

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2015



HE DID THIS SO THAT NOW, THROUGH THE CHURCH

We've all gone to church. The Christmas season is prime time for going to church. Perhaps we can take a moment as we approach Christmas and say **LET US NOT GO TO CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS.**

I've been ordained for one year and I've lost my perspective? Maybe I've become a heretic or have lost my faith? I can't possibly be proclaiming the truth, can I?

What it comes down to is the difference between going and becoming.

Going to church certainly isn't a bad or terrible thing. Going offers us graces and great benefits, including the good that comes from being part of the family of faith.

In the verse above, excerpted from Ephesians 3:10, Paul tells us that "by means of," or "through the Church," something wonderful happens. Through the Church all of the great goodness God gives to us will be made real in our lives.

Jesus came, and we recall that moment so specially at Christmas,

to redeem, to save, to provide mercy, to make heaven our home, to offer grace and all the beauty and perfection His promises entail. Jesus then left us the Church to be the vehicle through which, by which, we obtain these gifts.

He did all He did so that **NOW** - through the Church - we would have all He offers us.

Each week we have a choice. This Advent and Christmas we have a choice. We can certainly go to church on our way to the many other places we may be going to. On the other hand, **LET US NOT GO TO CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS.**

Let us begin this Advent by going through the Church, by means of the the Church, to something so much greater - lives regenerated, reborn, renewed so that we may journey through Her to His great gifts this Christmas and thereafter.

Going through the Church will change us so much that no matter where we may go the gift of Jesus born anew will be made real.

1ST ANNIVERSARY - ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood one year ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas). The year has flown by, and has been marked by joys, challenges - the stuff of life. Through it all, the greatest happiness and fulfillment 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 server you.

...Anniversary Dinner

We invite all parishioners and friends to attend an anniversary dinner on Sunday, December 6th to celebrate Fr. Jim's 1st anniversary of ordination.

Join us for a Dutch Chicken Dinner on the 6th at 2pm. Please see Stephanie Dominy or call her at 518-369-1346 to let her know if you are coming. We would appreciate your R.S.V.P. as soon as possible so enough food may be prepared.

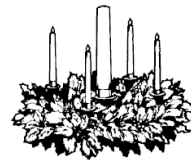
New Liturgical Year

With the coming of Advent we welcome a new liturgical year – happy New Church Year! We begin

use of the Year C cycle of readings.

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.



Blessing of Oplátky and the Advent Wreath - November 29th

On the First Sunday of Advent we will bless our Advent wreath and the "Bread of Angels," the oplátky that we will share with each other, family, and friends during the Christmas Vigil. Oplátky 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.

Vigil pot-luck and student Christmas presentation - December 13th

Our annual Christmas Vigil / Wigilia pot-luck will be held on Sunday, December 13th 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 Jesse Tree reflection for your reflection and enjoyment. Come see and support them.

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 20th from 10:30am-2pm. Please contact Stephanie at 518-369-1346 or 518-512-3030 to place your order.

Greening of the Church - December 20th

Please join in and lend a hand after services on December 20th so that we might prepare the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King.

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.



Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

We sent out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle. Prizes total \$1,220. 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 2016 programs including Kurs and CONVO.

Bible Study

The last Wednesday of each month we will hold an Ecumenical Bible Study at 7:30pm. Please stop by and join is to support this new ministry. Please plan to join us on Wednesday, December 30th.

Holy Mass Intentions

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

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, 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!!!

Coffee Hour/Breakfasts

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

Epiphany Home Visits

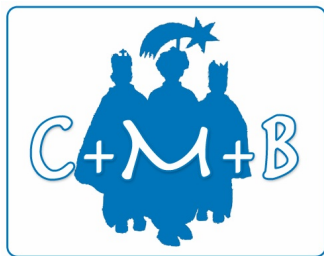
We continue the wonderful tradition of offering home visits and blessings for those who would like them.

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 Fr. Jim to set aside a time.



Planning For:

- November 29: 1st Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- November 30: Feast - St. Andrew the Apostle
- December 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent/Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Celebration Dinner at 2pm.
- December 8: Feast of Divine Love/Conception of the B.V.M.
- December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass (**Time TBD**)
- Parish Vigil Pot-luck and Youth Christmas Performance
- December 14: Holy Mass and Anointing of the Sick, 6:15pm.
- December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Greening of the Church. Free Lunch on Sunday
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle
- 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: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds/Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am with Blessing of Wine (**bring a bottle or two to be blessed**)
- December 31: New Year’s Eve
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 9:30am. Happy 2016!
- January 2: Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 4pm
- January 3: Feast of the Holy Family. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at 7pm.
- January 10: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.

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!

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 suffered for the 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.

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

Many have fought through the years to maintain and strengthen the democratic tradition of our Holy Church. Our Church is unique

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

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.

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.

God's Field Subscriptions

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.

PNU Social Memberships Now Available

A Social Membership in the Polish National Union of America is now available for \$30/year. Membership provides the following benefits:

- Access to the Straz, the official publication of the Polish National Union of America
- Ability to utilize the New Born Benefit Program.
- Access to Spojnia Credit Union (As a social member, the PNU will make a one time \$5 deposit to your initial SCU account provided that a minimum of \$100 is deposited at the time the account is opened.)
- Ability to apply for a home mortgage through the PNU. (Must be a member for a minimum of 2 years and maintain membership for the duration of the loan)
- Guaranteed issue of \$5,000 in life insurance coverage (plan of your choice) as a one application,

one time, one per life benefit regardless of multiple enrollments.

- Access to local and national membership events. The events will vary depending on the area of the country where they are being held.
- Ability to participate with voice in the governance structure of the PNU.

Membership Applications are online at PNU.org and spojniacreditunion.org. For additional information call 570-344-1513.

Year of Regeneration Update

It is more than a year since delegates to the 24th PNCC General Synod in Erie took time in prayer, reflection and visioning breakout sessions to chart a course for the future direction of our Holy Church. In December 2014 a plan for 2015 as "A Year of Regeneration" was set.

The Action Plan for 2016 will be forthcoming in the December. Thank you to everyone who through their prayers and support made "2015: A Year of Regeneration" a reality and look forward to continued and greater participation in "2016: A Year of Reverence."

To stay informed reach out to our subcommittee. We are here to help with this important work – email us at FutureDirection@pncc.org should you have any questions, concerns or challenges with this plan.

December 2015

Sunday						Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					Commemoration – St. Barbara	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2nd Sunday of Advent/Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso. Celebration Dinner at 2pm.		Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M./Feast of Divine Love				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass - TBA. Lector: Derek Westcott. Vigil Pot Luck, Youth Christmas Presentation	Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4th Sunday of Advent Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Marilyn Hietala, Claudia Bertasso. Greening of the Church Free Lunch on Sunday	Feast – St. Thomas			Vigil of the Nativity Vigil Holy Mass for Children & Youth at 4pm	Solemnity of the Nativity Holy Mass at Midnight Lector: Larry Panfil Holy Mass, 10am	Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
27	28	29	30	31		
Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds/Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am with Blessing of Wine. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso.	Commemoration – Holy Innocents		Bible Study, 7:30pm	New Year's Eve		

Events

January 2016 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 9:30am/Happy 2016!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Holy Mass at 4pm.
- 3rd - Feast of the Holy Family, Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm.
- 10th – Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, Holy Mass at 9:30am and 11:30am
- 18th – 25th Week of Prayer for Christian Unity