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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2017



LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, BELIEVES ALL THINGS, HOPES ALL THINGS,
ENDURES ALL THINGS.

Looking through scripture love is discussed in many ways. These include loving your family, yourself, neighbors and friends, enemies, and difficult people. It covers love gained and love lost. It couples love and compassion, love and forgiveness, and compares love and hate, love and jealousy.

February has been dubbed the 'month of love.' We might write that off to the candy, jewelry, and the card industry, but it is deeply rooted in Jesus.

Christians, in attempting to understand the tremendous nature of God, Who sent and sacrificed Himself out of love for us, adopted the Greek word agape to describe God's love for us and how our love is to be. Agape is love that is universal, unconditional and extraordinary. Agape is stronger than circumstances.

Thus the story of St. Valentine made perfect sense to early Christians. Constant in the stories surrounding his life was that he endured every

persecution to convert people to Christ, to bless their union, and in the end met martyrdom. He did all because he lived God's agape love.

The famous words from First Corinthians, typically read at weddings, speak of agape love in its practical application - something we are to put into action.

What am I if I do not live agape love? What skill or blessing makes sense if it is not coupled with and sourced from agape love? What will last except agape love?

With agape love we overcome all things, we bear and endure all things, we have true hope and can finally surrender and believe.

We are invited to accept God's real love and to let it envelop us. Accepting His love we are overcome by its unconditional nature. We move from saying, 'How can He love me.' to swimming in the sea of His tremendous love, letting it draw us in, allowing it to refresh and renew us and finally allowing it to become agape love in action in our lives.

Church Journey's Visit

Donna Hanson Munafo had a vision several years ago to visit a different "church" each Sunday morning and then share her experiences. After each visit she will posts her impressions and thoughts to her website at churchjourneyblog.com.

Donna's passion and purpose is to edify and encourage the churches, help bring unity to the Body of Christ and also give insight to those who have never been to a particular "church".

Donna is also leads 4ever1 music ministry and the Upstate NY Ministry Network which connects Pastors, ministry leaders and musicians in the Upstate NY area.

Donna will be visiting our parish on February 19th for 9:30am Holy Mass. Please be sure to be there to meet this wonderful woman of faith.

Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5th. There will be one Holy mass that day. Breakfast will be served. Please

make an effort to attend and share your thoughts on our parish, the Diocese, and our Holy Church.

The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

February 2017 – 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 will build our savings for CONVO 2018.

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..

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

For the 16th 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 5th will support the work of Schenectady Inner City Ministry.

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

Ash Wednesday



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 1st. Holy Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes will take

place at 7pm on the 1st. Please join us.

GOD BLESS HARPER MARIE

On January 8th we welcomed Harper Marie Heins into the family of Christ in the sacrament of regeneration – Baptism. We wish her God’s choicest blessings and offer our prayers for her entire family – particularly her dad and mom – Robert and Heather and her godparents Anthony and Suzanne.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

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

17 Tom & Kelly Supinski

18 Stefan & Elizabeth Węglinski
26 Michael & Kimbery DonVito

Wishing you all many years!

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

To Joanne and her family for preparing and running a wonderful Spaghetti dinner. Thank you so much.

To Stephanie and Bob for a wonderful monthly breakfast on January 22nd.

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 all who supplied our ministry of hospitality.

To all who have welcomed me to their 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, a treasure, and a joy!

Sad News

Our dear sister, śp. Louise James, passed away unexpectedly at her home on January 18th. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, January 25th. Eternal rest grant onto her O Lord and may the

perpetual light shine upon her.
Amen.

Epiphany Visitations - Kołęda - House Blessings

Fr. 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 28th (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 - May 7th

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social. 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/>

YEAR OF COMMITMENT UPDATE – FEBRUARY

AND STEWARDSHIP

Dear Bishops, Very Rev. and Rev. Fathers, Deacons and Faithful of our Holy Church,



As we continue in this Year of Commitment 2017 across our Holy Church this month we focus on our financial commitment to Christ and our Christian

stewardship. This is a topic that generated significant discussion at our small group break outs during our last general synod.

The Future Direction committee has created a pamphlet on Christian Stewardship in our Polish National Catholic Church. [Click here for a copy of the Christian Stewardship Pamphlet.](#)

Parish Stewardship:

Generosity is one of the primary ways in which Christians show the fruit of the Spirit at work in their lives. How important our faith and our parish is to us is evidenced in how we use our time, talent and treasure towards God's work. The members of our parish are true heroes in this regard!

While some only view the meeting of their church obligations as attending Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days we are different. Thankfully, we are so blessed because so many here acknowledge that attendance at church is a gift

received and an opportunity to acknowledge that gift through generosity. We take the spiritual fulfillment, knowledge, and growth we receive and bring it to reality through our constant generosity. We bear fruit! Because of that, we all trust that our parish and the Church will be there with open doors when we come to worship. But, we live in precarious times.

As we worship in the pews, it is important that we pray for and are cognizant of the earthly concerns that impact our ability to worship: without our Holy Church every parish dies; our Pastor's stipend, utility bills, organist, care of the church and cemetery grounds, insurances, maintenance and repairs, and the list continues. As we struggle at home, so the Church and parish has to struggle in meeting our collective responsibilities.

With that in mind, we are called to remember and to recognize the importance of our care for each other, to look for opportunities to serve one another, and to democratically share in responsibility for what our peers have determined as the needs of the Church. By doing this we continue our commitment to abide in Him and we show our gratitude for all that He has given to us and done for us.

