

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
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# **NEWSLETTER**

# **DECEMBER**

# **2016**



SHOUT, AND SING FOR JOY, O INHABITANT OF ZION, FOR  
GREAT IN YOUR MIDST IS THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.

Last year we dedicated ourselves to focusing on joy. In the spirit of one liturgical and calendar year ending and the next beginning, let's look back.

We began last year in Advent, a season of anticipatory joy. Fitting for us as Christians - God's children - we awaited the best present ever. Then came that day standing at the stable, looking upon the baby Jesus and living the forty days of joyful celebration that followed. Knowing Jesus is always in our midst as well as newly with us.

From there we entered the seasons of Septuagesima and Lent. While reflective and sacrificial, they filled us with the joy that comes from the cleansing we engaged in. Washed, we stood at the empty tomb. We walked with the Risen One carried solemnly through the church, singing songs of praise, joy, and resurrection. Our debts are paid and we are truly free. Heaven is our inheritance to grasp.

In May we recalled Mary's joyful

acceptance of the Father's will. Sure, she was scared, but she knew that with God she really had nothing to fear. She found her joy.

Summer was excellent - the youth of our Church gathering at Kurs and CONVO. Can you feel the joy we did in seeing youth and young adults dedicated to Jesus and His Church? Nothing fake, no phonies - they know the joy that comes from being Jesus' brothers and sisters.

Of course there was the joy of the harvest, the celebratory moments as we all worked together to build up the parish and our Holy Church. The events we attended, the ecumenical celebrations and witness we undertook all year.

We entered November, honoring the saints and remembering that death is not an end, but a beginning, a new birth into everlasting joy.

Here we are - at the start - again reconnecting, celebrating, and knowing endless joy. Time to smile, shed a tear of joy at the stable, and look ahead.

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## 2ND ANNIVERSARY - ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

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I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood two years (wow - plural) ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas). This year has flown by, and has been marked once again by joys, challenges - the stuff of life. Through it all, the greatest joy comes as I stand before the altar and offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for each and every one of you, for the good of our parish, and for the needs of the whole Church. Thank you for inviting me into your parish family and for the opportunity to serve you. — Fr. Jim

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### **New Liturgical Year**

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Readings from Scripture are part of every Holy Mass and hold a very special place of prominence in our Holy Church – for through the proclamation and teaching of the Word we receive sacramental grace.

The Sunday cycle of readings is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. A new cycle begins every First Sunday of Advent. Last Sunday we entered Year A. In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of Matthew.

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### **Advent Charity - food gathering**

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We began collecting dry and canned goods in November for Schenectady Inner City Ministries. We will

continue collecting donations throughout Advent, ending on December 18th. Please join in making a joyful and prayerful donation in thankfulness for the bounty God has provided in our lives. Please place your donation by the Mary altar in the church. God bless you for your generosity and sacrifice in preparation for Jesus' coming.

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### **Blessing of Oplátky and the Advent Wreath**

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On the First Sunday of Advent we blessed our Advent wreath and the "Bread of Angels," the oplátky that we will share with each other on



Christmas Eve. Oplátky will be available for you to take home throughout Advent and the Christmas Vigil.

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### **Vigil pot-luck, musical, and student Christmas presentation - December 18th**

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Our annual Christmas Vigil / Wigilia pot-luck will be held on Sunday, December 18th following **Holy Mass**. The parish is providing the main fish course for you. Please join us, and if you are able, bring a meatless side-dish to share. Our SOCL students will present a short

play for your reflection and enjoyment. Our brother, Derek Westcott will present two musical pieces he has been working on for months. Come see and support them.

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## Pierogi and Golumbki

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The parish is selling pierogi (\$7/dz.) and golumbki (\$3 ea. or \$25/dz.). Orders may be submitted through December 12th and will be ready for pickup on December 18th from 10:30am-2pm. Please contact Stephanie at 518-369-1346 or 518-512-3030 to place your order.

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## Cooking and Greening of the Church - December 16th

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Please join in and lend a hand on Friday December 16th at 9am. We will be preparing golumbki and decorating the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King.

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## Memory Crosses

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Holy Name of Jesus is continuing a tradition begun at Good Shepherd Parish in Amsterdam. Every year the people of Good Shepherd parish would offer memory crosses during the Advent season. These hand crocheted memory crosses, in honor of dearly departed loved ones, are hung on the parish Christmas trees throughout the Christmas season.

Then in January a special Holy Mass is held in memory of those entrusted to our prayers.

