

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH National Catholic Church 15 THAYER STREET SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373 Rev. Robert M. Koerber, Pastor Email: koerber702@comcast.net Emergency Contact: (413) 530-8575 Parish Phone: (413) 665-2129 Website: (currently under construction) FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield, MA

<u>TODAY – FEBRUARY 4, 2024</u> <u>SEXIGESIMA SUNDAY – 60 DAYS</u> SCOUT SUNDAY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to celebrated in the Traditional rite.

<u>OPENING HYMN</u> "TO THEE WE COME, O LORD, OUR GOD"

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God, Before Thine altar, Father Thou knowest best our yearning hearts; This supplication answer. Lift up from want Thy people, Lord, Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared, To serve Thee with devotion; Be it with sweat of blood or tears, Or humble resignation. For we Thy people are, O Lord, Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.



ENTRANCE HYMN (Daniel 9:8-9)

- V. O Lord, we are shamefaced, like our kings, our princes, and our fathers, for having sinned against You.
- **R. But Yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled against You.**
- V. 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.

- V. The Lord be with you.
- R. And also with you.
- V. Let us pray. Almighty Father, through Jesus Christ You gave repentance and forgiveness to Your people. May we be ever conscious of Your love and thankful for Your mercy. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

A READING FROM ISAIAH THE PROPHET (Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-23, 24-25)

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! You have not bought me sweet cane with money or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

- V. This is the Word of the Lord.
- **R.** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Daniel 9:18b-19)

- V. When we present our petition before You, we rely not on our just deeds, but on Your great mercy.
- R. O Lord, hear! O Lord, pardon! O Lord, be attentive and act without delay for Your own sake, O my God, because this city and Your people bear Your name!



A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS (2 Corinthians 1:18-22) Brothers and sisters: As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been "yes and no." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we preached among you, Silva'nus and Timothy and I, was not "yes and no," but in Him it is always "Yes." For all the promises of God find their "Yes" in Him. That is why we utter the "Amen" through Him, to the glory of God. But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has commissioned us; He has put his seal upon us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

V. This is the Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

<u>TRACT</u> (Acts 13:38a, 39)

V. You must know, my brothers that through Him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you.

R. In Him every believer is justified.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK (Mark 2:1-12)

- V. The Lord be with you.
- R. And with you.
- V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.
- R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

And when He, [Jesus] returned to Caper'na-um after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to Him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet

and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

- V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth Of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, The only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, begotten not made Of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made For us and for our salvation. He came down from heaven: By the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary AND BECAME MAN. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again In fulfillment of the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and Is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory To judge the living and the dead And His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Live Who proceeds from the Father, With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



(Acts: 10:43)

V. To Him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His Name.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father accept these gifts from a people dedicated to You and grant us Your forgiveness. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE (Ephesians 1:7)

V. In Him we have redemption by His blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of His grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- V. The Lord be with you.
- **R.** And also with you.
- V. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we have been filled with spiritual gifts and refreshed with heavenly food and drink. Bestow upon us the spirit of humility that we may never presume on Your mercy. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S GOSPEL THE CITY OF CAPERNAUM & THE PARAYLTIC

From the very beginning of our Lord's ministry, Jesus manifested the power of God to heal the sick. In today's Gospel we read of when Jesus healed a paralytic,

You know, Jesus did not always live in Nazareth. In Luke 4:29-30, we read: "And they rose up and drove Him out of the town [Nazareth] and brought Him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went away."

After leaving His home in Nazareth, we learn that Jesus moved to the town of Capernaum, located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, about 20 miles from Nazareth. We also read that Capernaum was the home of five of Jesus's Apostles: Andrew, Peter, James, John and Matthew. All others came from the region of Galilee, except Judas Iscariot.

Though Jesus lived the town of Capernaum and preached in the local synagogue, we also read that many of its citizens did not welcome Him, and there were those who were even offended by Him. In Mark 6:5-6, we read that "He could do no deed of power there, except that he laid His hands on a few sick people and cured them, and He was amazed at their unbelief."

We are reminded in John 1:10-11: "He was in the world, and the world came to be through Him, but the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him."

