, health awareness, and facilitating the economic support by generating income activities. There are several challenges for the Oblates to continue their mission among these people – we have to learn new language, culture, tradition, etc. Often, it is not easy, but we try our best to bring the good news of Jesus to the people of this area. We are now planning to build a new English medium school which is a dream of the people of these villages. We hope this dream may come true with the assistance of generous people so that the students may get adequate education and integral growth in their lives. There is also a demand from the people who are living in these villages for the construction of the technical schools for the future of their children. If it becomes a reality, it will be a great help to these poor people. We hope and pray the presence of the Oblates of St. Joseph in India, especially our mission in Assam, may bear fruit abundantly and become a great witness to the Gospel.

Thank you so much for taking your time to read this note. Your gifts and your prayers will be a blessing to our Oblate mission in India. Many blessings!

Gratefully,

Fr. Jackson Pinheiro, OSJ

HEALTH CLINIC UPDATE

We are working to re-establish our Care and Concern Ministry, especially the resumption of service of our Free Health Clinic. The process is going well, but we are very much in need of nurses. If you are an RN (active or retired) or an LPN (active or retired) and feel you can volunteer one night per week (even occasionally), *please call the office in either rectory* to let Father Elston know. So far, it seems that we will return to Wednesday nights. Thank you!

SUPPORT PARISH LIFE INITIATIVES

"Our primary goal is to share the Gospel, evangelize and share our faith and bring people back to the Church if they are not there"

— Jose Flores
Coordinator for Hispanic Ministry
Diocese of Scranton



The Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the Office for Parish Life, which works directly with parishes to provide training and support services to guide the faithful. This summer, the office launched a new weekly radio program in Spanish to share the Gospel message with the Hispanic community.

Donate now at: annualappeal.org



GIFTS OF ANY AMOUNT ARE APPRECIATED

Diocese of Scranton
2021 **DIOCESAN** ANNUAL APPEAL  RISING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

PARISH CHOIR NEWS

We are pleased to announce that we plan to have choirs singing at our Christmas liturgies again this year! We will continue to follow safety guidance as we resume this ministry. Whether you have sung with the Parish Choir or the 9 a.m. Contemporary Choir, you are welcome to join us at your choice of either the 4:30 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, **Friday, December 24**. The choirs for our Christmas liturgies will be under the direction of Mike Sowa and will meet on the following Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.: **November 23, November 30, December 7, and December 21**. Please be mindful of the importance of being vaccinated against COVID-19 to ensure the safety of all who wish to sing together. At least for the time being, we will wear masks when we meet and allow for a little extra distance between singers.



HARVEST FESTIVAL AT SJM

St. Joseph Marelo Parish, 237 William Street in Pittston, will be holding a Harvest Festival Take-Out Pork Dinner from 11:30am to 1:30pm on **Sunday, November 21**. Dinners include pork roast, homemade mashed potatoes, vegetable, and dessert item. Cost is \$12 per adult dinner and \$6

per child dinner. All orders can be picked up from the Parish Center during the listed hours. To place an order, please contact the Parish Office at 570-654-6902 or through e-mail at office@sjmparish.org.



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

Next **Thursday, November 25**, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. One Mass for both our parishes will be celebrated at **9:00 a.m.** at Saint Joseph Marelo. There will be no 7:30 a.m. Mass at Saint John the Evangelist or 11:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Joseph Marelo. The parish office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 and Friday, November 26.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THE CHILDREN OF OUR PARISH

On **Sunday, December 12**, members of the Holy Name Society will be distributing Christmas gifts for the children of our parish from **10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center. Please call the parish office at 570-654-0053 by Friday, December 3 to register, providing the names and ages of your children. Thank you!



ALTAR AND ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Altar and Rosary Society of St. John the Evangelist will have its annual Christmas party on **Sunday, December 12 at 1 p.m.** in the Msgr. Bendik Pastoral Center. All parishioners are invited to attend. Reservations must be in by December 1 and can be sent to the parish office or placed in the collection basket. The cost is \$20.00 per person. For more information, please call Jean at 570-654-9710.

HARVEST OF PRIZES THANK YOU

We are reporting a profit of **\$8,310.00** between returns and monetary donations and are truly grateful to all who supported in any way! If you participated in this fundraiser and are a Facebook user, please be sure to like our parish page: www.facebook.com/stjohnspittston. Every day we post videos of our winners; however, out of respect for everyone's privacy, we only announce first names. Winners receive phone calls on the days they win.



PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor

Rev. Joseph Elston

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Jackson Pinheiro, OSJ

Pastor Emeritus

Msgr. John J. Bendik

Deacon

Deacon David Marx

Director of Religious Formation

JoAnne McHale

joannemchale@stjohnspittston.com*Director of Music Ministry*

Dr. Charles Stevens

*Pastoral Associate, Organist,
Youth & Young Adult Ministry*

Michael Sowa

msowa@stjohnspittston.com*Office Staff*

Cathy Rusnok

Theresa Schubel

Sacristans

Michael Brown

Jack Riley

Grounds & Maintenance

Bob Ayre

Rick Rinish

Jason Roche

Don Werkheiser

Rectory & Household Staff

Jane Roche

Midge Butsavage

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, Nov. 15 7:30 a.m.	Weekday Michael Rakaczewski, Sr.	<i>by Family</i>
Tuesday, Nov. 16 7:30 a.m.	Weekday Mary and John McHale	<i>by JoAnne</i>
Wednesday, Nov. 17 7:30 a.m.	Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious Jerome and George Jr. Kutchkus	<i>by Mona</i>
Thursday, Nov. 18 7:30 a.m.	Weekday Thanksgiving for a favor granted <i>by Rose Marie Andrush</i>	
Friday, Nov. 19 7:30 a.m.	Weekday In honor of Antoinette Zane's 101 st Birthday <i>by Charlotte Para</i>	
Saturday, Nov. 20 4:30 p.m.	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Vigil) Theresa Nardone Pizzella	<i>by Family</i>
Sunday, Nov. 21 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Joseph Balberchak Joseph Sam Valenti	<i>by Family</i> <i>by Mom and Sister-Renee'</i>

