

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 26, 2025



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Focus: *Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength.*

The priest-scribe Ezra proclaims the law of Moses to the Jewish people who had returned from exile in Babylon. Upon hearing the words of the law for the first time in a generation, the people weep. Their sorrow at not having adhered to the law for so long should call attention to our own infidelities to God's law. But most of all, this people's wholehearted response to the law can fill us with gratitude to God for revealing his merciful love to us in Jesus Christ.

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, Ezra the priest-scribe reads from the book of the law, interpreting so that all could understand. He enjoins them, Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep. In the second reading, Paul writes that, in Christ, all are one body. Each part of the body has a purpose to fulfill. In the Gospel, Jesus returns to Nazareth. There he reads in the synagogue and announces that the passage is fulfilled in their hearing.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Danielle Brooks Foreman,
and José Antonion Tamarez

10 a.m.: Maria Dushaj, Deacon John
and Vivian Woodin

CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Peg Emond upon the death this week of her son, Michael. Please keep them in your prayers.

MARIA GASPAR'S FUNERAL

Longtime parishioner Maria Gaspar passed away last month in Maryland. She is being brought home to St. Paul's for a funeral Mass at **11 a.m. on Saturday, February 8.**

Along with Maria, an avid cook who was passionate about the family meals she would prepare, you might also recall her daughter, Arlette, who sang in the choir at 11 a.m. on Sunday or daughter-in-law Janet, a catechist and then a Saturday evening lector.

There will also be a wake from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, February 7, at William M. Gagan Funeral Home in Pine Bush.

FINDING GOD IN ALL THINGS

Imagine that! Yes, our God desires to communicate with us always.

So we say, "Yes" ... but how? Come and see!

Participate in this presentation by Pat Davies and be introduced to the ancient prayer method called Lectio Divina - or more simply "The 4 Rs" – after the 10 a.m. Mass on **Sunday, February 23.**

For planning purposes, please sign up on the website, by calling the office or on the sheets in the vestibules.

INVESTIGATE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This theme - Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community launched last year will be used through 2026.

Now entering its 51st anniversary year, CSW has traditionally been held the last week in January; this year, **January 26 to February 1.** Schools

nationwide typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate what makes Catholic schools great.

At **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School** in Middletown (www.mtcarmelschoolmiddletown.org), there will be an Open House every morning this week (January 27-31). Anyone is welcome to visit from 9 to 11 a.m. – and be sure to stop in at the Scholastic Book Fair at that time, too.

Although **Most Precious Blood School** in Walden (<https://mpbschool.org>) does not have any specific community events planned, parents can call anytime to make appointments for tours, which are conducted weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

2025 CARDINAL'S APPEAL



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*

Just as in years prior, we are being asked, as Catholics of the Archdiocese of New York, to join

together in participating in the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. In gratitude, we are called to be good stewards by supporting our Church as she fulfills her mission. The \$21M in funds raised for this year's Appeal will be used for the following needs in our archdiocese:

- \$9M – Financial Assistance for Struggling Parishes
- \$3.5M – Pastoral Administration, Grants, and Services
- \$3M – Retired Priests, Priestly Education, and Formation Programs
- \$3M – Catholic Education
- \$2.5M – Charitable Outreach

To those who faithfully support the Appeal every year, I am very grateful. If you did not participate last year or have never participated, I ask you to please seriously consider this invitation. Indeed, every family in all 270-plus parishes of our Archdiocese is called to join in this mission.

This year, our parish is asked to raise **\$50,600** of the \$21M goal for the Appeal. (Last year, we were able to reach 107.44% of our goal.) Please know that if all of us here today participate, we would easily reach our goal this year.

BREAKFAST CANCELED

Unfortunately, because of a scheduling conflict, there won't be any flapjack flipping in February. We will keep you posted as to when the next breakfast will be served.

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.

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



The Adult Faith Formation Committee will meet after the 10 o'clock Mass on Sunday, **February 19**, in Deacon John Hall to finalize programs for the Lenten season and to discuss ideas for the future, near and far. Everyone is invited.



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!



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.



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.

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 81

10 a.m. – 140

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