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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2014



"Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people"

Can we get a glimpse of heaven?

God has promised us an eternal dwelling place with Him. How do we picture this eternal dwelling place? Will we be all smashed together before the throne of God? Will we be wandering through green fields? Will we be hanging out with all of our loved ones? What will it be like?

The Book of Revelation uses lots of metaphors for heaven. It will be beautiful: *The material of the wall is jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass...* It will definitely be a place of peace and security: *And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain.*

The most important fact is that in heaven we will be one with God. He is there, among His people dwelling with them in unbroken and unhindered fellowship. It will be a friendship, a love, a closeness we cannot even imagine. We will know God. We will see Him face-to-face.

There is no love quite like it on earth.

Jesus has promised that He was going to prepare this place of beauty, peace, friendship, love, and closeness for us. He pledged to come back and take us there.

How can we prepare for this? How can we get a glimpse of this kind of beauty, peace, friendship, love, and closeness? It comes from our fellowship here on earth. If we live in the family of faith, if we come together in fellowship and worship in His Holy Church, if we live by Jesus' teaching and do His will - not alone but together - we will be prepared, we will get a glimpse.

By living in Jesus' family here and now we will feel bound to heaven. Our Father, our Savior, our home, our name, our life, our affections, our hearts, our inheritance, and our citizenship is in heaven. Let us join our lives together and increase our family of faith right here and now so we get that glimpse of heaven.

The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

February 2014 – the month of love. Thank you to all who purchased and donated tickets for our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle. Your generosity and support helps our young people attend the annual KURS summer encampment and CONVO 2014 at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio.

We wish you the best of luck this month. We will send winners their checks right away and will announce all the winners in March's newsletter.

"SON OF GOD" THE MOVIE

20th Century Fox announced that *Son of God*, the film based on History Channel's miniseries *The Bible*, will open wide in U.S. theaters on Feb. 28, 2014.

The 10-hour miniseries *The Bible*, which many of us watched last Lent, produced by husband-and-wife team Mark Burnett and Roma Downey, was a breakout hit for the History Channel. The miniseries averaged 15 million viewers per episode and earned three Emmy nominations.

The big-screen treatment will follow Jesus from his birth through his crucifixion and resurrection.

Portuguese actor Diogo Morgado is starring. The film will feature selections from the miniseries plus additional scenes that were left on the cutting room floor.

"We are very excited to be working with 20th Century Fox to release *Son of God* as a major motion picture," said Downey and Burnett in a statement. "We responded to an overwhelming demand for the greatest story ever told to be seen as a shared experience on the big screen. The result is a beautiful stand-alone movie. It's the story of Jesus for a whole new generation."

If anyone would like to go see the film "*Son of God*" together, just let Deacon Jim know. We will set a date and go to the movie.

Taking Action for Mont Pleasant Middle School

Good things happen when the community gets together and our parish community is doing good for our local community!

The parish is hosting a Community Meeting and Discussion focused on Taking Action for Mont Pleasant Middle School on Sunday, February 9th at 2:30pm. This meeting will focus on community action to encourage our youth, promote success, stop violence, and get the resources our children deserve!

This meeting is for Parents, Families, and Community Members. All are invited to come and hear from educational experts and ask questions. Coffee, Soda, and Desserts will be served.

Join fellow community members and educators on Sunday, February 9th at 2:30pm at church.

Soup on Sunday

Our next Soup on Sunday, featuring chicken soup, is Sunday, February 16th from 11:30am until 1:30pm.

We offer free soup and more for anyone in need - whether its warmth, food, friendship, or just some company. Please help spread the word. Grab a flyer and post it in local markets and shops.

God bless all who work so hard to serve those in need - without cost or requirement. We especially thank Bob & Stephanie Dominy for their leadership!!!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Be part of a movement that is sharing God's love with those in need.

For the 13th year in a row, our parish is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Through the Souper Bowl of Caring we are providing food help for those in need in our local community. We ask for your support and deeply appreciate your generosity!

Your monetary and food donations in church on Super Bowl Sunday - February 2nd will support the work of Schenectady Inner City Ministry.

Scripture asks us to be attentive to the needs of others. *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. —*

Matthew 25:35

In 2013 more than 7,000 groups participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$7.3 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. Since 1990, more than \$97 million has been collected for hunger-relief charities across the country. We are part of that. Souper Bowl Sunday has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Pre-Lent to Lent

Lent doesn't begin until Ash Wednesday, March 5th (late start this year!). The Pre-Lenten season begins February 16th. As we begin to consider our lenten journey consider those practices that are worthy and recommended by the Holy Church including fasting, and charity through our directed giving food program.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

- 1 Janet Spurck
- 2 Christine Spooner, Jean Martin
- 5 Suzanne Heins, Kathleen Dominy-White
- 9 Christine Caden
- 11 Bob Shufelt, Justice Smith, Joseph Ruchalski
- 12 Kristen Smith-Prusky
- 16 Celina Maliszewski
- 18 Paul Podkulski

20 Kelly Supinski, Lisa Kaminski
21 - Casey Carroll
28 - Patrick Clas

Wedding Anniversaries

14 Frederick & Louise James
17 Tom & Kelly Supinski
18 Stefan & Elizabeth Węglinski
26 Michael & Kimberly DonVito

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

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

To all who have assisted in Parish clean up and organizational duties. Much has been accomplished and your energy and enthusiasm for this task is a blessing.

