

# HOLY NAME OF JESUS

NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC

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# NEWSLETTER

# SEPTEMBER

# 2020



THE MAN WANTED TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS, SO HE ASKED JESUS, "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"

This month we celebrate that Solemnity unique to our Holy Church, the Solemnity of Brotherly Love. I personally love being part of a Church that pays special attention to the idea of mutual love and care.

This Solemnity didn't just show up, nor was it established just to pay lip service to the concept of brotherly love. The Solemnity comes out of the real life experiences of our earliest founders.

In 1906 a Special Holy Synod needed to be convened. The 1st Synod was held in 1904 and the 2nd was planned for 1909. Events however would call us to action. Our Church was threatened by external and internal opponents. Those who hated our Church worked to discredit our denomination. Some of our own clergy proved disloyal and tried to subvert the Church. These events necessitated a Special Holy Synod.

What to do in the face of acts of sabotage against the Church, words of hate, physical attacks on clergy and Church members, and widespread discrimination? The Holy Synod chose to do what was holy,

what Jesus called us to do. The Holy Synod did not result in declarations of war, counter-plots, counter-attacks, or calls for discrimination and hatred toward the Church's attackers. The Holy Synod rather made a declaration of love. The Holy Synod's representatives created the Solemnity of Brotherly Love so that each year all of our parishes would celebrate and reinforce the Christian commandment to love. They resolved to love even in the face of hate, to love in the face of what we might disagree with, to love in the face of attack. We were not only to turn the other cheek, but to love and pray for our attackers.

A man wanted to justify what he was doing, the way he chose to live, the words he chose to speak, (today, the postings he chose to make), so he asked Jesus: 'Who is my neighbor?'

We have choices to make just like that man did. Let us listen to Jesus as we did in 1906. This Fall, and amidst the stresses of elections, let us chose to love above all, to hold our words, and to act and speak in love no matter what is hurled at us.

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## Stronger Together!

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Back to Church Sunday is coming up on Sunday, September 20th. Join us for 10am Holy Mass specifically designed to welcome new and returning people. Now is a good time to start praying about who you will invite and to issue those invitations.

This year's Back to Church Sunday theme is "Stronger Together."



As a church, we are the collective hands and feet of Christ. We reflect Him and do His work in the world as we grow in our relationships with Him and with each other. That's not just us as a group of friends and family within our own church—it includes those who are gathering in the churches around the corner, and three blocks over, and virtually at home. It includes those who just happen to walk in, and those we invite to join us. It includes people of faith on the other side of our country and around the world.

Whatever path leads people to our

parish on September 20th, let us welcome them. Sunday, after all, is a day of belonging, and together is where we belong. We are stronger together!

If there was ever any doubt, or any sense of taking it for granted, the COVID-19 pandemic has surely reminded us how much we need each other. "You don't know what you've got till it's gone" may be a cliché, but it's cliché because there's truth in it. Having to distance ourselves from each other surely has provided a powerful reminder of the value and importance of our need for connection. We have all been living through the most tangible reminder in our collective lifetimes that we need each other, that we belong in community, that we are much stronger together, and that Jesus must be at the center of our gathering. He is the source of all our strength.

The Book of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 tells us that we are indeed stronger together:

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. Likewise, two people lying close together can keep each other warm. But how can one be warm alone? A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.*

We are like the rope. We are stronger because we are woven together by and with Christ, and we can offer that opportunity to others: friends, family, co-workers, the disconnected.

Together, any one can be weak, any one can hold up another in their weakness, and together partake in the strength of Jesus Who binds us in His strength.

We've all been living through some of the most trying times in recent history for our nation, our world, and for many of us, our individual lives and families. If nothing else, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed our weakness and vulnerability — along with our need for each other.

Let us continue to join the cord of our life with the cords of weakness and the cords of others around us, let us invite others in, and let Jesus weave those strings together. He creates a much more powerful rope. He makes us stronger together.

See you September 20th in church or online. Bring friends.

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## Words

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Look at these three examples of how the word 'words' can be portrayed:

words

Words!

WORDS!

Each examples says something different, implies something different.

Scripture is very particular about how we use our words. What we say and write and post can easily destroy.

In Psalm 141:3-4 David cries out:

*Take control of what I say, O Lord,  
and guard my lips.*

*Don't let me drift toward evil  
or take part in acts of  
wickedness.*



Jesus spoke about the use of words and our accountability for what we say, write, and post: *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak.*

The Apostles themselves (for instance in James) working off Jesus' teaching on the use of words, said: *If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.*

In this season of politics, and in fact in all cases, let us not give in to hatred and anger. Let us not repost. Let us not fan the flames with our words, writing, and sharing.

