

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 19, 2025



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: *Isaiah 62:1-5*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

Gospel Reading: *John 2:1-11*

Focus: *The Lord's love and care for us knows no bounds.*

It is comforting to know that, within the kingdom of God, all will be well in the end. Isaiah tells us of God's promise to Zion – which we know to be fulfilled in his Son, Jesus. And Jesus, whose ministry on earth was visible and transformative, takes care to ensure that the wedding feast is not spoiled while demonstrating that what he offers us is superior to anything the world may offer. God's care for us knows no bounds, and the goodness we experience here is but a taste of what is to come.

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of God's care for Zion, and his promise of restoration and rejoicing. Zion will be like a cherished bride. In the second reading, Paul writes of the same Spirit producing different individual gifts. In the Gospel, Jesus attends a wedding feast at Cana, and the wine runs short. He instructs the servers to fill jars with water, and when the water was drawn out to be tasted, it had become wine.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Kevin Maher, Jr., Jack McCabe
and Herb Vogel

10 a.m.: Robert Carpino, Frances Hernandez
and Jessica Lancellotti

HELP US HELP THE HOMELESS

Once again, our Youth Ministry will be collecting and packing items for homeless men and women to take with them as they leave the Middletown Warming Station.

Bags will be assembled next

Friday, January 24. The Warming Station requests that they all contain the same items; please do not deviate from the list as the goal is to fill 100 bags with the following:

Small hand sanitizers	Small bottles of water
Snacks without peanuts	Gloves
Packets of tissues	Socks
Lip balms	Hats
Hand warmers	Toothbrushes
Travel-size toothpaste	

A collection area can be found in the hall.



SPREAD THE WARMTH

The **Greater Middletown Interfaith Council's Warming Station** at 8-10 Mulberry Street has begun its 17th year of providing a safe space for homeless men and women each night through the winter months.

Clients receive a hot meal upon their arrival. If you can assist with food, visit the website TakeThemAMeal.com (type in "The Warming Station" for recipient's last name, and the password is "Meal"). There you will find details and a sign-up schedule. In particular, comfort foods such as hearty soups, stews and casseroles – enough to generously feed 30 – are requested.

Volunteers – either for two-hour shifts or overnight – are also needed. Volunteers must first attend an hour-long training session. Training has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on January 22. For more information, contact Marilyn at 845-346-6110 or midduce@hvc.rr.com

Donations are also welcome. Checks should be made payable to GMIC, with "Warming Station" noted in the memo line and mailed to: Middletown Warming Station, P.O. Box 609, Middletown 10940.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

January 6-12: \$ 5,850.45

Envelopes: \$ 1,830.36 – Online: \$ 4,020.09

Additional Christmas: \$ 220

THANK YOU!

ADULT ALTAR SERVERS?

Parishioner Pat Davies has noticed the decline in altar servers. She is also familiar with a couple of churches who have adults serving in that capacity.

She wondered: Could adults serve at St. Paul's when youth are not available? She then brought this suggestion before the Parish Council and agreed to coordinate the ministry.

She was given the green light to proceed.

Interested? Call Pat at 704-726-1082 or email patdavies2@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Did you know that pancakes, loosely defined as a flat cakes made with a starchy batter, are one of the earliest recorded human foods?

On **Sunday, February 9**, our kitchen crew won't be combining ground plants or seeds and water to cook on a hot rock as was done thousands of years ago. Rather, they'll be flippin' today's form of flapjacks as well as scrambling eggs and preparing bacon or sausage and hashbrowns.

Tickets, \$10 or \$20 for an immediate family, will go on sale soon. Stay tuned for details.



A new twist is planned for the next game night – a "big" game that can include everyone! You can count on lots of laughs beginning at 7 p.m. **Friday, February 21**.

Don't forget to bring your snacks and get ready for an evening of great community fun!



And while you're planning winter events, note that the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner will be served up after the 5 o'clock Mass on **Saturday, March 8**. That gives you plenty of

time to gather your green attire!



The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is sponsoring a bus trip **April 23-25** to Lancaster, PA.

Along with a tour of the Amish Country, the highlight is preferred seating at the live performance of "Noah" at the Sight & sound Theater. The audience will be taken on board one of the best-known voyages as live animals fill the stage and aisles.

The cost is \$589 per person, double occupancy (\$728 single), and includes bus transportation, hotel, breakfast and dinner daily, taxes, meal gratuities and show tickets. Call Carol Bezak, the Shrine director, for reservations at 845-343-1879, Ext. 22.

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BEGINNING EXPERIENCE OFFERINGS

Beginning Experience serves those grieving the end of a spousal relationship due to death, divorce or separation. There are two upcoming programs for men and women of all ages and faiths:



In the Beginning...Coping with Life Alone is a one-day remote session via Zoom from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on **Saturday, February 22**. For information, call Jim at 845-220-7883 or Denise at 845-325-147.

The Healing Weekend is an in-person retreat at Mount Alvernia Retreat Center in Wappingers Falls from March 28-30. For information, call Phyllis at 914-261-5812 or Gloria at 646-281-4790.

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 81

10 a.m. – 140

TODAY'S CHUCKLE

The Pope goes to New York. He is picked up at the airport by a limousine. He looks at the beautiful car and says to the driver, "You know, I hardly ever get to drive. Would you please let me?"

The driver is understandably hesitant and says, "I'm sorry, but I don't think I'm supposed to do that."

But the Pope persists, "Please?" The driver finally lets up. "Oh, all right, I can't really say no to the Pope."

So the Pope takes the wheel, and boy, is he a speed demon! He hits the gas and goes around 100 mph in a 45 zone. A policeman pulls him over.

The cop walks up and asks the Pope to roll down the window. Startled and surprised, the young officer asks the Pope to wait a minute. He goes back to his patrol car and radios the chief.

Cop: "Chief, I have a problem."

Chief: "What sort of problem?"

Cop: "I pulled over this guy for speeding, but it's someone really important."

Chief: "Important like the mayor?"

Cop: "No, much more important than that."

Chief: "Important like the governor?"

Cop: "Waaaaay more important than that."

Chief: "Like the president?"

Cop: "More."

Chief: "Who's more important than the president?"

Cop: "I don't know, but he's got the Pope driving for him!"

AFF MEETING

The Adult Faith Formation Committee will meet after the 10 a.m. Mass this **Sunday, January 19**, in Deacon John Hall to continue discussions regarding upcoming programs for the parish. Everyone is invited

