

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC
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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2013



*Wise men from the East came. Then, opening their treasures,
they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

Offering our gifts -- a new year

Welcome 2013!

This past year has been one filled with marvelous happenings, important events, and the joy of living and worshiping in a parish community that is vibrant and on fire with the love of Christ. This love has been expressed in both big and small ways. It is the hand of friendship extended to parishioners and neighbors, food and warmth provided to those in need, and the invitation and welcome offered to all in search of Christ.

On January 6th we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany commemorating the visit of the wise men. They came to Jesus bringing their gifts - a free offering of not just gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but of themselves and all they represented. They represented the nations and peoples of the world, the first Gentiles to meet Jesus who came to redeem the whole world.

As we enter the new year, we are faced with the same choices we always face. How will we respond to Jesus' coming, His act of redemption, and His offer to us - to enter into relationship with Him in a community of faith? Once made, how will we live out our decision? What gifts will we offer before Him?

Our small church, on a small street, offers us the opportunity to put our decision into action by opening our hearts to Jesus and each other. This starts in our weekly worship together; how important it is to be there to receive God's many graces. From there we take the love we have received and extended it throughout our lives, to family, friends, co-workers, and those we don't know (yet!).

Welcome 2013! Let us continue to open ourselves and our gifts to God and to each other. 2013 will be a blessed year for one very special reason -- because of you and your decision.

Next Soup on Sunday

Our next Soup on Sunday event is Sunday, January 27th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Please volunteer to assist in cooking and serving - we need your help. Also, get the word out wherever/whenever you can.



Our first Soup on Sunday garnered great exposure for our parish program in the Schenectady Gazette and Times Union, donations from the Golub Foundation and Hannaford Supermarkets, as well as support and volunteers from the local community. God bless Bob and Stephanie Dominy for their leadership in this effort and all who assisted in any way.

Soup on Sunday is scheduled for the last Sunday of every month.

Thank you, Merci, Dziękuję, Āčiū, Gracias, Mahalo, Grazie!

To all those who have worked so tirelessly over the past year: our parish officers and committee members, our jurors, representatives to Synods, bowling workers, nomination committee members, members of the ANS and choir, Mrs. Liz Battaglia for her service as our organist and music director, our altar servers, lectors, those who cared for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish facilities (Aleksandra, Pete, Bob), Ed Bertasso for his service of hospitality, our event planners and volunteers at our Basket Social,

Rummage sale, breakfasts, Soup on Sunday, other special fundraisers, and to all those who gave of their time and treasure to build up the ministry and community of our parish and the wider Church.

A special thank you to our youth and their parents/grandparents for your dedication and hard work, as well as your participation in KURS and CONVO.

May god bless and reward you for all you have done!

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

- 1 John Linscott
- 3 Logan Slezak
- 4 Zach Bixler, Zachary Prusky, Christopher Brook, Courtney Carroll
- 5 Derrick D'Amico
- 8 Alex D'Amico, Lawrence Panfil, Christine DeCocco
- 9 Theodore Zebrowski
- 11 Cyndie Williams
- 14 Karen DeMidio
- 18 Stephanie Dominy, Darian Topolski
- 22 Catherine Martucci
- 23 Christina Naumowicz, Laurie Lee Woodworth
- 25 Richard Maliszewski, Richard Okonsky
- 26 Cadence Smith
- 27 Eric Kaminski, Jack Kaminski
- 29 Judi Horton

i thank
the Lord
for you.
happy
birthday!

Wedding Anniversaries

20 Alice and George Houser

Wishing you all many years! Sto
Lat!

Epiphany Visitations - Kolęda - House Blessings

The Solemnity of the
Epiphany is celebrated on
Friday, January 6th.

Deacon Jim is
available to come
to your homes for
the traditional
Epiphany home
blessing. Please
see him to
make an
appointment.

Blessing appointments are available
through February 12th (prior to Ash
Wednesday).

To prepare your home for the
blessing please have the blessed
chalk and incense available as well
as your blessed candle, gromnica.



Poetry for the Month

The Three Kings by Adam
Zagajewski

We'll arrive too late...

—André Frenaud, "The Three Kings"

*If it hadn't been for the desert and
laughter and music—
we'd have made it, if our yearning
hadn't mingled with the highways'
dust.*

*We saw poor countries, made still
poorer*

*by their ancient hatred;
a train full of soldiers and refugees
stood waiting at a burning station.
We were heaped with great honors
so we thought—perhaps one of us
really is a king?
Spring meadows detained us,
cowslips,
the glances of country maidens
hungry for a stranger's love.
We made offerings to the gods, but
we don't know
if they recognized our faces
through the flame's honey-gold veil.
Once we fell asleep and slept for
many months,
but dreams raged in us, heavy,
treacherous,
like surf beneath a full moon.
Fear awakened us and again we
moved on,
cursing fate and filthy inns.
For four years a cold wind blew,
but the star was yellow, sewn
carelessly
to a coat like a school insignia.
The taxi smelled of anise and the
twentieth century,
the driver had a Russian accent.
Our ship sank, the plane shook
suddenly.
We quarreled violently and each of
us
set out in search of a different hope.
I barely remember what we were
looking for
and I'm not sure if a December
night
will open up some day like
a camera's eye.
Perhaps I'd be happy, live content
if it weren't for the light that
explodes*

*above the city walls each day
at dawn, blinding my desire.*

Where Charity lives, Love prevails

In scripture, the word charity is synonymous with love. Here's what your Advent charity/love has accomplished: Nearly \$400 raised toward the purchase of a well for people in need of fresh water. The provision of 4 pair of mittens, 27 pair of gloves, 34 hats, 3 scarves, and 202 pounds of food. Our first ever Soup on Sunday to provide nourishment and friendship to those in need. Thank you for sacrificing and honoring the time of preparation for God's coming. You have blessed those in need through your efforts.

Time for a career choice or a change in careers?



Perhaps you are nearing graduation from college, perhaps seriously considering retirement, perhaps -- you just need to finally make that break into doing something that fulfills on a deeper level. If so, now is the time to take the plunge into that vocation that God has put in front of you. You just have to pick it up and run with it.

Studies for the diaconate program in the PNCC are held locally. Studies for the priesthood, at the

Savonarola Theological Seminary are currently offered. Full scholarships are available. If God is reaching out for you, He wants you. If the coach is calling you into the game, He needs you. Pick up the ball and run with it.

Planning Ahead:

- Jan 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision - Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 10am.
- Jan. 2: Solemnity: Holy Name - our Parish Feast - Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 7:30pm.
- Jan. 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord - Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 9:30am. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense starting at 11am.
- Jan. 13: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, Parish Committee Meeting
- Jan. 15: 40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service, 7pm at the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church 105 Second St., Albany, 12210
- Jan. 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan. 20: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Jan. 27: Septuagesima Sunday, beginning of Pre-Lent, Music Scholarship Sunday
- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation

- Feb. 3: Sexagesima Sunday, Commemoration of St. Blaise, Blessing of Throats, **Annual Parish Meeting & Elections**
- Feb. 10: Quinquagesima Sunday
- Feb. 12: Ash Wednesday, Beginning of the Great Lent
- Feb. 16: 60th Anniversary of the death of S+P Prime Bishop Francziszek Hodur

See & Experience the Bible Like Never Before

The Bible is an epic five-week, 10 hour television mini-series premiering March 3, 2013 on the History Channel from Emmy Award winning husband and wife team, Mark Burnett and Roma Downey. For two hours each Sunday night millions of viewers will see the Bible from Genesis to Revelation come to life in a way never before seen. The final episode of the series will air on Easter Sunday and will feature the death and resurrection of Jesus. See <http://www.bibleseries.tv> for more information.

Here's an idea - invite friends over and watch together. Ask questions, discuss, then invite them to your parish and find answers to those questions and more.

Parish Organizations and Ministries

Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you?

God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in

support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. The YMSofR – Men's Society of the Resurrection, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. We also need altar servers and lectors. Please see Deacon Jim.

Things we can do in 2013

Based on input from our parishioners and friends - here are some things we can do in 2013:

- staging a youth play on our re-constituted stage,
- holding open mic poetry and music nights,
- a craft fair, and
- a Spring rummage sale

Your ideas are welcome and encouraged as well.

Music Scholarship Sunday

Sunday, January 27th is Music Scholarship Sunday. Our parish has been blessed with great musicians and aspiring musicians. Our younger members have been recipients of music scholarships.

Scholarships are available to both youth and adults. 2013 scholarship applications will be available soon. Celebrate our Church musicians this day and pray for those who add such beauty to our worship and communal life.



Envelopes Available

God bless you for your generosity and support of our parish in 2012. Because of you and your sacrifice we have been greatly blessed. Donation envelopes for 2013 have arrived and are available in the back of the church. Each packet is marked with a family name. Please take your packet home and avail yourself of these envelopes in the coming year. Doing so allows the parish to provide you with a statement for accounting and income tax purposes.

Parish Offices

Our annual congregation meeting will be held on February 3rd along with the election of a new Parish Committee. So much good has been accomplished in 2012 – and it will be a great meeting filled with thankfulness for the many blessings we have experienced - especially for the blessing of having you in our family of faith!!! If you or someone you know would like to be part of the leadership team, please write your name, theirs, or better yet, both of yours down along with the office (Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Secretary, Trustee) you would like to run for and drop them in the collection basket in an envelope marked nominations.

Anyone may attend the annual meeting to share in the information provided, but please note that only parish members may cast a vote or run for office.

Membership

Many have fought through the years to maintain and strengthen the democratic tradition of our Holy Church. Our Church is unique among all Churches in this regard - where members have a voice and a vote, where they are guaranteed accountability, where money doesn't go into hidden accounts, and where no one can close their parish.

Parish membership requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church, our Diocese, and our Parish. Dues are \$92 per year for adult members, \$67 for seniors 65 and over. Payment of dues gives you a voice and a vote and the ability to run for a position on the Parish Committee. It also allows you to represent the parish and vote at Diocesan and General Church Synods.

Our Church Constitution states:

In administrative, managerial and social matters, this Church derives its authority from the people who build, constitute, believe in, support and care for it. It is a fundamental principle of this Church that all Parish property, whether the same be real, personal, or mixed, is the property of those united with the Parish who build and support this Church and conform to the Rite, Constitution, Principles, Laws, Rules, Regulations, Customs and Usages of this Church.

January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Solemnity of the Circumcision, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 10am	2 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Parish Feast, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 7:30pm	3	4	5
6 Solemnity of the Epiphany, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Holy Mass, 11 am Lector: Marilyn Heitala	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Larry Panfil Parish Committee Meeting	14	15	16	17	18 St. Peter's Chair at Antioch Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins	19
20 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Claudia Bertasso 40th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service, 7pm	21	22	23	24	25 Conversion of St. Paul Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends	26
27 Music Scholarship Sunday Septuagesima Sunday - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Marilyn Heitala Soup on Sunday, 11:30-1:30	28	29	30	31		

EVENTS

Parish Feast, Jan. 2nd

Come worship and pray at 7:30pm for blessings received and for all our needs.

Epiphany, Jan. 6th

Blessing of Chalk, Incense, Charcoal, and gold

February Upcoming

Feb. 2nd – Presentation
Feb. 3rd – Annual Parish Meeting
Feb 12th – Ash Wednesday