

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC
1040 PEARL STREET
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12303-1846
PARISH AND HALL: 518-372-1992
DEACON JIM KONICKI: 518-765-2134
OR 518-522-0944
ON THE WEB: WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

2014

Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Many might see the scripture above as cautionary. It comes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In one sense Jesus is cautioning against false teachers who bear "bad fruit." Perhaps it is our tendency to focus on warnings and the negative while failing to fully grasp the good and positive. The positive statement in Matthew 7:15-20 is Jesus saying: "every sound tree bears good fruit."

In reflecting on 2013 and looking forward to 2014 I cannot help but be thankful for the forest of sound trees that bear good fruit among us. That is you, who are reading this newsletter.

This past year has been a joy, with much good fruit being produced. We made the Word known in our neighborhood and across the country. We fed the hungry - whether the hunger was spiritual or physical. We comforted those who have been hurt - raising them up to see the love of their Lord and His community which value every human beings' dignity. We

celebrated our faith in worship and worked hard together as a family to do all that is necessary to continue our mission and ministry.

Our small church, on a small street, offers us the opportunity to continue bearing the good fruit the Father has trained us to produce. We are the branches of Jesus Who is the vine. Abiding in Him we produce abundantly for as Jesus tells us: *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit.*

Welcome 2014! As we continue to celebrate the 40 days of Christmas let us find Jesus born anew in our lives. Let us continue to abide in Jesus and produce good fruit abundantly. Let us commit to starting at weekly worship together; then setting forth to share the graces we have received with family, friends, co-workers, and those we don't even know (yet!).

2014 will overflow in good fruit because Jesus is in you and in Him you produce good fruit.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT Annual Meeting & Parish Offices

Our annual congregation meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th along with the election of a new Parish Committee.

So much good has been accomplished in 2013 – and it will be a great meeting filled with thankfulness for the good fruit that has been produced by 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.

Anyone may attend the annual meeting to share in the information provided, but please note that only parish members may cast a vote or run for office.

Membership

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 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.

Parish membership requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church, our Diocese, and our Parish. Dues are \$92 per year for adult members, \$67 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.

Our Church Constitution states:

In administrative, managerial and social matters, this Church derives its authority from the people who build, constitute, believe in, support and care for it. It is a fundamental principle of this Church that all Parish property, whether the same be real, personal, or mixed, is the property of those united with the Parish who build and support this Church and conform to the Rite, Constitution, Principles, Laws, Rules, Regulations, Customs and Usages of this Church.

Envelopes and Tax Statements Available

God bless you for your generosity and support of our parish in 2013. Because of you and your sacrifice we have been greatly blessed. Donation envelopes for 2014 have arrived and are available in the back of the church. Each envelope packet is marked with a family name. Please take your packet home and avail yourself of these envelopes in the coming year. Doing so allows the parish to provide you with a

statement for accounting and income tax purposes.

Annual statements for income tax purposes are also available.

FREE LUNCH ON SUNDAY CHANGES

Due to cuts in the SNAP and WIC programs, and the cut-off of unemployment benefits to millions, the people of our community – men, women, infants, and children are losing needed nutrition assistance. Vulnerable families are going hungry, and are now completely dependent on food banks and free food programs.

Our Free Lunch on Sunday program continues into 2014. Starting January 19th free lunch will be offered every **THIRD SUNDAY** of the month from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Please volunteer to assist in cooking and serving - we need your help. Also, get the word out wherever/ whenever you can.

The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

Make February 2014 – the month of love – a month to win in more ways than one!



2014, will be a big year for the youth of our Church and our parish. This summer we will once again be sending our young people to the annual KURS summer encampment

and to CONVO 2014 at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio from July 21st through 25th. The 2014 CONVO theme is “In the beginning....”

We need your support to give our young people a great beginning in 2014. As God has told us, starting our children off right in the knowledge of the Lord will cause them to bear much good fruit in their lives.

To start them off right we are holding a month long Outrageous Valentine's Raffle this coming February to support our youth. Each raffle ticket gives the purchaser a chance to win up to \$1,180. The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle will include drawings for \$40 daily prizes and a \$100 daily prize on Valentine's Day. The raffle is drawn each day of the month, giving the ticket holder 28 chances to win! Winners are returned to the raffle bucket, making them eligible to win again and again. Your support will help cover our young people's summer expenses with the ultimate goal of paying their way completely.

We mailed out tickets in November and ask that you continue to sell them and get them into the parish office so that everyone may be entered. Tickets cost only \$10 each. Feel free to contact Stephanie Dominy at 518-369-1346 with any questions or to get more tickets if needed.

We thank you for your support and wish you good luck!

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

To all those who have worked so tirelessly over the past year: our parish officers and committee members, our jurors, nomination committee members, members of the ANS, YMSofR, and choir,

*Thank
You*

Mrs. Liz Battaglia for her service as our organist and music director, our altar servers, lectors, those who cared for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish facilities (Aleksandra, Pete, Bob), Ed Bertasso for his service of hospitality, our event planners and volunteers at our Basket Social, Rummage sale, breakfasts, Lunch on Sunday, other special fundraisers, and to all those who gave of their time and treasure to build up the ministry and community of our parish and the wider Church.

A special thank you to our youth and their parents/grandparents for your dedication and hard work, as well as your participation in KURS.

May god bless and reward you for all you have done!

