



Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 31, 2023

Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds

Uroczystość Ubogich Pasterzy

December 31, 2023

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 77.

First reading: Jeremiah 31:10-14

Psalm: Ps 97:1,6,11,12

R. A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

Epistle: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

Intention: For all priests and deacons of our Church and all in formation.

Celebrant: Rev. Jim Konicki.

Lector: 10am, Larry Panfil.

- Holy Mass at 10am (Contemporary Rite, pg. 63).
- Coffee Hour.
- Holy Mass at Noon (Traditional Rite, pg. 15)

THIS WEEK'S ENTRANCE HYMN

V. For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.

R. Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, Lord.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Contact

Holy Name of Jesus

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Today's Music

- Entrance: B62, Let Us Hasten.
- Gloria: R184, Hark The Herald
- Sacrament of the Word: R194, Infant Holy.
- Offertory: B61, Shepherds Hurried Into Bethlehem.
- Communion: Rise Up Shepherd And Follow (instrumental).
- Communion Reflection: R179, The First Noel.
- Recessional: R171, Joy To The World.

+++ Reminders & Notes +++

- **Keep inviting people to meet the Lord and join in worship and fellowship.**
- **Reminder:** Because of this year's calendar Catholics have a dual obligation – Holy Mass today, Sunday the 31st and Monday, January 1st. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds with a normal Sunday schedule and on January 1st, the Solemnity of the Circumcision at 10am. These are Holy Days of Obligation.
- **New Year Wishes:** On behalf of Fr. Jim, his family, and the Parish Committee we wish all of you a blessed, safe, and happy 2024. May the Lord's presence and our walk in His gospel footsteps ever grow stronger in our lives.
- **Food Delivery:** Thank you to Bob and Cyndie for delivering the 205 pounds of food you provided to Schenectady Community Ministries to feed the hungry in our city.
- **Valentine's Raffle:** Tickets will be sent out shortly. Please help us in supporting youth attendance at Kurs and Convo. Because it is a leap year, there are additional chances to win.
- **New Year – New Things:** Please consider serving on the Parish Committee or one of the parish's ministries (altar server, lector, greeter). Make the new year a time to make a difference.

We invite all who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to partake. It is our practice to distribute the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, by placing the elements on the tongue, never in the hand.

--- *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."* ---

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy...

My homily on Christmas was centered on Paul's letter to Titus, someone we do not encounter very much in the Church year (4 times at most). As I mentioned, Titus was the first Bishop of Crete, that small Mediterranean island that lies between Athens and Rhodes.

On Christmas we focused on the confidence Titus needed because he was charged with developing the Church in Crete, a place Paul had never visited.

As I also mentioned, there is a lot in Paul's letter to Titus about Church organization, differing groups of people and their roles and responsibilities and how they are to grow in

faith, but key to all of that was how the grace and love of God that appeared in Jesus Christ should cause us all to live and act, eager to do what is good.

Indeed, we are to live with the confidence of a people who have been redeemed, saved, delivered, and cleansed; a people belonging to God.

About 86 years before Paul wrote his letter to Titus, Jesus was born, and the first to encounter Him besides Mary and Joseph were the Humble Shepherds of the area.

Like all of us, those Humble Shepherds had not done anything to merit the announcement they heard. They hadn't even bought a lottery ticket. They weren't thinking – I'm in it to win it. Yet the *goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared* to them.

God's coming among us

brought about real change and it is change that will last forever. It will last despite the world's denial, despite any negative thing we could think of, and it will overcome for as Jeremiah proclaimed: *I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.* That is God's promise and Jesus' coming did that!

What can we take away from this encounter with those Humble Shepherds who were so highly blessed?

We can take an attitude of confidence because Jesus saved us despite ourselves. We can develop an active disposition – to get up, go, learn, then witness, and proclaim based on faith alone without any prompting, without fear. We can live as Jesus intends – in gladness and comfort knowing we are His. Come, let us go to the stable.

Memory Verse

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Isaiah 6:8

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Psalm 66:16
MONDAY: Matthew 5:16
TUESDAY: 1 Peter 3:15
WEDNESDAY: Acts 1:8
THURSDAY: Acts 4:20
FRIDAY: Romans 1:16
SATURDAY: Daniel 12:3

Pray the week:

Lord Jesus, Grant that I, like the Humble Shepherds, may act on faith and bear witness to you always and everywhere. Grant also an abundance of vocations to our Holy Church. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Stan Podkulski, Mariea Chase, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Elizabeth Węglinski, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Virginia Lamb, Curtis Szczepkowski, Joshua Moraski, Sue & Roger White, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Joanne Bauer, Madison Sheridan, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Derek Westcott, Karen Kisch, Gregory Henderson, Vince Cacamo, Theresa Ordon, Robert Baia, Michelle Zawistowski, Allyson Keyser, Amanda Carr, Susan Jones, Garry Packer, Gary & Sandra Tatlock, Shirley Maliszewski, Fred Hendricks, Theresa, Carla, Francine, Eileen, Joyce Colson, Karen Weyant, Charles Hobbib, Helen Spencer, Steve and Claudia Miller, Michael Clough, Frances Gary, Dan Crawley, Bob Chelkowski, Lyle, Ralph Zell, Phil Wielewinski, Brian Rohan, and all in need of God's healing.

- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Patric Jones, Timothy Olsen, Charlie Prothero, Fr. Joseph Kolek, Fr. Andrew Bilinski, Fr. Stan Jasiurkowski, Fr. Andrew Tenus.
- All those in Public Service: Civil Servants, Police Officers, and Fire Fighters.
- All Active and Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- All who have asked for our prayers for any need or intention.

This week we remember and pray for the work of the National United Youth Association (NUYA).

Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

Upcoming

- **December 31: Solemnity – Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.**
- **January 1: Solemnity – Circumcision. Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 2: Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus. Parish Feast Day. Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 3: Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 4: Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 5: Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 6: Solemnity – Epiphany. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of Chalk and Incense. Home Blessings Begin.**
- **January 7: Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski.**
- **January 8: NO Holy Mass.**
- **January 9: Holy Mass at Noon. Chaplet to the Infant of Prague.**