



Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 31, 2017

Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds Uroczystość Ubogich Pasterzy

December 31, 2017

Rite: Pew Missal, page 39, Canon, page 52.

First reading: Jeremiah 31:10-14

Psalm: Ps 97:1,6,11,12

A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Intention: 9:30 – for all Bishops, priests, and deacons of our Holy Church

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

Lector: 9:30am Derek Westcott, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am. Holy Mass at 9:30am (PNCC Rite).
- Coffee Hour.
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (PNCC Rite).

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord Wspomnienie Chrztu Pańskiego

January 7, 2017

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 88.

First reading: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7

Psalm: Ps 29:1-4,3,9-10

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

Epistle: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

Intention: 9:30 and 11:30 for all parishioners.

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

Lector: 9:30am Marilyn Hietala, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am and Holy Mass at 9:30am (Contemporary Rite). Exposition and Benediction.
- Coffee Hour
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Contemporary Rite).

Take care, therefore, to be confirmed in the decrees of the Lord and of the apostles, in order that in everything you do, you may prosper in body and in soul, in faith and in love, in Son and in Father and in Spirit, in beginning and in end, together with your most reverend bishop; and with that fittingly woven spiritual crown, the presbytery; and with the deacons, men of God. Be subject to the bishop and to one another as Jesus Christ was subject to the Father, and the apostles were subject to Christ and to the Father; so that there may be unity in both body and spirit. – St. Ignatius of Antioch.

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 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 (Parish patronal feast), Holy Mass at 7pm.**
- **January 6: Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 10am.**
- **January 7: Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **January 14: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 11:30am ONLY.**
- **January 15: Martin Luther King Day. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm.**
- **January 18: Feast –St. Peter's Chair in Antioch. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins.**
- **January 20: Spaghetti Dinner 4-7pm.**
- **January 21: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**

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.

Who’s first?

but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior

The Christmas season is a time for recognizing firsts. As we browse through the scriptures, we encounter those who did things for the first time. It is, however, a little difficult to decide who did what first.

Did John the Baptist proclaim Jesus first? Not really. The Shepherds we honor today did that. They heard about Jesus and told of Him first. They made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child.

Was John the Baptist the first to be killed because of his proclamation of the truth? On December 26th, the

Church honors St. Stephen, called the proto-martyr – the first martyr for the faith. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. But on December 28th the Church honors the Holy Innocents, the children and infants killed by Herod after the Magi’s visit. Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region. They were first.

People have an affinity for firsts. We like winners – and these martyrs and evangelists were indeed winners first. But do we realize that we are all winners? Like the Humble Shepherds, Jesus’ birth heralds the fact that we have been made winners, and are in first place.

In writing to Titus, Paul lays down the way winners, people in first place, are to live. He says that winners are different from non-winners because they lead different lives. Paul shows us that the change wrought in Jesus coming – the appearance of God’s kindness and love – gave us the possibility of changing – becoming

victorious. It is not that we have done anything to bring about this change. Rather, it is a change gifted to us by Jesus’ appearance.

Those first visitors encountered this opportunity. Poor and outcast humble shepherds encountered Theophany. They saw the glory of God and heard the message. They were changed to winners, not just by the encounter, but because they acted on it.

Paul walks us through a formula he frequently uses, comparing before and after. In verse 3 he says how things once were – we were total losers: foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another. Now we are winners because, He saved us.

Because we are made winners, people in first place, we are called to boldly and richly live the life laid out for us by the One who gives the first victory.

For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

1 Peter 2:25

Time to Study God’s Word

SUNDAY: John 10:14
MONDAY: Isaiah 40:11
TUESDAY: Psalm 23:1
WEDNESDAY: 1 Peter 5:4
THURSDAY: Matthew 9:36
FRIDAY: Psalm 100:3
SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:11

Pray
Lord Jesus, You came to shepherd us. Send us shepherds who minister in Your image and bless them greatly.

Nativity Thank You

To all who joined us during the Solemnity of the Nativity, who decorated the parish so beautifully, who assisted in the liturgies, who attended Holy Mass this past week, and who contributed to praise and worship of the One who gives us victory. A special thank you to Liz, Alyssa, Christina, Victoria, Erickaa, Pete, Donna, and Larry.

The Season of Christmas is Here

The season of Christmas began at midnight Christmas Day. It is a 40-day celebration of the Lord with us. Just as Easter is celebrated for 40 days, so is Christmas. May God with us always be in the forefront of our lives.

Home Blessings

Let us make a special effort to celebrate Jesus’ coming with true joy for each of its forty days (i.e., until February 2nd). Note the various observances of the season on our calendar. If you would like to have your home blessed after the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 6th), please see Fr. Jim to set up a time. All home blessings must be concluded prior to Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

SouperBowl Sunday

Our new food and money collection is for Souper Bowl Sunday, February 4th. Souper Bowl Sunday supports local charities feeding the hungry. This is our 17th year participating. Please leave your donations in the soup pot or by the manger. God bless you for your spare change and generosity!!!

Valentine’s Raffle

Tickets will be going out in the next couple days for February’s Outrageous Valentine’s raffle. Prizes total \$1,180! Each entry gives one multiple chances to win. Tickets should be returned by Sunday, February 4th. Thank you for supporting this effort, which pays for our summer youth programs – Kurs and CONVO.

HELP Need

I want to reach out at this special time of the year and ask some things of you. In order to live as a parish (not just survive) we need these things from you. First, prayer. We need your continued prayers for the parish and for our mission in Schenectady. Second, membership. In 1972, there were over 150 members of our parish. Did you know that our mailing list for newsletters is addressed to nearly 200 people? That is 160 possible members, but only 40 maintain a membership. If you are not a member, we need you to take up membership. Third, involvement. If church is just for Sunday we have missed the entire point. Churches thrive on parishioner activity. Join the parish committee, take up a project, participate in the many ministries available I ask these gifts from you in this Christmas season and in 2018. God 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.

Of note . . .

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 the Parish of St. Mikael, Fredrikstad, Norway.

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.

--- Holy Name: Living Victory in Jesus ---