

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2014



I CAME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT ABUNDANTLY.

Church, what a concept! We can just hear people saying that these days. Frankly, we cannot blame them. Too often church conjures up thoughts of judgment and books of rules so thick you would need a reinforced wall of shelves to hold them all. No joy.

As we begin our Advent journey toward the Lord's Nativity - Christmas - we read from the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah lived in a time of great turmoil. He encountered the Lord in a vision, the Lord enthroned in glory. The majesty, holiness and glory of the Lord took possession of his spirit and he instantly recognized the huge gap between God's perfection and human pettiness and sinfulness. How could humanity possibly approach the great goodness of God? Are we doomed to suffer and live in sadness because of this vast gap? Are those Churches that focus on the negative right?

Isaiah had an answer. No! God Himself would close the gap. He would reconcile the world in Himself

and bring us complete joy.

God kept His promise, what Isaiah saw came to pass in a stable in Bethlehem. The Lord of the universe came among us to close the gap. He came to let us know that life was not about judgment and books of rules. Life is about a joyous relationship with the Lord - one that will last forever - and a joyous relationship with all of our brothers and sisters. That relationship is lived in the Church.

Human pettiness and sinfulness are not our end if we trust in the Lord, if we come to the stable and let Him know that we are ready to have the life He offers. It is an abundant, fulfilling, and joy-filled life.

So, let us begin in this season of Advent preparation. Let us find those places where we fall short in our relationship with the Lord and each other, those places where we make our turmoil greater than God's power to overcome it. Let us make ourselves ready in the community of Church so we can come to the stable ready to live life abundantly.

ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

Deacon Jim's ordination to the Holy Priesthood has been scheduled for Saturday, December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas) at 10am at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA followed by a luncheon reception. The future Father Jim's first Holy Mass will then take place on Sunday, December 7th (the Second Sunday of Advent) at 2pm followed by a dinner sponsored by the parish. We expect Prime Bishop Anthony to join us on this wonderful occasion.

We invite all parishioners and friends to attend both events. Please let a parish committee member know if you would like to go to Scranton for the ordination. Please let Mrs. Stephanie Dominy know if you will attend Father Jim's first Holy Mass and the dinner to follow by calling 518-369-1346. We would appreciate your R.S.V.P. as soon as possible so enough food may be prepared.

Please continue to pray for Deacon Jim and his family as he prepares. Also pray for an increase in vocations so more men may respond to God's call.

...and after Ordination?

After Deacon Jim has been ordained to the Holy Priesthood we will be holding Holy Mass Sundays at 9:30am. We are also looking to

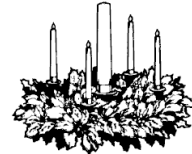
expand our Holy Mass schedule and would very much appreciate your input and feedback.

Options include holding a second Holy Mass on Sundays, perhaps at 11:30am or noon and holding a regular Holy Mass of healing (perhaps weekly) along with anointing of the sick.

We will also be holding regular private confession for youth and adults who wish to avail themselves of the beautiful Sacrament of Penance.

Please provide your feedback to a Parish Committee member or Deacon Jim.

Planning For:



- November 30: 1st Sunday of Advent/Parish Committee Meeting
- December 1: Feast - St. Andrew the Apostle (translated)
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Ordination to the Holy priesthood at 10am at St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr Cathedral in Scranton, PA
- December 7: 2nd Sunday of Advent. **Holy Mass at 2pm followed by a festive dinner and reception.**
- December 8: Feast of Divine

Love/Conception of the B.V.M.