But, on this day, while Jesus was at His home in Capernaum, He healed one who was paralyzed, so severe, that he had to be carried on a pallet. There were many who were present that day, who had already believed in Jesus and His power to heal before this miracle, but there were so many others who afterward, recipients of this grace, who came to believe.

Lessons that we can learn from this healing; first is the "faith" of the paralytic, who wanted to see Jesus, then there was the determination of his friends, who not only carried this man to bring him to see Jesus, but literally removed the roof of His dwelling so that they would lower their friend for this healing. To this, we read: "And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

"Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Last week, in the account of Jesus healing a leper, I spoke about the connection of sin to one's ailment or infirmity. We are reminded of this in John 9:1: "As He [Jesus] walked along, He saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

The mere fact that Jesus would say "your sins are forgiven, to the paralytic man, would cause the scribes to call Jesus "blasphemous" in their understanding of Jesus breaking the Torah, the "Law of Moses." But to the recipients of his divine power to heal, the change of one's sins being forgiven, was a reset and a "new start" to a new life, putting to rest the connection of illness and sin.

I think the practical lessons to be learned is that Jesus could forgive sins as He did when He died on the cross that first Good Friday. Even John the Baptist, who first saw Jesus, knew that this Lamb of God could forgive sins.

Today, when questioned if He had the power to forgive sins, said to the scribes: Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," He said to the paralytic "I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all.

We read throughout the Gospels that Jesus made two statements in the many of His miracles to the one being healed: "Your sins are forgiven" and "Your faith has made you whole." Faith and forgiveness are intertwined in the Gospel, and it brought about healings. How does Paul define faith? In Hebrews 11:1, we read: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith and forgiveness were taught and are taught to all this day.

Finally, I would like to talk about the friends of the paralytic. I am sure they were strengthened in their

own faith by witnessing this miracle and a blessing from God, As the old adage is said: "A friend in need is a friend indeed." They were to receive the added blessing of not having to carry that pallet again for this man as they all departed.

There are so many, my brothers and sisters, who are struggling today in their lives and in their faith, and there are many of us who can share our own personal ministry unto the Lord to help others, whether it be in offering a humble prayer, a kind word, a box of cereal, a can of soup, a piece of bread or a helping hand. The story of the paralytic is the story for each of us. For when we are called upon to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, we sometimes become the bearers of the pallet of suffering of others who are in need to experience the love of the living Christ in their lives, as we have experienced Him in our lives.



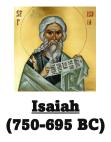
STUDIES IN SACRED SCRIPTURE

THE FOUR MAJOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like Me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—And I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the **LORD** has not spoken? When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the **LORD** has not spoken." - Deuteronomy 18:18-20

The title "Prophet" is significant in the Judeo-Christian tradition. In the Old Testament, there are only four Major prophets and 12 Minor prophets, all spokesmen for God's message through many conflicts.

The mission of the Prophets of God was to inform as well as to warn the people of their time of God's pleasure as well as His disappointment of the condition of their society and their lack of "faithfulness." and the things to come. Some prophets spoke of the sin of its people, the eventual fall of the first temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonians but most importantly, many prophetic sayings would come with accuracy, hundreds of years, later, their prophecies concerning the coming of a promised Messiah.

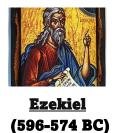


Isaiah is considered by many religious scholars to be perhaps greatest of all prophets in the OT of the Holy Bible. His name is like Joshua of the OT which means, "God saves." His main theme has been said to be based on "justification by faith," the major theme of St. Paul as found in Romans 3:2. Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and the prophecies he proclaimed were directed toward Israel, Judah as well as other nations. Isaiah is believed to have been from royal descent, and many believe he might have been a distant cousin to King Uzziah. With this relationship, Isaiah had access to the kings of Judah within Jerusalem.

