



VMFC
A VETERAN/MILITARY FRIENDLY CONGREGATION

Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

25th Ordinary Sunday

XXV Niedziela zwykła

September 20, 2026

Rite: See Worship Aid.

Entrance Hymn: V. The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love. **R. The Lord is good to all, compassionate to every creature.** 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.**

First reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalm: Ps 145:2-3,8-9,17-18

The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Epistle: Philippians 20-24,27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Intention: For śp. Marilyn 'Lyn' Podkulski.

Celebrant: Rev. Jim Konicki.

Lector: 10am, Lauren DeBlois

- Mattins, Holy Mass at 10am (Worship Aid).
- Coffee Hour, SOCL.
- Holy Mass at Noon (Traditional Rite, Pew Missal pg. 15)

Contact

Holy Name of Jesus

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Today's Music

- Communion Hymn: Blest Are They (instrumental).

+++ Reminders & Notes +++

- Please keep inviting people to meet the Lord and join in worship and fellowship.
- **PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY:** Come Holy Spirit. Pour out Thy blessings upon our parish and the entire Church, especially considering Holy Synod in 6 days. On Friday, September 18th, we began a nine-day novena in preparation. If you do not have a copy, take one and join in.
- **Something to Reflect On:** As we approach Holy Synod in only 6 days, consider how we might work together on how to make this Church less 'our church' and more Christ's Church.
- **Some Saints for this Week:** Matthew (Apostle & Evangelist), Maura to Troyes, Maurice & Companions, Jonas, Thecla of Iconium. Linus, Gerald Segredo, Robert of Knaresborough, Ladislaus of Gielniów, Sergius of Radonezh, Cyprian & Justina, Herman the Cripple. May they pray for us so we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
- **Parish/Community/Veterans Picnic:** Thank you to all who prepared dishes, dealt with sudden exigencies, and especially to those who joined us with a spirit of welcome, openness and joy. The food was great and the company even better.
- **Week Ahead:** Fr. Jim and Renee will be leaving Thursday, September 24th for Adam's wedding. He will not be returning until after Holy Synod, on Thursday, October 1st.
- **Delays, delays.** Unfortunately, Prime Bishop's cousin, Christian M. Ewaskiewicz, the Parish Chair of Our Saviour Parish in Lawrenceville, NJ passed away suddenly. The funeral was held Friday with Prime Bishop presiding. As such, the planned ordinations and receptions into the Church had to be postponed. We will keep you apprised.

Baptized Christians who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and have prepared themselves through the Sacrament of Penance are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body of Christ is immersed into the Precious Blood and is placed on the tongue and not in the hand of the communicant. Come and let us be one with our Lord.

“Are you envious because I am generous?”

Literally in Greek this sentence from Jesus’ parable is rendered, *“Is your eye evil because I am good?”*

Jesus warned of the dangers of having an evil eye, *“The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness.”* (Matthew 6:22-23)

Our eyes are a window into our souls. When we look deeply into someone’s eyes we either see love, acceptance, joy – light or we see avoidance. In the worst of cases, for instance with psychopaths you would find a disassociated gaze, a look that seems empty of emotion, awareness, warmth, or moral presence, even soulless indifference.

What people see in our eyes is beyond what they see externally. It is difficult to pretend with our

eyes. There’s a lot we can feign with our voice, our body and gestures, our expressions. But the eyes? That’s harder. Maybe impossible. We look down, look away. There’s a reason when eye contact is avoided.

That avoidance is an attempt to hide, a person saying, ‘don’t look here.’ Openness in our eyes is inviting or at least wishes others would see who you are, all you offer.

When we get the chance to look into the eyes of God what will we see of His heart, His very being? According to Jesus’ parable we will see generosity. Sheer generosity.

For some, that look will be welcome, for others it will be horror. For the worthy, love will make them overpowerfully whole. For the evil it is only disgrace, shame, and a recognition that they are empty.

The first hired did not like what they saw in the eyes of the Landowner. His sheer generosity, unexplainable, unfathomable, generosity, giving for no reason at all did not match the way they thought things should work. Isn’t giving conditional? They could not get their heads around that. They gave him the evil eye.

While we want to believe in generosity, what it is and what it represents, we can’t. We are awkward or even suspicious of real generosity. We feel unworthy of it. We don’t even know how to respond to generosity. “Really? Me? Why? For no reason? Are you sure? What did I do?”

The fact is that for God there is no doing that merits His generosity.

The key is that generosity is not something to be understood or calculated. Real generosity is not measurable, accountable, or calculable.

That is the point of the parable, God is about unreckonable grace.

Can we be the same way? Do I have the capacity for God’s kind of generosity? Can I? Likely not, at least right now, but I must constantly pray for it and work at it.

Memory Verse

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

2 Corinthians 9:6

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Laura Covari, Stan Podkulski, Kelly Noble, Curtis Szczepkowski, Joshua Moraski, Tom Abbot, Karen Kisch, Gregory Henderson, Theresa Ordon, Michelle Zawistowski, Susan Jones, Garry Packer, Gary & Sandra Tatlock, Fred Hendricks, Theresa, Carla, Francine, Eileen, Joyce Colson, Michael Clough, Frances Gary, Dan Crawley, Bob Chelkowski, Brian Rohan, Tom Walters, Dawn Main, Fran Muscatello, Bob Giczkowski, Bishop John, Bishop Paul, Gordon Lamb, Aimee, Liz, Dorothy Morrison, Jennifer, Steve Snyder, Susan D'Ameco, Ed Sargalis, Chip, Jacqueline Lawrence, Dewey & Barbara Rogers, Jeremy Spencer, Ross Jenkins, Joe Horton, Jr., Deb Plantier, Tom Nowak, Amanda, and all needing God’s healing grace.

- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Patric Jones, Charlie Prothero, Fathers Joseph, Andrew, Nadeem, Andrew, Mariusz, Kes, Gerald, Dominic, Michael, and for all Veterans.
- All those in Public Service: Civil Servants, Police Officers, and Fire Fighters.
- All Active and Retired Clergy of the Holy Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- The residents and staff of Pathways.
- All members of the Civil Air Patrol.
- All who have asked for our prayers for any need or intention.

We pray for our entire Church as we approach Holy Synod. Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

Upcoming

- **September 20: 25th Ordinary Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski. 3rd Day of the Novena.**
- September 21: Feast – St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist. Holy Mass at Noon. Food Pantry, 3-5pm. Parish Committee Meets, 5pm. 4th Day of the Novena.
- September 22: Holy Mass at Noon. 5th Day of the Novena.
- September 23: Holy Mass at Noon. 6th Day of the Novena.
- September 24 -26: Fr. Jim Away. 7th, 8th, and 9th Days of the Novena.
- **September 27: 26th Ordinary Sunday. Sunday Prayer at 10am. The XVII Holy Synod begins with Holy Mass at 6pm.**
- September 28 - 30: Holy Synod.