The teaching is true. We should say almost nothing and work, in action, to build up. God, save us from being worthless in our faith, unkind or accusatory in our words. We will indeed be held to account for each of our words (and postings).

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## Special Upcoming Events

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**September 7, Labor Day Holy Mass at 10am.**

**September 11, 19th Anniversary of 9/11/2001. Vespers Prayer Service at 7pm.**

**September 13th, Solemnity of Brotherly Love. Holy Mass at 10am.**

**September 20th, Back to Church Sunday – STRONGER TOGETHER. Holy Mass at 10am.**

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## Kurs Report

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Our youth, Victoria, Nick, Traviss, Max, Lucas, and Erickaa had a great time at Virtual Kurs Camp. The camp theme was based on David's words to his young son Solomon

recorded in 1 Chronicles 28:20 *"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or terrified. The LORD God, my God, will be with you."*

God bless our youth!!!!!! On to Kurs and CONVO in 2021!

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## Music Scholarship Winners

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Congratulations to Victoria Konicki and Christina Supinski who received National United Choirs (NUC) Music Scholarships this year. The awards were announced in a virtual presentation

session on August 27th.

Information on the scholarship program can be obtained by visiting the NUC website:

[nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com).

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## Healing Holy Masses Continue

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We hold a monthly healing Holy Mass. Check out our schedule in your weekly bulletin. The next is scheduled for Monday, September 21st at 6:15pm.

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## Milestones to Celebrate:

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Birthdays

- 1 Paul Zawistowski
- 3 Cindy Houser, Blake Horton, Chris Zostant, Eric Esner
- 4 Alicja Chrobok



12 Robbie Heins  
14 Callie Lennon  
15 Beverly Limmer  
16 JoAnne Houser  
24 Lynn Maliszewski  
26 Donna Panfil, Nicholas DeMidio,  
Chad Smith  
28 Angela Jorczak

#### Anniversaries

4 Jason & Christine Lennon, Thomas  
& Kathleen Caulfield  
21 Timothy & Christine DeCocco  
Wishing you all many years! Sto  
Lat!

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## Holy Mass on Labor Day - Celebrate the Sacredness of Work

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*Whatever your task, work heartily,  
as serving the Lord and not men,  
knowing that from the Lord you will  
receive the inheritance as your  
reward; you are serving the Lord  
Christ. — Colossians 3:23-24*



Come join us at 10am on Labor Day,  
September 7th for a Holy Mass  
offered for the intention of all

workers, organized labor, and  
worker justice.

Labor Day comes out of a long  
history of workers organizing to  
secure their rights, safety, and  
dignity. Our Holy Church stood  
strong with workers. We did so with  
the coal miners and steel workers of  
Pennsylvania, the grain millers and  
meat packers of Buffalo, and the  
auto workers of Detroit.

In our community and throughout  
our nation and world, workers  
continue to struggle for fair pay,  
time off, safety on the job, access to  
healthcare and education, and the  
right to organize.

As workers and worker advocates,  
people of faith have been and  
continue to be an important part of  
the movement for worker justice.

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## ELECTIONS AND THE CHRISTIAN

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What is a Christian to do? How is a  
Christian to vote?

I'll get to that in a moment.

As mentioned earlier when  
discussing the commandment to  
love and our Church's commitment  
to love, the Christian is called first  
and foremost to set aside words and  
actions that fan the flames of hatred  
and derision.

Whether we agree or disagree with  
someone's platform, personality,  
actions, temperament, or any other  
attribute, we are called to hold our  
words.

But why Father, I am sooooo angry, they are soooooo this and that!!!!

St. James in writing to the earliest Christian communities says: *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

Consider this,  
Why do I say  
what I say?  
Will I win  
people to my  
way of  
thinking? Am I  
about signaling  
to others that I  
am part of  
their club?  
What do I  
intend to produce?

Words will not win people over... and whose club do I really want to belong to anyway? We all, at one time or another, have hurt with words and it is one of the hardest things to overcome. Its mark is the pain those words produce, an indelible sign of hurt written on the psyche of another.

Perhaps, we should be placing our words and energy into building up each other and particularly Jesus' club? If people only had the same passion for Jesus.

Now on voting.

As Christians we are first and foremost called to act based on an 'informed conscience.'

