

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC**  
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**ON THE WEB: [WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG)**

# NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER

# 2023



AND LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS, TO WHICH  
INDEED YOU WERE CALLED IN ONE BODY. AND BE THANKFUL.

**I** was listening to religious radio the other Sunday, just after Thanksgiving, and the commentator mentioned that we are now in the Christmas Season. Now, I am not a Negative Nelly, correcting everyone for such mistakes. I am happy that they recognize the need to celebrate the season. The better question, Why the rush?

If you are old enough you might remember the days when the decorations were put up on Christmas Eve or in the week before Christmas. Folks prepared for Christmas by living with a sense of anticipation.

Anticipation - the old ketchup commercials where they sang Anticipation while the ketchup slowly trickled out of the bottle. Anticipation like in the heart of a child awaiting Christmas morning, a bride her wedding, parents the birth of a child. Those and many other occasions we each know very well.

We Catholics know something of anticipation. In every Holy Mass we await the living presence of the Lord

Jesus and our receiving Him in Holy Communion. We live seasonally anticipating the celebration of the key moments in our Lord's life which encompass our salvation history. It does not all happen right away.

Advent calls us to a spirit of anticipation. The Holy Church guides us through this season focusing on our Lord's coming and echoing Psalm 130: *I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.*

Let us imagine our keeping of this time of anticipation. What awaits us? A grand celebration of forty days beginning Christmas Day and lasting until February 2nd. We will together celebrate those moments of salvation history that focus on family, the impoverished that first met Jesus, and His revelation to the nations. On the other hand we can meet Christmas exhausted, throw out the tree the next day, and miss all Jesus revealed to us.

So, let us celebrate by keeping this time of anticipation for if we do the *peace of Christ* will indeed *reign in our hearts*.

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## Blessing of Oplátky and the Advent Wreath

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On the First Sunday of Advent we will bless 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.

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## Rorate Holy Mass

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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 6th at 7:30am. The other dates are December 6th, 13th, and 20th.

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## Our Vigil / Wigila Dinner

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On Sunday, December 10th 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](mailto:frjim@holynamencc.org).

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## Ornament Exchange

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We will hold a completely voluntary ornament exchange after our Vigil / Wigilia dinner on December 10th. If you wish, please sign up. You can also sign up at the dinner. Simply bring a wrapped ornament costing \$7 or less.

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## Christmas Vigil Raffle

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<b>Annual Christmas Vigil Raffle</b>			
<b>GRAND PRIZE UP TO \$2,500*</b>			
<small>*Based upon sale of 100 tickets. Otherwise proceeds split 50/50*</small>			
<small>Drawing on December 11, 2022 WINNERS WILL BE CONTACTED VIA PHONE</small>			
No. 001	No. 001	NAME:	
		ADDRESS:	
		PHONE:	
		EMAIL:	

There is still time to get your tickets. The top prize is \$2,600 if all tickets are sold. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$50 each. Tickets may be purchased after every Sunday Holy Mass or by calling 518-421-9375. The winning ticket will be drawn Sunday, December 10th at our Vigil Dinner.

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## Organ Blessing and Charity Concert

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On Sunday, December 3rd at 4pm our Prime Bishop will join us to bless our "new" organ and for a charity concert

to support the arson fire recovery efforts at Blessed Virgin Mary Parish.

On Monday, May 15, 2023 an arson fire destroyed a storage garage and burned the siding, portions of the roof, and a brand-new storage refrigerator at the parish ([www.bvmc.org](http://www.bvmc.org)) in Latham.

The suspected arsonist, Mark Marcus, was subsequently arrested. Albany's ABC News 10 reported:

*One fire nearly burned down a church.*

*"In this one instance we had the fire [spread] to a church nearby which caused extensive damage. It could have been far worse," said Colonie Police Lieutenant Daniel Belles.*

*The Blessed Virgin Mary Parish suffered the worst damage. Colonie Fire Services, Senior Fire Protection Specialist, Ben Stevens says the fire was dangerous for firefighters.*

*In an official statement to police just after he was arrested Monday morning, 25-year-old Mark Marcus admitted to setting the fires and called himself an arsonist. "When I see something, I want to light on fire I use my lighter to light it."*

Your attendance and free will donation would be greatly and prayerfully appreciated.

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## Christmas Greetings

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*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.*

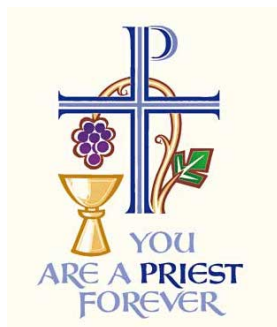
*I will again offer my prayer at the manger, and at the Holy Altar, for you, your families, our humble parish.*

*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*

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## 9th Anniversary - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood

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

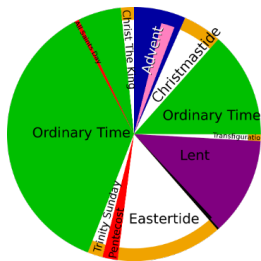
Thank you so much for your ideas, team work, and support throughout the past year. We continue to make an amazing impact on our neighborhood and community.

