

JANUARY 25, 2026

THE THIRD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME



“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Saint John Gualbert Cathedral

PO Box 807 Johnstown, PA 15907-0807
Office: 814-536-0117 <http://www.stjohnngualbert.org>
johnstowncathedral@dioceseaj.org

Most Rev Bishop Mark L Bartchak, JCD
V. Rev Matthew Baum, Rector
Fr. Canice McMullen, OSB
Deacon Rick Messina



Mass Times: Saturday 6PM

Sunday 7AM, 11AM, 5PM

Weekday Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 7AM Sat 8AM

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 12:05PM

Confessions: 8:30AM Sat & 3PM Sun
3PM Thurs before 1st Friday

Saint Patrick Church

P.O. Box 806, Johnstown, PA 15907-0806
Office: 814-539-2186 <http://stpatrickjtown.com>
stpatrickjtown@dioceseaj.org

V. Rev Matthew Baum, Pastor
Fr. Canice McMullen, OSB
Deacon Rick Messina



Mass Times: Saturday 4PM

Sunday 9AM

Thursday 8AM

Rosary: 30 minutes before all Masses

Confessions: Saturday 3PM

Week of January 25, 2025

1st Reading:
Isaiah 8:23-9:3

2nd Reading:
1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Gospel:
Matthew 4:12-23



ST JOHN GUALBERT

Saturday 8:00AM	Jan 24th 2nd Week in Ordinary Time Theodore & Joan Heinlein (Daughter: Rose Ann Scheilhammer)
6:00PM	Vigil—3rd Week in Ordinary Time Coleen Slavich (Alex Bandzuh)
Sunday 7:00AM 11:00AM 5:00PM	Jan 25th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time People of the Parish Bill, Michael & Donald Delich (Sisters) St. Anne Society
Monday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Jan 26th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time Esperanza Bair No Mass
Tuesday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Jan 27th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society Lisa Michelle Coval Mied (Aisilinn Jaide Mied)
Wednesday 7:00AM 12:00PM	Jan 28th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time Fr. John F. Brezovec (Terry & Linda Smith) Eugene Podratsky (Joe Chon)
Thursday 7:00AM 12:00PM	Jan 29th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time No Mass Jim Aust (Lou Aust)
Friday 7:00AM 12:05PM	Jan 30 3rd Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society Coleen Slavich (Kimberly Wicknick)
Saturday 8:00AM	Jan 31st 3rd Week in Ordinary Time St. Anne Society
6:00PM	Vigil—4th Week in Ordinary Time John Barbario, Jr. (Ted & Andrea Buczek)
Sunday 7:00AM 11:00AM 5:00PM	Feb 1st 4th Week in Ordinary Time William Foust <i>Birthday Remembrance</i> (Family) Andrea Oshersky (Susko Family) People of the Parish



Jan 26th at St. Peter in Chains Parish, behind the walls of SCI Somerset:

St. Anne Society

ST PATRICK

Saturday 4:00PM	Jan 24th Vigil—3rd Week in Ordinary Time Mary Iddings Anniversary (Connie & Ray Cassidy)
Sunday 9:00AM	Jan 25th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time George Salata (John & Mary Stright & Vince & Delynn Corica)
Thursday 8:00AM	Jan 29th 3rd Week in Ordinary Time Mark Fetsko (Wissinger Family)
Saturday 4:00PM	Jan 31st Vigil—4th Week in Ordinary Time Dr. Robert L. Stofko (Family)
Sunday 9:00AM	Feb 1st 4th Week in Ordinary Time Charles Holtzman, Jr. (Bob & Kathy Getzey)

