

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2019



PEACE.

Advent is here and Christmas is less than four weeks away. As we enter this season of expectation, thoughts turn to where we should be versus all the anxieties found in our daily life. As we enter this season and approach Christmas, let us consider peace.

Peace is mentioned more than 429 times in the Bible. In the Bible, peace is taught as the Shalom of God. Being of God, Shalom, peace, encompasses many meanings including totality or completeness, success, fulfillment, wholeness, harmony, security and well being.

Shalom is an ordering of life ordained by God through creation and established with God's people in the covenant. Shalom is a place of being where chaos cannot exist. Chaos is those things we all abhor - sickness, war, social strife, any violation of the covenant and God's law of love.

As we enter Advent, let us consider the place of peace in our lives. Where are we in terms of the totality or completeness, success, fulfillment, wholeness, harmony,

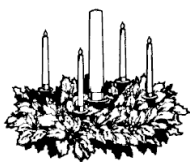
security and well being God desires for us? Where are we in relationship to Him and each other? Are we living His Shalom or are we enveloped by chaos?

The Church presents Advent as that time to re-enter the Shalom of God. We have this short period of time, set aside - really separate - where we can retreat and pray, worship (communally in church), study (Biblical reading), fast, share (get rid of the excess we have), re-connect, and holistically enter into God's peace. To do otherwise is to allow ourselves to slip into the abyss of chaos that is screaming around us.

Jesus is inviting us into his peace. He is constantly doing that. He wants us to be prepared, settled, rested, and ready for His return, both symbolically at Christmas and in reality.

As we stand before the manger, at Christmas, throughout its forty days, and thereafter, let us do so in peace.

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 on Christmas, 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

5TH ANNIVERSARY - ORDINATION TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood five years ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas). This year has flown by as have the past four, and has been marked particularly by the joyfulness lived in our faith family. 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 1st we entered Year A. In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

Advent Charity - food gathering

At the opening of this newsletter, we read from St. Basil, one of the Church Fathers, on Advent. One of the actions we can take is sharing our bread with the hungry.

We began collecting dry and canned goods in November for Schenectady Community Ministries. We will continue collecting donations throughout Advent, ending on December 15th. 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.

Charity - clothing gathering

Branch 56 of the YMSofR began its clothing drive that will last through January 20th. Also in line with St. Basil's thoughts, let us share the clothing we have in excess. Any type of clothing is welcome. Drop your items and bags off downstairs in the church hall.

Branch 56 will count the clothing and deliver it weekly to local charities that supply those in need such as Vet House, located in Ballston Spa serving veterans, The Guardian House which serves homeless female veterans, the Bridge Christian Church which serves our neighborhood, and others. This is part of a national

service project. Help us help you clean out those basements and closets!

Blessing of Opłatki and the Advent Wreath

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

RORATE HOLY MASS

What is a Rorate Holy Mass? It is a custom from antiquity to celebrate a special votive Holy Mass, typically on Wednesday's in Advent, in honor of the Blessed Virgin. This Rorate Holy Mass is celebrated in the dark, just before sunrise, by candlelight only. We are reviving this tradition this Advent, starting Wednesday, December 4th at 7am. The other dates are December 11th and 18th.

Vigil pot-luck, musical, and student Christmas presentation - December 15th

Our annual Christmas Vigil / Wigilia pot-luck will be held on Sunday, December 15th 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 22nd

Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 22nd between Holy Masses 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 in early January. Prizes total \$1,220 (more because it is a leap year).

If you would like tickets earlier, for Christmas gifts, just ask Fr. Jim or Linda DePaula.

Each entry provides 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 2020 programs including CONVO 2020.

Gift of Holy Mass 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. Be also a voice for the dearly departed who no longer sit at table with us. Have Holy Mass offered for them too - a perfect gift. There is no better gift. See Fr. Jim to schedule a time.

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!!!!

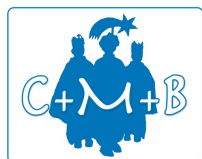
To our wonderful altar servers, lectors, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to all who provide for our ministry of hospitality.

To 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.



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.

Blessings may take place between January 7th and February 25th.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hours continue after services each week. Come and share worship and wonderful treats with fellowship every week. Please volunteer to sponsor a week. Remember that nothing special is necessary - simple is better.

