

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC**  
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**ON THE WEB: [WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG)**



# **NEWSLETTER**

## **JANUARY**

# **2020**

SO THAT I MAY MAKE IT CLEAR, AS IT IS RIGHT FOR ME TO DO.

Watching New Year's Rockin' Eve at the turn of the year and our entry into a new decade was interesting. The team running the show kept playing Barbara Walters, the former cohost of the news show 20/20, saying over and over: "This is 2020."

20/20 has been on ABC since 1978. It was meant to present in-depth reporting on human interest stories. The name of the program was meant to denote clearness of vision, a goal of providing clear information for the show's audience's thinking.

The verse above is from the end of Paul letter to the Church at Colossae. Paul was in prison at the time and he was asking for the Church's prayers so that he might "*proclaim the mystery of Christ*" clearly and that the door might be opened "*for our message*."

As we begin this new year and decade it is opportune for us to focus on a message that is 20/20, a clear speaking and teaching on the message of Jesus, the mystery of His coming to earth, passion, death, resurrection, ascension, and

imminent return. We people of faith have been given a clearer vision and understanding of these things, what they mean for us in our life journey. We also have a clear task in front of us - to make what we know known.

The world is a place of confusion and distraction. It is a place of shadows and unclear thinking. That's just in everyday life. Think how much more confusing the message of sacrificial love found in the Gospel of Jesus is to the world; how hard it is to love as we should. These things are mystery, or foolishness, or even stupidity to those who do not know the power of Jesus' clear message. So we must set to work.

We are called to present in-depth reporting on the greatest human interest story of all time. We are to call people, by our teaching, words, prayer, and way of life to a clear vision of what life is, providing clear information for all around us to hear and follow. Paul's prayer of purpose must be our prayer too. Lord, open the door for me so I may proclaim Your mystery clearly, 20/20.

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## Annual Meeting & Parish Offices: Something new is happening.

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Our annual congregation meeting is tentatively planned for Sunday,



February 2nd along with the election of a new Parish Committee. We will finalize the date and advise you of the

final date through the weekly bulletin and announcements system.

This past year has been so wonderful and positive. There is a real joy among us. We have had several new people step forward for service - positive energy in the Spirit produces positive results! As we prepare to meet, pray for God's continued care and grace for all who serve or intend to serve in positions of leadership. We really need you to disciple in this.

If you, or someone you know, wishes to serve, please write your or their name down along with the office (Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Secretary, Trustee) you/they would like to run for and drop them in the collection basket in an envelope marked nominations.

Anyone may attend the annual meeting to share in the information provided, but please note that only paid parish members may cast a vote or run for office.

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## Membership and Dues Decreased?!?

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Membership requires the payment of annual dues which support the larger Church and our Diocese. Certain benefits of the parish, including burial in the cemetery, are reserved to members.

Dues are now \$125 per year for each adult member regardless of age.

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**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PAY YOUR  
DUES**

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.

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## Envelopes and Tax Statements

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God bless you for your generosity and support of our parish in 2019. Because of you and your sacrifice we have been greatly blessed. Donation envelopes for 2020 have arrived and are available in the back of the church. Please take a packet

home and avail yourself of these envelopes in the coming year.

Doing so allows the parish to provide you with a

statement for accounting and income tax purposes.



Annual statements for income tax purposes will also be available this month.

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## SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

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*"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of*

*soup to eat."*

Over the past 18 years our parish has raised \$2,200 as part of the SouperBowl of Caring effort. This year's collection will be held on February 2nd. The soup pot is out. Please continue your generosity in this worthy effort which helps Schenectady Community Ministries in feeding the hungry.

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## Thank YOU for Your Food Offerings

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Thank you to all who donated so generously. 376 pounds of food was delivered to Schenectady Community Ministries, an increase of 129 pounds. We are making a difference locally.

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## The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

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Make February 2020 – the month of love – a month to win in more ways than one!

This effort supports the youth of our parish and will help us in saving for Kurs and CONVO 2020 - two great

events our youth will attend this summer.

We need your support to give our young people a great beginning in 2020. As God has told us, starting our children off right in the knowledge of the Lord will cause them to bear much good fruit in their lives.

Each ticket for the Outrageous Valentine's Raffle gives the purchaser a chance to win up to \$1,220 - more

because it is a

leap year. 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.



We ask that you sell them and return them to the parish office by February 2nd so that all tickets may be entered. Tickets cost only \$10 each. Feel free to contact Fr. Jim or Linda DePaula with any questions or to get more tickets if needed.

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

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## Epiphany Visitations - Kolęda - House Blessings

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on Sunday, January 6th.

Fr. Jim is available to visit your homes for the traditional Epiphany home blessing. Please see him to make an appointment. Blessing appointments are available through February 25th (prior to Ash Wednesday).