Parish Staff & Volunteers

Finance: Gerald Foust gfoutst@dioceseaj.org

Secretary: Brigid Starchok bstarchok@dioceseaj.org

Cemetery: Kristen Caddy kcaddy@dioceseaj.org

St. John Gualbert Music: Evonne Yanzetich-Homway (814)659-6240

St. Patrick Music: Jean Arcirio (814)241-9972

St. John Maintenance: Mike Amenti (814)536-0117 ext. 207

St. Patrick Maintenance: Dan Schofield (814)792-5891

Faith Formation /Sacramental Prep

Christine Babik—Resurrection Parish
(814)539-5788 / cbabik@dioceseaj.org

RCIA

Lonnie Rietscha: (814)244-6681
Harry Mangus: (814)525-9943

Prayer Chain

Dr. Joyce Werner: (814)288-1186

Catholic Outreach

St. Vincent de Paul

John Gualbert SVdP - (Mon or Fri) 814-421-4344

SVdP Human Needs Office - (Tues - Thurs) 814-535-8521

SVdP Family Kitchen: 814-539-7811

Catholic Charities

Altoona: 814-944-9388 Johnstown: 814-535-6538

Crisis Pregnancy/Pro-Life:

Birthright of Johnstown: 814-535-8231

Gabriel Project- Gail Bala: 814-418-1813

Rachel's Vineyard: 1-877-467-3463

Website - www.RachelsVineyard.org -

the world's largest ministry for healing after abortion.

Diocesan Family Life Office: 814-695-5579

Diocesan Website: www.dioceseaj.org

Physical locations:

St. John Gualbert Cathedral
117 Clinton Street
Johnstown, PA 15901

St. Patrick Church
609 Park Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902

COLLECTIONS

Collection St John Gualbert 1/18/2026	
Weekly Envelopes	\$3,571.50
Loose Cash	1,167.02
Online	350.00
Second Collection	679.25
Maintenance	60.00
SVdP	817.00
Solemnity of Mary	20.00
Total	\$6,664.77

St. John Gualbert



St. Patrick



Collection St Patrick 1/18/2026	
Envelopes	\$2,270.00
Loose Cash	325.00
Online	35.00
Children's Envelopes	7.00
Maintenance	205.00
Fuel & Air	50.00
SVdP	504.75
Christmas Flowers	10.00
Mission Cooperative	30.00
Solemnity of Mary	45.00
All Saints	5.00
All Souls	5.00
Votives	60.30
Total	\$3,552.05



Shared Parish Information:

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM - 3PM.

Parishioner Registration: If you would like to join either of our parishes, please contact the rectory/church office. Registration, the practice of stewardship and regular participation in the sacraments, indicates that a person is an active member of the parish and is eligible to act as a godparent or a sponsor. As a church community seeking to be faith-filled disciples and good stewards, the sacrifice of our time, talent, and treasure is essential for the common good.

Moving or joining a different parish: Please remember to notify us if you have a change of address or will be leaving either of our parishes so we can update our records and notify the diocese of the change.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request for the sick or homebound.

Infant Baptism & Christian Initiation of Adults: Call the church office, (814)536-0117.

Marriage: 9-month notice; pre-marital preparation required.

Mass Intentions: ALL mass intentions are handled through the St. John Gualbert office. If you would like to have a mass offered, please fill out the form in the churches or available on the parish website, put it in an envelope with the mass donation (\$10) and drop it off in the collection basket or at the parish office. A copy of the rules and policies for Mass intentions are also available in the churches.

Do you know anyone who can't make it to mass? If you have a family member who is sick or infirmed and unable to attend mass, please let us know. Father makes periodic rounds to visit the sick. In time, we would also like to find Eucharistic Ministers to do the same. If there is ever an emergency, call the parish number and leave a message for Fr. Matt. It is very important that those who are seriously ill or in danger of death are able to receive the sacraments, but we don't know unless you tell us. Don't be afraid to call.

Weekly Contributions: If you would like your cash gifts to be reflected on your giving statement, please *use an offering envelope*. Be sure to write your **name and the amount given** clearly on the offering envelope to insure proper credit. If you attend at another parish, please use your envelopes as they will be returned to us.

Taking up the Gifts: If the mass intention is for your family and you would like to take up the gifts at that mass, please let the ushers know about 10 minutes before mass. We have had a few families ask at the last minute and we would rather not ask someone to take up the gifts and then tell them not to because the family of the mass intention has just showed up.

Daily Mass Missals—If you would like a copy of “the Word Among Us” daily missal that includes daily mass readings, antiphons, and reflections, please stop or call the St. John parish office. A subscription costs \$20 per person per year.

