

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading

Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord bestows his spirit on the 70 elders.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 19:8,10,12-13,14

The Law of the Lord brings joy.

Second Reading

James 5:1-6

James chastises the rich.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Jesus teaches that whoever is not against him is for him.

Focus: **"Whatever causes you to sin, get rid of it."**

This phrase is really the talking point of Jesus' message in today's Gospel, and it's fairly straightforward. If something in our life is leading us into sin, and away from God, that something needs to be jettisoned like the dead weight that it is. We heed similar advice from mentors and coaches looking to improve our performance. How much more valuable are these words from the Lord, who desires to improve our life, and for us to share it with him forever?

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, the spirit of the Lord is bestowed upon Moses and the 70 elders, and Moses wishes that the spirit would be bestowed on all people. In the epistle, James gives a warning to the rich, describing the miseries that will befall them because of their exploitation and oppression of the poor. In the Gospel, Jesus points out that "Whoever is not against us is for us." He cautions against anyone who would cause a little one to sin and instructs his listeners to remove from themselves whatever leads to sin.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Sandra Bristol-Masci, Ken Carson and Barbara Morabito

10 a.m.: Dolores Townley, Mary Alice Roberts, Nosh Dushaj and Frances Hernandez

HARVEST SOME FAMILY FUN AND GET YOUR PETS BLESSED, TOO!

Come one, come all – and experience why we fall for autumn – as it's time for **St. Paul's Youth Ministry's** annual **Harvest Fest!**

Between 6 and 8 p.m. this **Friday, October 4**, the parking lot will serve up a sampling of this sensational season.

Because this festival falls on the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment, the evening will kick off about 6-ish with Fr. Sean blessing your pets – all species and sizes!

Remember, this isn't an event solely for the younger set. Those old enough to drive can play a critical role by "hosting" a trunk so revelers can Trunk or Treat. Then fueled by all those sweets, there will be a bounty of activities to bounce through, including egg-and-spoon races and a photo booth to capture those costumed memories.

Contact Deb and Chris at 845-248-3120 or saintpaulsym@gmail.com for more information and to reserve a spot.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Parishioners at last Sunday's Mass were astounded to see 36 youngsters bound up to the altar in response to Fr. Sean's call to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word, where the day's Gospel message is taught on their level.

Service to others was last weekend's theme, and the popular book titled "The Rainbow Fish" illustrated this perfectly – and the children were excited to have a book read to them!

Many were familiar with the tale of the sparkly fish with enviable shiny scales – which he would not share with the other fish. He soon found himself alone with his selfishness, until a wise octopus encouraged him to change his ways. The fish soon learned that sharing and caring bring happiness and friendships.

The children leave with a paper titled "Keynotes" so that the conversation can continue at home.

IN THE LOOP



The **Men's Faith Sharing Group** resumes via Zoom from **6:45-8 p.m. this Monday**, with a continued focus on the Gospel. If you'd like to participate, contact Deacon Carl at carlloc@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.



At **2 p.m. Sunday, October 6**, a **Mass for those with special needs** will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown. Families and caregivers are invited with their loved ones who might be facing, for example, physical and/or developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder or mental health challenges. For more information, call 834-343-4121.



Now is the time to think about who you'd like to nominate for the three **Parish Council** seats that will be vacated in January of 2025. Nominees must be 18, Catholic, registered parishioners and able to receive emails and attend meetings via Zoom. Nomination forms are in the church vestibules and have to be returned to the office by this **Monday, September 30**.



The next **Game Night** is **Friday, October 18**, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome, Bring snacks and your favorite game.



At 9 a.m. **Saturday, October 26**, the **six-week Bereavement Program** will again take place for anyone who did not attend last year. It is open to those struggling with the loss of a loved one – regardless of when that passing occurred. The group will continue to meet from 9-10:30 Saturday mornings through December 7, with the exception of November 2, which is the date of the annual Memorial Mass. To sign up, call Julie Laurenzi at 518-225-1170 or email Julie.laurenzi@gmail.com.



St. Stephen the First Martyr Parish in Warwick is presenting a conference titled, **"Satisfy Your Soul, Called to be Saints"** from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. Speakers will present the "how-to" book on holiness. The day also includes confession, breakfast, lunch, and Mass. Early-bird registration runs through October 6 and is \$40 (\$50 thereafter); \$20 for students up to age 22. For more information, call 845-986-4028 or visit <https://ststephenchurchwarwick.org>



The annual **Memorial Mass** to honor deceased relatives and friends will be celebrated at 10 a.m. here on **All Soul's Day, November 2**. Please contact the office by Friday, October 25, if you plan to attend the Mass so your loved one's name can then be included in the commemorative booklet.

DO YOU HAVE COATS TO DONATE?

In October, thoughts turn to apples and autumnal hues, hayrides and Halloween – and wardrobe changes. Out with the shorts; in with the sweaters!



It's also the perfect time to assess outerwear – and pass along those new or gently-used but nonetheless no-longer-wanted coats and jackets.

Once again, St. Paul's hall will be a collection site for the **Walkill East Rotary's annual Coat Collection Drive**, which makes available hundreds of coats at no cost to those who need them. *Clean jackets and coats in good condition* may be dropped off during office hours or when coming to Mass through **the end of October**. Distribution of the collected men's, women's and children's coats will take place in November.

SHARING CHRIST A SEVEN-WEEK MISSION

Jesus said: "Come, follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew, 4:19

The seven-week ChristLife Series concludes this fall with Sharing Christ. It starts at 5 p.m. on **Sunday, October 13**, with a shared meal and ends on Saturday, November 24, with a retreat at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown.



sharing
CHRIST
a seven-week mission

A typical session begins with dinner, followed by a time of prayer and song. A video presentation and small group discussion, with closing prayer and song, round out the evening. Each session lasts two-and-a-half hours.

Even if you have not experienced prior sessions, this is your invitation to join us!

For more information or to register, please contact the church office or Mark or Kate Carson:

Mark: 845-551-2530; carsonmark224@gmail.com

Kate: 914-850-5107; ktqcarson@gmail.com

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

September 16-22 \$ 6,611.83

Envelopes: 2,289.00 – Online: \$ 4,322.83

THANK YOU!

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 108

10 a.m. – 213

