

HOLY NAME OF JESUS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC
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NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2012



*We adore Thee O Christ, and we bless Thee!
By Thy Cross and passion Thou hast redeemed the world!*

Put to the test

We begin March with the Old Testament reading that tells of Abraham being put to the test. God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son. Now, God wants that son. Abraham is to slaughter his son, Isaac, and offer him up as a holocaust to God. Of course, God stayed Abraham's hand, and did not allow him to kill his son.

There are two key lessons in this reading. The first is that God was testing Abraham. Abraham was not the most loyal of followers. He did the things God asked, in the end, but not without questioning, struggle, going wrong, and an uncanny way of always trying to fix God's timeline. Abraham wasn't the most faithful follower.

The more important lesson is that this action prefigures God offering His Son, Jesus as sacrifice for us. God did not stay His own hand in order to reconcile us.

Our Lenten contemplation on being members of God's family includes reflections on our relatedness, the things that mark that relationship, our responsibilities as family members, our importance to the family, and the gifts that come from being members of God's family. Finally, we will rejoice in the victory we have been given -- the inheritance that is in store for us as members of God's family.

As we meditate this Lent, let us recall Abraham and his family. We are to trust God even when we cannot see a way out. We are always to obey Him. More importantly, let us remember that God's love for His family knows no bounds, that no cost is too high for God who wants us in His family.

When we are put to the test, remember that God is for us, that we are worth everything to Him. We are worth His Son! Because of God's love we are one family!

We are on Facebook too...



The Parish now has a presence on Facebook where you can also keep up-to-date on Parish happenings. We are at

www.facebook.com/HolyNameOfJesusSchenectady.

Please take an opportunity to Like us on Facebook.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

- 8 Pat Lewis
- 9 Rebecca Kopec
- 12 Frederick James
- 13 Christopher Maliszewski
- 14 Paul Zebrowski Sr., Deborah Kusek
- 16 Steven James
- 18 Justyne Rios
- 19 Justin Smith, Stanley Podkulski, Danielle DeMidio
- 21 Susie Spooner, Gary Podbielski
- 23 Erin Pross
- 24 Amber Houser
- 26 Elizabeth Battaglia, Nylyse Rios, Sarah Limmer
- 28 Frances Pawlowski, Lilianna Kalnaus
- 30 Susan Malinowski

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

With Thanks

To all who attended our annual budget meeting. When we

think of budgets and finances, we often get a bit of a queasy feeling. Not so during this meeting. After a bit of a rough patch, we see the progress we have made, and have good reason to be hopeful and positive. Thank you to all who attended and those who stood to offer wonderful suggestions to ensure the growth of our parish over the long term.

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

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

To all who had welcomed Fr. Adam and myself to your homes for Epiphany visitations/Kolęda. Your hospitality and graciousness are greatly appreciated.

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

Poetry for the Month

Cain and Abel by Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna

There were two of them in an empty world:

Cain and Abel.

One the keeper of sheep, the other working the fields, one was strong, the second — weak.

i thank
the Lord
for you.
happy
birthday!

*There were two brothers and two
different loves given
to God the Creator:
one offering the slaughtered sheep,
the second – wheat, corn and mint,
sweet cucumber.*

*There were two brothers, one
without envy
- Abel? Cain?
They quarreled at the offertory
altar,
the strong kill the weak ... This is
repeated ...
I know nothing more.*

Translation by Dcn. Jim



*Było nas dwóch na pustym globie:
Kain i Abel.
Jeden baranki pasał, drugi na roli
robił,
jeden był mocny, drugi – słaby.
Było nas dwóch braci i dwie różne
miłości*

*do Boga stwórcy:
jeden baranki mu składał zarznięte,
drugi – pszenicę, kukurydzę i miętę,
słodkie ogórki.*

*Było nas dwóch braci, któryś z nich
pozazdrościł
- Abel ? Kain ?
Pokłóciliśmy się u ofiarnych ołtarzy,
słaby silnego zabił... To się
powtarza...
I nie wiem dalej.*

SOCL News and Confirmation

We have a wonderful group of students who have begun preparations for their confirmation. 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.

We also have class time available for younger students.

Everyone is a student

Classes are not just for the teen/pre-teen crowd. If you are an adult who has questions of faith, or have not made their first communion or confirmation, please see Deacon Jim. We will work together to assist you in your spiritual journey.

Basket Social Ideas - only 7 weeks away

Our ever popular Basket Social is only a few short weeks away. This event, which has featured nearly 100 baskets, door prizes, and the best Polish food this

side of the ocean is packed with guests eager to see what we have created. The Basket Social will be held Sunday, April 15th, starting at noon, at the VFW Hall, 1309 Fifth Ave., Schenectady.

Here are a few ideas for baskets that may help in your creativity:

- seasonal (spring, summer, fall, winter, Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Valentines, etc.)
- aromatherapy
- bread-making
- arts and crafts
- movie matinee
- whats cooking
- story-time
- comedy hour
- coffee social
- pretty nails
- ice cream social
- name that tune
- coupon clippers
- tea party
- walk about
- happy hour
- groovin' to the oldies
- crossword club, puzzles, brain teasers
- facials
- candlelight dinner
- avon/mary kay
- pet needs
- yoga
- bible study
- popcorn party
- picnic on the patio
- reading
- gardening
- painting
- pizza party

- wine and cheese party
- melody makers
- jig saw puzzles
- have a bbq
- scrapbooking
- bird watching
- candle making
- knitting
- jewlery
- photography
- recipe books
- needlepoint
- crafts
- write a letter
- baby needs
- the good ol' days
- sports
- makeovers

Planning For:

- 3/11 - Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC
- 3/19 - Solemnity - St. Joseph
- 3/25 - Passion Sunday and Lenten Penitential Service
- 3/26 - Annunciation of the BVM
- 4/1 - Palm Sunday
- 4/3 - Holy Mass of Chrism (Cathedral in Scranton)
- 4/5 - Maundy Thursday
- 4/6 - Good Friday
- 4/7 - Holy Saturday
- 4/8 - Solemnity of the Resurrection
- 4/15 - Low Sunday, Annual Basket Social
- 5/18-20 - 67th Annual YMSofR Bowling Tournament, Schenectady

- 5/20 – 7th Sunday of Easter, Holy Mass celebrated by the Prime Bishop in our Parish

Directed Giving for Lent:

Ash Wednesday Week, Feb. 22-25, LET'S DO LUNCH Tuna and Mayonnaise, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Soup and Crackers.

1st Week of Lent, Feb. 26-Mar. 3, FEELING FRUITY Canned Peaches, Pears, Fruit Cocktail, Pineapple or Applesauce, 100% Juice in Cans.

2nd Week of Lent, Mar. 4-10, VEGGIE MANIA Canned Corn, Canned Peas, Canned Beans, Canned Potatoes, Canned Sweet Potatoes.

3rd Week of Lent, Mar. 11-17, DINNER IS SERVED Canned Beef Stew, Canned Pork and Beans, Instant Potatoes/Stuffing Mix, Macaroni and Cheese, Spaghetti or other Pasta, Canned Spaghetti Sauce.

4th Week of Lent, Mar. 18-24, SCHOOL NEEDS Pencils and Pens, Folders and Notebooks, Crayons, Tape and Elmer's Glue.

Passion Week, Mar. 25-31, BABY MAKES THREE Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes, Liquid Formula, Jars of Baby Food.

Holy Week, April 1-7, SPECIAL NEEDS DIET Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit in Juices (not syrup), Canned Tuna in Water, Low Sodium Crackers, Natural Applesauce.

Our Holy Church

On Sunday, March 11th we

observe the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church. So, we may ask, where do we come from, what caused the institution of our Holy Church:

The Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Church in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1896 reflected none of the Christian charity and kindness we would expect. In microcosm it reflected a culture of clerical abuse, concentration of power, and failure to center itself on that which is of Christ. In a certain sense these attitudes are a mirror through which we may gain an understanding of 21st Century problems and issues.

Newly arrived immigrants of Polish heritage found themselves forced to reject nearly a thousand years of Christian faith, culture, music, and language. The fulfillment of these immigrants' dreams, dreams of American freedom, soon ran head-on into the structures and bureaucracy of the Roman Catholic Church. These structures encouraged a sort of ethnic cleansing – not by murder – but by the forced relinquishing of each individual's cultural heritage.

In response these immigrants sought redress of their grievances and an end to clerical abuses. The pastor of Sacred Hearts Church, Rev. Richard C. Aust, and Bishop William O'Hara, were asked to recognize a church committee which would be of help to the pastor in the management of church property and

that would provide for accountability.

Neither the Bishop nor Rev. Aust gave any thought to making concessions to the community. Indeed, the Rev. Aust, agitated by the demands of the people, began to insult, imprecate, and threaten them with the use of force. The Bishop himself scoffed at a delegation of parishioners.

On an October Sunday in 1896 large masses of the faithful from all sections of the city converged on the Church of the Most Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary on Prospect Avenue, Scranton. Encircling the church was a sizable group of curious, restless, and agitated people. The topic on the street was the capricious and unyielding attitude of the Rev. Aust and Bishop O'Hara. Suddenly someone gave a command... "Brothers, form a wall between the rectory and the church. Do not permit the priest to go to the altar. He is unworthy to celebrate mass for us. We have built the church, we are here on our own land."

Less than ten minutes after forming ranks a rumbling noise was heard, then a shout resembling a command. Tens of police struck the defenseless people and pushed them toward the street. Another strong voice from the crowd was heard: "Do not retreat because this is our land" and the fight raged on.

