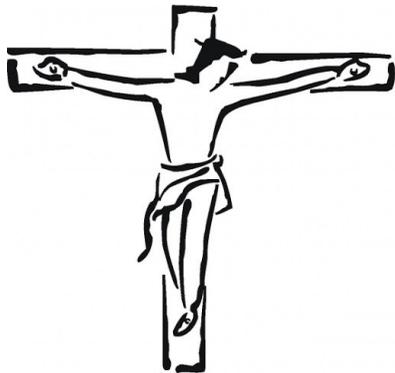


COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 03/14 (Today) Bitter Lamentations at 9.40am. Holy Mass at 10am. Reading of the Catechism. Regular COFFEE HOUR in the church hall.
- 03/19 STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 5pm.
- 03/20 (Saturday) POLISH FOOD SALE 9am-12pm.
- 03/21 (Sunday) Bitter Lamentations at 9.40am. Holy Mass at 10am. Mass Intention: "+ MARY ZAWISTOWSKI"

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING immediately after the Mass (in the Church) regarding SOLAR ENERGY project for St. John's. Presentation by the Parish Committee Chairman and voting.

- Yesterday's POLISH DINNER was again a very successful event thanks to the work and time of our volunteers: Linda, Diane, Kylie, Walter and Maina. BIG THANK YOU for your time and hard work!



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Fridays of Lent at 5pm.

BITTER LAMENTATIONS
Sundays of Lent at 9.40am.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042

Official website: www.saintjohnspncc.org

Facebook: [John the Baptist, Manchester CT](https://www.facebook.com/JohntheBaptistManchesterCT)

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

March 14, 2021

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

INSTITUTION OF THE P.N.C.C.

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For + CZESLAW LASEK (req. by his wife Janina)

INTROIT

C: The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I lack. In green pastures You let me graze; to safe waters You lead me, You restore my strength. You guide me along the right path for the sake of Your name.

R: You set a table before me as my enemies watch; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

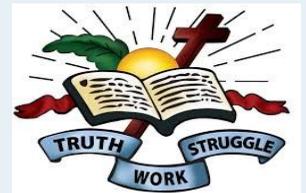
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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 Wisdom.

Then shall the righteous one with great assurance confront his oppressors who set at nought his labors.

Seeing this, the wicked shall be shaken with dreadful fear, and be amazed at the unexpected salvation.

They shall say among themselves, rueful and groaning through anguish of spirit: "This is the one whom once we held as a laughingstock and as a type for mockery, fools that we were!

His life we accounted madness,

WIS 5:1-5

and death dishonored.

See how he is accounted among the heavenly beings; how his lot is with the holy ones!

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

GOSPEL

J 15:1-7

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory be to You, Lord.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 2

„Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice before Him; with trembling pay homage to Him.“

READING 2

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

Now the Spirit explicitly says that in the last times some will turn away from the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and demonic instructions through the hypocrisy of liars with branded consciences.

They forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received

with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TIM 4:1-5

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches. This is a familiar parable to us. Jesus tells his disciples that he, Jesus, is the "true" vine and his Father is the vine grower. And if his Father is the vine grower, He is responsible for growing good grapes that will make good quality wine. Jesus also says that the vine grower will prune us. Painful as this seems, this pruning will enable us to bear more fruit. However, who wants to be pruned? Do you? For myself, I don't like it when I am being pruned! Typically, pruning entails loss and pain. Personally, I prefer to be left alone. However, if I am not pruned, the consequence is that I will not bear good fruit. Life prunes us all the time. And most often, we do not like the pruning. Being pruned is typically painful and difficult. Yet, after a period of time, we may come to realize that this pruning has enabled us to bear fruit in new and different ways. We also may begin to experience the new life that has come from our pruning. We may have grown and changed for the better! The vine grower recognizes when the vines need to be pruned. And the vine grower also realizes that better fruit will grow because the vine has been pruned. Do we trust our "vine grower?" Do we trust that God only desires goodness, happiness and abundant fruit for us? Hopefully our answer is yes! True, it does not take away the pain of being pruned. Most often "being pruned" is difficult. However, if we trust our vine grower and believe that growth and plenty will come from the pruning, we will bear abundant fruit in our lives. Today and always may we trust our Vine grower. He only desires what is best for us. And He will prune us in a gentle and loving way!