

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



NEWSLETTER
**JULY/
AUGUST**
2020

WHEN JUSTICE IS DONE, IT IS A JOY TO THE RIGHTEOUS BUT TERROR TO EVILDOERS.

I remember those hot summers in the late 1960's and early 1970's. They were marked by an unease due to the social unrest around me. I used to be a real news junkie and would watch the process of protest unfold each night. Between the ages of 6 and 9 it scared me, and it also marked my psyche and life.

Those hot summers of protest did engender change. An unjust war was ended. Civil rights were expanded. There was a start to addressing the needs of those in poverty. Voices that needed to be heard were heard.

It took me awhile to understand the impact those protests had. They didn't just go away, they made a difference then. Now they are back. They are needed to make a difference now. The promise of past decades slowed to a crawl and needs to be bought closer to completion.

Perhaps it is our general comfort with the way things are. We get used to the status quo and very rarely appreciate it when someone upsets the apple cart. It is not

generally done out of maliciousness, more out of a malaise that sets in. No matter how much we say we like excitement, and things to be different, we don't.

This is why scripture is important. This is why we must study what God has said on the subject, look to God's design, and then set to work to close the gap between God's way and what is. Jesus tells us: "*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*" We must live that.

The text above is Proverbs 21:15. A simple search of the Bible on the word 'justice' reveals at-least 100 passages. Justice for the widow, orphan, foreigner/sojourner, the poor, those who are sick or disabled, the imprisoned. God's kingdom is a place of peace that comes from justice for all.

In my discussions with community leaders I have reiterated our commitment to justice and dignity for all. Our words are important, but not just words. We need to ensure action for justice and dignity.

Reopening Plans

As of now, we are looking to reopen for public worship in the church building starting Sunday, July 19th with **one Holy Mass at 10am** and with certain required conditions. We will do so responsibly and with great care and only if the situation continues to improve!

It is vitally important that we act with self-restraint and wisdom. At a basic level, if you are not well, stay home. If you do not feel safe, stay home. Participate remotely. We will continue to broadcast Holy Mass as we have always done (long before the current crisis began). God wants you alive to do His work.

Requirements for reopening

- All pew missals, hymn books, and any other items have been removed from the pews. This prevents the passing of viruses via touch.
- There must be proper and more than adequate cleaning of all surfaces between Holy Masses/ services.
- There will be no singing, instrumental music only.
- Holy Communion will not be distributed.
- Masks must be worn and must cover the nose and mouth.
- The church doors will be propped open so people can enter/leave without touching surfaces.
- Any papers (the bulletin) must be taken home and may not be left behind. They will be placed in the pew in advance.
- Social distance must be maintained by all persons. Pew seating will be restricted.
- Upon entering the church, you must go to the front. You must sit from the front to the back. In other words, enter and go to the first unoccupied pew in the front. Do not start sitting from the back to the front. Do not walk past occupied pews when entering. This prevents people from passing each other and passing on viruses. We hope to not have to 'usher' you.
- Upon leaving, do the reverse. People in back leave first. In other words, do not walk past occupied pews.
- There will be a central collection basket in the back. Place your donations and tithes there.
- There will be no social gatherings or coffee hours.

These precautions have been established by the Polish National Catholic Church for everyone's protection and well being.

We are a wonderful family and I have no doubt we can do this with proper safety precautions. We will ask some to step up and carry out necessary tasks. Please volunteer to help and continue to stay safe and well!

Fr. Jim Away

Fr. Jim will be Chaplain at this year's Kurs Encampment. He will be away from July 4th through July 12th. If there is a spiritual need or emergency during this period, please call Fr. Mark Gnidzinski at 518-453-2258.

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS



On behalf of Fr. Jim, his family, the Parish Committee, and all parishioners we extend a hearty congratulations to Christina Supinski on her High School graduation.

Many years!!! Sto lat!!!

MEN'S RETREAT THANK YOU

The YMSofR Men's Spiritual Retreat concluded June 20th. We had good representation from our parish, and it was a joy to be together with the men of the Church in prayer, adoration, and learning. I express my heartfelt thanks to all who did participate and to Prime Bishop Anthony, Fr. Jason, the retreat master, the Central Committee of the YMSofR, and to all my brothers for doing this work. The doors of grace were indeed opened for us.

