

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC
1040 PEARL STREET
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12303-1846
PARISH AND HALL: 518-372-1992
REV. JIM KONICKI: 518-522-0944
ON THE WEB:

WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER

2019



AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.

Wholeness, completeness - words that present a sense of the ideal, and concepts that are so hard to live on a day-to-day basis.

As a Church dedicated to scripture, and considering that we classify the proclamation and teaching of God's word as a sacrament. let's take a moment to consider the Bible.

I remember classes from grade school on up - and the oft repeated question - what is the Bible? The expected, technical answer, which most kids got wrong? The Bible is a Book of Books.

A Book of Books? Makes it seem as if the Bible is a kind of library, and indeed it could be considered that. However, my classmates and I would invariably get the 'answer' wrong, blurting out - "It is a book."

But what if we were right?

My classmates and I were right because perhaps, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we were seeing the bigger picture, the completeness, the wholeness of scripture.

All of scripture, from its inspired

stories, histories, prophecies, and poetry in the Old Testament is one. It points invariably to the coming salvation found only in Jesus Christ. The Gospels give us Jesus in His complete revelation - the call to live life as He lived, the call to be a true sons and daughters of the Father as He is the Son of the Father. The invitation to accept Him as our Savior by confession of our sin and belief by faith. The remainder of the New Testament interprets the Gospel into keys for daily living within the wholeness of the Christian community.

We dedicate the month of November to remembering our dearly departed. We have a lesson here. The wholeness and completeness of scripture is life's model, who we are and where we are going. Life is not a series of separate stories and events, just a book of books, or unrelated chapters. Our life extends from birth to eternity. We are not just separate people and events. We live in a continuum that has, as its goal and end, life in the eternal wholeness and completeness of God Who holds all things together.

Rt. Reverend śp. Stanley M. Bilinski, 1st Anniversary



One year ago, on November 2nd, All Souls Day, just after the end of All Saints Day, our beloved former pastor, the Rt. Rev. śp. Stanley M. Bilinski reposed in the Lord.

Bishop śp. Stan, as a priest, served in the Capital Region for over twenty years.

He first came to Holy Name of Jesus parish to assist Fr. Dr. śp. Jonathan Trela during his time of illness and continued his pastoralship through 2011.

Besides his immediate pastoral

leadership in parishes, Fr. Stan was active in area ecumenical activities. He oversaw the Albany International Airport prayer room on behalf of the Capital Area Council of Churches. He taught in area schools, putting his education degree to good use with the family he most loved - youth. He was involved in many charitable activities lending mental and physical labor to various projects.

He was the Church's National Youth Chaplain for many years and was also active in the Church's bowling and music programs. He was the Church's lead in Orthodox-PNCC dialogs.

Eternal rest grant unto Your servant, O Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon him!

Month of All Souls



The Holy Church sets aside the month of November to commemorate those who have preceded us in holy death.

As Christians we recognize that death is not an ending, but rather a change. We pass through death into everlasting life. We remain joined with all those who have died. We rely on them for their intercession on our behalf. They rely on our prayers and intercession to ease their transition, their journey into the glory of heaven.

We will remember our dearly departed all month according to age

old Catholic custom of commemoration and prayer...a custom known as "wypominki."

We will remember all those entrusted to our prayer prior to every Holy Mass in November.

We will hold our annual blessing of graves at Good Shepherd Cemetery on Sunday, November 3rd at 2pm.

Holy Synod Results

Fr. Jim and Mr. Larry Panfil, your elected delegate, attended the Special Holy Synod held on Friday, October 25th. The sole business of the Synod was to elect a candidate or candidates for the office of bishop. After 8am Holy Mass at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Synod business began. The Very Rev. Jarosław "Jerry" Rafalko was elected on the first ballot.

Simultaneously, in the Norwegian Catholic Church, a Holy Synod was being held which included electing a candidate for bishop. Fr. Ottar Mikael Myrseth was elected.

Fr. Senior Rafalko and Fr. Ottar Mikael Myrseth will be consecrated as determined by the Prime Bishop. Stay tuned for details. Thank you for your prayer.

Constant Thanksgiving

To all who planned, helped, baked for, organized, and supported the YMSofR Biennial Convention, held at our parish from October 18th through 20th.

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, and our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia.

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!!!

