



Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

II Niedziela Adwentu

December 10, 2017

Rite: Pew Missal, page 15, Canon, page 28.

First reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Psalm: Ps. 85:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Intention: 9:30am and 11:30am for All Souls remembrances.

Celebrant: 9:30am and 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 9:30am Joe Kaczynski, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am. Advent Wreath Lighting. Holy Mass at 9:30am (Traditional Rite).
- Breakfast/First Communion/Confirmation classes.
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Traditional Rite).

3rd Sunday of Advent

III Niedziela Adwentu

December 17, 2017

Rite: Pew Missal, page 15, Canon, page 28.

First reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Canticle: Luke 1:46-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

Intention: 10:30am for all parishioners.

Celebrant: 10:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 10:30am Daniel DiIanne, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 10:20am. Advent Wreath Lighting, Holy Mass with Advent Penitential Service at 10:30am (Traditional Rite).
- Youth Christmas Presentation
- Vigil Pot-luck Dinner
- Greening of the church

Patience is a precept for salvation given us by our Lord our teacher: Whoever endures to the end will be saved. And again: If you persevere in my word, you will truly be my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Dear brethren, we must endure and persevere if we are to attain the truth and freedom we have been allowed to hope for; faith and hope are the very meaning of our being Christians, but if faith and hope are to bear their fruit, patience is necessary. – St. Cyprian.

Sick Calls and Hospital Visits – Please know that hospitals will not advise parishes when an individual is admitted. Confidentiality regulations prevent them from doing so. If someone is admitted please let Father Jim know so he might visit, pray with, anoint, and bring Jesus' healing presence to them. Call Fr. Jim at 518-522-0944. You may also call Fr. Mark Gnidzinski at 518-453-2258.

Contact

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Upcoming...

- **December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent.** Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Breakfast.
- **December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent.** Holy Mass with Penitential Service at 10:30am followed by Youth Presentation and Vigil Dinner. Greening of the church follows.
- **December 18: Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm.**
- **December 21: Feast – St. Thomas.**
- **December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent.** Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Vigil of the Nativity with Holy Mass at 4pm

CHRISTMAS BEGINS

- **December 25: Solemnity of the Nativity.** 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.
- **December 28: Commemoration – Holy Innocents.**
- **Feast of the Holy Family.** Holy Mass at 10am.

We invite all who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to partake. It is our practice to distribute the Holy Eucharist by intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, never in the hand.

Time for hope.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end,

Today’s message from scripture is one of hope. This hope is expressed in three different ways.

The first expression from Isaiah is taken from the second set of Chapters. Chapters 1 to 39 of Isaiah were written before the exile, Isaiah saw the cause of the wars and tragedies that led to the Babylonian exile including faithlessness and overall social injustice. Chapters 40 to 66 were written during and after the exile in Babylon. They are filled with a message of trust and confident hope that God will soon end the exile.

Today’s reading, from Chapter 40 is the start of this second set of Chapters. It involves the commissioning of prophets. God is instructing them on the message they are to bring. Literally, speak tenderly to Jerusalem means they are to speak “tenderly” to the heart, the seat of reasoning of each person. It has nothing to do with the city of Jerusalem proper because the city is a long way off and is in ruins.

This message of hope is so important to us. It provides perspective on the City and Kingdom of God. The City and

Kingdom of God has absolutely nothing to do with any earthly city. It is not Jerusalem or Rome, it is not any one place. What people fight over or call their capital is of no import or consequence. How silly will believers in cities seem in the eternal kingdom.

The city of God – the new and eternal Jerusalem, will come from God – not from the earth. That City and Kingdom starts with the state of our hearts and minds, and how we point to Him in Whom our hope is focused.

Our hearts, minds, and hopes are to go to the high places – to rise up. We, like Isaiah and John, are to proclaim the Good News. We are to do so without fear, saying: Here is God. That is a powerful and hope filled message for the world. The reward for those who proclaim that message is exactly this: God will feed us. God will gather us into His arms. He will carry us and will lead us with care.