Bulletin Deadline: ALL submissions for the bulletin need to be submitted no later than Tuesday 12:00 PM in order to be listed in the following Sunday edition and **must include the name of the submitter**. **Also, when there are multiple layers to an event, bulletin announcements need to be coordinated through the primary event planner to prevent conflicting submissions.**

Flocknote: Flocknote enables us to send large group emails and text messages. If you would like to receive the general notices and reminders about upcoming events in the parish, requests for help/volunteers, the bulletin published to the website, and other updates, use these instructions to sign up if you have not already done so.

Keep in touch with us!

TEXT SJGC TO 84576

OR CONNECT WITH US ONLINE AT:

stjohngualbert.flocknote.com



Religious Education

Questions - contact DRE - Christine Babik at 814-539-5788, or email cbabik@dioceseaj.org.

Sunday, January 25, 2026: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall

Sunday, February 1, 2026: Religious Education 9:00 -10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Confirmation Mentor meeting Oratory and Oratory Hall

⇒ **Saturday, February 7, 2026:** First Reconciliation - 9AM St. John Gualbert in the Shrine

Sunday, February 8, 2026: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall

Sunday, February 15, 2026: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall

Sunday, February 22, 2026: Religious Education 9:00-10:15 am Resurrection Parish Center and Oratory Hall

Confirmation Service Project:

WINTER CLOTHESLINE: We will be collecting new or gently used winter garments, as part of a group service project for Confirmation candidates ongoing each week, running through Sunday, February 22, 2026. Needed items of hats, gloves, scarves coats etc. can be placed in the marked boxes, in the back of Resurrection Church or St. John Gualbert Cathedral. All donations will be hung on our winter clothesline in front of the Resurrection Oratory, for anyone in the community to take freely. Thank you from Tyler Foust, Griffin Ream, Bella Dixon, Sophie Messina and Lilly Oakes.

OCIA/Basics of Faith - 2026

Sunday, January 25th, 6:30PM: The Last Things

Sunday, February 1, 2026 6:30PM: Penance & Anointing

Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:30PM: Matrimony & Holy Orders

If you have any questions or are interested in being a Sponsor for Candidates please contact Lonnie Rietscha (814)244-6681, or Harry Mangus (814)525-9943. All are welcome!

St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. John Gualbert Cathedral:

As members of St. Vincent de Paul further explore the virtues of the organization, the following is a reminder of our ministry:

Frederic Ozanam wrote: "Help then becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, an advice, or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because that indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves toward you when the old man, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you."

Anyone interested in joining the St. John conference is welcome to attend our next meeting which is held at the St. John Activity Center in the lower-level St. Joseph Room. Bring a friend and remember the organization is not for Catholics only.

- Saturday, February 7 at 9:00 AM

Lord, you alone know my whole story. In your great mercy, forgive me. Help me to serve the neighbor without judgment as an instrument of your mercy. Amen



Christian Life & Service:

At SJG

Saturday's Kitchen: St. John Christian Life & Service Group is a sponsor for "Saturday's Kitchen" which takes place on a Sunday (yes, it is Sunday even though the name says Saturday!). Our 1st event for 2026 is scheduled for Sunday, February 15th, from 10:30AM to 1PM.

As a sponsor for this event, our group provides a monetary donation to cover the cost of 4 events per year at the SVdP Soup Kitchen on Bedford St.

This money covers the main course (a protein), potatoes when needed, a vegetable and fruit. The meal is then cooked, prepared, and served to the needy in our community.

In addition to the sponsorship monies, we also purchase desserts for the meals. **This is where we need your help. We provide the pre-packaged lunch cakes (Little Debbie's, Hostess Ho Ho's etc.) for the desserts.** If you would like to donate a box of pre-packaged lunch cakes, you may drop them off at the rectory office during normal business hours, or you can leave them in the sacristy after Mass and they will be picked up for use at the events. As always we thank you for your generosity & support with our endeavors.

-*St. John Gualbert Christian Life & Service Members*

At SPJ

Donut Social:

Coming in February, we will be having our Donut Social after all Masses for the weekend of February 7th & 8th. Don't forget to stop by.

-*St. Patrick Christian Life & Service Members*

Cemetery Ticket Daily Winners for 2026!

Day & Date	Winning #	Winner's Name	Payout
Sunday 01-11-2026	232	Branden Baker	\$ 50.00
Monday 01-12-2026	055	Jeff Hammer	\$ 25.00
Tuesday 01-13-2026	790	Mary Ann Shull	\$ 25.00
Wednesday 01-14-2026	055	Jeff Hammer	\$ 25.00
Thursday 01-15-2026	385	Melissa Neisner	\$ 25.00
Friday 01-16-2026	439	John Headrick	\$ 25.00
Saturday 01-17-2026	396	Unsold	—

OFFICIAL RULES AS STATED ON ALL TICKETS:

1. The winning number is based on the PICK 3 PA Lottery drawing at 7:00PM.
2. Sales are closed as of Dec. 31st, 2025 - any further unsold, outstanding tickets are NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZE PAYOUTS.
3. If any unsold tickets win, the winner for that day will be determined by a drawing from all the sold tickets on 01/15/2027.
4. All winning numbers will be published in this box on the following Sunday's bulletin.
5. All checks will be available in the Sacristy the weekend after the drawing, if not picked up, checks will be mailed the following Monday.

MINISTERS SCHEDULES:

ST JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Jan 31st, 6:00PM Mass

Reader	Joseph Mazzarella
Reader	Elizabeth Rhoades
Eucharistic Minister	Matthew Krawczyk
Server	Kaleb Krawczyk
Audio Operator	Michael Stoskey
Sacristan	Matthew Krawczyk
Cantor	Deb McGraw

Sun Feb 1st, 7:00AM Mass

Reader	David Harties
Reader	Christine Brothers
Eucharistic Minister	Rose Ann Schellhammer
Eucharistic Minister	Carmen Grasso
Eucharistic Minister	Gloria Stephens
Server	Rich Ott
Audio Operator	Patrick McClain
Sacristan	David Harteis
Cantor	Rose Eckenrod

Sun Feb 1st, 11:00AM Mass

Reader	Beth Stem
Reader	Rose Batzel
Eucharistic Minister	Fr. Canice McMullen
Eucharistic Minister	Deacon Rick Messina
Eucharistic Minister	James Hollis
Servers	Cora, Ileana, Sophie Messina
Audio Operator	Russ Smith
Sacristan	Lonnie Rietscha
Cantor	Sydney Petro

Sun Feb 1st, 5:00PM Mass

Reader	Charlotte Amenti
Reader	Kristen Caddy
Eucharistic Minister	James Sandoval
Server	Paige Titus
Audio Operator	Evonne Yanzetich
Sacristan	Charlotte Amenti
Cantor	Brigid Starchok

ST PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Jan 31st, 4:00PM Mass

Cantor	Lisa Stofko
Server	Sydney Dixon
Eucharistic Minister	Cindy Stofko
Eucharistic Minister	Harry Mangus
Eucharistic Minister	Jean Arcurio
Sacristan	Harry Mangus
Reader	Mary Ann Craig

Sun Feb 1st, 9:00AM Mass

Cantor	Volunteer Needed
Server	Sam Correll
Eucharistic Minister	Joyce Werner
Eucharistic Minister	Rita Redden
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Jo Podratsky
Sacristan	Joyce Werner
Reader	Charlotte Ecklund

If you are not available for your scheduled time, please reach out ASAP.

For Ministry scheduling questions contact:

At SJG - Evonne Yanzetich - (814)659-6240

At SPJ - Jean Arcurio - (814)241-9972

Deacon Rick's Corner:

Quote:

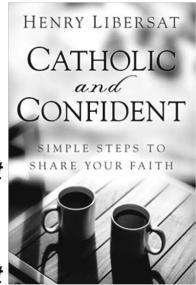
"You are called by God. He does not always call the qualified - but He always qualifies the called. Have faith in Him."