Summertime Events

We welcome all to attend these

great summer events including:



- **Virtual Kurs 2020** with the theme "*THE SHOW MUST GO ON*" will be held from the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center, Spojnia Farm, Waymart, PA from July 5th through 10th (6 days).
- As of now, the United Y.M.S. of R. **6th Annual Golf Outing** will be held on August 15th at the Panorama Golf Course, Forest City PA. Information is available at www.pncc.org.

See Fr. Jim and sign-up to go. These are great events!!!

Plans for our Diocesan Synod

Many functions and activities of the church have been postponed or rescheduled due to the current pandemic. The Central Diocesan Synod has been rescheduled to Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, 2020. More information will be forthcoming.

Happy Summer



We wish all of our young people and all the youth of our neighborhood a joyful and blessed summer season.

As we reflect on the successes and challenges of this past school year, may we see them as opportunities for growth.

Let us pray especially that our Lord watch over and protect our young people and children this summer.

Almighty and Eternal God, Father most kind, Who in Thy plan of Salvation of mankind did resolve, that one generation shall follow another in fulfilling the tasks of temporal life, and prepares wisely and good everything in the universe; keep in Thy tender care the youth of our Church, individually and collectively, that our youth may always understand those things which are in harmony with Thy holy Will and bring true happiness; - and that service to Thee in our youth is the only assurance of tranquility in the sunset of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Mass for Healing

Our next monthly Holy Mass for healing accompanied by anointing will be held Monday, July 20th and Monday, August 17th at 6:15pm. Join us and invite others.

With Thanks

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 Adam and Victoria for their service each Sunday.

To every parishioner, virtual visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure.

God bless you and reward you! Bóg zapłać! Thank you!!!

Our Church and A Prayer For Our Country

Independence Day held a special place in the hearts of the founding generation of our Church. So often the church looks for a religiously



significant occasion on which to perform her special rites. Our organizers, however, saw the promises and opportunities of this nation as blessings from God and

determined to specifically celebrate this day. In honor of the 244th birthday of our country:

We thank Thee, Lord, for America, our home. We bless Thee for the liberty, the opportunity, and the abundance we share. But above all we praise Thee for the traditions which have made our country great, and for patriots who have laid the foundations through faith, courage, and self-sacrifice. Teach us in our own day the meaning of citizenship, and help us to be faithful stewards of the responsibility which Thou entrusted to us. Through Jesus

Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for our Country from A Book of Devotions and Prayers According to the Use of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Milestones to Celebrate:

July Birthdays

2 Gayle Clas
3 Genevieve Binkowski, Jaime Bylina, John Clas, Kimberly Maliszewski, Richard Okonsky Jr.
4 Ken Brown
5 Wayne Wienclawski
7 Eva Kubinska
8 Michael Ruchalski
12 Stanley Podkulski
16 Lawrence Panfil Jr.
19 Jason Lennon
22 Matthew Zebrowski
26 Alexander Oravsky
27 Sebesany Rios, Kathleen Maliszewski
28 Mel Prusky
29 Kevin Prusky
29 Ronald O'Connor

July Anniversaries

14 Chad & Amber Smith
20 Edward & Claudia Bertasso
27 Zachary Prusky & Kristen Smith

August Birthdays

1 Wendy Williams
5 Christine D'Amico
7 Karen Cimmino
8 Taylor Garrison
10 Matthew Hines, Renee Konicki, Joanne Bauer
12 Ginny Dinsmore
14 Stephanie Konicki-Ferguson
15 Roger Jarosz
18 Carson Hobson

19 Joanne Hernick
27 Derek Westcott
29 Megan DonVito, Tyme LaPorte Smith, John Kaminski
30 Gabriella Martineau
31 Teresa Mazzone

Wishing you all many years! Sto Lat!

