



# Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 30, 2018

*You*  
**BELONG**  
*Here!*



## Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds Uroczystość Ubogich Pasterzy

December 30, 2018

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 and 11:30 – for vocations

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

Lector: 9:30am Marilyn Hietala, 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 – Epiphany of the Lord Uroczystość Objawienia Pańskiego

January 6, 2019

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

First reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: Ps 80:2-3,15-15,18-19

**Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

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

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

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

- Matins at 9:20am. Epiphany Blessings. Holy Mass at 9:30am (Traditional Rite). Exposition and Benediction with prayers for the parish and vocations.
- Coffee Hour at 10:30am.
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Traditional 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

Holy Name of Jesus

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## Upcoming...

- **December 30: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision of the Lord. Holy Mass at 10am.**
- **January 2: Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus (Parish Feast). Holy Mass at 7pm.**
- **January 6: Solemnity – Epiphany of the Lord. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **January 13: Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **January 18: Feast, St. Peter's Chair at Antioch. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins.**
- **January 20: 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **January 21: Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting, 7pm.**
- **January 25: Feast, Conversion of St. Paul. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends.**

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.

God’s got it.  
*For the Lord has redeemed Israel from those too strong for them. They will come home and sing songs of joy on the heights of Jerusalem. They will be radiant because of the Lord’s good gifts*

The average temperature, that night, outside Bethlehem is forty-two degrees. Not exactly summer picnic weather. Shepherds never had an easy life. The average salary of a shepherd – while in that day there wasn’t any – and I’ll get to that – is today only \$26,200. That is less than half of the median household income. It is barely enough to cover housing and a little food. It is the definition of poverty.

I mentioned that shepherds in Jesus’ day did not really make a salary. They were typically elderly or younger family members who couldn’t be trusted in any other

role. So they got to watch the sheep.  
Cold, in poverty, unwanted and thought useless. They are who we celebrate today. We celebrate them because they were the first to see and get the message. They were the first to tell of it, to spread the Good News. God has entered the world to bring to fulfillment what He spoke through Jeremiah: *I will turn their mourning into joy. I will comfort them and exchange their sorrow for rejoicing.*

This has been a strange Advent and Christmas season for me. A movie, a song – I’d find myself getting emotional. This holds a deeper meaning and lesson. God was teaching me a lesson.  
We must never let the cold of the world, the constant just above freezing forty-two degree spiritual environment around us shut down the warmth of our hearts. If the cold of the world

has gotten to us – today we must recognize and acknowledge that God’s got it. He will not let the cold win.

Are we impoverished and weakened, poor for want of physical, spiritual, or intellectual gifts? Today we must recognize and acknowledge that God’s got it. He will not let poverty win.

Are we unwanted, estranged, facing deep loneliness, rarely thought of, shuffled into the elderly corner or to the kid’s table? Today we must recognize and acknowledge that God’s got it. He will not let separation win.

We long for so many gifts, as did the shepherds on that hill. We long as individuals, a community and neighborhood, and as Church. Suddenly, life was different and it IS different now because God’s promise is fulfilled- He has us.

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called*  
**Ephesians 4:1**

**Time to Study God’s Word**  
SUNDAY: Luke 4:18  
MONDAY: Romans 12:4-8  
TUESDAY: Jeremiah 29:11  
WEDNESDAY: Matthew 22:14  
THURSDAY: 1 Corinthians 7:17  
FRIDAY: John 15:16  
SATURDAY: Mark 1:17-18  
**Pray**  
Lord Jesus, Your Holy Church cries out for worthy shepherds. Call men as You called those humble shepherds and grant them the grace to say YES!

**The Christmas Season**  
We are in the Season of Christmas – 40 days to reflect on the wonderful gift we have received, the light we have, and the victory that is ours in Jesus. Please make a point of entering into that gift, light, and victory by participating in all spiritual events in the Christmas Season. House blessings will begin with the Solemnity of the Epiphany, on January 6th and will continue through March 5th.

- Christmas Season Events**  
We hold many beautiful spiritual events throughout the 40 days of Christmas. Please join in.
- Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds, December 30th, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
  - Solemnity of the Circumcision of the Lord, January 1st, Holy Mass at 10am.
  - Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus (Parish Feast), January 2nd, Holy Mass at 7pm.
  - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, January 6th, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
  - Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, January 13th, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.

**Epiphany Blessings (bring your gold)**  
Next week we will be blessing chalk, incense, charcoal, and gold. Please feel free to bring items to be blessed prior to Holy Mass.

**2019 - Year of Discipleship**  
We are called by the XXV Holy Synod to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2019: Our purpose is to strengthen all members in following Jesus; getting back to basics. Discipleship is who we are – all we do must flow from being a disciple of Jesus. Please see monthly Future Direction messages with concrete action plans.

**We Helped!**  
Thank you to all who donated to our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food collection for those in need in our local community. 247 pounds was delivered to Schenectady Community Ministries. They were VERY happy and very impressed with the amount.

**YMSofR Project**  
This year, the YMSofR Christmas service project is to take care of one of our own. In 1929, Bishop Hodur had a vision for Spójnia Farm, to educate youth at retreats. In 2019, The Farm turns 90! The Y project is to raise funds to continue the work of the Farm. The 90 for 90 campaign aims to raise \$90,000 to do this work. We have brochures outlining the need and ask our YMSofR brothers to plan events to raise funds. The funds will be given on July 4, 2019.

**Gift of Intentions**  
At this time of the year we try to think of what we can give to our loved ones for Christmas. Want to offer the best gift? Request Holy Mass be celebrated in their honor, for health and healing, for blessings, or for the departed. See Fr. Jim to schedule a time.

**Praying for...**  
Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice Houser, Angela Kaminski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Mariea Chase, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Węglinski, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, 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, 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, Paul Griswold, Amanda Carr, Tyler Hoffman, the Hoffman Family, Daniel DiIanne, Warren Tatlock, Susan Jones, Vincenzo DiIanne, Garry Packer, Madison Dunlap, Sandra Tatlock, Crystal Haley, Michelle & Eric, Tina Haq, Louis Kiernan, Jan Shufelt, Shirley Maliszewski, Allen Panfil, Fred Hendricks, Jeanmarie Vollmer, Nicholas Emanuele, Marysia, Theresa, Kit Yarrow, Chris Gancarz, and 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, Patric Jones. Fr. Joseph Kolek, Fr. Stan Jasiurkowski, Fr. Sr. Robert Pleczkowski, Fr. Andrew Bilinski.
- 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 Holy Trinity Parish, McKees Rocks, PA.  
Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

**Coffee Hour:** Thank you to all who supported our ministry of hospitality. It will return in September. Please sign up to take a week when the new weekly list is posted.  
**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 140 of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Father Jim.

--- *And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us* ---

Of note: