

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 08/23 (XXI Ordinary Sunday) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) in the church hall.
- 08/30 (XXII Ordinary Sunday) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) in the church hall. No Mass Intention so far!
- 08/31 (Monday) **Parish Committee meeting** at 5.30pm.

- Our **Annual Parish Tag Sale** will be held on **Saturday, September 19**. Volunteers Needed: If you're able to lend a hand on the day of the sale, please contact the Parish Chairman. We encourage all parishioners to **donate items for the sale**. Items may be dropped off at the church office door any day, any time leading up to the event.
- 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 August 30, 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
Facebook: **John the Baptist, Manchester CT**
Rectory phone: 860-643-5906
PASTOR - Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczywski

August 23, 2026

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

XXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTION

For the CABIAS and the ODEN families (req. by Aurora)

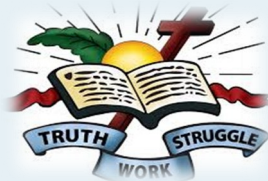
INTROIT

C: For I will sing to the Lord's renown. Oh, proclaim the greatness of our God!
R: The Rock - how faultless are His deeds, how right all His ways! A faithful God, without deceit, how just and upright He is!
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

10.00 am



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

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace:
"I will thrust you from your office
and pull you down from your station.
On that day I will summon my servant
Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;
I will clothe him with your robe,
and gird him with your sash,
and give over to him your authority.
He shall be a father to the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah.

IS 22:19-23

I will place the key of the House of David on
Eliakim's shoulder;
when he opens, no one shall shut,
when he shuts, no one shall open.
I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,
to be a place of honor for his family."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 138

„Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.”

READING 2

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom
and knowledge of God!
How inscrutable are his judgments and
how unsearchable his ways!
For who has known the mind of the Lord
or who has been his counselor?
Or who has given the Lord anything
that he may be repaid?
For from him and through him and for
him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ROM 11:33-36

GOSPEL

MT 16:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory be to You, Lord.

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Jesus’ question to the disciples at Caesarea Philippi is really two questions in one. First he asks what others are saying - an easy, safe question to answer, since it only requires reporting opinions. Then he turns the question inward: "But who do you say that I am?" This is the question that matters, and it cannot be answered secondhand. Peter's confession: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" is not the fruit of clever reasoning or popular consensus, but a grace given by the Father. Faith, at its core, is never just information passed along; it's a personal encounter that each of us is invited into directly. We can know a great deal about Jesus without ever truly answering his question for ourselves. What follows is striking: Jesus blesses Peter’s faith and immediately entrusts him with real responsibility - the keys of the kingdom, the power to bind and loose. This tells us something important about how God works. He doesn't simply reward right belief with a private, interior peace; he builds something with it. Peter's imperfect, still-unfolding faith becomes the rock on which the Church stands. That should be a comfort to us. Our own faith is often mixed with doubt, and like Peter, we will stumble again before this Gospel is finished. Yet Jesus builds his Church not on flawless people, but on those willing to say yes to who he is - and then to keep living into that answer, day by day.