We read that Isaiah received visions from God during the rule of four Kings from Judah, who were **Ahaz**, **Uzziah**, **Jotham**, **and Hezekiah**. The biblical history timeline here extends Isaiah from the end of King Uzziah's rule up until the siege of Jerusalem by the Assyrian King Sennacherib. Isaiah's ministry lasted for over 40 years during the later stages of the 8th century B.C. According to Jewish writings, Isaiah was executed by King Manasseh who had him sawed in half. Isaiah is also known for his "messianic prophecies" concerning our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Jeremiah was a major prophet of Yahweh, the God of the Israelites. During Jeremiah's life, the nation of Judah was divided in two over issues of religion and policy. During this time and there were many prophets who declared opposing views from God. that brought forth opposing messages from Him. In the Book of Jeremiah, we see Jeremiah strongly supporting the moral character of individuals. But his main message was a warning to the people of Judah, that they would suffer disaster due to people worshipping false gods and adopting the policies of Babylon during their captivity.



Ezekiel conducted his ministry in both Babylon and Jerusalem during the first few decades of the 6th century BC. For Ezekiel and his followers, these were terrible years as the Israelite nation and the tiny state of Judah were both eliminated by the Babylonians under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar. Jerusalem eventually surrendered in the year 597 BC. However, the Israelites built a resistance which led to the city's destruction following a long siege. This resulted in most of the survivors getting deported.

Prior to the conquest of Jerusalem, Ezekiel was known as a very holy priest. He was deported along with his followers to Babylonia and lived at Tel-abib (near Nippur). It was apparent that he was seen as a true Prophet of God. Ezekiel's first vision was the popular "throne-chariot" of God. This was followed up by many more prophesies foretelling the future.



Daniel, or "God is my judge" is believed to have been taken captive by the Babylon Empire under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar around 604 B.C. This captivity went on for some 70 years; something that the prophet Jeremiah foretold. During this time, through interpreting several dreams for king Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel would serve in various governmental positions under the reign of several Babylonian and Persian rulers, including Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Belshazzar, and Cyrus.

Sometime during the initial year under the rule Darius, Daniel was to understand the prophecy of the Prophet Jeremiah, who forecasted that his people would remain in captivity for 70 years. It is not known how old Daniel was when he died, but it is believed that he was about 80 or 90 years old. The story of Daniel being place in a lions' den (Daniel 6:16-19) is one of the best-known bible stories of this prophet.



OUR PARISH CALENDAR

DAILY HOLY MASS

8:45 am Morning Devotionals9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

(February 5th – February 10th)

Mon. 2/5	Private prayer and meditation
	Agatha, Virgin & Martyr
	Avitus of Vienne, Bishop
	Berulf, Abbot & Confessor
Tue. 2/6	Mass for health and healing.

- Titus, Bishop NT Dorothy, Martyr Amand, Bishop
- Wed. 2/7 Mass of Thanksgiving Richard the King, Confessor Theodore of Heraclea, Martyr Moses, Bishop
- Thurs. 2/8 Mass to the Holy Saints of God Meingold of Huy, Martyr Cuthman of Steyning, Confessor Elfleda, Abbess
- Fri. 2/9Mass to the Holy Angels of God
Cyril of Alexandraia, Bishop & Doctor
Apollonia, Deaconess & Martyr
Sabinus of Canosa, Bishop

Sat. 2/10 Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus Scholastica, Virgin Soteris, Virgin & Martyr Austreberta, Virgin



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

"Your lamp is a lamp to my feet, and a light for my path." - Psalm 119:105

In the month of February, the Eastern Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC, has called upon its members and others to offer the following prayers:

<u>A PRAYER FOR PARISH FAMILIES</u>

My Lord and my God, hear my prayers for the well being of my parish family. Grant us Your grace and all that is necessary for the spiritual growth and welfare of our congregation. Enlighten and guide my pastor and all who minister to the needs of Your people. Strengthen and awaken in us a living faith; comfort and heal the sick, lonely, and brokenhearted, soften those who are contentious or stubborn; awaken the indifferent, and rescue the fallen. Lord, help us to continue to proclaim Your truth. Unite us with Christ in like-mindedness of purpose. I ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen. (from the PNCC Book of Devotions)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Know your faith, Grow in Christ Series

The Eastern Diocese will focus this month on "Being Christians Today: Christian Identity, Sources of Strength, and Challenges."

Please join us for the **second in a series** of virtual **"Know and Grow"** presentations on **Thursday February 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM (EDT)**.

The Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski will help us to explore the topic: "The Church and the Christian Community."