Planning For:

Holy Mass on Sunday at 9:30 and 11:30am unless otherwise indicated

- December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent.
- December 4: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra.
- December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent.
- December 9: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M. (translated).
- December 11: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am.
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- December 14: Songs for a Holy Night at Eastern Parkway United Methodist Church.
- December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent. **Holy Mass at 10:30am.** Youth Christmas and Musical Performances and Parish Vigil Potluck follows.

- December 16: Holy Mass and Anointing of the Sick, 6:15pm.
- December 18: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am.
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle.
- December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses with Advent Penitential Service. Greening of the church.
- December 24: **Vigil of the Nativity**. 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: Sunday - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds.
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at 10am. Happy 2020!
- January 2: **Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 7pm.**
- January 5: Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family.
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass at 7pm includes blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense.
- January 13: Sunday - Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord.

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

Anniversaries

19 Bob & Cyndie Williams

Every blessing!

Annual dues - reduced

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

What do you think about Church dues? Do you think they are something 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 \$2.40 per week per member. Is the Church worth that much? Not only did many fight, even face prison, for our Holy Church, many also double or tripled mortgaged their homes for the purpose of building up the Church. They were courageous vanguards who were willing to sacrifice all for Jesus' Kingdom. Dues are part of giving generously from our plenty - those who first established dues gave that and more from their want.

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 \$125 per year for

each adult member regardless of age.

Pay your dues with joy and thank God that we have our Church. If anyone faces such severe financial difficulties that \$2.40 per person per week is unaffordable, please see Fr. Jim privately.

Nominations/Annual Meeting

Our annual congregation meeting will be held in early February 2019 along with the election of a new Parish Committee.



New members of the Committee are needed so we may prepare for the future. 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.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING VERY GENEROUS

During Advent and Christmas we particularly feel the call to give. This is an excellent reflection for those times where that pull becomes overwhelming and confusing.

By Chip Ingram

I used to think generosity was a

characteristic reserved for two special groups of people: the very rich and the very holy. I was neither (still am not!). Not wanting to be selfish or anything, but I didn't feel much like draining my very small bank account unless I had to.

The problem was, I had a skimpy understanding of generosity. Maybe you do too.

Eventually I learned that not only is being generous with our time, talents, and treasure something Christians are called to, I discovered that generosity is genius.

You see, generosity has nothing to do with how much money you have or how holy you are. It has everything to do with understanding that God has given us all things. Every day is an adventure in which we can share His gifts, and get them back again.

If you're not feeling very generous right now, let me give you four reasons why you'd be smart to explore God's gift of generosity.

Number one, generosity changes lives. It blesses us, enriches us, and makes life better.

Jesus' last recorded words – quoted by the apostle Paul in Acts 20:35 – were, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* When you're generous, both parties get blessed – but the giver gets "more" because God fills up your account again!

Second, generosity connects us with others. Proverbs 11:25 says that *"he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."*

When you share from your life – anything from a phone conversation to donating to a homeless shelter – your relationships with others get stronger.

Third, generosity helps us invest in

what matters most.

Your heart goes where your money flows. It's a big tip-off of who or what you value. Jesus cautioned us from storing treasures on earth, where they can rot or be stolen. Instead He said to focus on the sort of treasures that belong in heaven.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:20-21)

What do you think deserves your hard work, your hours, and your financial backing? Fast cars, big houses, the latest fashions? Or your family and friends, the church, your community, and the world?

Here's one last thought about generosity: Jesus says generosity frees our hearts.

Think about it. If our values lean toward possessions, overachieving, and gaining recognition, we can never let up. We have to keep striving, achieving, competing, and winning. That produces dysfunctional relationships and hard hearts. But if people, truth, joy, and service are our top values, all that is free for us to share.

Since everything is from the Lord, the more we share it, the more we are blessed by God to share more.

So, if you aren't feeling very generous, maybe you need to reevaluate how you define generosity. You'll feel like a genius with all the blessings you'll experience.

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso	2	3	4 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	5	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Lauren DeBlois, Claudia Bertasso.	9 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M. (translated)	10	11 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe	13	14
15 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass at 10:30am . Lector: Larry Panfil. Vigil Pot Luck , Youth Christmas and Musical Presentations,	16 Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm	17	18 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	19	20	21 Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle
22 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso. Greening of the Church.	23	24 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 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Lauren DeBlois, Claudia Bertasso	30	31				

Events

January 2020 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am/Happy 2020!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Holy Mass at 7pm.
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm.

Holy Name of Jesus
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