We are planning our annual budget meeting for early March, possibly Sunday, March 12th. Thank you for your generous hearts and faithful

stewardship that provide in abundance for the good work we do in the name of Jesus!

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of Future Direction monthly email updates please have them email FutureDirection@pncc.org to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church.

Please keep this church-wide undertaking begun at Holy Synod in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church. As we continue our Year of Commitment - let us show our Commitment to Christ and our Holy Catholic and Apostolic PNCC.

May God bless you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

PNCC Supreme Council Future
Direction Committee

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky,
Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr.,
Chairman

Institution of the PNCC National Presentation

Our Prime Bishop will be doing a national presentation on the Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC next month. stay tuned for more information.

COMMUNITY HOSPICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Community Hospice is looking for compassionate and friendly people who have positive attitudes and are good listeners to be volunteers. Volunteers visit with patients and families in private homes, hospitals, and nursing homes. Community Hospice provides on-going support to all who serve as volunteers.

A multi-day training session begins in March and pre-registration is required. If you are interested, please contact Robin Carlson at 518-470-1458 or by E-mail at rcarlson@communityhospice.org to request an application.

SOCL News, Confirmation, first Communion

Be sure to bring your children for School of Christian living classes every week. We are starting a First Communion and are continuing a Confirmation class. Class is also available for adults who have not made confirmation.

Planning For —

- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Candles.
- Feb. 5: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 with Blessing of Throats. Breakfast and Annual Meeting.
- Feb. 12: Septuagesima Sunday.

Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.

- Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16: 64th Anniversary of the death of S+P Prime Bishop Francis Hodur.
- Feb. 19: Sexagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- Feb. 20: President's Day. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm.
- Feb. 24: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.
- Feb. 26: Quinquagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- Mar. 1: Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass, Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7pm.
- Mar. 3: Stations of the Cross, 7pm.
- Mar. 4: Commemoration of St. Casimir
- Mar. 5: First Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.

Also stay tuned for the dates for our Seniorate Lenten Retreat and our Holy week observances.

FOR LOVE

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." — John 13:34-35

Prayer for St. Valentine's Day

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You

gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ, even to the point of giving his life for it. Help us to endure all suffering for love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love. Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth to our friends and family and to the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Financial Security?

The PNUA and Spójnia Credit Union offer great tools for financial management. If you are considering getting your financial house in order in 2017 contract the PNUA and SCU. Remember too that PNUA policies make great gifts for newlyweds and infants. Call the PNUA office at 1-800-724- 6352 or see Fr. Jim.

Music Scholarship

Applications

A special collection was accepted on January 29th to benefit the National United Choir's Music Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are available to any parishioner of our denomination who is taking music lessons. This is with the hope that as these musicians continue to advance they will share their musical talent with the church. If

any parishioner is studying music, consider applying for a scholarship. Applications and information are available through Cathy Bilinski at nucscholarship@gmail.com or online at <http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com>. The Church has provided 1,075 scholarships totaling over \$305,000. 2017 Scholarships applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 2017.



A prayer of St. Gregory Nazianzus

May God preserve me from being rich while they are indigent, from enjoying robust health if I do not try to cure their diseases, from eating good food, clothing myself well and resting in my home if I do not share with them a piece of my bread and give them, in the measure of my abilities, part of my clothes and if I do not welcome them into my home.

Living the Christian Family Starts in Church

We live in a time when Christian life—Church life, life of a parish community—is unnatural. However, the life of the first Christian communities was different: *And all that believed were together, and had all things common (Acts 2:44).*

Of course, today it is inconceivable that members of a modern community could hold all their things in common. But, on the other hand, it is quite unnatural when members of a church community only attend services but otherwise spend all their time outside the church or even the community altogether. Yes, all things that we come in contact with are spaces for our Christian ministry, but it begins with our parish, our church. So we should start with the most basic and natural things—getting to know

other parishioners better, trying to find common interests, so that a kind of common life might result. It goes beyond helping each other and participating in the destinies of the needy, but first of all—of forming one, real, big family.

However, in reality we see that even at a church level it turns out either not very successful or totally unsuccessful. This is why any priest or rector of a church has to think how to form at least the heart of this community, to gather active and concerned Christians around himself, so that they, like Christians of the first centuries, could bring other people to church and help them integrate into Church life.

Here are some ideas for building the parish family:

- Introduce yourself to someone new or unfamiliar.
- Invite them to coffee hour after the Liturgy.
- Introduce them to other people and invite them to sit with you at coffee hour.
- Chat with parishioners who may not be part of your social circle. Sit at a different table and visit.
- Assist in the preparation and cleaning up of the hall after each coffee hour, even if only in a small way.
- Thank guests for being with us, and invite them to be with us again at their earliest convenience.

February

2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| | | | 1 | 2 Solemnity of the Presentation – Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Candles | 3 Commemoration of St. Blaise | 4 |
| 5 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Holy Mass at 9:30 with Blessing of Throats. Lector: Marilyn Hietala. Breakfast and Annual Meeting | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Septuagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Derek Westcott and Claudia Bertasso | 13 | 14 Commemoration of St. Valentine | 15 | 16 64th Anniversary of the death of S+P Prime Bishop Franczisek Hodur | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Sexagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil and Claudia Bertasso | 20 President's Day Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Feast – St. Matthias | 25 |
| 26 Quinquagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Daniel Dianne and Claudia Bertasso | 27 | 28 Last day for Epiphany Home Blessings | | | | |
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