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

3 Tiffany Martucci, Andrew DeCocco
4 Elizabeth, Gary, and Walter Węglinski
12 Kayla Boyland, Ariel Dopp
14 Scott Bard, Tom Caulfield
19 Victoria Konicki
20 Anthony Heins
21 Tania Boniecki
23 Jan Shufelt, Oswald Martucci
26 Julie Slezak
28 Alice Houser
30 Fr. Jim

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

Coffee Hour

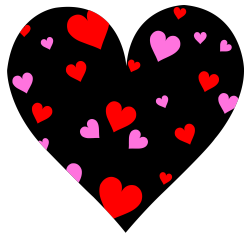
Don't you love our time together for coffee, snacks, fellowship,



conversation, and catching up after Holy Mass on Sunday? It really is a special and very important part of our parish life. It is a time where we can share with each other, educate our youth, and welcome newcomers and seekers (people looking for a church home). Please prayerfully consider signing up to assist and provide for a week. Please sign up to bring items in and set up on any particular week. REMEMBER: Nothing fancy is needed. The parish reimburses all costs if you wish. We really need your help.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

This coming year, 2020, we will once again hold our Outrageous Valentine's raffle to support the youth of our Church and our parish. including support for the annual KURS summer encampment and Convo 2020.



We need your support to give our young people a great beginning. Each Outrageous Valentine's Raffle ticket gives the purchaser a chance to win up to \$1,220 (its a leap year - so extra winnings). The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle will include drawings for \$40 daily prizes and a \$100 daily prize on Valentine's Day. The raffle is drawn each day of the month, giving the ticket holder 29 chances to win. Winning tickets are

returned to the raffle bucket, making them eligible to win again and again.

Tickets will be mailed out this month. Each family is being asked to sell a total of 10 tickets. Tickets cost only \$10 each. They also make a great gift for Christmas – add one to a card for that special person.

Kindly do your best in selling as many tickets as you possibly can. Your effort is truly appreciated and is very important to our young people. Feel free to contact Fr. Jim at 518-372-1992 or 518-522-0944 with any questions or concerns.

We thank you for your support and wish you good luck!

YMSofR CLOTHING COLLECTION

Each year, the YMSofR takes up a service project. This year, the men of our YMSofR

Branch 56, and Branches across the country, are holding a clothing drive from November 1st through January 20th.

Any type of clothing is welcome. Drop your items off 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. Help us help you clean out those basements and closets!

Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Collection



We are 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!

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

The Mohawk Valley Seniorate's Thanksgiving celebration is planned for Saturday, November 16th at All Saints Parish, 801 Hickory St., Rome, New York. Get the bus ready so we can all go together to worship, give thanks, and celebrate. Holy Mass will start at 11am followed by dinner. Please let Fr. Jim know if you are attending.

Planning For:

Holy Masses on Sundays are at 9:30 and 11:30am unless otherwise noted.

- November 1: Solemnity of All Saints - Special Holy Mass at 7pm

with a reading of the names of our dearly departed.

- November 2: Observance of All Souls.
- November 3: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Cemetery Service at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Amsterdam at 2pm. Daylight Savings Ends.
- November 5: Election Day.
- November 7: Commemoration – St. Willibrord of Utrecht.
- November 10: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- November 11: Veteran's Day/ Remembrance Day/Polish Independence Day.
- November 16: Seniorate Thanksgiving Celebration, All Saints Parish, Rome, NY at 11am.
- November 17: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- November 18: Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting, 7pm.
- November 21: Solemnity of the Presentation of the B.V.M.
- November 24: Solemnity of Christ the King.
- November 28: Thanksgiving.
- November 30: Feast - St. Andrew the Apostle
- December 1: 1st Sunday of Advent/Cycle A Begins.

Stay tuned for:

- St. Nicholas Day

- Our Parish Vigil Dinner/Wigilia and Youth Performance
- Greening of the Church
- Christmas
- St. Stephen's Day
- 2020!!!!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Recently, the Roman Catholic Church held a Synod of the Amazon. You may have heard news of this event. I hope, by this writing, to provide some clarity.

The Synod recommended married priests? Yes and no. In a funny way, the Roman Church might seem to be catching up with us after nearly 100 years, but it is not quite true. The recommendation is to appoint "viri probati" or virtuous elderly men who have lived holy lives to act as "priests" only in the sense of offering Holy Mass for the purpose of confecting the Eucharist and offering Holy Communion. Ordination would only be available to these "viri probati" in remote areas of the Amazon that are unserved by priests. These priests would not be able to offer confession or preach.

Women Deacons? The Synod recommended, as these events typically do, that the issue be studied by a commission. That

commission has existed on and off for decades.

What is a Pachamama? In advance of the Synod an ancient Amazonian goddess, the Pachamama (mother earth) was paraded into the Vatican garden in the presence of the Bishop of Rome and was later placed in one of Rome's churches where it, along with other symbols (including a canoe and an image of a woman nursing a dog/weasel) were literally worshiped. Priests and others bowed to the ground before these images. To put in practical terms, it would be as if we placed images of mother earth goddesses Gaia, Cybele, Ceres, Proserpina, Matka Ziemia, Zemyna, Prithvi, the Native American Spider Grandmother, or Norse Sif in our parish or cathedral - and then worshiped them. This horror should be immediately startling to our consciences and offensive to every child of God. As Israel turned from God to worship the Baals and Asherah poles, so Rome has invited in false gods for worship. It makes no sense to anyone who calls themselves Christian.