- December 14: 3rd Sunday of Advent/Holy Mass at 9:30 am. Parish Vigil Pot-luck and Youth Christmas Performance
- December 21: 4th Sunday of Advent/Greening of the Church/ Free Lunch on Sunday
- Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle (translated)
- December 24: Vigil of the Nativity
- December 25: Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at Midnight and 2nd Holy Mass at 10:30am
- December 26: Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
- December 27: Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist - 5pm Holy Mass and Blessing of Wine
- December 28: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds/Confirmation (stay tuned)
- December 31: New Year's Eve
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision, 9:30am Holy Mass/ Happy 2015!
- January 2: Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 7pm
- January 4: Feast of the Holy Family/Confirmation (stay tuned)
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at 7pm.
- January 11: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord

New Liturgical Year

With the coming of Advent we welcome a new liturgical year – happy New Church Year! We begin use of the Year B cycle of readings.

Advent theme



This year, during Advent, we encounter Mark's gospel, engage the stories of David's family, and spend considerable time in the epistles of Ephesians, Hebrews and James. We are called to remember and celebrate the culmination of all things in Christ. Consider this Advent's readings, and the season itself, as both a challenge and an invitation. Can we see and experience the reality of Christmas?

Advent puts Christmas into its proper place, not as a comforting destination or early winter way station, but rather as nothing less than the completely disruptive

coming of God who, through His birth, has changed everything.

Advent helps us understand just how the news of the birth of Jesus we celebrate during Christmas Season is so very good. In Advent we see, decisively, how God's reign marks the breakdown and end of every other reign.

What the biblical writers knew, and we still know, is that every human reign is disordered, sinful, full of injustice and oppression. Those who hold power find ways to make their disordered reigns seem normal or even good. But those damaged by such disordered reigns — the silent or silenced ones including the poor, the sick, the dying, the outcast, the hungry and the persecuted — know in their bodies and psyches the wounds and scars of this disorder.

Advent tunes us in to their voices. Advent reminds us that the good news we seek, indeed the only really good news there is, is from God. He is our only hope and our sole destination. He is the place where there will be no more disorder, sorrow, pain, or tears.

Let this Advent disorient us from world's disordered view of "Christmastime" so that we might truly see what is beautiful and perfect.

Blessing of Opłatki and the Advent Wreath - November 30th

On the First Sunday of Advent we will bless our Advent wreath and the

"Bread of Angels," the *opłatki* that we will share with each other, family, and friends during the Christmas Vigil. *Opłatki* will be available for you to take home throughout Advent and the Christmas Vigil. Please be with us to start the new Church year off right, in a spirit of prayer, repentance, charity, and anticipation.

Advent Charity - food gathering

We began collecting dry and canned goods in November and have already delivered 125 pounds of food to Schenectady Inner City Ministries. We will continue collecting donations through Advent. Those donations go to those in need in our local community. Please join in making a 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.

Pierogi and Golumbki



The parish has a limited supply of pierogi (\$7/dz.) and golumbki (\$3 ea. or \$25/dz.) available for purchase. Orders will be ready for pickup on

December 21st from 10:30-2:30.

Please contact Stephanie at 518-369-1346 or 518-512-3030 to place your order.

Vigil pot-luck and student Christmas presentation - December 14th



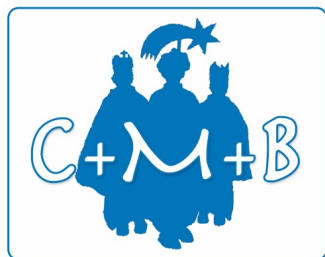
Our annual Christmas Vigil / Wigilia pot-luck will be held on Sunday, December 14th following **Holy**

Mass at 9:30am. 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 musical selections and readings for your enjoyment. Come see and support them.

Greening of the Church - December 21st

Please join in and lend a hand after services on December 21st so that we might prepare the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King.

Epiphany Home Visits



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 Deacon Jim to set aside a time.

With Thanks

To all who attended our Pampered Chef party and purchased items in support of our parish. God bless your generosity and your kitchens in the use of these wonderful items.

To all parents and grandparents who have included their beautiful children in our parish community. We are overjoyed by their presence and sweet voices.

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, lecturers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to Ed Bertasso and 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!!!

