

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

2022



FOR YOU HAVE BEEN A STRONGHOLD TO THE POOR, A STRONGHOLD TO THE NEEDY IN HIS DISTRESS, A SHELTER FROM THE STORM AND A SHADE

Through much of Advent we read from the Prophet Isaiah. In those readings we often hear a reference to the poor and how God will save the poor. Later in the Christmas season we will hear Jesus quote Isaiah 61:1 when He gets up to proclaim the Word and teach in the Synagogue: *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.*

We might think to ourselves, well isn't Jesus just great with the poor! Think of how He helps them and causes us to exert our charity in helping the poor. He lays out all this stuff about us doing for the least of these, thus doing it for Him. That work for the poor helps us get to heaven. The Church, in the model of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, established the Corporal Works of Mercy focused on the poor.

What we tend to miss in all this discussion of the poor is the fact that Jesus did not specifically come to address the economically poor. Remember, He told us: *For you always have the poor with you.*

(Matthew 26:11). If He did not come to address the economically poor, then who did He come to help?

The answer is simple enough, Me. Jesus came and gave His all for me. I started in a place that was very poor - my humanity - and Jesus took on my poorness, entered into my poverty - to raise me and many on high, up to the very heaven He came from. He sacrificed His life to make me rich, a co-heir with Him to all His Heavenly Father has.

As we walk through Advent and finally gaze on the representation of Jesus in the poverty of the stable, let us remember where we were before we came to faith in Jesus and how very rich we are now. Then let us act!

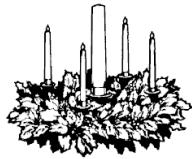
Certainly, to act means to care for the economically poor as required of us by the gospel of Jesus, but also beyond that to lift up those who are what we were, poor without Christ Jesus. Let us use this new Church Year to invite them into the Kingdom, to share in the treasure we have, to be rich with us.

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, November 30th at 7:30am. The other dates are December 7th, 14th, and 21st.



Our Vigil / Wigila Dinner

On Sunday, December 11th we will have only one Holy Mass at 10am

followed by a sing-along and our Vigil/Wigilia Dinner along with an Ornament Exchange.

The dinner is absolutely **free**. Fish is provided by the parish. If you are able, please bring a meatless dish to share.

To ensure we provide enough fish, please sign up in church or send an email to Fr. Jim at frjim@holynamencc.org.

Ornament Exchange

We will hold a completely voluntary ornament exchange after our Vigil / Wigilia dinner. If you wish, please sign up. You can also sign up at the dinner. Simply bring a wrapped ornament costing \$7 or less.

VIRTUAL ADVENT REFLECTION FOR YOUTH

Attention Parish Youth, parents, grandparents: The National Youth Advent Reflection is happening on Friday, December 2nd at 7:30pm via Zoom. This will be a short set of videos, songs, and reflection. Be there! To receive the Zoom link, you can either scan the QR code or E-mail Kathy at kathynemkovick@gmail.com

IMPERATIVE! IMPORTANT! Seniorate Gathering

We will gather as a Seniorate on December 3rd at 11am for Holy Mass and sharing (and of course food) at Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Latham.

Our National Youth leader, Jorge Arjona is flying in from Denver to meet with parish youth. Bishop Bernard will be present. It is essential that we and ALL our youth be present.

Christmas Greetings

As we gather in churches throughout the world on Christmas, I cannot help but reflect on the many ways we live in renewed hope because of the Christ child.

We come to the stable in humility, hearts filled with expectant hope. This past year has been a time of renewed hope which is what our lord and Savior intended by His incarnation. God wants us to look forward in expectant hope while we live that hope each day through our ways of peace, joy, and love.

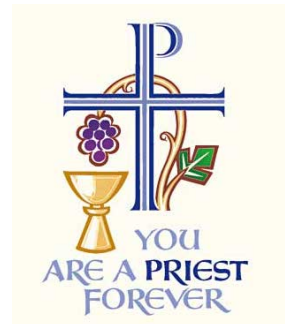
In darkness, broken by candlelight, we watch as a woman approaches the stable to place the Holy Infant. We hear the great proclamation. Then we worship.

I will again offer my prayer at the manger, and at the Holy Altar; for you, your families, our humble parish.

May the irresistible hope God has given us in Jesus 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

8th Anniversary - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood

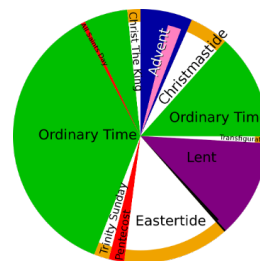
I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood eight years ago on December 6th (the Commemoration of St. Nicholas).



This year has been a true joy. We celebrated. We renewed our hope. We are growing and developing as a family in Christ building up our community in Schenectady.

I am privileged to pray 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 27th we entered Year A and Cycle I. In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

Advent Charitable Giving - food, clothing.

As usual, we will be collecting canned and dry food donations now through December 18th. You may leave your donations by the Mary Altar. Those donations will go to local charities.

The YMSofR continues its clothing collection through January 8th. We will let you know what the final count is and the local charities we have served once the work of counting, sorting, and delivering is completed in January.

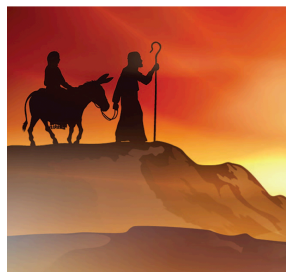
Christmas Concert

Join in as we attend and honor our Music Director, Elizabeth Battaglia, and the women of the Thursday Musical Club as they perform Christmas Peace at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady on Sunday, December 4th at 3pm.