The organization of the Roman Church is such that they must adhere to what the Bishop of Rome does, for he has complete and universal jurisdictional authority.

This structural issue, what we in church circles call Ecclesiastical polity, helps to create confusion for the Roman faithful and others by leadership setting bad example. It is scandalous. Let us be ready to offer sanctuary to those who worship the one true God in His Son Who is the Way, Truth, and Life.

Let us pray also that Rome turns from this scandal and listens to the voice of God who declares: *Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them...*

What if the whole world came together on one day to give?

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.
#GI^{VE}INGTUESDAY
December 3, 2019

#GivingTuesday is December 3! This is a special day offered so that we can refocus ourselves after Black Friday and Cyber Monday and do our part in having an impact. Everyone can

have an impact on #GivingTuesday by pledging time, skills, voice, and dollars to support your charity of choice. We encourage you to do so.

How to Lift People Up

By Chip Ingram

Out of all the countless gifts God has given us, I believe one stands out as the most powerful: The gift of speech.

Think about it. Contrary to that oft-repeated childhood saying about sticks and stones, words have the power to bring life or take it away.

Proverbs 10:11 says, *"The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence."*

Proverbs 15:4 says, *"The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit."*

Read those verses again, out loud! Your mouth – the words that come out of it – can be a fountain of life. Your tongue – your language – can be not only soothing, but life giving. Awesome!

And the opposite? What a contrast! Violence. Crushed spirits.

Yes, our speech has amazing power to lay people low, or lift them up. As Christians, we are called to build up our fellow believers, our family members, our friends, our neighbors, and the strangers we meet.

Encouragement, you see, is you being who God has made you to be so that others can be who He designed them to be. Encouragement helps others take the "next step" they couldn't take on their own, allowing them to become more like

Christ. How can we become these kind of encouragers?

The apostle Paul is a model for us. He underwent endless trials as he traveled the known world spreading the news of the resurrected Messiah, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But he never failed to be an encouragement to those he encountered. In his first letter to the church of the Thessalonians, he writes this:

“Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Let’s take a look at some ways to speak life to those that we love. Paul starts by bestowing a blessing. Of course, you would be looked at weird if you used Paul’s language today. But there are so many ways to bless people. Tell them you’re praying for them. Remind them how privileged you feel to be their friend. Listen to them. Send an email or an old-fashioned card, or better yet, make a phone call.

What you’re communicating is, “You matter. You matter to me and you matter to God.”

Paul goes on to show his appreciation. He first gives thanks, specifically acknowledging their faith, their love, and their endurance. This shows that he knows these people, and values them. It’s like he’s saying, “You’ve got this, folks. I see you. I appreciate you!”

Do you do that? Maybe you have the tendency to wait until you see things

done perfectly, or behavior that’s righteous. Don’t wait!

I also want to encourage you to verbalize your confidence in other people’s faith. Deep down I believe everyone thinks that others are way more spiritual than they are. Part of that may be because we’re not verbalizing what we see in other’s walk with Jesus.

When was the last time you told someone how seeing God work in them is an encouragement to you? We’re little mirrors to one another, and we all need that.

Those who constantly lift people up are doing the work of the Spirit. The power of an affirming word given specifically, lovingly, and authentically, as God leads, is absolutely beyond what you can imagine.

Encourage someone today!

Thanksgiving Prayer

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer, And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency; bestir my compassion, and help me be concerned enough to help; By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Solemnity of All Saints Holy Mass at 7pm with the reading of the names of our dearly departed	2 Commemoration of All Souls
3 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso. Cemetery Service at Good Shepherd Cemetery in Amsterdam at 2pm.	4	5 Election Day – please vote	6	7 Commemoration – St. Willibrord of Utrecht	8	9
10 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso.	11 Veteran's Day Narodowe Święto Niepodległości	12	13	14	15	16 Seniorate Thanksgiving Holy Mass and Luncheon at 11am.
17 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso.	18 Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting, 7pm	19	20	21 Solemnity - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	22	23
24 Solemnity of Christ the King - Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso.	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 Feast – St. Andrew the Apostle

EVENTS

December Upcoming

- 1st – 1st Sunday of Advent.
- 6th - St. Nicholas/Św. Mikołaj
- 8th – Conception of the B.V.M.
- Vigil Dinner
- Greening of the Church
- Wigilia and Christmas

Holy Name of Jesus
National Catholic Church – P.N.C.C.
1040 Pearl Street
Schenectady, NY 12303

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