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

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### New Liturgical Year

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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 December 3rd we entered Year B and Cycle II. In Year B, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Mark.

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### Advent Charitable Giving - food, clothing.

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As usual, we will be collecting canned and dry food donations now through December 17th. You may leave your donations by the Mary Altar. Those donations will go to local charities.

The YMSofR continues its clothing collection through January 6th. Pick up a count form at church, count the items you will be donating, and drop them off to any local charity that accepts clothing (e.g., Red Boxes). Turn in the count sheets and we will tally the final count.

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### Church Fathers on Advent

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- 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

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### **Greening of the Church - December 17th**

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Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 17th after 10am Holy Mass to decorate the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King. We need all-hands-on-deck.

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### **TMC Christmas Concert**

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Join in as we attend and honor our Music Director, Elizabeth Battaglia, and the women of the Thursday Musical Club as they perform Making Spirits Bright at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady on Saturday, December 2nd at 3pm.

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### **WHERE'S MARY AND JOSEPH?**

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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.

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## **Memory Crosses**

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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.

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### **Outrageous Valentine's Raffle**

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We will be sending out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle in early January. Prizes total \$1,220 as it is a leap year.

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 2024 programs — Kurs and Convo.

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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 Larry for his continued perseverance in getting our sign and having it installed,

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

To Liz, Linda F. and Denise for preparing the altars for Advent, to Paul and Francisco for your great charity work with Care Portal and for Rectory work. 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!!!

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### **Planning For:**

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**Holy Mass on Sunday at 10am and Noon unless otherwise indicated.**

**Daily Holy Masses at Noon on December 5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29. January 3, 4, 5.**

- December 3: First Sunday of Advent.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's Ordination Anniversary. Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.
- December 8: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 9: Women's Empowerment Group at 10am.
- December 10: Second Sunday of Advent. **One Holy Mass at 10am.** Parish Vigil / Wigilia Dinner, Sing-Along, Ornament Exchange, Raffle Drawing.
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 13: Rorate Holy Mass, 7:30am.
- December 17: Third Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses with Advent Penitential Service. Greening of the church.
- December 20: Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.
- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas

the Apostle. Holy Mass at Noon.

- December 24: **Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. **Vigil of the Nativity.**
- December 25: **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 30: Solemnity - Holy Family. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 31: Sunday - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds.
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Happy 2024! Holy Mass at Noon.
- January 2: **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 7: Sunday - Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord.

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### **Milestones to Celebrate:**

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#### Birthdays

2 Christina Supinski, Dorothy Morrison, Lisa Houser  
3 Claudia Bertasso

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  
25 Jesus, Matthew Seidel  
28 Denise Meyers

#### Anniversaries

19 Bob & Cyndie Williams

Every blessing!

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## Annual dues

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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 ensure your dues are paid before December 31st. Pay them 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.

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### **Nominations/Annual Meeting**

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Our annual meeting will be held in early February 2024 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.

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## **Epiphany Blessings**

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on Saturday, January 6, 2024.

If you would like your home blessed in the traditional Epiphany home blessing between January 6th and February 14th, please see Fr. Jim to make an appointment.

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### **St. Ephraim the Syrian - Stanzas on the Nativity**

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Ye then watch as heaven's lights in this night of starry light. For though so dark be its color yet in virtue it is clear.

Be we not deceived, beloved, by the fact that we are watching! For whoso does not rightly watch, his watch is an unrighteous watch.

This is the day that gladdened them, the Prophets, Kings, and Priests, for in it were their words fulfilled, and thus were the whole of them indeed performed!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Today Godhead sealed itself upon Manhood, that so with the Godhead's stamp Manhood might be adorned.

Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen. The voice that of old Isaiah spake, today became reality. For the Virgin this day brought forth Immanuel in Bethlehem.



# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Holy Mass at Noon.	2
3 <b>1st Sunday of Advent.</b> Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. Organ Concert, 4pm.	4	5 Holy Mass at Noon.  Chaplet – Infant of Prague in Polish.	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's 9th Anniversary of Ordination. Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	7 Holy Mass at Noon.	8 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at Noon.	9 Women's Empowerment Meeting at 10am.
10 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Holy Mass at 10am ONLY.</b> Lector: Larry Panfil.  <b>Vigil / Wigilia Dinner,</b> Sing-Along, Ornament Exchange, Raffle Drawing.	11	12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Mass at Noon,  Chaplet – Infant of Prague in Polish.	13 Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	14 Holy Mass at Noon.	15 Holy Mass at Noon.	16
17 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent.</b> Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski.  Greening of the Church.	18	19 Holy Mass at Noon.  Chaplet – Infant of Prague in Polish.	20 Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	21 Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle. Holy Mass at Noon.	22 Holy Mass at Noon.	23
24 <b>4th Sunday of Advent.</b> Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois.  <b>Vigil of the Nativity.</b>	25 <b>Solemnity of the Nativity</b> <b>Holy Mass at Midnight</b> <b>Holy Mass, 10am.</b>	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 Solemnity – Holy Family. Holy Mass at Noon.
31 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.						

## Events

January 2024 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am and Noon/Happy 2024!
- 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.**  
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Schenectady, NY 12303

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