

focus

A Roll Call of Faith . . . a Summons to Live by Faith
Hebrews 11 and 12

A Cloud of Witnesses

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

XX Niedziela Zwykła

August 14, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 88.

First reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10

Psalm: Ps 40:2-4,18

Lord, come to my aid!

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-4

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Intention: 9:30am and 11:30am for all parishioners

Celebrant: 9:30am and 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 9:30am Marilyn Hietala, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am. Holy Mass at 9:30am (Contemporary Rite).
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Contemporary Rite) and Baptism.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

XXI Niedziela Zwykła

August 21, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 88.

First reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm: Ps 117:1-2

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Epistle: Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Intention: 9:30am and 11:30am for all parishioners

Celebrant: 9:30am and 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 9:30am Derek Westcott, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am. Holy Mass at 9:30am (Contemporary Rite).
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Contemporary Rite).

Trials are of two kinds. Either affliction will test our souls as gold is tried in a furnace, and make trial of us through patience, or the very prosperity of our lives will oftentimes, for many, be itself an occasion of trial and temptation. For it is equally difficult to keep the soul upright and undefeated in the midst of afflictions, as to keep oneself from insolence and pride in prosperity. – St. Basil the Great

Sick Calls and Hospital Visits – Please know that hospitals will not advise parishes when an individual is admitted. Confidentiality regulations prevent them from doing so. If someone is admitted please let Father Jim know so he might visit, pray with, anoint, and bring Jesus' healing presence to them. Call Fr. Jim at 518-522-0944. You may also call Fr. Mark Gnidzinski at 518-453-2258

Contact

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In an emergency: Fr. James Konicki at

518-522-0944 or 518-765-2134

On the Web: www.holynamencc.org



Upcoming...

- **August 14: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **August 15: Solemnity - Dormition of the B.V.M. Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm with blessing of herbs. Parish Committee Meeting.**
- **August 16-18: Clergy Retreat**
- **August 21: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Picnic.**
- **August 24: Feast - St. Bartholomew, Apostle.**
- **August 26: Solemnity - Our Lady of Częstochowa.**
- **August 27: Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Deacon Donald Wunderlich.**
- **August 28: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Youth Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am**
- **August 29: Solemnity – Beheading of St. John the Baptist**
- **September 5: Labor Day**

We invite all who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to partake. It is our practice to distribute the Holy Eucharist by intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, never in the hand.

Run, compete, and do not quit.

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God.

One thing you learn in Olympic competitions is that you never look back or across at you opponent during a race. You don't do it on the track or in the pool. Doing so slows you down, it takes those few milliseconds off your timing and you end up losing.

In the world of sports, particularly like Olympic wrestling, if you are in great pain or can't take it any more you can tap out. When someone taps out, they are surrendering to their opponent. They are throwing

in the towel, they are giving up, and they are quitting the fight. They are saying you win, its over, I'm done, it's finished.

These competitions are nothing compared to the battle Jesus waged on a daily basis. The writer of Hebrews tells us that if we are struggling and thinking about throwing in the towel, look at Jesus as the greatest example of someone who didn't quit when the battle was hot, and his foes multiplied.

When we are faced with struggles we need to realize that throughout Scripture we see examples of people who tapped out. Adam and Eve had only one chance at tapping out to temptation – and they took that road. Noah did it with alcohol. Abraham did it out of fear. David did it when he gave into lust. Judas decided money was more important than God. Peter thought denial was the better choice. The crowd found Jesus' word too hard and quit.

All though history and in our lives we tap out. The record of humanity

is a horrible record of failure and tapping out.

But that isn't the only thing the Bible, or history, or our lives tell us. From Adam and Eve forward, right alongside every tap out and failure, God gave us His promise: Help is on the way. That promise of help was fulfilled in Jesus. Know that even before trouble comes, help is already worked out.

The thing about Jesus is His humanity. We can really be like Him. We can live as He lived. Look at all He faced and He didn't tap out. The writer of Hebrews tells us He didn't tap out even in taking up His cross.

Those who believe in Jesus, who follow Him – His saints too – the great cloud of witnesses figured that out. They too, once they found Him, refused to tap out. It is because of the joy we have – the great promise – that we must run without looking back and wrestle without tapping out.

