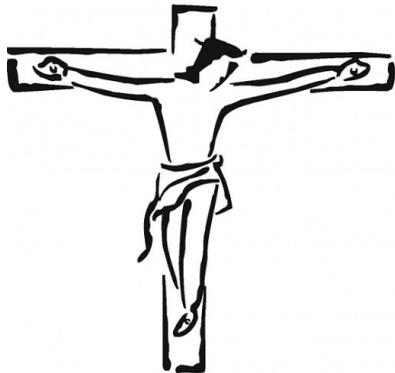


COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 03/01 (Sunday) Singing of "Bitter Lamentations" before the Holy Mass on every Sunday of Lent at 9.40am. Come and join us as we meditate the Passion of Jesus and the sufferings of His Blessed Mother.
- 03/06 Stations of the Cross at 5pm.
- 03/08 (Sunday) Singing of "Bitter Lamentations" before the Holy Mass on every Sunday of Lent at 9.40am. Come and join us as we meditate the Passion of Jesus and the sufferings of His Blessed Mother. Holy Mass intention: For + PAUL FEYER.
- 03/11 (Wednesday) BINGO NIGHT in the church hall at 6pm (doors open at 5pm) Invite your friends and come to play and win!
- **BIG THANK YOU to Nancy and Diane** for volunteering at yesterday's POLISH FOOD SALE. We had a big crowd of people coming to buy our delicious Pierogi, Golabki and many other food products. We were sold out with Golabki within 30 minutes! Net income of yesterday's sale is almost \$2,000. BIG THANK YOU also to those parishioners who donated for the purpose of the sale.
 - **BIG THANK YOU to Jacqueline and Linda** for cleaning the church this month!



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Fridays of Lent at 5pm.

BITTER LAMENTATIONS
Sundays of Lent at 9.40am.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042

Official website: www.saintjohnspncc.org

Facebook: **John the Baptist, Manchester CT**

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

ADMINISTRATOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

March 1, 2020

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For St. John's benefactors - both living and deceased.

INTROIT

C: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord, "My refuge and fortress, my God in Whom I trust."

R: Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

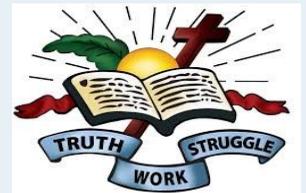
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



HOLY MASS

. 10.00 am



MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said for a particular intention, you must stop by the Parish Office or the sacristy in the Church before/after Sunday mass. Masses can be said for a deceased person or as a special intention for the living. You may reserve a Sunday of your choice, and your intention will be published in the parish bulletin.

We encourage you to offer a Mass on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special personal (family) need.

READING 1

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?" The woman answered the serpent: "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the gar-

GEN 2:7-9; 3:1-7

den; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, 'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman: "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil." The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

„Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.“

PS 51

READING 2

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned.

For if, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus

Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ROM 5:12, 17-19

GOSPEL

MT 4:1-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory be to You, Lord.

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test." Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Grace. Temptation. Results of facing temptation. Grace again. That's sort of sums up today's readings. Grace is GOD's gift of Divine life given to humans. Temptation is when humans are given the freedom to choose whether they want to accept GOD's grace or choose another value which seems pleasing to them at the time. The result of facing temptation will vary depending on what one chooses to do with the temptation. The final step is GOD offering more grace. Notice the cycle begins and ends with GOD's gift of grace – a share in the Divine life for humans.

What brings me hope in all this, is that GOD continues to choose each and every one of us. GOD wants to grace us. The LORD wants to give us the gift of Divine Life. And GOD is patient with us even after we keep refusing to accept the Divine gift of grace. GOD offers grace to us again and again. GOD has chosen us to be holy people, GOD's chosen people. GOD is not going to give up on us, even though we sometimes give up on GOD...