

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

DECEMBER

2020



BUT ONE THING I DO: FORGETTING WHAT LIES BEHIND AND
STRAINING FORWARD TO WHAT LIES AHEAD.

December, Christmas, New Year's Eve. That's our secular calendar for December. Whether we get our calendar at the bank, the local liquor store, or online - we can find all those things. But if we happen to have picked up a Home Liturgical Calendar (there's still a few available), we find a bridge, the start of a new Church Year with the season of Advent.

Advent is about hope and expectation of a brighter future. In Advent we at once commemorate the waiting of the Jewish people for the promised Messiah and connect with our urgent expectation of His return. We are first and foremost called to look forward with hope.

Henryk Adam Aleksander Pius Sienkiewicz, the Nobel prize winning author, wrote his "Trilogy" of historical novels - set in the 17th-century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth - in the late 19th century. In this series of books (and I recommend you get the translation by W. S. Kuniczak) he points to people looking to the sky in the midst of Poland's wars and

sufferings, and declaring 'It must be the end.' Certainly they did. Yet the world did not end in the 17th or 19th centuries. Any among the people of that time expecting the end lost the opportunity to hope forward.

For us as Christians, the call is not to sit around contemplating the end, biting our nails and hoping we get to heaven, but to offer hope today, and thus to be heaven, the breaking open of the Kingdom of God, for our brothers and sisters.

We all long, that cannot be helped. We have all been challenged, and especially in this year. For us, Advent longing and the challenges of the time must not be met with dour, sad, and forlorn attitudes but rather with hope filled and bright faith looking forward.

Each Advent, let us look forward, not in a delusional way, but with ready faith. Let us look forward expectantly, with active faith. Let us never lose the opportunity to live and share hope. Grasp it so we may meet Jesus, the Hope of humanity.

Future Directions for December

December 2020 - St. Joseph:
Protector of the Lord - Obedience,
Trust, Patience

As we begin a new Liturgical Year
with the First Sunday of Advent and
continue to pray for healing, health
and love for our nation and the
world; this month on our
discipleship journey we focus on St.
Joseph.

Scriptures for Reflection: Matthew
1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

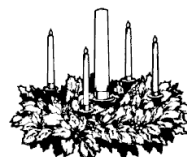
Questions for Reflection:

- St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?
- Name a few important "discipleship qualities" that St. Joseph demonstrates?
- Which one would you personally like to better emulate?
- How can you begin to practically do so in your daily life?
- How can you, as a disciple, help others take their relationship with our Lord more seriously?

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. This past year has challenged our hope, but let us renew it in Jesus. We offer a silent prayer before the manger knowing that He will hear us and will respond.

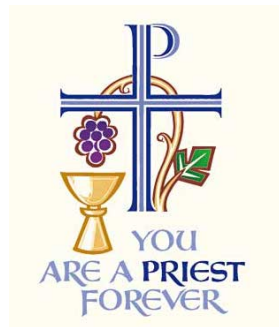
In darkness, broken by candlelight, we watch as a woman approaches the stable to place the Holy Infant. We hear the great proclamation. Then we worship.

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

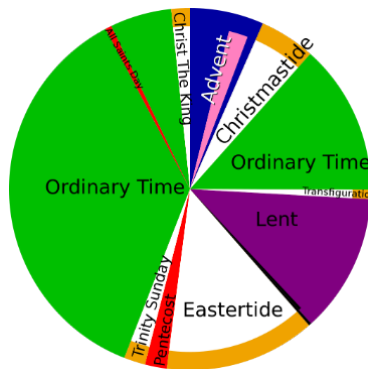
6th Anniversary - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood



I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood six years ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas). This year -well- it has been a

challenge and yet a joy, for I have the privilege of praying for and with you, spending time in conversation, offering the grace of hope we all need and that is fully present in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My greatest joy is standing before the altar and offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for each and every one of you, for the good and increase of our parish, for vocations, and for the youth 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. Weekday readings fall into two cycles, cycle I and II. On November 30th we entered Year B and Cycle I. In Year B, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Mark.

Advent Charitable Giving - food, clothing, ornaments

As usual, we will be collecting canned and dry food donations now through December 20th. You may leave your donations by the Mary Altar.

If you have good unneeded clothing to donate, it may be dropped off downstairs. The YMSofR will take these donations to local charities.

We have put up our giving tree and filled it with ornaments. These 50 double sided 3"x3" hanging ornaments each represent a donation option to help those in need, most particularly children in need of clean water as well as medical and school aid and bibles. We ask you to pick one as a family and make a donation to change a life. We also have a beautiful ornament for you to take home for your tree. If you would prefer combining your donation with others for a larger gift, place it in the basket by the tree.