MEMORIAL HONOR CANDLES
MONTH OF NOVEMBER**In memory of the McCawley Family**
by John, Donald, and Mary Lou**In memory of Joseph and Josephine
Balberchak**
by Tom, Joy Ann, and TJ OrthETERNAL REST GRANT
UNTO THEM, O LORDPlease remember in your prayers
our parishioners and friends who
have recently passed:*Robert Thornton*
Rus Arnone

STEWARDSHIP: YOUR GIFT OF TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

*Sunday Collection for the
Weekend of November 6-7***\$ 6,293.00****This includes:**

Offertory:	\$ 5,448.00
Children:	\$ 81.00
Loose	\$ 269.00
Dues:	\$ 495.00

Total Envelopes Used: 303

THANK YOU
for your generosity**CARE AND EDUCATION OF
PRIESTS**The second collection for the care and
education of all Diocesan Seminarians
totaled **\$542.00**.Again, thank you for your prayerful
support and generosity.**ONLINE GIVING****WEEKS FROM OCTOBER 17-31**

Offertory:	\$1,157.00
Dues:	\$ 125.00
Total:	\$1,282.00



CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES

Important Updates for Our Ministries

FOOD PANTRY

Free food is given, **by appointment**, to qualifying households in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts (excluding citizens of Avoca and Duryea, as they have their own Community Food Pantries). Households may receive food once per month from September through May.

Pre-qualification is done by phone at **570-654-9923**.

Proof of address (recent utility bill) is required at your first appointment **each year**. Food Pantry appointments are made for the **First and Second**

Wednesdays

of each month. This ministry is closed from June through August.

KIDS CLOSET

The Kids Closet offers new and gently used clothing for free to children (sizes newborn through 16) to families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. **Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Kids Closet every **six weeks**.

This ministry is open the

First and Second Wednesdays of each month from **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** with **no evening hours**.

TOY AND BOOK CORNER

The "Corner" offers new and gently used toys and books for free to children and families in the Pittston Area and Wyoming Area School Districts. **Photo ID** is required to participate in this ministry. Families are able to visit the Toy and Book Corner every **six weeks**.

This ministry is open the

First and Second Wednesdays of each month from **9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** with **no evening hours**.

PEDIATRIC HEALTH CLINIC

The Pediatric Clinic offers basic health care for children ages newborn through 11. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Call **570-855-6035** for more information.

Information about the Free Health Clinic is forthcoming.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

We are most grateful for the following donations made to the many ministries of the Church and deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness.

FOOD PANTRY

Frank Sciabacucchi and Friends, Richard and Mary Lou Kern, Kathryn Zongila, John J. Cituk, Jr.

CARE AND CONCERN MINISTRIES

(**In memory of Paul Mullock**) by Frank and Mary Carden; (**In memory of Anne E. Noone**) by Joan and Jerry Butler, Frank and Mary Carden; (**In memory of Mary Joe Emanuel**) by Rose Marie Marselles, Ann Irvin; (**In memory of Bob Thornton**) by Nancy and Ken Long; (**In memory of Paul Mullock**) by Joe, Shirleen and Joey Jones.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH

(**In memory of Andrew Connell**) by Stan and Nancy Roth, Cathy Gechunis.

KNIGHTS OF LITHUANIA



Knights of Lithuania Council 143 will host the annual Lithuanian Kūčios Dinner at 12:00 noon on **Saturday, December 4, 2021** in the Monsignor Bendik Center, Pittston, PA. This a traditional ethnic dinner served on Christmas Eve in Lithuania and all over the world by people of Lithuanian ancestry. Cost will be \$22 per person. Contact Janet Palladino @ 570-655-4761 by November 29th for information and reservations. Please plan to attend this celebration of your heritage.

SEEKING FUNERAL SERVERS

We are looking for adult volunteers to assist as altar servers at funerals. Most of our funeral liturgies take place during the morning hours, Monday through Saturday. Occasionally a funeral liturgy will take place in the afternoon. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please call the parish office at 570-654-0053 and ask for Mike.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

November 21, 2021

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

First Reading

Daniel 7:13-14

Second Reading

Revelation 1:5-8

Gospel

John 18:33b-37

RISE to the Challenge!
#iGiveCatholic 2021!
NOVEMBER 15-30 ONLY!
<https://scranton.igivecatholic.org/>

Make a Diocesan Annual Appeal gift of at least \$20 on our parish's page and get a chance to win an array of outdoorsy prizes celebrating God's creation! Help our parish climb national leaderboards while supporting our ministries.

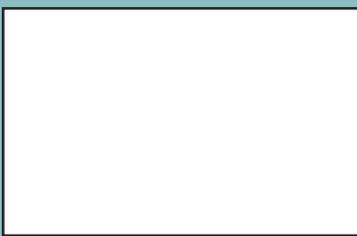
Your support also can help our parish win \$1,000 cash prizes.
 Already given? An additional \$20 gift doubles your chances to win!
 Questions? E-mail Sandra-Snyder@dioceseofscranton.org or call 570-591-5004.

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Like/Follow this page to participate in two weeks' worth of pop-up challenges with more prizes!

If you scan the QR code or visit the site given above, type "St. John the Evangelist Parish" in the search bar.

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