-Henry Libersat

Book:

Catholic and Confident: Simple Steps to Share Your Faith

-Henry Libersat



Fr. Canice's Thoughts:

In today's Gospel we hear about Jesus calling His first disciples. Allow me to share a reflection on this calling that I find very moving:

It is no exaggeration to say that the call of the first disciples is the first miracle that Jesus performs in Matthew's Gospel. These radical decisions to follow the Lord cannot be explained in any natural way. Instead, we are invited to see something supernatural at work here: when the word of Jesus goes forth, it goes with the power and grace of God.

One could say that the disciples' response is a miracle no less outstanding than Jesus' many acts of healing, exorcism, and food multiplication. Certainly, these are works that display the sovereignty of God over the natural and spiritual world. But the movement of the human will in response to grace... is just as extraordinary. This is not to say that grace is irresistible. It is to say only that the call of Jesus can change the lives of ordinary people in radical and wonderful ways.

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BOTH PARISHES*****

Bible Study/ January 2026!

Bible Study Class continues on **Thursday, January 29, 2026** at 6PM. All sessions will be based on the upcoming Sunday Mass readings and will be held in the St. Patrick's Parish basement gathering room, (609 Park Avenue). You can park in the lot behind the Church and the door to the meeting is adjacent to the parking lot.

Readings will be for Sunday, February 1st, 2026 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

⇒ The first reading is from Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

⇒ The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

⇒ The Gospel is from Matthew 5:1-12a

Come join us to explore the Word of the Lord. All are welcome!

Do You Have an End of Mass Announcement?

Many times parishioners ask to have some important event, notification, etc. announced at the end of weekend Masses following the prayer after Communion. Making sure that this happens with all the busy staff comings and goings, phone calls and so forth can be challenging. In order to make this process better, it has been suggested that all requests of this nature be handled as follows:

1. We need to have the announcement submitted to the rectory **no later than 12 noon Wednesday - no exceptions.**
2. Please email them to eyanzetich@dioceseaj.org as she organizes these items along with the petitions for both parishes.

2025 Statements Going Out:

The statements of the 2025 donations for all parishioners who gave \$600.00 or over will be mailed this coming week. This threshold level for the statements is determined by the requirements per the IRS. If you would like a statement for anything below that threshold, or if you have questions about the statement that you receive, please reach out to the office at 814-536-0117 and let us know.

Word Among Us: The new issue is out at both parishes for those who subscribed for 2026 - please take the one with your own name on the label. If there is an issue, please call the secretary at 814-341-4327, thank you.

St. John Gualbert Current Events:

1-25 9AM Religious Ed; Resurrection
1-25 11AM Catholic Schools Week at Proclaim; Cathedral
1-22 6:30PM OCIA; AC-SJ
1-26 6PM Confirmation Planning Meeting; AC-H
1-27 6:30PM SJG Cemetery Meeting; RDR
1-28 2PM Mass at Hilltop Heights for Residents
1-28 6PM Theology on Tap; Boulevard Grill
1-28 6:30PM Proclaim TV Council; RDR
1-28 7PM SJG Choir; Cathedral
1-29 3PM SJG Eucharistic Adoration; Shrine
1-29 6PM Bible Study at SPJ
2-1 9AM Religious Ed., Resurrection
2-1 6:30PM OCIA; AC-SJ

St. Patrick Church Current events:

1-25 9AM Religious Ed; Resurrection
1-25 11AM Catholic Schools Week at Proclaim; Cathedral
1-22 6:30PM OCIA; AC-SJ
1-26 6PM Confirmation Planning Meeting; AC-H
1-28 6PM Theology on Tap; Boulevard Grill
1-29 3PM Eucharistic Adoration at SJG; Shrine
1-29 6PM Bible Study at SPJ
2-1 9AM Religious Ed., Resurrection
2-1 6:30PM OCIA; AC-SJ

***** Around the Area *****

Healing Mass:

Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7PM, at St. Michael Church, 301 Spruce St., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Jeremy Mohler will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass starting at 6:30PM. Mass will be at 7PM. Prayer ministry, confessions, and Sacramental anointing of the sick will follow the Mass. If you are suffering physically, or from an addiction, or hurting, or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! (*I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly.*" John 10:10) All are welcome.