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

- 1 John Linscott
- 3 Logan Slezak
- 4 Zach Bixler, Zachary Prusky,

- Courtney Carroll
- 5 Derrick D'Amico
- 8 Alex D'Amico, Lawrence Panfil, Christine DeCocco
- 9 Theodore Zebrowski
- 11 Cyndie Williams
- 14 Karen DeMidio
- 18 Stephanie Dominy, Darian Topolski
- 22 Catherine Martucci
- 23 Christina Naumowicz, Laurie Lee Woodworth
- 25 Richard Maliszewski, Richard Okonsky
- 26 Cadence Smith
- 27 Eric Kaminski, Jack Kaminski
- 29 Judi Horton

Wedding Anniversaries

- 20 Alice and George Houser

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

**Epiphany Visitations - Kołęda -
House Blessings**

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on Monday, January 6th. Deacon 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 March 4th (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.

Church Father for the Month

St. Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book III, Chapter 9

Matthew, when speaking of the angel, says, "*The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in sleep.*" (Matthew 1:20) Of what Lord he does himself interpret: "*That it may be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, Out of Egypt have I called my son.*" (Matthew 2:15) "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel; which is, being interpreted, God with us.*" (Matthew 1:23) David likewise speaks of Him who, from the virgin, is Emmanuel: "*Turn not away the face of Your anointed. The Lord has sworn a truth to David, and will not turn from him. Of the fruit of your body will I set upon your seat.*" And again: "*In Judea is God known; His place has been made in peace, and His dwelling in Zion.*" Therefore there is one and the same God, who was proclaimed by the prophets and announced by the Gospel; and His Son, who was of the fruit of David's body, that is, of the virgin of [the house of] David, and Emmanuel; whose star also Balaam thus prophesied: "*There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a leader shall rise in Israel.*" (Numbers 24:17) But Matthew says that the Magi, coming

from the east, exclaimed "*For we have seen His star in the east, and have come to worship Him;*" (Matthew 2:2) and that, having been led by the star into the house of Jacob to Emmanuel, they showed, by these gifts which they offered, who it was that was worshipped; myrrh, because it was He who should die and be buried for the mortal human race; gold, because He was a King, "*of whose kingdom is no end;*" (Luke 1:33) and frankincense, because He was God, who also "*was made known in Judea,*" and was "*declared to those who sought Him not.*"

Where Charity lives, Love prevails

In scripture, the word charity is synonymous with love. Here's what your Advent love has accomplished: 275 pounds of food (an increase of over 70 pounds) , 4 hats, 1 headband and 13 pair of gloves/ mittens delivered to Schenectady Inner City Ministries and Northeast Parent & Child. Our continued Free Lunch/Soup on Sunday providing nourishment and friendship to those in need. Thank you for sacrificing and honoring the time of preparation for God's coming. You have blessed those in need through your efforts.

Planning Ahead

- Jan 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision - Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 9:30am.

- Jan. 2: Solemnity: Holy Name – our Parish Feast – Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 7pm.
- Jan. 5: Feast of the Holy Family
- Jan. 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord – Service of Worship and Holy Communion with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense starting at 7pm.
- Jan. 12: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, Parish Committee Meeting, Free breakfast.
- Jan. 15: 41st Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service, 7pm at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 900 Madison Ave., Albany, NY 12208
- Jan. 18-25: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan. 19: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Free lunch.
- Jan. 26: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Music Scholarship Sunday, **Parish ANNUAL Meeting & Elections**
- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation, Blessing of candles and throats, SouperBowl Sunday
- Feb. 9: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Feb. 16: Septuagesima Sunday and 60th Anniversary of the death of S+P Prime Bishop Franczisek Hodur
- Mar. 5: Ash Wednesday, Beginning



of the Great Lent. Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7pm

Looking further into 2014

Here are some things we will do in 2014:

- holding open mic poetry and music nights,
- another craft fair,
- a Fall rummage sale,
- Annual Basket Social

Your ideas are welcome and encouraged as well.

Music Scholarship Sunday

Sunday, January 26th is Music Scholarship Sunday. Our parish has been blessed with great musicians and aspiring musicians. Our younger members have been recipients of music scholarships. Scholarships are available to both youth and adults. 2014 scholarship applications will be available soon. God bless those who add musical beauty to the worship of God.

New Year's Resolution - 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 2014 contract the PNUA and SCU. Special 2014 programs are now available, but for a limited time. Call the PNUA office at 1-800-724-6352 or see Deacon Jim.

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Solemnity of the Circumcision, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am	2 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Parish Feast, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 7pm	3	4
5 Feast of the Holy Family, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am	6 Solemnity of the Epiphany - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am. Parish Committee Meeting. 41st Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Memorial Service, 7pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 St. Peter's Chair at Antioch Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins
19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time– Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am	20	21	22	23	24	25 Conversion of St. Paul Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends
26 Music Scholarship Sunday 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Annual Congregational Meeting	27	28	29	30	31	

EVENTS

Starting Jan. 7th

Blessing of Homes Begins – See or Call Deacon Jim.

All of February

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

February Upcoming

Feb. 2nd – Presentation

Feb. 3rd – St. Blaise

Feb. 16th – Pre-Lent Begins

Feb. 17th – President's Day

March Upcoming

Mar. 5th – Ash Wednesday – 7pm

Mar 19th – St. Joseph's Day

Mar 25th – Annunciation of the B.V.M.