Planning For:

- July 2: Solemnity – Visitation of the B.V.M.
- July 4: Independence Day.
- July 5: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time from the Bishop Hodur Retreat and recreation Center in Walmart, PA. broadcast at 9:30am.
- July 5 - July 10: Virtual KURS Encampment, Waymart, PA
- July 6: Commemoration of John Hus, Priest and Martyr
- July 12: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Broadcast at 10am - **NOTE TIME CHANGE.**
- July 19: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.** Parish reopen for public worship and Holy Mass also continues to be broadcast.
- July 20: Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm.
- July 25: Feast of St. James the Greater, Apostle
- July 26: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Masas **at 10am.** Also,

Commemoration of Ss. Joachim & Ann, Parents of the B.V.M.

- August 2: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.**
- August 3: Feast – Finding of the Body of St. Stephen
- August 6: Solemnity – Transfiguration of the Lord.
- August 9: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.**
- August 15: Solemnity - Dormition of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at 11am. Also, 6th Annual YMSofR Golf Tournament.
- August 16: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.**
- August 17: Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Tentative, Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm.
- August 25: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.**
- August 24: Feast - St. Bartholomew, Apostle.
- August 27: Solemnity - Our Lady of Częstochowa.
- August 29: Solemnity - Beheading of St. John the Baptist.
- August 30: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.** Youth Sunday.
- September 6: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass **at 10am.**
- September 7: Labor Day.

Facebook - Don't be Played

Like to post on Facebook? We certainly do. 1.49 billion people use Facebook every day. There are 4 million likes every minute of the day. As Christians, we are required to act responsibly on and off-line. There is so much misinformation. Whatever we post or share should be checked for accuracy and should reflect Christian love, not division. If we just want to post things to point fingers or press people's buttons, maybe we need to ask ourselves, Why?

Choosing rightly

Christians have always been confronted with choice, i.e., doing the right thing in the face of sure danger. We see this, even in this age, among the martyrs of the Church. They get told: "Deny Christ or die!" Choosing rightly means certain death, and more often than not, Christians never deny Jesus.

Today, beyond instant cases of martyrdom, we are called upon to make right choices in the face of evil. The choices we must make come from a well informed conscience. To be well informed means we must understand what Jesus requires of us and what the Church teaches on moral subjects. We must be prepared to say no to death for convenience, no to brutality, no to injustice, no to the denigration of people because of their looks, no to unjust orders and

directives.

Where the marching orders a Christian may be given are inherently unjust we must say no. If the President, my military or police commander, or my boss tell me to do something wrong... the answer needs to be no.

But, I'll lose my job, I'll be arrested, maybe imprisoned. Yes, for sure, but we will not lose our soul. We will not be complicit in evil. Is this easy, absolutely not. Is this right, yes.

A very pertinent example of doing right in the face of an immoral order are those who said no to the draft in the 1960's and 70's. Those who chose to disengage from an unjust war on a moral basis, and who did not run away, took the consequences, including imprisonment. They suffered for doing right.

I saw an opportunity for right the evening peaceful protesters and a church pastor were attacked in Washington. The soldiers and police who followed those orders should have said no. Instead, they folded to evil. They traded their souls, and for what?

Every day we trade our lives, our souls – for something. The question is, For what? When it's all over and we've cashed in all the time and abilities we have been given, what will we have to show for it? If we've traded it in for fleeting pleasure, to



gratify our immediate needs, because we've accepted being complicit in some evil, because we couldn't open our mouth enough to say: 'No, that is wrong,' we will come up empty. But if we trade our lives for God's kingdom and righteousness, to fulfill

His purpose, we will be satisfied with that which no one can take from us. Jesus put it plainly: "*And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?*"

Those who cast off God's moral standards often excuse it by saying that they had to meet their "needs." They buy into the notion that their needs take priority over God's way, right choices, and speaking up. But Jesus says, "God knows your needs and you can trust Him to take care of them. Your real need is to seek first His kingdom and righteousness"

I have often taught that the little disciplines we practice in Lent (not eating meat on Wednesday and Friday) are training for the bigger choices. The time of bigger choices is upon us. Will we sell out or stand up?

Pontius Pilate?

So he sent for a bowl of water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's

blood. The responsibility is yours!"