The second expression of hope is set forth by Peter. It is so helpful to us every day, but with particular import during this penitential season. *The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

This is such an important hope – that we have assurance of God’s patience with us. Are we ready? Perhaps not; we can all do better. We can proclaim God’s kingdom better and more often. We can point to God more often in our

Advent Continues

The season of preparation for Jesus’ return continues. What is most important is that we use this time to cleanse our hearts and minds through fasting and penitential practices. These practices should include Devotional Reading – get a good Christian book. Listening in Prayer – learn to end talking at God and to listen for His voice. Christian Music – turn off secular Christmas tunes. Give – alms and food for the poor and those in need. Learn – about the Saints of the season including Nicholas, Lucy, Barbara, Bibiana, and Thomas the Apostle. Gain Patience – need the tree up now? Really?!? When Christ returns what will He find in and around us? Let Him find us with hearts prepared and filled with longing for His Kingdom only.

Join us for Breakfast... and Dinner

Join us for breakfast today. It is going to extra special. A big thank you to Joanne and Stacy for their beautiful and generous work. Next week, Sunday, December 17th, we will hold our annual Vigil Dinner and youth presentation. There will only be one Holy Mass at 10:30am.

Food Collection

We will be collecting dry and canned goods throughout November and December for donation to those in need in our community. Please make a prayerful donation in thankfulness. Please place your donation by the Mary altar in the church. Bless you!

Spaghetti Dinner

Join us for our 2nd annual spaghetti dinner which has been moved to **Saturday, January 20th** from 4pm till 7pm hosted by Joanne Bauer, her three daughters, and three granddaughters.

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.**

Valentines Raffle

Stay tuned for our annual Outrageous Valentines Raffle.

Youth Commission Raffle

The PNU is hosting a raffle to benefit its College Stipend Program. Donations for tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Tickets on the back table.

actions and with voices that correspond to our actions. Here is God. This is what He is like. Come meet Him and find true hope. We must also bring to mind that this hope comes with a warning – Don’t wait forever.

Finally, we have the hope expressed in the Gospel. God made a promise and He was fulfilling it. The Messiah was about to appear. John pointed to immanent hope. Like John, we are to point to hope now present.

It is time to hope. It is not just hope because of the past; because Jesus came and spent 33 years on earth. Rather, it is time to hope because we live is the aftermath of that salvation, promises fulfilled, and eagerly approaching the great eschatological moment, when Jesus returns, when we are gathered in, where our hearts and minds will overflow with joy, and where hope is completely fulfilled.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15:13

Time to Study God’s Word

SUNDAY: Romans 12:12
MONDAY: Jeremiah 29:11
TUESDAY: Isaiah 40:31
WEDNESDAY: Psalm 39:7
THURSDAY: Isaiah 41:10
FRIDAY: Romans 8:25
SATURDAY: Romans 15:4

Pray

Lord Jesus, my hope is in You alone. Grant that I may express and proclaim this hope every day in word and action.

Praying for...

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice Houser, Angela Kaminski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Mariea Chase, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Weglinski, Robert & Stephanie Dominy, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Sczepkowski, Dolores Konicki, Pastor Tom Kendall, Joshua Moraski, Sue & Roger White, Chris Tatlock, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Lucas Taylor, Joanne Bauer, Shirley Greene, Madison Sheridan, Sean and Jessie Wilcox, Snyder Family, Amber Tatlock, Kathleen Hietala, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Donnie Wright, Derek Westcott, Karen Kisch, Joe Emmanuel, Gregory Henderson, Vince Cacamo, Theresa Ordon, Robert Baia, Michelle Zawistowski, Faith, Adam, Allyson Keyser, Richard and Suzette Place, Amanda Carr, Tyler Hoffman, the Hoffman Family, Daniel DiIanne, Warren Tatlock, Susan Jones, Vincenzo DiIanne, Cassandra Wade, Garry Packer, Madison Dunlap, Sandra Tatlock, Crystal Haley, Linda DePaula, Michelle & Eric. All in need of God’s healing grace.

- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Pattric Jones. Fr. Joseph Kolek
- All those in Public Service, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.
- All Active and Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- All who have asked for our prayers.

We continue in prayer and intercession for one of the parishes or ministries in the Polish National Catholic Church. This week we remember and pray for the clergy and people of St. Stanislaw Kostka Parish, Lucca, Italy and its pastor, Very Rev. Claudio Bocca.

Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

Coffee Hour: Please join us for Coffee. Your support and assistance are needed for this ministry of hospitality. Please sign up to take a week.

Parish Organizations: Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? The YMSofR - Men’s Society of the Resurrection Branch 56, ANS – Women’s Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Father Jim.

Of note...

-- Holy Name: Approaching the Kingdom --