

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7.14

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 18, 2016

4th Sunday of Advent

IV Niedziela Adwentu

December 18, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 92.

First reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm: Ps 24:1-6

Let the Lord enter; He is King of Glory.

Epistle: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Intention: 10:30am for all parishioners

Celebrant: 10:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 10:30am Derek Westcott

- Matins at 10:20am. Lighting of the Advent wreath, Holy Mass with Advent Penitential Service at 10:30am (Contemporary Rite).
- Youth and Musical Presentation at 11:45.
- Vigil dinner at 12:15.

Nativity of the Lord

Boże Narodzenie

December 25, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 15, Canon, page 28.

Intention: All Holy Masses for all parishioners

Celebrant: Vigil 4pm, Midnight, 10am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: Midnight: Larry Panfil, 10am Claudia Bertasso

- Vigil Holy Mass – December 24th at 4pm.
- Readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps. 89; Acts 13:16-17,22-25; Matthew 1:1-25
- R./ **For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**
- Shepherds Solemn Holy Mass at Midnight with Procession of Light
- Readings: Isaiah 9:1-6; Ps. 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
- R./ **Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord**
- Holy Mass at 10am.
- Readings: Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps. 98; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18
- R./ **All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God.**

A voice filled with the Holy Spirit broke forth from the martyr's mouth when the most blessed Mappallicus said to the proconsul in the midst of his torments, "You shall see a contest to-morrow." And that which he said with the testimony of virtue and faith, the Lord fulfilled. A heavenly contest was exhibited, and the servant of God was crowned in the struggle of the promised fight. This is the contest which the prophet Isaiah of old predicted, saying, "It shall be no light contest for you with men, since God appoints the struggle." And in order to show what this struggle would be, he added the words, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and ye shall call His name Emmanuel." This is the struggle of our faith in which we engage, in which we conquer, in which we are crowned. – St. Cyprian of Carthage

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

Holy Name of Jesus

National Catholic Church, PNCC

1040 Pearl Street

Schenectady, New York 12303-1846

Parish and Hall: 518-372-1992

In an emergency: Fr. James Konicki at

518-522-0944 or 518-765-2134

On the Web: www.holynamencc.org



Upcoming...

- **December 18: 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass with Advent Penitential Service at 10:30. Youth and Music Presentation. Christmas Vigil/Wigilia Pot Luck Dinner.**
- **December 19: Holy Mass and Anointing of the Sick, 6:15pm.**
- **December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle. Holy Mass at 8:30am.**
- **December 24: Vigil of the Nativity. Children's Vigil Holy Mass at 4pm.**
- **December 25: Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at Midnight and 10am.**
- **December 26: Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr.**
- **December 27: Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Wine**
- **December 31: Feast of the Holy Family. New Year's Eve**
- **January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Happy 2017!**

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.

Lord, save Your servants.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying: Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!

Ahaz was the King of Judah, a king in the line of David. He was a man without faith and he refused to follow the guidance of Isaiah. The prior king, Hezekiah, was a man of trusting faith and he followed Isaiah's guidance.

Now Ahaz was in trouble. King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah of Israel had joined together to attack Ahaz's capital, Jerusalem. Isaiah steps forward to assure Ahaz that they will not be successful, yet Ahaz will not believe. Rather than placing his confidence in God's word, he takes the treasures he has stolen from the temple and sends them to the king of Assyria.

Ahaz goes even further. In sending this "gift" to the king of Assyria he says: "I am your servant and your

son. Come up, and rescue me." He effectively rejects God's help and chooses a pagan king instead.

Through Isaiah, God speaks to the urgent need of trusting in His promises by issuing a threat: "If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all." Isaiah's words speak to us too. We need to trust God, and there is inherent danger in failing to do so. Whether Ahaz stands or falls, whether we stand or fall, depends entirely on trust in God's word.