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## The Holy Name of Jesus

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January 2nd marks the annual celebration of the Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Our parish was established and dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Join us on January 2nd at 7pm for Holy Mass in celebration of our patronal feast. Let us always honor and praise the Holy Name of Jesus in all we do – in our witness to His Holy Name and our mutual affection, fellowship, love, and charity.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, You have said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek, and you shall find, knock, and it shall be opened to you." Grant, we beg of You, to us who ask it, the gift of Your most divine love, that we may ever love You with our whole heart, in word and deed, and never cease praising You. Amen.*

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**THANK YOU, MERCI,  
DZIĘKUJE, ĄČIŰ, GRACIAS,  
MAHALO, GRAZIE!**

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**There is so much to be thankful for.** To all who blessed us by preparing food for our annual parish vigil dinner. Thank you to all who attended Holy Mass that day, witnessed our Youth Presentation (our great youth and Ms. Liz's leadership with lots of great help from Alyssa, Kyle, and Lauren), and enjoyed a fantastic dinner including your wonderful shared dishes. Let the words shared by Bishop Jack sing in our hearts: *I had a*

*Thank  
You*

*wonderful time this past Sunday! I pray that God will allow His grace to be with you and your lovely family. There is healing there in that House of Prayer. It seems no*

*matter who each person may be, you accept him or her. To Combos for the great fish.*

To all who joined in to decorate the parish so beautifully for Christmas.

To all who attended Holy Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thank you to our altar servers for being present and assisting. Thank you to Christina and Victoria for your beautiful music unto the Baby Jesus. Thank you to Ms. Liz, Larry, Kyle, Alyssa and Victoria for your music and singing. Thank you Alyssa for your representation in ministry, bringing in the Baby Jesus. Thank you to all who decorated so beautifully. Thank you to Linda for the festive repast.

To those who have worked so tirelessly over the past year: our

parish officers and committee members, our jurors, nomination committee members, members of the ANS, YMSofR, and choir, Mrs. Liz Battaglia for her service as our organist and music director, our altar servers, lectors, and those who cared for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish facilities (Pete, Larry, Darryl).

To Lauren for the beautiful new altar rail kneeling pads.

To all who provided for our weekly coffee hour - a ministry of service and hospitality.

To our event planners and volunteers at our Basket Social and the biennial national YMSofR convention held in our parish.



To Larry for his service at the Special Holy Synod held in October.

For everyone's work on other special events and to all those who gave of

their time and treasure to build up the ministry and community of our parish, Seniorate, and the wider Church.

A special thank you to our youth and their parents/grandparents for your dedication and hard work and participation in Kurs.

May God bless and reward you for all you have done!

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## **Milestones to Celebrate:**

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### Birthdays

1 John Linscott  
3 Logan Slezak  
4 Zach Bixler, Zachary Prusky, Courtney Carroll  
5 Derrick D'Amico  
8 Alex D'Amico, Lawrence Panfil, Christine DeCocco  
11 Cyndie Williams  
14 Karen DeMidio  
18 Darian Topolski  
22 Catherine Martucci  
23 Christina Naumowicz, Laurie Lee Woodworth  
25 Richard Okonsky, Adam Konicki  
26 Cadence Smith  
27 Eric Kaminski, Jack Kaminski  
29 Judi Horton

### **Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!**

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### Planning Ahead

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Sunday Holy Masses at 9:30 and 11:30am unless otherwise noted.

- Jan 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision - Holy Mass at 10am.
- Jan. 2: Solemnity: Holy Name - our Parish Feast - Holy Mass at 7pm.
- January 5: Solemnity of the Holy Family - normal Sunday schedule.
- Jan. 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord - Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at 7pm.
- Jan. 12: Solemnity - Baptism of

the Lord - normal Sunday schedule.

- Jan. 18: Feast –St. Peter’s Chair in Antioch. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins.
- Jan. 19: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - normal Sunday schedule.
- Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Day. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting.
- Jan. 25: Feast - Conversion of St. Paul. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends.
- Jan. 26: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time./Music Scholarship Sunday - normal Sunday schedule.
- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation - **Holy Mass at 10am only. Blessing of Candles and Throats. Annual Meeting to follow.**

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### Music Scholarship Sunday

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Sunday, January 26th is Music Scholarship Sunday. Our parish has been blessed with great musicians and aspiring musicians. We had 2 winners last year. Scholarships are available to both youth and adults. 2020 scholarship applications will be available soon. God bless those who add musical beauty to the worship of God.

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## Gift of Intentions

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Want to offer the best gift? Request Holy Mass be celebrated for a loved

one for health and healing, for blessings, in thanksgiving for gifts received, or for the departed. See Fr. Jim to schedule a time.

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### Intentional Prayer and Candles

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Why light a candle in church? It’s a good question. A candle is lit as part of intentional prayer for someone or some need. A candle is lit as part of a prayerful intention and with purpose and meaning. Alone the candle does nothing, but in prayer it symbolizes the Light of Christ who has overcome all for us.

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## YMSOFR CLOTHING PROJECT

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Branch 56 of the YMSofR is holding a clothing drive that will last through January 20th. Any type of clothing is welcome. Drop your items and bags off downstairs at church. 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 basements and closets!

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## Happy 2020!

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On behalf of Fr. Jim, his family, and our parish Committee we wish you all the best for 2020!

# DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC



Our Holy Church will once again focus on discipleship. The discipleship message will remind us of the work of those individuals, people like us, who were called and who responded through outstanding discipleship.

January 2020 focuses on John the baptist, forerunner and disciple.

Our January **Scripture for Reflection** is Matthew 3:1-17 and John 1:15-36; 3:22-30

Our January **Questions for Reflection** are:

John the Baptist called others to repent and prepare for the Lord Jesus.

- How can I, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?
- Name a few important "discipleship qualities" that John the Baptist demonstrates?
- Which one would I personally like to better emulate?
- How can I begin to practically do so in my daily life?

Our monthly planning is asked to include the following:

- January - St. John the Baptist. Plan and implement a parish assessment.

- February - Ss. Simeon and Anna. Wine and Cheese gathering.
- March - Ss. Martha and Mary. Lenten Retreat.
- April - St. Mary Magdalene.
- May - St. Peter. Wine and Cheese gathering.
- June - Ss. James and John.
- July - St. Paul. Special Holy Mass for those grieving in any way.
- August - The Canaanite Woman.
- September - St. Barnabas. Wine and cheese gathering.
- October - The Holy Theotokos. Wine and Cheese gathering.
- November - St. Matthew. Wine and Cheese gathering. Holy Mass for those who serve. Report of parish assessment.
- December - St. Joseph. Advent Penitential Service.

Our five themes continue to be:

- I. Growth and Membership
- II. Increase Spirituality
- III. Lifelong Learning
- IV. Community Involvement
- V. Sacred Vocations

More information on these initiative will be available at the annual meeting on February 2nd.

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## What One Trait is God Looking For?

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By Chip Ingram

My wife Theresa is always shopping.



Whenever we're hanging out around downtown Los Gatos, CA, or if we get away for a little weekend to Atlanta, GA, she is always shopping.

But she's not shopping for herself, she's actually shopping for our grandkids. It seems like there is a birthday happening every third day in our family. So, wherever we go, she sees something and says, "For this season, this would be perfect for..." and then she'll name one of the grandkids and tell me why.

She genuinely cares about each child and wants them to have the very thing that would help them be and experience the very best.

God is always "shopping" too...

In other words, God is always on the lookout for people who are prepared to fulfill His will.

*For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. (2 Chronicles 16:9)*

God is always looking! He is looking up and down the aisles in churches across the world. He is looking for men and women who are ready so that He can use them.

And as He uses us, He changes us. And then He meets the needs of the world through us. We become the hands and the feet through which the love of Christ is poured out on the world.

So, how do we become one of those who He uses? In other words, what exactly is the trait God is looking for?

Timothy was a person chosen by God to serve God. What did he bring to the table? So, why did God choose to use him?

The number one trait he possessed was that he cared! Here's what the Apostle Paul wrote about him:

*I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with*

*me in the work of the gospel. (Philippians 2:20-22)*

Paul noticed that most people would "seek after their own interest, not those of Christ Jesus," but Timothy was different. He had "genuine concern" for the welfare of the church and was "of proven worth."

Paul also described him as being faithful, loyal, and with a servant's heart. And he was willing and available. When there was a need, he was willing to serve. God saw the trait of caring. And He greatly used Paul.

How about you – do you want to be used greatly by God?

Begin by asking yourself a few questions, and then spend some time thinking about them:

"Do I care?"

Think about the people you live or work with. Your roommate, your family, your co-workers – do they sense that you care about them? Do your words and actions communicate that you really care?

"Do I have a servant's heart?"

Do you really care about people to the extent that you would adjust your current schedule, your current rhythm of life as it is today? For a servant, there is no job too low, there is no recognition needed, and there's no thanks required. Are you OK with that?

"Am I willing and available?"

Many of us do care, but not to the point of genuine willingness to act. We are genuinely willing, but just not available! We're just too busy. We're just doing lots of stuff and we've assumed all the stuff we're doing is the most important. But, if there's no time for God, and there's no time to serve others for God, then we are just too busy.

God has a trait He wants to see in our lives more than any other. God is looking for ordinary, regular people who care – those who have a servant's heart and who are willing and available.



# January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass, 10am.	2 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Parish Feast, Holy Mass, 7pm.	3	4
5 Solemnity of the Holy Family, Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso.	6 Solemnity of the Epiphany - Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm	7	8	9	10	11
12 Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Joe Kaczynski, Claudia Bertasso.	13	14	15	16	17	18 St. Peter's Chair at Antioch. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins.
19 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Lauren DeBlois, Claudia Bertasso.	20 Martin Luther King Day Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm Parish Committee Meeting	21	22	23	24	25 Conversion of St. Paul Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends
26 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. <b>Music Scholarship</b> Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Lectors: Larry Panfil, Claudia Bertasso.	27	28	29	30	31	

## EVENTS

### Starting Jan. 7th:

Blessing of Homes Begins – See or Call Fr. Jim.

**All of February - Outrageous Valentine's Raffle**

### February Upcoming

Feb. 2nd – Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at 10am only.  
Blessing of Candles and Throats.  
Annual Meeting to follow.

Feb. 25th – Last Day for Home Blessings

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

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