"The Church consists of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. The Church exists to worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth, carrying on the ministry of Jesus and teaching people how to love God with their whole hearts, souls, and minds. Then we are to go and make disciples. We believe that the local Christian church (Parish) is the prime agency for the work of God's Kingdom on earth."

To join via Zoom, please contact: revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

<u>NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024</u> <u>QUNINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY – 50 DAYS</u>

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Traditional rite.



ONE BREAD, ONE BODY Daily Devotions

New copies of the **"One Bread, One Body"** a daily devotional booklet, is now available, free of charge, found in the vestibule of our Church. These booklets provide daily devotions, which are in tune with the readings as found in the "Common Lectionary" of the Christian Church.



Our Food Ministry: "Feeding the Hungry"

Our next scheduled grocery give-away will take place on **Saturday, February 17th** from 10:00 am while supplies last.

I want to also thank all who have and continue to give non-perishable food items as well as monetary donations to aid our food ministry. We continue to ask for assistance of non-perishable food items, as well as monetary donations. All donations will be greatly appreciated. May God bless all our endeavors.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

Among the items that we are asking for:

- Cold cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, V8, Apple and cranberry
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese
- Tuna in water
- Canned meats- chicken salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles
- Soups- all varieties
- canned veggies and fruits.

We are constantly looking at how we can improve this ministry and we invite your input and suggestions.



In preparation for our Palm Sunday Food & Bake sale. The following are the dates for making pierogi:

Sat. 3/2 –	Potato & Cheese - (single batch).
	Cheese – (single batch).
Thurs. 2/29 –	Preparing ingredients.
Fri. 3/1 -	Preparing balls.
Sat. 3/9 -	Cabbage - (Single batch).
Thurs. 3/7 -	Prep ingredients.
Fri. 3/8 -	Preparing balls.

Note: Sign up sheets are posted in our Parish Hall for not only making pierogi, gałąbki or stuffed cabbage and for workers needed for our Annual Palm Sunday Food and Bake Sale. Also, we are currently accepting donations for baked goods.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2024

Throughout the years, our Parish has supported the Annual Souper Bowl of Caring to aid in helping to feed the hungry. Donations to this most worthy cause will begin next Sunday, February 11, 2024. Will you help by contributing to help feed the hungry?



A SCOUTING PRAYER

O God, Your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life. We lift to You the ministry of scouting. We offer You thanks for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home; for study and work, to build character; for service, to see our responsibility to those in need; for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith. Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with you and all people. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



A MORNING DEVOTIONAL

Lord, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

I sing the mighty power of God. What God's almighty power hath made, That made the mountains rise That spread the flowing seas abroad And built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained The sun to rule the day The moon shines full at His command, And all the stars obey.

There's not a plant or flower below That does not make Your glory known And clouds arise, and tempest blow By order of Thy throne.

While all that borrows life from Thee Is ever in Thy care, And everywhere that man can be, You, my God, are present there.

A DEVOTIONAL READING

(Romans 3:21-25a)

But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from law, although the law and the prophets bear witness to it; the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ^{they} are all justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption, which is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as an expiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

(Time for reflection and prayer)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father Almighty, you have brought me to the light of a new day; keep me safe the whole day through from every sinful inclination. May all my thoughts, words and actions, aim at doing what is pleasing in Your sight. All of this I ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son and my Lord. Amen.



AN EVENING DEVOTIONAL

Lord, come to my assistance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Now fades all earthly splendor The shades of night descend The dying of the daylight, Foretells creation's end.

Though noon give place to sunset Yet dark give place to light The promise of tomorrow With dawn's new hope is bright.

So, will the new creation Rise from the old reborn To splendor in Christ's glory And everlasting morn.

All darkness will be ended As faith give place to sight Of Father, Son and Spirit, One God, in heaven's light.

A DEVOTIONAL READING

(Ephesians 2:13-16)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing in His flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing all hostility to an end.

(Time for reflection and prayer)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, Yours is the morning and Yours is the evening. Let the Sun of Justice, Jesus Christ, shine forever in my heart and draw me to the light where You live in radiant beauty. May Your blessed angels guard and protect me and all my loved ones who I keep close in my heart this night. All of this I ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son and my Lord. Amen.