In the face of Ahaz's unbelief, his rejection, and his failure to trust, God tries one more time. He tells Ahaz – ask for anything, anything at all. God makes His divine power available to Ahaz in a limitless manner. Ahaz, however, refuses this opportunity. His unbelief is complete. His refusal to trust finally wears down God's patience. So, God gives His sign: *the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.*

At the start of Holy Mass we

placed a special focus on examining our conscience and asking God for His forgiveness. In doing so we take seriously the prophecy of Isaiah. This is a text that points to God's saving power and the surety of condemnation for unbelief. Where do we place ourselves, standing at the manger? Will we trust God and ask for the sky, or shrink away?

Today's gospel reminds us – the Messiah's coming is immanent! It is almost here!

Jesus is messianic in the fullest sense of the word – He saves, teaches, blesses, forgives, and judges. In this Advent season, we must remember that the King whose return we long for, Who we are preparing for, will return in full apocalyptic glory, as both Judge and Savior. In these last few days of Advent we are invited to hope, pray, and long for this revelation. We are invited most of all to prepare by increasing our trust in the Lord's power to save. Trust and say: Lord, save me, Your servant!

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: 1 John 5:4
MONDAY: Romans 15:13
TUESDAY: Romans 10:9
WEDNESDAY: Romans 6:23
THURSDAY: Acts 22:16
FRIDAY: John 8:24
SATURDAY: Jude 1:3

Pray

Lord, You have granted me the opportunity for salvation. Help me to repent, believe, and trust in You.

Vigil Dinner

Welcome to our annual parish vigil dinner. Today at Holy Mass we hold our annual Advent penitential service. Let us spend the week ahead preparing ourselves thorough additional reflection, prayer, and fasting. Along with the vigil dinner, we have our annual youth presentation as well as a musical presentation. Thank you for being here. Thank you also to all who helped lend a hand on Friday with cooking and decorating.

Food Drive Thank You

our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food donations amounted to 304 lbs of food that was donated to SICM. These beat last year's donations by 138 lbs. God bless you for your generosity and care for those in need in our local area.

Polish Food Sale – Thank you.

Polish food order pick up is today. Thank you to Stephanie and all who helped prepare food for our customers. thank you to all who purchased food and support our parish.

A Christmas Invitation

We will hold a Christmas Vigil Holy Mass at 4pm on Christmas Eve. The Solemn Shepherds' Holy Mass of Christmas begins at midnight. During one of the year's longest nights, we will break forth with light, song, and pronouncement to celebrate Jesus' birth. The night's liturgy begins with one of our parish's women carrying the baby Jesus to the manger. Then the manger is blessed and the Christmas proclamation is made. The Solemn Holy Mass of the Nativity follows with beautiful traditional music of the season. For those who prefer, the Holy Mass on Christmas Day will be celebrated at 10am. Whichever Holy Mass you choose, it's important that we not forget the reason for the celebration. Come to Jesus' house on His birthday (and bring family and friends) for these beautiful liturgies.

Financial Obligations and Envelopes

The end of the calendar year is approaching quickly. We close our parish books on December 31st. Please make your annual church contributions and complete payment of membership dues by that date. Tax statements will be available in January. Also, if you use parish financial envelopes, those are now available to be picked-up.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

This coming year, 2017, we will once again hold our Outrageous Valentine's raffle to support the youth of our Church and our parish, including support for the annual KURS summer encampment. Tickets have been sent out. They make great gifts as stocking or card stuffers. See Stephanie or call her at 518-369-1346.

SOCL Classes

Parents are reminded that when they had their child baptized, they vowed to have the child educated in the Christian Faith. All youth of the parish should be enrolled and attend SOCL every Sunday.

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 Węglinski, Robert Dominy, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Frances Myslinski, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Szczepkowski, Derek Westcott, Dolores Konicki, Pastor Tom Kendall, 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, Richard and Suzette Place, Amanda Carr, Tyler Hoffman, the Hoffman Family, 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 Transfiguration of Our Lord Mission, Mount Pleasantn, PA, Rev. Bruce Sleczkowski.

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

Coffee Hour: Thank you to all who assist with this ministry of hospitality. Please volunteer to help.

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. Help is always needed for SOCL especially in instructing and encouraging our youth. Please see Fr. Jim.

--- Invite friends and family to greet the Lord with you. ---