On one side women, children, men, the aged standing fast, on the

other side police armed with clubs, revolvers, and handcuffs. The groups collided with each other in a moment of fierce rage. Heard above it all was the derisive laughter of the Rev. Aust and his friends who were looking on from behind the rectory windows. Suddenly the moaning of the women drowned out all other voices and at that moment the wall of the church was literally stained with blood.

The crowd petrified with fear retreated to the street. The police began to arrest the now composed leaders, six men and three women, who were handcuffed and rushed to the city jail. They marched with heads held high and a smile on their lips proud that they suffered for the honor of Christ, the Church and their people.

The people simply desired justice be practiced in the Church, that the priests would not squander the Church's property, and that there be an end to clerical carousing while deriding the people from the altar and pulpit. The fight for justice caused the leaders to be labeled as driven criminals, scoffed at by the community.

This sad and bloody Sunday was the day the free Church in America, the Polish National Catholic Church was born.

The leaders of the people in consultation with their brothers and sisters built a new church. In response the Bishop sent various advisors in order to stop the work.

However, none of this interfered with work on the new church. Within the few winter months, the structure was nearly complete and it became necessary to look for a priest. The people unanimously elected Father Franciszek Hodur as their spiritual leader.

The evening of March 14, 1897 became a solemn moment for the people with the arrival of Father Hodur in Scranton. On taking an oath before the people he swore to lead them regardless of whether or not the bishop gave his consent for the free church. Around 400 hands were raised to give evidence that the people, except for God and His Revelation, did not acknowledge any other authority in matters of holy faith than that of Father Hodur.

The following Sunday, Bishop Michael Hoban arrived at the old church, suspended Father Hodur, and threatened the people with hell if they did not abandon Father Hodur.

The people had come to the realization that only righteous and holy bishops and priests, those having sacramental union with God, could validly bless and discipline the Christian people. Before them they saw a Bishop for whom the tears and blood of a wronged people were nothing, for whom the title of ownership was of more value than the peace and harmony of the people, for whom protection of the corporate was more important than the spiritual needs of men, women, and children.

2012 Serendipity Calendar

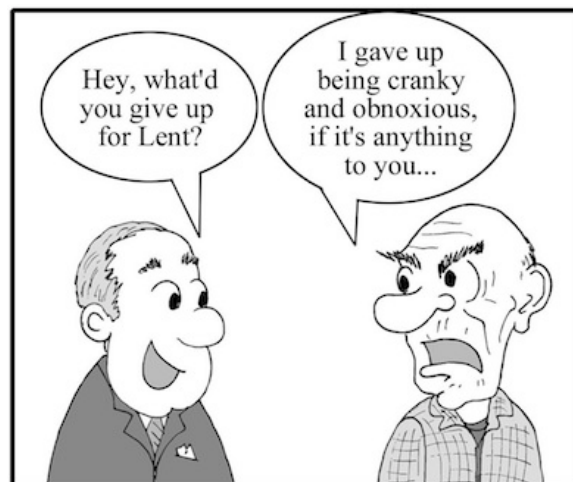
What a fun way to support the parish and potentially WIN! The Serendipity Calendar allows you to choose one or more numbers between 001 and 999. If your number is drawn in the day's NYS Lottery Daily Numbers game, you win.

Sign-ups continue for 2012. Reserve your numbers early so you get your lucky numbers. The cost for each number chance is \$20.










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. The YMSofR – Men's Society of the Resurrection, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. We also need altar servers and lectors. Please see Deacon Jim.



March 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2  Bitter Lamentations, 7pm.	3
4 Second Sunday of Lent - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am, Lector: Claudia Bertasso Also: Commemoration of St. Casimir	5	6	7 	8	9  Stations of the Cross, 7pm.	10
11 Institution of the PNCC - Holy Mass, 9:30am Lector: Larry Panfil Also: Parish Committee	12	13	14 	15	16  Bitter Lamentations, 7pm.	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am. Lector: Marilyn Heitala	19 Solemnity – St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M.	20	21 	22	23  Stations of the Cross, 7pm.	24
25 Passion Sunday and Lenten Penitential Service - Holy Mass, 9:30am. Lector: Claudia Bertasso	26 Annunciation of the B.V.M.	27	28 	29	30  Bitter Lamentations, 7pm.	31

EVENTS

Holy Week

Please keep in mind all the solemn events of Holy Week and make a diligent effort to attend. You will find great comfort beside Jesus in these days.

Basket Social!

Only a few weeks left to get those wonderful baskets together for our April 15th event. Thank you for your efforts!!!

April Upcoming

Apr. 1st – Palm Sunday
Apr. 3rd - Holy Mass of Chrism
(Cathedral in Scranton)
Apr. 5th – Maundy Thursday, 7pm.
Apr. 6th – Good Friday, Noon, 1pm,
2pm, 3pm and 7pm.
Apr. 7th – Holy Saturday, Noon.
Apr. 8th – Easter Sunday – Alleluia!!!