God has placed within us a law we have not invented on our own. It is a law we are overwhelmingly called to obey and which we ignore to our own detriment. The voice of this law calls us to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil. Factually, God has written this law on our hearts with His hand.

This law is our conscience, a place within us that is ours alone. It cannot be invaded. In this secret core sanctuary of conscience we meet God and listen to His voice.



Informing our consciences means we must exercise and grow them by prayer (time with God) and study - what the Holy Church teaches, the words God Himself gave us in scripture, the positions of each candidate, and their track record among other things. This must be based on verifiable fact, not what someone happens to post.

Informing our consciences also means we must be realistic. Scripture plainly points out in Romans 3:23: *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.* If we think any candidate is the perfect answer we have missed the fact that the only perfect answer is Jesus.

An informed conscience guards

against sin. We are required to guard our consciences and avoid laziness to the promptings of evil. Is our vote from an informed conscience or from the feeding of prejudices, angers, distinction between persons, a desire for revenge or to see another suffer, or anything that is sinful?

Bottom line, it will be our decision in the voting booth, alone with our consciences. If we take it lightly, fail to take the time to study and seek verifiable truth, and commune with God, we will only be left with our conscience and the ultimate responsibility before God of our choices. He will ask, How did you use the conscience I gave you?

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## With Thanks

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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, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia.

To Alyssa, Kyle, Linda, and Darryl for all the work you do to maintain and sanitize our grounds and building.

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

God bless you and reward you!!!

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## Planning For:

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Holy Mass each Sunday at 10am unless noted and all are broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

- September 6: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.
- September 7: Labor Day. Holy Mass at 10am for the intention of all workers and worker justice.
- September 8: Solemnity – Nativity of the B.V.M.
- September 11: 19th Anniversary of 9/11/2001. Prayer service at 7pm.
- September 13: **Solemnity of Brotherly Love**. Holy Mass at 10am.
- September 14: Solemnity, Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Consecration of Bishop-Elect Jarosław Rafalko, St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Cathedral, Scranton, PA., 2pm.
- September 15: Solemnity, Holy Mother of Sorrows.
- September 20: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. **Back to Church Sunday (Invite Someone)**. Holy Mass at 10am.
- September 21: Feast - St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist. Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting.
- September 27: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Spójnia Sunday.
- September 29: Feast - St. Michael the Archangel.

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## TO DO LIST

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Take time this week and in the months to come to invite at least one person a week to join you at Holy Mass, whether in person or virtually. Please do not be disappointed if the answer you receive is "no". Keep on sharing your faith through actions and words. We shall grow as a Parish Family one person and one family at a time.

Remember you cannot be told yes, unless you send the invitation.



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## What if - a funny thought

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I had a funny thought. As you may recall, in our July/August 2020 newsletter I wrote about people's unwise decisions - rushing out and putting others at risk. I held up the example of the place

where you get the minimum for maximum effort, TJ Maxx. Here's what I said:

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...

What if, on a Sunday, I asked you to do penance for 80 minutes, 80 minutes of fasting from technology and entertainment and eating to be spent on prayer.

What if I told you that as a Christian you needed to focus on prayer and scriptural reading more (I do say that) AND that you have to spend at least 80 minutes on it.

What if, in personal counseling, I ask you spend 80 minutes a week in serving the needy?

I know what I would say if some clergyman said that to me. They'd never see me again!

I leave this newsletter with the question we can only answer in our consciences: Why is the call to the narrow road so hard for me?

# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
September 6: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 10am 6	Labor Day Holy Mass at 10am for the intention of all workers and worker justice. 7	Solemnity – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8	9	10	19th Anniversary of 9/11/2001 Vespers/Prayer Service at 7pm 11	12
Solemnity of Brotherly Love. Holy Mass at 10am. 13	Solemnity – Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Consecration of Bishop-Elect Jarosław Rafalko, St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Cathedral, Scranton, PA., 2pm. 14	Solemnity – Holy Mother of Sorrows 15	16	17	18	19
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Back to Church Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am. 20	Feast - St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Healing Holy Mass at 6:15pm. Parish Committee Meeting 21	22	23	24	25	26
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Spójnia Sunday Holy Mass at 10am. 27	28	Feast - St. Michael the Archangel. 29	30			

## EVENTS

### October Upcoming

- 2nd – Guardian Angels
- 4th – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time/St. Francis, Blessing of Pets

- 11th – Solemnity – Christian Family



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