Greening of the Church - December 18th

Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 18th after 10am Holy Mass to decorate the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King. We need all-hands-on-deck.

WHERE'S MARY AND JOSEPH?



Ever heard of Elf of the Shelf? Well, can you find Mary and Joseph in the church as they travel to Bethlehem? Look

around, find them, they'll be moving every week. See in their journey your hope.

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

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.

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 2022 programs and prepare for Convo 2024.

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 our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia and her brother Mike Emanuele for the beautiful music presented each week.

To Paul and Alyssa for all the work in the rectory. To Liz, Lauren, and Denise for preparing the altars for Advent, to Lauren and Paul for your great charity work with Care Portal. To Joe and Andrea for your work overseeing the kitchen and Andrea for cleaning. For Joe and Mike for lawn, snow, and cemetery care.

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 and Noon unless otherwise indicated.

Daily Holy Masses at Noon on December 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

- December 4: Second Sunday of Advent.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's Ordination Anniversary. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 7: Rorate Holy Mass, 7:30am.
- December 8: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 11: Third Sunday of Advent. **One Holy Mass at 10am.** Parish Vigil / Wigilia Dinner, Sing-Along, and Ornament Exchange.
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 14: Rorate Holy Mass, 7:30am.
- December 18: 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses with Advent Penitential Service. Greening of the church.
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle. Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.
- December 24: **Vigil of the**

Nativity. Holy Mass for Children at 4pm.

- December 25: **Sunday - Nativity of the Lord, Holy Mass at Midnight and 10am.**
- December 26: Feast - St. Stephen the Martyr. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of Wine (**bring a bottle or two to be blessed**).
- December 28: Commemoration - Holy Innocents. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 31: Solemnity - Holy Family. Holy Mass at Noon.
- January 1: Sunday - Solemnity of the Circumcision. Happy 2023!
- January 2: **Sunday - Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus. Parish Feast. Holy Mass at Noon.**
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass at Noon includes blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense.
- January 8: Sunday - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds.
- January 9: Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at Noon.

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

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 and constitution, establish the dues.

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 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? Dues are part of giving generously from what we have.

The benefits of church membership, including the privilege of burial in parish cemeteries.

Dues are \$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 2023 along with the election of a new Parish Committee.



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.

December 2022 – The Eucharist: The Heart and Center of Who We Are



During the month of December as we conclude our year of Being Eucharistic People – we

reflect on importance of receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist to lead and guide us on our earthly pilgrimage.

Scripture: (Ezekiel 36:26-27) A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes.

Reflection: As we have now begun to open up our parish churches following the most difficult parts of the pandemic, I had the opportunity to distribute Holy Communion to a number of individuals who had not received our blessed Lord in Holy Communion for some time. I remember seeing the tears of joy in their eyes as they approached the altar to receive Jesus and how moved they were to be united, at that moment, with our Lord. These individuals were aware that up until that time they were missing something precious and holy within their lives.

It is so very easy for each of us to lose track of exactly what are the most important things in life. First and foremost of these things must be the worship of God in the Holy Eucharist and the reception of His Son in Holy Communion. When we do not participate in this central point in our lives or when we do not attend to it the way we should, we begin, in fact, to have “stony hearts.” God desires that we come to Him in worship and in love; He desires that we are united to Him in the reception of Holy Communion. He seeks to put within us “hearts of flesh,” hearts renewed under His continuing creative power and love.

In order for us to be faithful Catholics, true and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, our worship and participation at the Holy Eucharist is essential. It is our worship of the God Who created us, our union with the Lord Who loves us and gave Himself for us upon the Cross. It is the opportunity to join with others into the one body of Christ on earth to accomplish His work and build the kingdom of God. It is truly the heart and center of who we are and all that we are, as individuals and as parishes together. In fact, it is the heart and center of all creation.

Action Item – After the reception of Holy Communion at your parish church, pray the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Communion from the PNCC Prayer Book and contemplate the great gift you have received as Christ comes to you in Holy Communion.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Holy Mass at Noon ¹	Holy Mass at Noon ² Advent Youth Zoom Presentation at 7:30pm	Seniorate Holy Mass and Youth Gathering starting at 11am. ³
⁴ 2nd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski.	⁵ Holy Mass at Noon	⁶ Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's 8th Anniversary of Ordination. Holy Mass at Noon	⁷ Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	⁸ Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at Noon	⁹ Holy Mass at Noon	¹⁰ Women's Empowerment Meeting at 10am.
¹¹ 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Lector: Larry Panfil. Vigil / Wigilia Dinner, Sing-Along, Ornament Exchange.	¹² Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Mass at Noon,	¹³ Holy Mass at Noon	¹⁴ Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	¹⁵ Holy Mass at Noon	¹⁶ Holy Mass at Noon	¹⁷
¹⁸ 4th Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. Greening of the Church.	¹⁹ Holy Mass at Noon	²⁰ Holy Mass at Noon	²¹ Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle. Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	²² Holy Mass at Noon	²³ Holy Mass at Noon	²⁴ Vigil of the Nativity Vigil Holy Mass for Children and Youth at 4pm.
²⁵ Solemnity of the Nativity Holy Mass at Midnight Holy Mass, 10am	²⁶ Solemnity – St. Stephen the Protomartyr. Holy Mass at Noon.	²⁷ Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of Wine.	²⁸ Commemoration – Holy Innocents. Holy Mass at Noon.	²⁹ Holy Mass at Noon.	³⁰ Holy Mass at Noon.	³¹ Solemnity – Holy Family. Holy Mass at Noon.

Events

January 2023 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am and Noon/Happy 2023!
- 2nd – Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus, Parish Feast. Holy Mass at Noon.
- 6th - Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense at Noon. Kolędy Visits begin.

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

