

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2021



IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

December 2011, a stage jam packed with artifacts, boxes, materials, technology, bric-a-brac, and everything else. A counting room, two sacristies, choir loft, closet, and an odd side room off the parish hall similarly situated. It took months, but much of it was reorganized, labeled, filed, sent to the diocesan and general Church archives, and some simply recycled or discarded. But some of it... it ended up in that odd side room off the parish hall awaiting a decision.

Here we are in February 2021, nearly ten years later and the time is now.

That, my brothers and sisters is what Pre-Lent and our walk through Lent is all about. It is about assessing what we have, the stuff in our lives that stands as clutter between us and God. The amazing thing about our Lord and God is that He has no clutter, no obstacle - He is ever available to us. We, on the other hand tend to have stuff that gets in our way to Him.

Over years of Pre-Lenten and

Lenten seasons we have worked to remove those obstacles. Yet we still have those set aside rooms where there are lasting issues, stuff remaining between now and paradise.

Here we are in February 2021 and the time is now. It is time to diligently set to cleaning out those things that stand between where we are and where we must be as Jesus' disciples.

The question of the time is: What is stopping me, preventing me from living the great commandment - To love God with our entire being and to love our neighbor as ourselves? What is stopping me from carrying out the Great Commission - To go out to all and baptize them in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Once we identify the clutter, let us take steps to clean it out and discard what gets in the way. Those things in us await a decision. They nag at us, will you cling to me, the clutter and mess, or will you give me up? Now is the time to clear out.

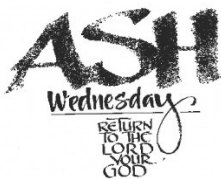
THE PRE-LENTEN SEASON



The pre-Lenten season began January 31st. The Pre-Lenten Season of Septuagesima is a period of preparation before the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Septuagesima includes three Sundays,

Septuagesima Sunday (70 days to Easter), Sexagesima Sunday (60 days to Easter), and Quinquagesima Sunday (50 days to Easter). We are called to make a special point of self-examination, of considering the things we need to repent of and clean out. Make this time worthy and blessed by asking for God's never too late grace.

...AND LENT BEGINS



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17th. Holy Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes will take place at 7pm that day. Please join us.

Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, February 7th. Holy Mass is at 10am. Please make an effort to attend if you can. A separate letter with instructions for attending via Zoom will be sent out. Please keep that information confidential.

The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle



February 2021 – the month of love. Thank you to all who purchased and donated tickets for our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle.

Frankly, as your pastor, I was brought to tears by your great generosity and love on behalf of our youth. It is amazing!!!!!!

Your generosity and support helps our young people attend the annual KURS summer encampment and CONVO.

We wish you the best of luck this month. We will send winners their checks right away and announce all the winners in March's newsletter.

Our Annual Financial Meeting - March 7th

Our annual financial meeting will be held on Sunday, March 7th following Holy Mass at 10am. Please attend and help decide on our financial matters.

Souper Bowl Sunday



For the 20th year in a row, our parish is participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Through the Souper Bowl of Caring we are

providing food help for those in need in our local community. We ask for your support and deeply appreciate your generosity!

Your monetary donations in church on Super Bowl Sunday – February 7th - will support the work of Schenectady Community Ministries.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. — Matthew 25:35

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

2 Christine Spooner, Jean Martin
5 Suzanne Heins
9 Christine Caden

11 Bob Shufelt, Justice Smith,
Joseph Ruchalski
12 Kristen Smith-Prusky
16 Celina Maliszewski
18 Paul Podkulski
20 Kelly Supinski, Lisa Kaminski
21 Casey Carroll
28 Patrick Clas

Wedding Anniversaries

17 Tom & Kelly Supinski
18 Stefan & Elizabeth Węglinski
26 Michael & Kimberly DonVito

Wishing you all many years!

Thank you, Merci, Dziękuję, Ąċiū, Gracias, Mahalo, Grazie!

To all who assisted in the taking down of our Christmas decorations.

To our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia and Mike Emanuel.

To the families who have welcomed me to their home for Epiphany visitations/ Kolęda. Your hospitality and graciousness are greatly appreciated. You are a blessing.

To all who continue to pray, sacrifice, and serve in Christian love and charity on behalf of our parish.

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



Happy 100th Anniversary



This year we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of our parish's founding, in

Schenectady.