Calling All Bingo Lovers!

Our Lady Queen of Angels is holding their Monthly Bingo on **Sunday, February 1, 2026** - Please join us at the Activities Center (738 Sunshine Ave., Central City) for Bingo on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Doors open at 11:30am and games start at 1:00pm. Entrance is \$25. Games of chance and food/snacks will be available for purchase. **Wear something Red/Pink to be eligible to win a Bingo gift certificate. If we get 50+ people the jack pot is \$500.**



Catholic School Open House Schedule:

Attention parents of Catholic School Students! Open house will take place as follows:

- ⇒ Bishop McCort High School/ Middle School - Monday, January 26th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM
- ⇒ Elementary (both East & West campuses) - Wednesday, February 4th from 5:00PM to 7:00PM

Hope to see you there!

Franciscan Friars, TOR Lenten Series at St. Bernardine Monastery: Wednesdays OR Fridays

Join the Franciscan Friars for five weeks of Lenten Reflections, beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 18th. Through reflection, prayer, and fellowship we will journey together towards the abundant life of Easter!

Class topics are "Lent and Social Teaching of The Church" and are as follows:

- ◊ Feb. 18/20: Foundation of the Church's Social Justice Teachings (Old & New Testament, Life of the early Church, Conciliar Documents * Ashes will be distributed during Mass on Feb. 18th.
- ◊ Feb. 25/27: Foundation (cont'd) and the Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- ◊ March 4/6: Call to Family, Community and Participation Rights & Responsibilities
- ◊ March 11/13: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable the Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- ◊ March 18/20: Solidarity and Care for God's Creation

Please choose the Wednesday OR Friday schedule (no switching between days). The Lenten Reflections will begin at 10:00 AM and include a Lenten reflection, the celebration of Holy Mass, and lunch with the friars. This workshop series will be a free will offering. All classes will be held at St. Bernardine Monastery, 768 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. **To register for the workshop, please call 814-695-3802 by Friday, Feb. 13th.** We look forward to seeing you!

*Note: This fulfills the pilgrimage intention for the Year of St. Francis.

Friar's Nook Gift Shop – Lenten Items Available!

Start your Lenten journey at The Friar's Nook Gift Shop by picking up a Lenten daily devotional, Lent with the Saints series book, Stations of the Cross, prayer cards, and more! The gift shop is located on the campus of St. Bernardine Monastery at 793 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. You can find new items and updates by following The Friar's Nook Gift Shop on Facebook!

CENTRAL CITY CASH BASH:

Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will host a "Cash Bash Elimination Tournament" on Saturday February 14TH. Every ticket provides entrance to a high-spirited raffle full of suspense, surprises, and cash-prize drawings. Additionally, the evening includes great food and an open bar. Every dollar raised goes toward supporting the parish's work. Doors (and bar) open at 5:00 PM with the drawing starting at 6:00 PM at the parish activity center (738 Sunshine Ave, Central City). Tickets are \$25 and include your number, food, and drink. You won't want to miss out on what promises to be an enjoyable evening — reserve your ticket now by calling the parish office (814) 754-5224 or emailing parish secretary Maggie Adomnik at madomnik@dioceseaj.org. A far more exciting Valentines Day date than sitting at a stuffy overpriced restaurant!

From the Rector/Pastor:

Oh the weather outside is frightful....I can't help but think of that song when I look outside and see the snow and ice. It is certainly winter. Every year I get a few phone calls from parishioners asking "Am I sinning if I miss mass because of the snow?" "Does it count if I just watch it on TV?" The Church tells us two basic things in the Catechism and the Code of Canon Law

The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor.¹¹⁹ Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin. CCC 2181

§2. If participation in the eucharistic celebration becomes impossible because of the absence of a sacred minister or for another grave cause, it is strongly recommended that the faithful take part in a liturgy of the word if such a liturgy is celebrated in a parish church or other sacred place according to the prescripts of the diocesan bishop or that they devote themselves to prayer for a suitable time alone, as a family, or, as the occasion permits, in groups of families. - Canon 1248§2

To make things simple. The Church says that all the faithful are obligated to attend mass on Sunday unless excused for a serious reason and gives the example of illness or the care of infants. I like to think of it this way. Would I go out for anything else? Would I still go to the grocery store or would I cancel a doctor's appointment? Sometimes, especially in an ice storm like we're expected to have this weekend, that really might be the case. I remember growing up, if we were home sick from school, then we were also told "then you're too sick to do anything else you might want to today as well."