I've been reflecting a lot on Pontius Pilate these days. These reflections are particularly focused on our tendency to want things our own way versus right choices. This reflection has also been accompanied by thoughts of suffering, what are we willing to suffer for another, for right choices?

This time of social distancing and our inability to have certain desires fulfilled leads me to ask: Have we learned enough to now make right choices?

One of the saddest moments more recently was the size of crowds headed to TJ Maxx. Really?!? That and people running out, sans masks or any social distancing, just to go out. I realize that TJ Maxx has the max for the minimum, but do they have anything anyone urgently needs? Did everyone wear out their pants over the past twelve weeks?

But, I want it, I want it now, I want it my way. I fear the world has become little more than a perpetual visit to Burger King.

The lessons offered concern our inordinate desire to have things our own way. We tend to regard suffering as mere unpleasantness and we do not see its redemptive value. If I suffer a bit, if I sacrifice a

little, I can choose to hate it, or to offer it up to Jesus, to bind myself to His suffering, and use my suffering as a prayer for the world.

We are called, as Christians, to do that great thing. We are called to live more simply, to cast off the

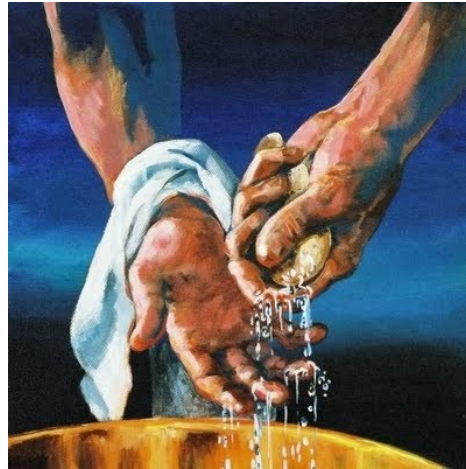
unnecessary, to realize our way is not THE WAY, and to spend our time on heavenly pursuits.

Think about that TJ Maxx visit. Driving there, parking, standing in line, shopping, paying, leaving, getting home, unloading. Eight (80) minutes at a minimum. One hour

and twenty minutes for unnecessary stuff. I think we need to turn their motto on its head - you really get the minimum for maximum investment.

Pilate did that. He got minimum mileage for maximum cost. He killed an innocent man and thought he could wash His blood off his hands. His hands never came clean.

As we begin to venture out, let us consider the cost and benefit of our actions. We know enough science to understand we may be carriers of COVID-19 without even knowing it. We know that if we act unwisely, and someone gets sick, we will never be able to wash their blood off our hands. Right choices? The responsibility is ours.



July & August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			July 1	2 Solemnity – Visitation of the B.V.M.	3	4 Independence Day
5 Kurs 14th Sunday in OT. Lectors 9:30am.	6 Kurs	7 Commemoration – John Hus, Priest & Martyr Kurs	8 Kurs	9 Kurs	10 Kurs	11
12 15th Sunday in OT. 10am.	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 16th Sunday in OT. Parish reopens for public worship. 10am.	20 Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm	21	22	23	24	25 Feast of St. James the Greater, Apostle
26 17th Sunday in OT. 10am. Also: Commemoration of Ss. Joachim & Ann, Parents of the B.V.M.	27	28	29	30	31	August 1
2 18th Sunday in OT. 10am.	3 Feast – Finding of the Body of St. Stephen	4	5	6 Solemnity – Transfiguration of the Lord.	7	8
9 19th Sunday in OT. Lectors 10am	10	11	12	13	14	15 Solemnity - Dormition of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at 11am. 6th Annual Golf Tournament
16 20th Sunday in OT. 10am.	17 Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Tentative Parish Committee Meeting at 7pm.	18	19	20	21	22
23 21st Sunday in OT. 10am.	24 Feast - St. Bartholomew, Apostle.	25	26	27 Solemnity - Our Lady of Częstochowa.	28	29 Solemnity - Beheading of St. John the Baptist
30 22nd Sunday in OT/Youth Sunday. 10am.	31					

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

FIRST CLASS

We thank God for:

Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed

