



## **HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

National Catholic Church

15 THAYER STREET

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

Rev. Fr. Robert M. Koerber, Pastor

Parish phone: (413) 665-2129

Parish email: koerber702@comcast.net

Emergency contact: (413) 530-8575

Website: holynamesouthdeerfield.org

FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield

**TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

**THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN THE ORDINARY**

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

### **OPENING HYMN**

**“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**

(Romans 11:34-35; Job 40:2)

V. For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been His counselor? Or who has given Him anything that He may be repaid?

R. Will we have arguing with the Almighty by the critic? Let him who would correct God give answer!

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.

### **THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to His people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God, and Father

We worship You; we give You thanks

We praise you for Your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father

Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sins of the world

Have mercy on us

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,

Receive our prayer

For you alone are the Holy One

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. Let us pray. God, our Heavenly Father, Your ways are unsearchable, yet You have graced us with love and trust in You. Grant us the gift of discernment that we may live our lives according to Your desires and Your design. 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 THE BOOK OF WISDOM**

(Wisdom 9:13-18b)

Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen

shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

### **GRADUAL**

(Job 36:22,23,26)

V. Behold, God is sublime in His power. What teacher is there like Him? Who prescribes for Him His conduct, or who can say, "You have done wrong"?

R. Lo, God is great beyond our knowledge; the number of His years is past searching out.

### **A READING FROM PAUL TO PHILEMON**

(Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17)

I, Paul, an old man, and now also a prisoner for Christ Jesus, urge you on behalf of my child Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment; I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I should have liked to retain him for myself, so that he might serve me on your behalf in my imprisonment for the gospel, but I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that the good you do might not be forced but voluntary. Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother, beloved especially to me, but even more so to you, as a man and in the Lord. So if you regard me as a partner, welcome him as you would me.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God,

### **ALLELUIA VERSE**

(Luke 14:34)

V. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Salt is good, but if salt itself loses its taste, with what can its flavor be restored?

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE**

(Luke 14:25-33)

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and He turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be My disciple."

V. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **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 Life  
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.



**OFFERTORY VERSE**  
(Philippians 3:7)

V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.  
V. Whatever gains I had, these I have come to  
consider a loss because of Christ.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

V. Heavenly Father, grant us true repentance so that  
these gifts we offer may be pleasing to You, and  
that the rest of our days may be pure and holy. We  
ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
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**

(Hebrews 7:25)

V. [Jesus] is always able to save those who approach  
God through Him, since He lives forever to make  
intercession for them.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.  
V. Let us pray. Father, in gratitude, may we, who  
have broken Bread together, always live in peace  
and harmony with all Your creation. We ask this  
through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, for ever and ever.  
R. Amen.

**PURIFICATION IN THE  
JUDEO-CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

Ceremonies of purification by water have existed in  
all religions. Coming from the Judeo-Christian  
tradition, the act of purification was essential. There  
was not only various washings of external objects, but  
most importantly the washing and purifying of  
oneself.

Found in the Torah, or the Law of Moses, we read  
in the Book of Leviticus, 11:25, that Moses required  
the washing before all ceremonies.

In the New Testament we see the evolution of  
purification in the Sacrament of Baptism. John would  
preach that baptism was to be an act of repentance.



Jesus, coming to John when He was thirty years of age, was baptized. When John tells Jesus that he should be the one who should be baptized, Jesus tells him in Matthew 3:15: "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness."

Although there is no mention of Jesus baptizing anyone, He does give the "Great Commission" prior to His Ascension as found in Matthew 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" We see in the Book of Acts 19:1-7, a distinction between the baptism of John and Christian baptism.

All believers, who approach the reception of the Sacrament of Baptism, are made members of Christ's Church and the purification of oneself before God. Baptism symbolizes regeneration and is the essential key of entering the kingdom of God. Jesus was to remind all believers of this, in His conversation with Nicodemus, as found in John 3:3-5: "Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'" Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.'" The fulfillment of being born of "spirit" would be accomplished at Pentecost, when Jesus tells His disciples in Acts 1:5: "for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

We see the importance of baptism in the Early Church as recorded in the Book of Acts as well as in the teachings of Paul in the various churches that he established during his missionary journeys.

The following are but a few of scripture passages concerning baptism:

"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. So those who welcomed his message

were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. - Acts 2:38, 41

"But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place. - Acts 8:12-13

As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said [to Philip], 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. - Acts 8:36-38

"What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. - Romans 6: 1-4



## **REFLECTIONS OF TODAY'S GOSPEL THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP**

"Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and He turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

I think many would think of what Jesus said in today's Gospel as being very harsh and cruel and somewhat confusing:

"If anyone comes to Me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his [their] own life, cannot be My disciple."

What follows.? Jesus continues: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be my disciple."

Now, the word "disciple" as found in the Mariam-Webster dictionary is defined as:

- one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another:
- a convinced adherent of a school or individual.

I have also read, the following definitions of being a "disciple" is defined as:

- a personal follower of Christ during his life, especially one of the twelve Apostles.
- a follower or pupil of a teacher, leader, or a philosopher.

In these definitions, I find that the word "commitment," is the key, to being a true disciple.

I would like you to consider the "logic" of Jesus:

"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish."

"Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms."

In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be My disciple."



### **SEPTEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

In the study of Mariology, the study of Mary, there have been many insights into the origin, the life, and the death of the "**Theotokos**" the Mother of God, Mary.

On Monday, September 8, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Mary is celebrated not only in the Western Rite, (Catholic), the Eastern Rite (Orthodox) but also

many Protestant denominations, including the Anglican, Lutheran and others. Some of the earliest liturgical rites and hymns are found in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

In the Gospel accounts, there are many references to the Blessed Mother Mary.

From her Annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel, to her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth, from the Nativity of her son to her being present at His crucifixion, Mary has held a most special place of honor in Christendom.

The earliest reference of Mary, found outside the New Testament, is from an apocryphal and gnostic writing "**The Protoevangelium of James,**" written about A.D. 150. From this writing, we learn the names of Mary's parents; Joachim, and Anna, and although the couple were childless, an angel appeared to Anna and told her that she would conceive a daughter, whose name would be Mariam or Mary.

Why September 8<sup>th</sup>? The traditional date of this Solemnity, falls exactly nine months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Perhaps because of its close proximity to the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is not celebrated today but also with the Solemnity as the Immaculate Conception. It is, nonetheless, a very important feast, because it prepares the way for the birth of Christ. It is also an unusual feast because it celebrates a birthday.

The feasts of saints are traditionally celebrated on the day of their death because that is the date on which they entered into eternal life. Therefore, we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Because Mary was kept free from the stain of the concept of Original Sin, it was through the action of God in His foreknowledge that Mary would be chosen vessel and mother of Jesus Christ; we also hold traditionally a special place in the Solemnity of Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth, who was also chosen by God to bear a son, John; and who was announced by an angel to her husband Zechariah during his obligation in the temple. This divine plan was to be all interlinked in the life of Mary, the mother of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.



## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - SOLEMNITY EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614 A.D., 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.



### MINISTRY OF LAY READERS

In the month of September, the following men and women of our Parish have volunteered their time to proclaim the "word of God."

|                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sunday, September 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Paula Winn              |
| Sunday, September 14 <sup>th</sup> | Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd |
| Sunday, September 21 <sup>st</sup> | John Harrington         |
| Sunday, September 28 <sup>th</sup> | Josh Tudryn             |

## PARISH CALENDAR & NEWS

8:45 am Morning Devotionals

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

(September 1<sup>st</sup> - September 7<sup>th</sup>)

|               |                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon. 9/8      | Solemnity – the Nativity of the BVM<br>Nativity of the BVM<br>Adrian, Natalia, Nicodemia, Martyrs<br>Eusebius, Nestabus, Zeno & Nestor, M |
| Tues. 9/9     | Mass of Thanksgiving<br>Gorgonius, Martyr<br>Issac the Armenian, Bishop<br>Ciaran the Younger, Abbot                                      |
| Wed. 9/10     | Mass of Health and Healing<br>Pulcheria, Virgin<br>Menodora, Metrodora, V. & M.<br>Virgins & Martyrs                                      |
| Thurs. 9/11   | Mass to the Holy Angels of God<br>Protus & Hyacinth, Martyrs<br>Paphnutius, Bishop<br>Patiens, Bishop                                     |
| Friday 9/12   | Mass to the Holy Saints of God<br>Gertrude of Altenberg, Abbess & W.<br>Eanswida, Virgin<br>Guy of Anderlecht, Confessor                  |
| Saturday 9/13 | Private Prayer & Devotions<br>Eugenia, Virgin & Martyr<br>Eulogius of Alexandria, Bishop<br>Amatus, Abbot                                 |



### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

10:00 am - The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony will be administered by the Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski to Ms. Halina H. Lukomski and the Rev. Fr. Robert M. Koerber. Holy Mass of the Eucharist to follow.



### NEXT SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

#### SOLEMNITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

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



**Please Note:** Following today's Holy Mass, Halina and I would like to invite all of you to continue with the celebration of our Sacramental union as husband and wife, with a simple breakfast and a most gracious "thank you."



### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

**"And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." - Luke 2:9**

May we pray for the health and healing for all those, who we remember in our prayers, especially for: George and Janet Sadowski, Wayne Shaw, Richard Foster, Carolyn Rapalye, Karen Herzig and Pat Shaw, Cindy Benjamin, Bill Durkee, Jerry Pawlikowski, Paula Winn, Stefanik Gadecki, Marge Sanderson, Brandon Poe, Fernanda Harrington, baby James, Liam & Evelyn Spatcher, Jennie Harrington, Eric Rose, Lori Lukomski, C.J. Panell, Mick Szumski, Tosia & Toka Bara, Laurie Lis, Bp. Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Todd Odell, David Moskin, Laurie Lis, Renata Wos, Jan Clark, and Joey De Fayette, Zoe Kinnunen as well as all our own personal intentions:

**Let us Pray:** O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness, stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way are ailing. Deliver them, according to Your will, from all their present sicknesses and illnessness, and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, and are One God. Amen.



### **OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

**"Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others." - Philippians 2:4**

**Our Food Ministry: "To Feed the Hungry"**

**"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." - Matthew 25:35**

**Our next grocery "give-a-way" date will be Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am.** We also wish to thank all those who have donated to our food ministry. Donations of items needed as well monetary gifts will be greatly appreciated.

**We are still in need of the following:**

- Cereals and instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and Cranberry juices.
- Powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children's snack packs

**Please note:** Also, through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect "full sized" containers of **personal care items and cleaning items** to aid others in need. All items collected, will be donated to the various survival centers in our area. Items needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.



### **ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON - CALL TO PRAYER**

In the month of September, our Eastern Diocese has called upon all its members and others to offer prayer at 12:00 noon each Wednesday:

### **LET US PRAY**

**Lord Jesus Christ,** Savior of the world, You taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Enlighten the hearts of our enemies that

they may seek the peace that only You can give. Grant us grace to forgive and to be forgiven. Enable us all to work toward justice and embrace Your love that reconciles us with one another. In Your blessed Name we pray. Amen.

**Our Father**, Who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



**DISCIPLESHIP 2025:  
KNOW YOUR FAITH, GROW IN CHRIST**

The Eastern Diocese will focus on  
**The Person of Jesus Christ,  
His Identity and Mission.**

Please join us for the ninth in a series of virtual  
"Know and Grow" presentations on **Thursday,  
September 11, 2025, at 7:00 PM (EDT).**

**Fr. Dr. Henryk Wos** will help us to explore the  
topic of Jesus' Ministry. Each unit will have biblical  
texts as a starting point, with lecture, meditation,  
discussion, and practical life applications.

To join via Zoom, please contact:

[revpauls@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauls@yahoo.com) or  
[ksobiechowski@yahoo.com](mailto:ksobiechowski@yahoo.com)



**CHICKEN BBQ - SEPTEMBER 25, 2022**

I want to acknowledge the men and women of our  
Parish for all their help to help make our recent  
Chicken BBQ successful. So to:

Carl & Eva Adamski, Jonathan Boschen, Eric & Sue  
Dibrindisi, Bill Durkee, Maryanna Foster, Barbara  
Goodhind, John & Fernanda Harrington, Karen  
Herzig, Peg Kostiuik, Alice Maiewski, Cheryl Major,  
Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, Ted Pawlikowski, Walter &  
Linda Puchalski, Josh & Mary Tudryn and Halina  
Lukomski, a most grateful "thank you."



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>  
REMEMBERING 9/11 - 24 years later**

This Thursday, we will mark the 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the 9/11 tragedy that took place in our country in  
2001. It has been said that people remember where  
they were for certain key events in history; the  
bombing of Pearl Harbor, the assassination of  
President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and today, the  
9/11 tragedies.

Today, we remember, in prayer, the 2996 who died  
from 77 different countries. They were the  
"innocent," all those who lost their lives between the  
attacks at the Twin Towers of the World Trade  
Center, in NYC, the Pentagon, in Washington, DC as  
well as those who died in a field in Shanksville,  
Pennsylvania.

Did you know that the average age of those who  
died was 40 years of age. The youngest victim on that  
day was a two-and-a-half-year-old child on Flight 175  
and the oldest was an 85-year-old passenger on Flight  
11. Not only do we pray for the repose of their souls,  
but we also remember today the other 25,000 people  
who were injured because of these terrorist attacks.

Following the attacks, President George W.  
Bush sent troops over to Afghanistan to track down  
Osama bin Laden, the main "architect" who  
remained at large until May 2, 2011, where he was  
killed by special forces of the United States.

After the death of Bin Laden, former President  
Barack Obama announced that he would begin  
withdrawing troops from the country, which was  
finally completed by President Joseph Biden in  
August 2021, making it the longest American war in  
American history, lasting over 20 years. According to  
the data from Linda Bilmes of Harvard University's  
Kennedy School and the Brown University Cost of  
War project, as reported by the Associated Press, it is  
estimated that 2,448 American service members were  
killed in Afghanistan. The last casualties of this  
protracted war were 13 members of the U.S. armed  
forces who lost their lives in a suicide bombing at the  
Kabul Airport on August 26, 2021.