Ok, so I'm sick or it's too icy to go out, does that mean TV Mass counts instead? Not quite. The second part says we're to "devote ourselves to prayer for a suitable time" either alone or as a family. That's where TV Mass comes in. Recognizing that we can't make it, and watching mass says to God, "I'd love to be there, but I'm trying to do something given my limitations." So in short, If we stay home from mass but we go to the grocery store, it's a sin. If we stay home because we can't really go anywhere it's not. If we're stuck home, watching Mass on TV is a good thing to do, but it can't replace the real thing!

Catholic Schools Week

This week, around the country, we are celebrating our Catholic Schools. I remember many years ago hearing a protestant pastor bragging that they had nearly 100 children in the children's program at their Church and they met 3 hours a week. I simply responded that you know, we have close to a thousand in our church's children's program, and they meet 5 days a week for 6 hours a day. We call them Catholic Schools. Many in the pews today owe their faith to the Sisters who taught for many years in those schools. Please keep our schools in your prayers and support them as you are able so that we can help share the faith with a new generation.

Upcoming Events and some New Devotions

This weather also caused us to cancel our bi-annual calendar meeting. I want to thank everyone who has been responding via email as we get this year's calendar in order.

As we were preparing for the upcoming months, we have quite a few things planned at our two parishes. We just celebrated our Catholic Schools and soon on February 8th we'll celebrate Consecrated Life. Then, on the 15th Fr Crookston will be coming back to join us at St John's to talk about the mission in St Croix. Then, on February 18th, Lent begins!

Coming up in Lent this year, we're looking forward to our two Triduums. Just this week we finally finished booking all of our speakers and hope to have our advertisements out very soon. It is an incredible blessing to have these three day devotions at our parishes and I do hope we all manage to take advantage of them.

Liturgy of the Hours at Saturday Morning Mass

For Lent this year, we'll be trying out a new practice. Every Day, Priests and Religious pray the same set of prayers called the "Liturgy of the Hours." These prayers help us satisfy the Lord's command to "Pray always, without ceasing." At the Second Vatican Council, the Church simplified the hours and encouraged lay people to begin to pray them. We've done that in a few different ways in the last few years...We have added a Holy Hour and Vespers (or Evening Prayer) to a few nights of our Devotions. Similarly on Thursdays at Adoration we have begun to include Vespers. The Church also gives an option to integrate Morning Prayer into the Mass. For Lent this year, on Saturday Mornings, we will be including Morning Prayer with Mass. I would encourage you to consider coming to a Saturday Morning Mass at some point during Lent. We will have programs available each week to follow along. Similarly, for one night of each of our St Patrick and St Joseph Devotions this year, we will celebrate Evening Prayer combined with Mass. The Liturgy of the Hours has come to means a great deal to me as a priest and it's something that I am excited to be able to share at our parish. I find it's a prayer that really sustains me in my spiritual life, and I hope you find the same.

Bible Study

I'm also happy to share that our weekly Bible study is back up and running again. Way back when I first arrived here, I had a survey. One of the things asked for was more adult education. We have had a very nice turnout for Bible Study the last few weeks and I'm hopeful that it will continue. Fr Canice, Deacon I will rotate on leading the group. In Lent, we'll return to our Monday Night small groups, and in Easter, Fr Canice has an Adult Faith Formation series all planned. Going forward, all of our regular Bible Study and Advent/Lenten small groups will be held at St Patrick's, while any classes or series will be held at St John's. If you have ideas for topics you would like to see, please share them with Fr Canice.

God Bless you Now and Always,
Fr Matt

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK, 2026

JANUARY 25 THROUGH JANUARY 31

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL



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