Our parish was blessed with many organizations and societies that have worked to build up membership, the youth of the parish, our financial security, educational achievement, and to ensure an environment of glorious worship. These included:

The Chopin Male Chorus, the Harmonia and Concordia Choirs, Branch 56 of the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection, The Women's Adoration Society, two relief societies: the Men's St. Joseph Society and the Women's Maria Konopnicka Society, an educational group: "Ognisko," The Girl's — Children of Mary and the Young Men's — Defender's Society, a Mother's Club, and Branch 140 of the Polish National Union, Spójnia.

We will continue to bring you snippets of history throughout 2021 and will keep you informed as to the many spiritual, liturgical, and social events planned for the celebration.

Epiphany Visitations - Kołęda - House Blessings

Fr. Jim is available to come to your homes for the traditional Epiphany home blessing (outdoors only). Please see him to make an appointment.

Blessing appointments are available through February 16th (prior to Ash Wednesday).

To prepare your home for the blessing please have the blessed chalk and incense available as well as your blessed candle (gromnica).

Planning For —

Holy Mass each week at 10am unless otherwise noted.

- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at 7pm with Blessing of Candles/ Gromnica.
- Feb. 3: Commemoration – St. Blaise of Sebastea, Bishop and Martyr.
- Feb. 4: Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.
- Feb. 7: Sexagesima Sunday. Annual Meeting and Elections.
- Feb. 11: Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.
- Feb. 14: Quinquagesima Sunday. Also, Commemoration - St. Valentine.
- Feb. 15: Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm. Also, President's Day.
- Feb. 16: 68th Anniversary of the

death of Prime Bishop Ś+P Francis Hodur.

- Feb. 17: Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes at 7pm.
- Feb. 18: Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.
- Feb. 19: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.
- Feb. 21: 1st Sunday in Lent.
- Feb. 24: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.
- Feb. 25: Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.
- Feb. 26: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.
- Feb. 28: 2nd Sunday in Lent
- March 4: Commemoration of St. Casimir. Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.

Financial Security?

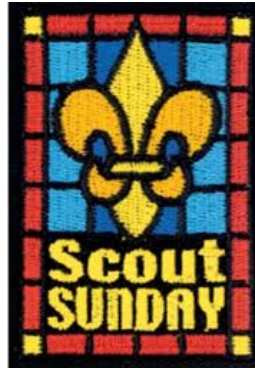


The PNUA and Spółnia Credit Union offer great tools for financial management. If you are considering getting your

financial house in order in 2021 contract the PNUA and SCU. Remember too that PNUA policies make great gifts for newlyweds and infants. Call the PNUA office at 1-800-724- 6352 or see Fr. Jim.

Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 7th Scouting celebrates Scout Sunday, Interfaith.



This is a special interfaith day set aside by the Scouting movement for all Scouts to reflect on their acknowledgement of duty to God in the Scout Oath or Promise and the 12th point of Scout

Law - *A Scout is Reverent.*

We invite all Scouts both youth and adult members to wear their Scout uniforms. We will acknowledge the Scouts in uniform and also ask any former Leaders or Scouts who are present to stand and to be recognized.

We also offer a reminder to all Scouts of the religious awards of the Polish National Catholic Church that can be earned. Fr. Jim and the National Scout Chaplain, Fr. Adam, can assist Scouts in requesting award requirements.

Music Scholarship Applications

A special collection was accepted on January 31st to benefit the National United Choir's Music Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are

available to any parishioner of our denomination who is studying music. This is with the hope that as these musicians continue to advance they will share their musical talent with the church. If any parishioner is studying



music, consider applying for a scholarship. Applications and information are available through Cathy Bilinski at nucscholarship@gmail.com or online at <http://nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com>.

To date, the Church has provided 1,112 scholarships totaling \$332,985.

2021 Scholarships applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 2021.

Prayer for St. Valentine's Day

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." — John 13:34-35

Most Gracious Heavenly Father, You gave Saint Valentine the courage to witness to the gospel of Christ, even to the point of giving his life for it. Help us to endure all suffering for

love of you, and to seek you with all our hearts; for you alone are the source of life and love. Grant that we may have the courage and love to be strong witnesses of your truth to our friends and family and to the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Future Directions for February 2021

This month we focus on the discipleship witness of Jeremiah the prophet.

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:10-10; 12:1-6; 20:7-18



February Reflection and Action Items:

Perhaps more than any of the other Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah's story reveals both the inner struggles and external persecutions that come with being a faithful instrument of God's will. Yet, his journey only foreshadows the reality of the Cross as embraced by our Lord Jesus for our salvation and given to us as the daily means of our own discipleship (Luke 9:23).