Memory Crosses are a beautiful tribute of memory and a gift of loving prayer. If you wish to remember someone special during the upcoming Christmas season please send the names of those you



wish remembered, one name per memory cross, to the parish. You may offer a free will donation in honor of your loved ones. A donation of \$2 per memory cross is suggested.

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## Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

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We will be sending out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle. Prizes total \$1,180. Each entry gives one multiple chances to win. Every time someone wins, their ticket is placed 'back in the bucket.' Daily prizes are \$40 and the Valentine's Day prize is \$100.

This effort is so very important this year so that we - as a family - may send our youth to all of the Church's Summer 2017 programs and save money for CONVO 2018.

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## Holy Mass Intentions

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Reminder... you can ask Father Jim to offer Holy Mass for any intention. Just see Fr. Jim and let him know what you want.

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## **With Thanks**

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For all who prepared for and worked at our Seniorate Thanksgiving celebration. The food, fellowship, and the centrality of our thanks filled worship showed forth the nature of our family in the faith. Over \$300 was raised in support of Patty's Place, a shelter and set of services for women of the street. A special thank you to Stephanie Dominy and her team for the wonderful dinner, to all who offered desserts, salads, and other goodies, and to all who assisted with set-up and break down afterward.

To all parents and grandparents who have included their beautiful children in our parish community.

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

To the members of our Parish Committee for their hard work and sacrifice!!!!

To our wonderful altar servers, lectors, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to all who provide for our ministry of hospitality.

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

God bless you and reward you! Bóg zapłać! Grazie mille! Thank you!!!

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## **Coffee Hour/Breakfasts**

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Coffee hours continue after services

each week. Come and share worship and wonderful treats with fellowship every week. Volunteer to sponsor a week.

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## **Schenectady County's Roots - Help**

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The "Project To Discover Schenectady County's Eastern European Roots" has a regular newsletter. The group led by Phyllis Budka, who visited with us and shared pictures with us, would appreciate it if a family or two would share a family story. The next deadline is January 1st. They will also feature a story on Bishop Padewski of our Church. You can contact Phyllis by E-mail at [abudka@nycap.rr.com](mailto:abudka@nycap.rr.com). Phyllis can also assist with genealogical studies.

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## **Epiphany Home Visits**

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We continue the wonderful tradition of offering home visits and blessings for those who would like them.

It is an ancient custom for Christians to have their homes blessed in relation to the feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the coming of the Wisemen to the house of the Holy Family.

*"and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)*

The Magi came to the house of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph and filled it with blessings. The home blessing



sets apart your home as a place of Christian Hospitality and blessing for your family and all those who visit in

the New Year. By such an action you are saying, "May those who visit our home, also find Christ here in our midst." Please see Fr. Jim to set aside a time.

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### Planning For:

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- December 4: 2nd Sunday of Advent/Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra.
- December 8: Feast of Divine Love/Conception of the B.V.M.
- December 11: 3rd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- December 12: Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm.
- December 16: Golumbki making and Greening of the Church at 9am.
- December 18: 4th Sunday of Advent. **Holy Mass with Advent Penitential Service at 10:30.** Youth Christmas and Musical Performances and Parish Vigil Pot-luck follows.
- 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 (**bring a bottle or two to be blessed**).
- 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!
- January 2: Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 10am.
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at 7pm.
- January 8: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- January 9: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 8:30am. YMS of R Night Out at 6pm.

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### Milestones to Celebrate:

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#### Birthdays

- 2 Christina Supinski, Dorothy Morrison, Lisa Houser
- 3 Claudia Bertasso
- 4 Mikayla Jakubiak

5 Stephen Martin  
6 Justin Weglinski  
7 Helen & Paul Zebrowski  
9 Christine Rager  
10 Andrew Zostant  
13 Justin Kimball, Aleksandra  
Wheelock, Karina Weglinski  
14 Susan Dantz, Veralyn Vroman  
15 Nancy Fredenburg  
16 Bethany Victoria Normandin  
19 Carol Kupiec, Frances Liska,  
Darian DePasquale  
23 Michael Mazzone  
24 Edward Jakubiak  
25 Jesus, Matthew Seidel  
28 Denise Meyers  
30 Kailyn White

#### Anniversaries

19 Bob & Cyndie Williams

Wishing you all many years! Sto  
Lat!

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### **The Sunday Invitation**

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*"The Lord is about to enter his temple, and appear before us. He has invited all to the feast. Come! Join in the banquet of life. Sit at the table of love prepared for you." – from an ancient Armenian hymn.*

This joyful invitation is something that we must put first as the priority in our lives. The most important and treasured event of our life is to be experienced each Lord's Day (Sunday). Our duty is to never leave our seat empty at the Lord's Banquet.

What could be considered more important than to be present at the

*"banquet of life at the table of love"*  
in the presence of the Lord?

When we accept Christ's invitation, we give Him the message that He is our priority, that His way of life is our way of life, and that we are His thankful, i.e., "Eucharistic" people.

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### **College Stipends**

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Now is the time for all students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post-secondary certificate to apply for the PNU stipend. The criteria for the stipend application is as follows:

- A student currently enrolled in a college or university, part-time or full-time;
- A member of the PNU having a life insurance policy – current paying, single premium, or fully paid-up and in good standing for at least 5 years; and
- Current enrollment for academic year (2016/2017) – effective December 1st - April 15th.

This is a great opportunity for our families and students to research and review the benefits of being a member within the PNU and see what this commission represents so they can become the future leaders within our church community! The Education and Youth Stipend Application form can be downloaded from the PNU website, [www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org).

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## **YMSofR Invitation**

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The YMSofR of Blessed Virgin Mary of Częstochowa parish invites all the men of our parish to their annual holiday night out on Monday, January 9th starting at 6pm at the Italian American Club, Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY. The cost is the same as last year, \$25/guest.

Monday is two for one night and that covers the great buffet, tip. Soda and coffee included; adult beverages are on your own. Please let Fr. Jim know if you can attend.

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## **Annual dues**

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What do you think about Church dues? Do you think this is something the priests and bishops impose? Do you think it is too much of a burden?

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**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PAY YOUR  
DUES**

**We set the dues:** Dues are established at Holy Synod by our peers, our elected representatives. Dues are never imposed by the clergy. The people of the Church, in accordance with our democratic tradition, establish the dues necessary to keep the Church and diocese running and solvent.

**What happens without dues?** The Church would go bankrupt and would dissolve. It could not operate at the most basic level.

**Well, my parish will stay open,**

**won't it?** No! Without the Church and diocese there can be no parish. We would be without bishops, priests, and all the basics needed to carry on worship. We would no longer have a mandate nor legal authority to exist.

**Well, it is soooo much!** Not really. Dues amount to \$2.88 per week per member. Is the Church worth that much? It is certainly worth far more than that.

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 all 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.

Membership and the benefits of church membership, including burial in parish cemeteries requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church, our Diocese, and our Parish.

**Dues are now \$150 per year for each adult member, \$125 for each senior 65 and over.**

Pay your dues with joy and thank God that we have our Church. If anyone faces such severe financial difficulties that \$2.88 per person per week is unaffordable, please see Fr. Jim privately.

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## Nominations/Annual Meeting

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Our annual congregation meeting will be held in late January/early February 2017 along with the election of a new Parish Committee. So much good has been accomplished this year - 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.

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## Parish Organizations and Ministries

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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. Please join in and ask how you might help.

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## God's Field Subscriptions

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God's Field annual subscriptions are available to individuals in hard copy format. The subscription rate is \$48.00 per year for 12 issues.

Those who wish to receive an annual hard copy subscription to God's Field should send a check or money order in USD, payable to God's Field, along with current name and full mailing address. Please include zip+4 (U.S.) to ensure delivery of your subscription; if you do not include a complete, valid mailing address including zip+4 or postal code we cannot guarantee delivery by the Post Office.

Individual and annual subscription prepayments should be sent to:

God's Field, 1006 Pittston Ave.,  
Scranton, PA 18505.

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## Thought for Advent

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- The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry;
- the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who is naked;
- the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot;
- the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor;
- the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit."

—St. Basil the Great

# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso	5	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra	7	8 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M./Feast of Divine Love	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso	12 Parish Committee Meeting, 7pm	13	14	15	16 Golombki Making and Greening of the Church at 9am	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10:30am. Lector: Marilyn Hietala.  Free Lunch on Sunday Vigil Pot Luck, Youth Christmas and Musical Presentations	19 Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm	20	21 Feast – St. Thomas. Holy Mass at 8:30am	22	23	24 Vigil of the Nativity <b>Vigil Holy Mass for Children &amp; Youth at 4pm</b>
25 Solemnity of the Nativity <b>Holy Mass at Midnight</b> Lector: Larry Panfil <b>Holy Mass, 10am</b>	26 Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr	27 Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Wine.	28 Commemoration – Holy Innocents	29	30	31 Feast of the Holy Family. New Year's Eve

## Events

January 2017 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am/Happy 2017!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Holy Mass at 10am.
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm.
- 8th – Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds, Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am.
- 9th - Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 8:30am. YMS of R Night Out at 6pm.
- 18th – 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity