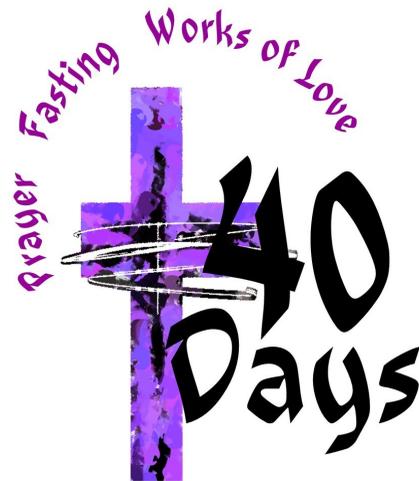


## COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 02/18 (Ash Wednesday) **Holy Mass** at 5pm. with distribution of Ashes.
- 02/22 (I Sunday of Lent) **Holy Mass** at 10am. **Catechism Class** for kids.  
Coffee hour (fellowship hour) in the hall. *Mass Intention: For PURITA CABIAS (Aurora's Sister)*

- **Mass Intentions Announcement:** If you have a particular date in mind for a Mass Intention, please be sure to book it in advance, as we are able to schedule only one intention per Sunday. At this time, the first available Sunday with no intention is March 15, 2026. Please contact the parish office to reserve your date.



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042  
Official website: [www.saintjohnspncc.org](http://www.saintjohnspncc.org)  
Facebook: **John the Baptist, Manchester CT**  
Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

PASTOR - Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczywski



February 18, 2026

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

ASH WEDNESDAY

### MASS INTENTION

*For the Parishioners and friends of St. John's Church -  
invoking God's blessing for the season of Lent.*

### INTROIT

C: You [Lord] have mercy on all, because You can do all things;  
and You overlook the sins of men that they may repent.

**R: For You love all things that are and loathe nothing  
that You have made; for what You hated, You would not  
have fashioned.**

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

5 pm



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

JL 2:12-18

**A reading from the Book of the prophet Joel.**

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast;

Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 51

*„Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.“*

## READING 2

2 COR 5:20—6:2

**A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.**

Brothers and sisters:  
We are ambassadors for Christ,  
as if God were appealing through us.  
We implore you on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.  
For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin,  
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then,  
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.  
For he says:  
In an acceptable time I heard you,  
and on the day of salvation I helped you.  
Behold, now is a very acceptable time;  
behold, now is the day of salvation.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

## GOSPEL

MT 6:1-6, 16-18

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

*Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

On Ash Wednesday, Jesus directs our attention not to outward appearances, but to the hidden depths of the heart. Almsgiving, prayer, and fasting—the three pillars of Lent—are not meant to impress others, but to draw us closer to our heavenly Father. The Lord reminds us that what matters most is not what is seen publicly, but what is offered quietly and sincerely. Lent is an invitation to step away from the noise and into the "inner room," where God speaks to us in silence and truth. When our sacrifices are made with humility and love, they become more than religious practices—they become a transformation of the heart. As we begin this holy season, may we seek not human praise, but the quiet joy of being known and loved by the Father who sees in secret.