

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2017



AND I AM SURE OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL BRING IT TO COMPLETION AT THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST.

One of the wonders of Advent and the Christmas season is Why. Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did God allow Himself to be humbled in such a way as to take on our humanity, to be born in a stable, to proclaim eternal truth to a people who would not listen, to be mocked and persecuted for that message, and to sacrifice Himself?

In the most simple terms, it is about completion. The dictionary defines completion as 'the action or process of finishing something.'

God did all these things to complete us; to bring about the fulfillment of God's plan for humanity.

Paraphrasing the Lutheran theologian, Robert Jenson: *If a congregation wants to be 'relevant,' its assemblies must be events of shared apocalyptic vision. Going to church must be a journey to the place where we will behold our destiny, where we will see what is to come of us.*

Looking at Jesus' birth, we must keep our eyes and hearts firmly

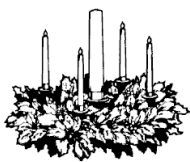
focused on our completion.

Christmas is not just a recollection of some past event, but a foretelling of our ultimate completion in Christ Jesus.

The Church does not often speak of eschatological things - the end times and Jesus' return - but as we focus on the moment of salvation that started coming ever closer in the stable at Bethlehem, we are called to do exactly that. Advent preparation is meaningless if it is just about Christmas day, or the forty day season of Christmas. We are to be preparing ourselves and living for complete completion. What began that night 2,017 years ago was God's offer of all we need to get there.

What we are to do today, throughout Christmas, and every day is to witness and cooperate in moving toward the completion Jesus offered and offers. We stand in this intermediate time. We are the link. Together we build the bridge from the joy of Christmas, the exaltation of resurrection, to completion.

Church Fathers on Advent



- The bread which you do not use is the bread of the hungry;
- the garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of him who

is naked;

- the shoes that you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot;
- the money that you keep locked away is the money of the poor;
- the acts of charity that you do not perform are so many injustices that you commit."

—St. Basil the Great

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As we gather in churches throughout the world, I cannot help but reflect on the many ways we offer our love and dedication to the Christ child. We come in humility, hearts filled with expectant hope. We offer a silent prayer before the manger knowing that He will hear us and will respond. In darkness, broken by candlelight, we watch as a woman approaches the stable to place the Holy Infant. We hear the great proclamation. Then we worship.

I offer my prayer at the manger, and at the Holy Altar for you, your families, our humble parish. May the irresistible love of God speak to you that night and throughout the year ahead. May your expectations and prayers rise before the heavenly Throne, and may you draw closer each day to

completion in Jesus Christ who is hope fulfilled.

— Fr. Jim

3RD ANNIVERSARY - ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood three years ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas). This year has flown by as have the past two, and has been marked once again by joys, challenges - the stuff of life. Through it all, the greatest joy 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 and increase 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 serve you. — Fr. Jim

New Liturgical Year

Readings from Scripture are part of every Holy Mass and hold a very special place of prominence in our Holy Church – for through the proclamation and teaching of the Word we receive sacramental grace.

The Sunday cycle of readings is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. A new cycle begins every First Sunday of Advent. On December 3rd we entered Year B. In Year B, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Mark and Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John.

Advent Charity - food gathering

We began collecting dry and canned goods in November for Schenectady Inner City Ministries. We will continue collecting donations throughout Advent, ending on December 17th. Please join in making a joyful and 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

On the First Sunday of Advent we blessed our Advent wreath and the "Bread of Angels," the oplátky that we will share with each other on Christmas Eve. Oplátky will be available for you to take home throughout Advent and the Christmas Vigil.

Vigil pot-luck, musical, and student Christmas presentation - December 17th

Our annual Christmas Vigil / Wigilia pot-luck will be held on Sunday, December 17th following Holy Mass. There will only be **one Holy Mass that day at 10:30am**. 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 a short musical presentation

for your reflection and enjoyment. Come see and support them.

Greening of the Church - December 17th

Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 17th following our vigil dinner to decorate 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 will be sending out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle. Prizes total \$1,180. 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 2018 programs, including CONVO 2018.

Holy Mass Intentions

Reminder... you can ask Father Jim to offer Holy Mass for any intention - for a deceased loved one, for health and healing, for any need. Just see Fr. Jim and let him know what you want.

With Thanks

To all parents and grandparents who have included their beautiful children in our parish community.

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.

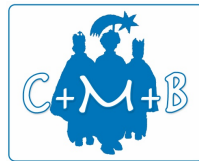
To Joanne and Stacy for a wonderful breakfast.

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!!!

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.

Coffee Hour/Breakfasts

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

Planning For:

- December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent/Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra.
- December 8: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M.
- December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent/Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. **Breakfast.**
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent. **Holy Mass with Advent Penitential Service at 10:30am.** Youth Christmas and Musical Performances and Parish Vigil Pot-luck follows. Greening of the church.
- December 18: Holy Mass and Anointing of the Sick, 6:15pm.
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle.
- December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent/Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. **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: Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Wine (**bring a bottle or two to be blessed**).
- December 30: Feast of the Holy Family. Holy Mass at 10am.
- December 31: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. New Year's Eve
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at 10am. Happy 2018!
- January 2: **Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 7pm.**
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at 10am.
- January 7: 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!

What is our Church

Many people ask - What is this Church? What makes it different or special? Why should I belong?

To answer this question, we have to get at the reason for our existence. Why should we exist as a Church? What do we have to offer?

This question is often answered in several different ways, depending on who you ask. Some examples:

We are like the Roman Catholic Church except - and a list of differences is provided. That answer is simply wrong and drastically insufficient. Being like, but not like someone else is no reason to exist. We have to have more to offer than that. This answer is also negative.

No one wants to belong to a negative Church or one that focuses on difference. We have to have a positive reason for being here.

We were a Church founded by Polish immigrants - and then a long history of their struggle is detailed followed by the words - 'but we are for everyone now.' Indeed, Bishop Hour in helping to organize the Church set out on a mission to lift up immigrants. He focused on their spiritual good, economic success, educational attainment, and primarily on gaining respect in an age of nativist thinking. He actually succeeded in his goals. By the late 1950's and early 1960's those goals were met. That said, it is no reason for a Church. Church is far more than ethnic groups and frankly, we do not worship an ethnicity, culture, food, or a nation. Jesus doesn't need pierogi - He needs people. We have to have a bigger reason for being here.

We are authentic. There is the real reason for existing. This is what we offer. What is found in our Church is truly unique. We hold the same Catholic faith held by the Apostles and disciples. We are a direct link and continuation of the beliefs, practices, worship, joy, charity, and community of the early Church. This is what makes us worth it. It is our genuineness. In our parish, and throughout our Church, one finds a community of Christ-following adults, teens and children who worship as one in an unadulterated manner. We share the

truths, principles and promises that Jesus and the early Church taught and modeled.

So, the reason to belong is to be authentic, to be real, to live the Catholic faith handed down to us without blemish or change. That is our reason for existing

If someone asks - the answers are here:

What is this Church? It is the Catholic Church of the Apostles.

What makes it different or special? We are the authentic expression of Christian faith and worship unadulterated.

Why should I belong? To be part of a voluntary union of those who recognize the religious principles of the Catholic faith as the norms and rules of their lives and to join in teaching and professing all the religious truths that God revealed, Jesus Christ proclaimed, and the Apostles and their successors established as the foundation of the Christian Faith.

College Stipends

Now is the time for all students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post-secondary certificate to apply for the PNU stipend. The criteria for the stipend application is as follows:

- A student currently enrolled in a college or university, part-time or full-time;
- A member of the PNU having a life

insurance policy – current paying, single premium, or fully paid-up and in good standing for at least 5 years; and

- Current enrollment for academic year (2017/2018) – effective December 1st - April 15th.

This is a great opportunity for our families and students to research and review the benefits of being a member within the PNU and see what this commission represents so they can become the future leaders within our church community! The Education and Youth Stipend Application form can be downloaded from the PNU website at www.pnu.org.

Annual dues

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

What do you think about Church dues? Do you think this is something the priests and bishops impose? Do you think it is too

much of a burden?

We set the dues: Dues are established at Holy Synod by our peers, our elected representatives. Dues are never imposed by the clergy. The people of the Church, in accordance with our democratic tradition, establish the dues necessary to keep the Church and diocese running and solvent.

What happens without dues?

The Church would go bankrupt and would dissolve. It could not operate

at the most basic level.

Well, my parish will stay open, won't it? No! Without the Church and diocese there can be no parish. We would be without bishops, priests, and all the basics needed to carry on worship. We would no longer have a mandate nor legal authority to exist.

Well, it is soooo much! Not really. Dues amount to \$2.88 per week per member. Is the Church worth that much? It is certainly worth far more than that.

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 and the benefits of church membership, including burial in parish cemeteries requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church, our Diocese, and our Parish.

Dues are now \$150 per year for each adult member, \$125 for each senior 65 and over.

Pay your dues with joy and thank God that we have our Church. If anyone faces such severe financial difficulties that \$2.88 per person per week is unaffordable, please see Fr. Jim privately.

Nominations/Annual Meeting

Our annual congregation meeting will be held in late January/early February 2018 along with the election of a new Parish Committee.



New members of the Committee are needed as there are several vacancies to be filled. 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.

CHRISTMAS PIES

Joanne Bauer and Helen Spencer are selling Christmas pies. All pies are 9 inches. Pies are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. To order, call 518-377-1806.

Pierogi and Golumbki

Polish food sale sponsored by the Fort Crailo Post #471 of the American Legion in Rensselaer, NY. Pierogis are \$8/dozen To order call Stephanie Dominy at 518-369-1346. Pick up is December 22nd from 3 to 6pm at the church.

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December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 1st Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Marilyn Hietala, Claudia Bertasso	4	5	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra	7	8 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M.	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso. Breakfast.	11	12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe	13	14	15	16
17 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10:30am . Lector: Daniel Dianne. Vigil Pot Luck , Youth Christmas and Musical Presentations, Greening of the Church	18 Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm	19	20	21 Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso. Vigil of the Nativity Vigil Holy Mass for Children & Youth at 4pm	25 Solemnity of the Nativity Holy Mass at Midnight Lector: Larry Panfil Holy Mass, 10am	26 Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr	27 Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Wine.	28 Commemoration – Holy Innocents	29	30 Feast of the Holy Family. Holy Mass at 10am. New Year's Eve
31 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Derek Westcott, Claudia Bertasso						

Events

January 2018 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am/Happy 2018!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Holy Mass at 7pm.
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 10am.