Blessing of Oplátky and the Advent Wreath



On the First Sunday of Advent we blessed our Advent wreath and the "Bread of Angels," the oplátky that we will share

with each other on Christmas Eve. Oplátky 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 continuing this tradition this Advent, starting Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:30am. The other dates are December 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

Greening of the Church - December 20th

Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 20th after 10am Holy Mass 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 gift of \$2 per memory cross is suggested.

Planning For Our 100th Anniversary

In 2021 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our parish. We recently held a kick-off meeting. All ideas and input are welcome. Please contact our Anniversary Chairperson, Alyssa. Send your input to alyssa.DePaula@gmail.com.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

We will be sending out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle in early January. Prizes total \$1,180.

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 2021 programs including the postponed CONVO in 2021.

Together in Faith and Love

Together In Faith and Love is a weekly Online Get-Together

The winter months and continued social isolation challenge us all. Fr.

Jim will be holding a weekly virtual get-togethers where with faith and love we can face challenges together; share time, stories, or recipes; reminisce; or even sing songs.

These weekly get-togethers will be held on Thursdays at 7pm starting December 3rd via Zoom. You do not need to participate via computer or smartphone, you can just call-in if you want.

Send Fr. Jim your contact information PRIVATELY and he will send you the meeting login info.

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 Adam who continues to assist Father at the Altar, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia and her brother Mike Emmanuel for the beautiful music presented each week soon to be joined by Christina Supinski.

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!!!

Planning For:

Holy Mass on Sunday at 10am unless otherwise indicated

- December 2: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am.
- December 6: Second Sunday of Advent. Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra.
- December 8: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M.
- December 9: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am. Rosary at 7pm.
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent. Short Parish Committee Meeting follows.
- December 16: Rorate Holy Mass, 7am.
- December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses with Advent Penitential Service. Greening of the church.
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle. Holy Mass and Anointing of the Sick, 6:15pm.
- December 23: Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.
- December 24: **Vigil of the Nativity.**
- December 25: **Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at Midnight and 10am.**
- December 26: Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr.
- December 27: Sunday - Solemnity

of the Humble Shepherds. Also St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass with Blessing of Wine (**bring a bottle or two to be blessed**).

- December 31: New Year's Eve.
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at 10am. Happy 2021!
- January 2: **Parish Feast - Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Holy Mass at 10am. Start of 100th Anniversary Celebrations**
- January 3: 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 10: 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 - were reduced



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? Many fought and even faced 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.

This year dues were reduced to \$125 per year for each adult member regardless of age.



Please 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 meeting will be held in early February 2021 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) and drop them in the collection basket in an envelope marked nominations.

On Holy Communion



How often should I receive Holy Communion?

Some may feel that they have not attended Holy Mass unless they have received Communion. Some may feel that Holy Mass is not the same unless Holy Communion is offered to the faithful. This is a recent phenomenon.

Throughout history, the faithful only received Holy Communion a few times a year, but attended Holy Mass every week. The Eucharistic banquet cannot occur without the faithful present. As such, weekly attendance by able bodied people is required under pain of serious sin. For ages, reception of Holy Communion only occurred at Christmas, Easter, or Pentecost. Communion was received after long preparation including prayer, confession, penance, and long fasting.

In the early 20th century the Roman Church began to promote more

frequent reception of Holy Communion. They were right insofar as people were staying away from Communion for wrong reasons like feeling unworthy or out of fear.

At the same time, the promotion of frequent reception, as with the desecration of the Holy Eucharist in the allowance of reception in the hand, turned more frequent reception into a cheap and often thoughtless action. "I went to mass, and I'm going to get my cookie and go home."

We believe frequent reception is good, but only with preparation, reverence, and dignity.

Our Church has given guidance to all its clergy on the distribution of Holy Communion at any time and now, in this time of pandemic.

- As is the norm in our Church - Communion is never given in the hand. If some priest or deacon is doing this they are desecrating the Eucharist. This is a crime!
- Communion may be given using specialized procedures, approved by the Bishops, in accord with CDC guidelines, to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Even using those procedures, the risk is elevated. Note the large number of priests dying from COVID.

Refraining from reception for now is indeed a sacrifice, but one we need to be together on in our communion as family. We ask your patience, and hope this explanation helps in understanding.

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent. Holy also Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra Holy Mass at 10am.	7	8 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M.	9 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am. Rosary at 7pm.	10	11	12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass at 10am. Short Parish Committee check-in.	14	15	16 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10am. Greening of the Church.	21 Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle Holy Mass and Anointing for Healing at 6:15pm	22	23 Rorate Holy Mass at 7am.	24 Vigil of the Nativity	25 Solemnity of the Nativity Holy Mass at Midnight Holy Mass, 10am	26 Feast – St. Stephen, Proto- Martyr
27 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Also, Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist Holy Mass at 10am with Blessing of Wine.	28 Commemoration – Holy Innocents	29	30	31		

Events

January 2021 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am/Happy 2021!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name, Parish Feast. Holy Mass at 10am. Start of Celebrations for our 100th Year!
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, 7pm.

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