To all who assisted in the taking down of our Christmas decorations.

To our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to Ed Bertasso for his ministry of hospitality.

To all who have welcomed me to your homes for Epiphany visitations/ Kolęda. Your hospitality and graciousness are greatly appreciated. You are a blessing.

To all who continue to pray, sacrifice, and serve in Christian love and charity on behalf of our parish.

To every parishioner, visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure.

Epiphany Visitations - Kolęda - House Blessings

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 March 4th (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.

Please Help

Basket Social - April 6th

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social to be held April 6th. We really need your help to make this year's Social a success. Can you donate a basket, or two, or three? They don't have to be huge - anything will do. Through your love and charity we are able to touch the lives of others and maintain a vibrant faith community. Need ideas - check out Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cm1953/basket-party-ideas/>

Ascetics of the Orthodox Church for the Month

Brothers and Sisters! The all-merciful God desires happiness for us both in this life and in the life to come. To this end He established His Holy Church, so that she might cleanse us from sin, sanctify us, reconcile us with Him and give us a heavenly blessing. The embrace of the Church is always open to us. Let us all hasten their more quickly, we whose consciences are burdened. Let us hasten, and the Church will lift the weight of our burdens, give us boldness before God, and fill our hearts with happiness and blessedness. (St. Nectarius of Aegina)

One should not seek among others the truth that can be easily gotten from the Church. For in her, as in a rich treasury, the apostles have placed all that pertains to truth, so that everyone can drink this beverage of life. She is the door of life. (St. Irenaeus of Lyons)

When are we living in Christ? When we live according to His Gospel and His Church. For He Himself, and not only His Gospel, is in the Church with all of His perfections and virtues. The Church is the eternally living Body of the God-man Christ. In her we find the medium of the

holy mysteries. In her we find the means of holy good deeds. Our Lord Jesus Christ abides inseparable from the Church in this world. He abides with each member of the Church throughout all ages. He has His entire self for us in the Church, and continually gives Himself to us entirely, so that we might be enabled to live in this world as He lived. (St. Justin Popovich)

SOCL News and Confirmation

Be sure to bring your children for School of Christian living classes. Our youngest ones have story time, we are starting a First Communion class, and are continuing our Confirmation class. Class remains open to others who have not yet made their confirmation. To make ones confirmation, a student must be at least 14 years old and of sufficient maturity to grasp the adult commitment needed.

Planning For:

- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation, blessing of candles (gromnica) and throats. Annual congregational meeting and elections.
- Feb. 9: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Mont Pleasant M.S. Community Meeting at 2:30pm.
- Feb. 16: Septuagesima Sunday, 61st Anniversary of the death of S +P Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, Soup on Sunday
- Feb. 17: President's Day

- Feb. 23: Sexagesima Sunday
 - Feb. 24: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
 - Feb. 28: Son of God Movie opens.
 - Mar. 2: Quinquagesima Sunday, Annual Budget Meeting.
 - Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday, Beginning of the Great Lent. Service at 7:30pm.
 - Mar. 9: 1st Sunday of Lent/ Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC. Daylight Savings Time begins.
 - Mar. 16: 2nd Sunday of Lent, Soup on Sunday
 - Mar. 19: Solemnity - St. Joseph
- Looking further ahead
- Apr. 6: Passion Sunday, Basket Social
 - Apr. 13: Palm Sunday
 - Apr. 20: Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter
 - May 2-4: "Our Faith Through the Years," Fourteenth National Mission & Evangelism Workshop, Woonsocket, RI
 - May 17: 86th Annual Track and Field Meet, Scranton, PA
 - 6/6-8 - 69th Annual YMSofR Bowling Tournament, Sterling Heights, MI.

Need Rental Space?

Family gathering, a party, meetings? Check out our Parish Hall. Discounted rental rates are available to parishioners.

DID YOU KNOW?

2014 is the 100th Anniversary of our Confession of Faith. If you haven't read it in quite a while, check out a copy from our parish library.

In 1953, Bishop Francis Hodur passed from this world and on to eternal life with Christ. He died at the age of 86. At the age of 30 he assumed the demanding role of serving as the pastor of an independent Catholic parish, which became the springboard for the rise of an independent Catholic Church - the PNCC. He died just shy of the 56th anniversary of his ministry to our Holy Church and its people. He died with only enough money to pay for his funeral. Everything he had - body, soul and treasure - he gave to the Church. We will offer special requiem prayers on Sunday, February 16th in his memory and honor.

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Solemnity of the Presentation, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, Blessing of Candles/Throats 9:30am Lector: Marilyn Heitala Annual Parish Meeting	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Fifth Sunday in ordinary Time, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Larry Panfil Community Meeting, 2:30pm	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Septuagesima Sunday - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Claudia Bertasso 61st Anniversary of the death of S+P Prime Bishop Francziszek Hodur. Soup on Sunday, 11:30-1:30 Parish Committee Meeting	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 Sexagesima Sunday, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Marilyn Heitala	24 Feast - St. Matthias	25	26	27	28	

EVENTS

March Upcoming

2nd – Quinquagesima Sunday, Annual Budget Meeting

5th – Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

April Upcoming

Apr. 6th – Basket Social