We can all feel like Jeremiah sometimes, but as members of the Church, we are called to help one another remain faithful when times are difficult. Sometime this month, prayerfully review the list of the Spiritual Works of Mercy below and find 2 ways that you can apply them to help lighten the load carried by a fellow disciple of Jesus.

1. To instruct the ignorant.
2. To correct offenders.
3. To counsel the doubtful.
4. To comfort the sorrowful.
5. To suffer injuries with patience.
6. To forgive offenses and wrongs.
7. To pray for the living and the dead.

The Gates Are IN

A huge thank you to Pete Battaglia and Art Van Buren who reinstalled the altar rail gates. We thought at first we could just put them in, but

soon found they were hinge bound. Art used his excellent carpentry skills to adjust and re-adjust them. They now hang perfectly. The lovely architecture of our parish is restored.

In more ancient times, the altar and its mysteries were separated from the congregation by large iron gates or chancel screens. Now they are smaller yet do serve a greater purpose. They point to the fact that something special lies beyond the enclosure, something that requires protection and attention.

The gates are closed at the Preface which occurs just before the Canon of the Holy Mass (the Eucharistic Prayer). It calls our attention to the fact that something particularly special is happening, just like the bells do, pointing us to the union of heaven and earth in Jesus under the spices of bread and wine. They are reopened after Holy Communion.

Being a Light in a Dark World: Restoring Our Society with Love

By Ryan Ingram

We're in a tough period in our culture's history. With the pandemic, job losses and economic decline, racial protests, contentious politics, schools forced to move to remote learning, and churches not being able to gather in person—it's understandable if we feel less like a light and more like hiding!

Yet in the midst of darkness and uncertainty we're reminded that Jesus calls us, not to hide but to be light in a dark world: *"A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:14-16).

Note that Jesus wasn't saying, someday when you get your act together. He was talking in the present tense: at this very moment, you are the light of the world.

Like it or not, the God of the universe calls you and me to let our light—Jesus's light, if we're Christians—shine right now, today.

Because we're living in a dark world in desperate need of what I call "Social Restoration."

The Social Restoration I'm referring to is the process of mending the deep relational divisions in our communities and cities. God wants people to live in peace—not in a culture polarized by turmoil and upheaval.

The Church isn't a members-only club. It's the Body of Christ Himself, restoring wholeness and bringing light to hurting world.

Remember what Jesus said to His disciples: *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"* (John 13:34-35).

We display the light of Christ to a hurting and broken world most clearly when we love people the way Jesus loved us. How

did Jesus love us? He moved toward us when we were far from Him. He didn't let our sin, our brokenness, or our differences get in the way but forgave us freely. He sacrificially gave His life that we might join the family of God.

We sometimes struggle with this, don't we? Our pride, our "rights," or our selfishness gets in the way. It is easy to love the people who look like us, think like us, and talk like us. But what about those who look, think, and talk differently than us?

James, the brother of Christ, nails this issue in his epistle. *"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself, you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers'"* (James 2:8).

The way of Jesus is the path of renewal and restoration for our entire culture. This is what it means to be a light in the dark and draw people to Christ.

Is your light hidden? Or is it shining bright?.



February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Solemnity of the Presentation, Holy Mass at 7pm with blessing of candles.	3 Commemoration of St. Blaise	4 Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.	5	6
7 Sexagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am. ANNUAL MEETING follows in person and via Zoom.	8	9	10	11 Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.	12	13
14 Quinquagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am. Commemoration of St. Valentine.	15 Presidents' Day Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm	16 68th Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop Š+P Franciszek Hodur Last day for Epiphany Home Blessings	17 Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass at 7pm.	18 Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.	19 Stations of the Cross at 7pm.	20
21 1st Sunday in Lent. Holy Mass at 10am. Parish Committee Meeting.	22	23	24 Feast – St. Matthias, Apostle.	25 Together in Faith and Love Zoom Meeting at 7pm.	26 Stations of the Cross at 7pm.	27
28 2nd Sunday in Lent. Holy Mass at 10am.						

EVENTS

All of February - Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

March Upcoming

Mar. 7th – 3rd Sunday of Lent, Holy Mass at 10am. Annual Financial Meeting.

Mar. 14th – Solemnity, Institution of the PNCC.

Holy Name of Jesus
National Catholic Church – P.N.C.C.
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