Memory Crosses



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.

Milestones to Celebrate:

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!

Coffee Hour/Breakfasts

Coffee hours continue after services each week. Come and share worship and wonderful treats with fellowship every week.

Saint of the Month - St. Nicholas - generous tough guy

St. Nicholas was born during the third century in the village of Patara. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. His work for the Church was marked by two important facets of his personality.

Nicholas was generous. He used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He was known for his generosity to the those in need, his love for children, and his concern for working people, particularly sailors.

Nicholas witnessed strongly. He endured suffering for his faith, and was exiled and imprisoned. He also defended it against all who would attack the truths of our faith. At the Council of Nicaea in 325 he confronted the heretic Arias who taught that Jesus was not equal to God the Father. When Arias unceasingly confronted Nicholas, Nicholas slapped him.

Nicholas died December 6, 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church. The commemoration of his holy death on December 6th is

honored by our Holy Church and his commemoration was chosen by our Prime Bishop and Diocesan Bishop for Deacon Jim's ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

May the example of St. Nicholas continue to infuse our lives with generosity and strength in defending the Holy faith.

You revealed yourself, O saint, in Myra as a priest, For you fulfilled the Gospel of Christ by giving up your soul for your people, and saving the innocent from death. Therefore you are blessed as one become wise in the grace of God.

Annual dues

\$
**KEEP
CALM
AND
PAY YOUR
DUES**

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 requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church, our Diocese, and our Parish.

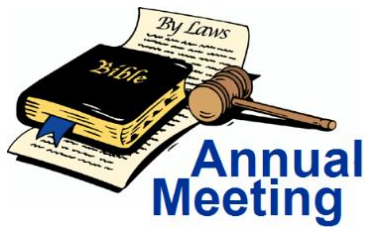
During Holy Synod the people of the

Church voted to increase dues by \$45 per year (really only 86 cents per week). If anyone has trouble meeting this obligation please let Deacon Jim know privately and we will work with you.

Dues are now \$137 per year for adult members, \$112 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.

Nominations/Annual Meeting



Our annual congregation meeting will be held in January 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.

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. Please join in and ask how you might help.

Of blessed memory - Edward Panfil



Lifelong parishioner and member of our Holy Church, śp. Edward Panfil, 95, passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on Friday, November 14th. Ed was a gentle, caring man who loved his family and was faithful to his Church. Born and raised in Schenectady, NY, he was the son of the late śp. Lawrence and śp. Catherine (Mortka) Panfil. In addition to his parents, Edward was predeceased by his wife, śp. Josephine (Kopec) Panfil; and his sisters, śp. Florence Panfil, śp. Gladys Ordyk, śp. Emily Kopec, and śp. Nellie Kosiba.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and may the perpetual light shine upon him.

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Feast – St. Andrew (translated)	2	3	4 Commemoration – St. Barbara	5	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA, 10am
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass, 2pm Lector: Larry Panfil Banquet	8 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M./Feast of Divine Love	9	10	11	12	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass, 9:30am Lector: Marilyn Heitala Vigil Pot Luck, Youth Christmas Presentation	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent Holy Mass, 9:30am Lector: Claudia Bertasso Greening of the Church Free Lunch on Sunday	22 Feast – St. Thomas (translated)	23	24 Vigil of the Nativity	25 Solemnity of the Nativity Holy Mass at Midnight Lector: Larry Panfil 2nd Holy Mass, 10:30am	26 Feast – St. Stephen, Proto- Martyr	27 Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist Holy Mass & Blessing of Wine, 5pm
28 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds Holy Mass, 9:30am Lector: Marilyn Heitala	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Events

January 2015 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 9:30am/Happy 2015!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Holy Mass at 7pm.
- 4th - Feast of the Holy Family, Holy Mass at 9:30am
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm.
- 11th – Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, Holy Mass at 9:30am
- 18th – 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Annual Meeting -- TBA