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Philippians 4:13

MONDAY: 2 Peter 3:9

TUESDAY: 1 Peter 2:24

WEDNESDAY: 1 John 2:1

THURSDAY: 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

FRIDAY: Psalm 23:1

SATURDAY: 2 Timothy 4:7

Pray

Lord, grant me the gift of perseverance. Help me to keep my eyes on You, not to look back, not to quit.

Dormition of the B.V.M.

The Solemnity of the Dormition is a long-standing Christian feast honored in the universal Church. It commemorates Mary's falling asleep in death, her Dormition. In the 1950's, the teaching of her physical assumption into heaven became a dogma solely in the Roman Church. A Dogma demands belief and acceptance under pain of being separated from the Church. Our church immediately rejected this new theology. We profess that Mary, like all other righteous persons, spiritually ascended into heaven. The physical ascension belongs to Jesus and is otherwise biblically unconfirmed. Mary, as the mother of God, is a powerful intercessor on our behalf. We do not pray to Mary; we pray through Mary to Jesus. This is why the church blesses bouquets of flowers and herbs on this feast day. The flowers remind us of Mary's beautiful spiritual example of a life well lived. The herbs are the healing medicines of the ancient world and still today. They show us that Mary is a source of spiritual and physical healing through her intercessory prayers. The faithful are invited to bring bouquets of their own to Mass on this evening at 6:15pm for the blessing.

Parish and Community Picnic

Our annual parish and community picnic will be held on Sunday, August 21st on the parish grounds. Please plan to attend. Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church if you should wish to bring a dish. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. We look forward to spending the afternoon with YOU!

Upcoming

Back to Church Sunday – September 18th. Craft Fair – October 1st. National Webinar on the Christian Family – October 5th. Rummage Sale – TBD. Seniorate Thanksgiving Holy Mass and Dinner – November 19th.

The Political Season

As Christ followers we are not bound to any ideology, party or even form of government. We are above those things and are citizens of His kingdom. During these days of political tension and conflict let us practice forgiveness and remember where our true home is. Don't get pulled in as no one is right or just except God.

Come, let us reason together...

We continue to hold a unified Church bible study founded on the word of God and God has blessed this effort. This month's theme will be: Unity in the body of Christ led by pastors from Gathered Remnant Ministries. Join everyone on the last Thursday of every month. The next Bible Study will be held on August 25th at 6pm.

FREE LUNCH on Sunday

Our next free lunch coincides with our summer parish and community picnic on August 21st. Please be sure to continue to invite friends, family, and everyone you know to partake every month. There is no cost or charge for this meal. This service opens our home to all in need of a little company, a warm meal, and the love of Christ. Our free lunch on Sunday program is on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Of note...:

Praying for...

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice and George Houser, Angela Kaminski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Mariea Chase, Nickole Mook, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Węgliński, Robert Dominy, Wayne Balnis, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Frances Myslinski, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Sczepkowski, Derek Westcott, Dolores Konicki, Pastor Tom Kendall, Irene Borowski, Joshua Moraski, Sue White, Sue & Roger White, Chris Tatlock, Mildred Lewis, Debbie Esposito, Ceil & Eddie Gibbons, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Lucas Taylor, Joanne Bauer, Shirley Greene, Madison Sheridan, Reginald, Eddie Stover, Karen & Jacob, Sean and Jessie Wilcox, Snyder Family, Amber Tatlock, Kathleen Hietala, Vicky Stover, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Dennis, Donnie Wright, Fr. Ray Drada, Karen Kisch, Joe Emmanuel, Gregory Henderson, Muse En Lystrala, Vince Cacamo, Theresa Ordon, Robert Baia, Michelle Zawistowski, Faith, Adam, Allyson Keyser

- All in need of God's healing grace.
- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Patric Jones.
- All those in Public Service, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.
- All Active And Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- All who have asked for our prayers.

We continue in prayer and intercession for one of the parishes or ministries in the Polish National Catholic Church. This week we remember and pray for the clergy and people of St. Martin and St. Rose Parish, San Antonio, TX. Very Rev. R. Augustin Sicard.

Bless them, O Lord! Pobjogoslaw im, O Boże!

Coffee Hour: Thank you to all who assist with this ministry of hospitality. We are taking a break from coffee hour for the summer months.

Parish Organizations: Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? The YMSofR - Men's Society of the Resurrection Branch 56, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Father Jim.

--- Share the Spirit and invite others to the Kingdom of God. ---