

HOLY NAME OF JESUS
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC
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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2024



FOR TO THIS YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED, BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR YOU, LEAVING YOU AN EXAMPLE, SO THAT YOU MIGHT FOLLOW IN HIS STEPS.

The text above from the First Letter of St. Peter was aimed at new Christians. Peter is saying that Christianity is not easy. Christianity demands a lot from us. Some will not understand why we endure what we endure. Others will pile on those who have entered the kingdom of God. Suffering is part of the Christian life.

Our Pre-Lent and Lenten journey are specifically designed to call us to self-sacrifice, to connect with and undertake some suffering for the sake of Christ and His Church (the Body of Christ - all of us together), and to walk the difficult road Jesus traveled to the Cross.

Self-sacrifice and suffering go hand in hand. We all know what it is like to give something up. Whether it is the fasting we do on Wednesdays and Fridays, or some deeper abstinence from certain behaviors that have become sinful in our lives. Being honest, we know it will hurt to do those things. Yet we must.

What that suffering comes down to then is how we meet it. We might

meet it with fear, trepidation, and a propensity to dwell on the negative or we could turn our thoughts to the joyful outcomes and experiences we will derive from what we undertake.

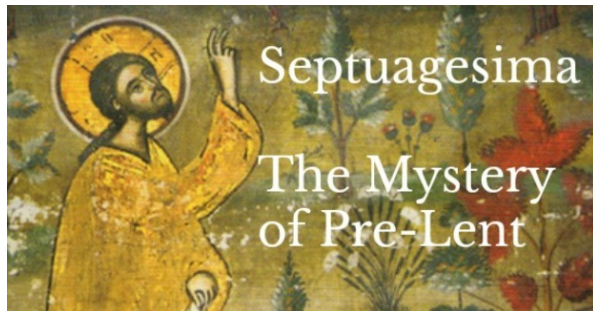
The result is that our current suffering for Christ's body will return to us as blessings and miracles.

Similarly, walking with Jesus, particularly through acts of devotion and prayer (Stations, Bitter Lamentations, a Lenten Retreat) keep us connected to what He suffered for us. We come to clearly see God giving His whole self for us, accepting the worst pain and punishment of all - physical and psychological - because God sees us as worth His Son's suffering.

The result is that we do not underestimate our value in God's eyes. We see His love full on.

God calls us to live in the pattern Jesus laid out for us in sacrifice, suffering, and in walking with Him. He is alongside us as our Guide as we put our feet in His footprints. We then should follow His steps with every effort now so to do so forever.

THE PRE-LENTEN SEASON



The pre-Lenten season began January 28th. 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 Passion Sunday), Sexagesima Sunday (60 days to Passion Sunday), and Quinquagesima Sunday (50 days to Passion Sunday). We are called to make a special point of self-examination, of considering the things we need to repent of so we may enter our Lenten discipline on Ash Wednesday fully prepared and head on.

THEN... LENT



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th. Holy Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes will take place at Noon and 7pm that day. Please join us.

Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 4th**. Holy Mass is at 10am ONLY. Please make an effort to attend if you can. Instructions for attending via Zoom will be sent by E-mail to those requesting such access.

Annual Financial Meeting - March 3rd

Our annual financial meeting will be held on Sunday, March 3rd following Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Please attend and help decide on our financial matters.

A Prayer for Sexagesima



*Lord God,
Heavenly
Father,
we thank
you that
you have
sown
your*

*Blessed Word among us through
your Son, Jesus Christ. We beseech
you that you would so prepare our
hearts through your Holy Spirit that
we would hear this Word with
diligence, keep it in noble and good
hearts, and with patience bring forth
fruit. Mercifully grant that we may
not be choked by sins, but that by
your merciful help we smother*

them. In every kind of danger may your grace and eternal consolation hold us steady and give us sure comfort.

The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle



February 2024 – the month of love. Thank you to all who purchased and donated tickets for our Outrageous Valentine's Raffle.

Your generosity and love on behalf of our youth was over-the-top 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.

Souper Bowl Sunday



For the 23rd 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 11th - 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
25 Mike Emanuele
28 Patrick Clas

Wedding Anniversaries

17 Tom & Kelly Supinski

Wishing you all many years!

Epiphany Visitations - Kołęda - House Blessings

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

Blessing appointments are available through February 13th (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).

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

To all who assisted throughout the Christmas season, attending liturgies, and who assisted in the taking down of our Christmas decorations.

To our wonderful organist and choir director Liz Battaglia and Mike Emanuele.

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!

Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 4th 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.

O God, Your will is that all Your children should grow into the fullness of life. We lift up to You the ministry of Scouting.

We offer You thanks for camping, to teach us that the world is our great home; for study and work to build character; for service, to see our responsibility for those in need; for encouragement in genuine patriotism and vital faith.

Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, the young may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with You and all people. We ask this through

the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Planning For —

Holy Mass each Sunday is at 10am and Noon and Daily Holy Mass is held Tuesday through Friday at Noon unless otherwise noted.

- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of Candles/ Gromnica.
- Feb. 3: Commemoration – St. Blaise of Sebastea, Bishop and Martyr.
- Feb. 4: Sexagesima Sunday. Scout Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY with Blessing of Throats. Annual Meeting, and Elections.
- Feb. 11: Quinquagesima Sunday. Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Feb. 13: Last Day for Epiphany Home Blessings.
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes at Noon and 7pm.
- Feb. 16: 71st Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop Š+P Francis Hodur. Holy Mass at Noon.
- Feb. 18: 1st Sunday in Lent.
- Feb. 19: President's Day
- Feb. 24: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.
- Feb. 25: 2nd Sunday in Lent.

[**NOTE:** Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 3pm. Bitter Lamentations Sunday at 3pm throughout Lent]

Lenten Devotions



We encourage all parishioners to take part in at least one of our additional weekly devotions and so deepen engagement

with our Lord and Savior in prayer this Lent.

Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday in Lent at 3pm. **Bitter Lamentations / Gorzkie Żale** will be held each Sunday at 3pm.

Lenten Disciplines

There are various Lenten Disciplines we are called to engage in.

The first is fasting. As used in the context of our Church, fasting means abstinence from meats. We are called to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout Lent.

The other discipline of Lent, beside additional prayer as noted above in our article on Lenten Devotions, is charity. We encourage all to make a sacrifice of food items by donating such for those in need in our local community.

The following are suggestions for each week of Lent:

1st Week, FEELING FRUITY: Canned

Peaches, Pears, Fruit Cocktail,
Pineapple or Applesauce, 100%
Juice in Cans.

2nd Week, VEGGIE MANIA: Canned
Corn, Canned Peas, Canned Beans,
Canned Potatoes, Canned Sweet
Potatoes.

3rd Week, DINNER IS SERVED:
Canned Beef Stew, Canned Pork and
Beans, Instant Potatoes/Stuffing
Mix, Macaroni and Cheese,
Spaghetti or other Pasta, Canned
Spaghetti Sauce.

4th Week of Lent, SCHOOL NEEDS:
Pencils and Pens, Folders and
Notebooks, Crayons, Tape and
Elmer's Glue.

Passion Week, BABY MAKES THREE:
Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes,
Liquid Formula, Jars of Baby Food.

Holy Week, SPECIAL NEEDS DIET:
Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit in
Juice (not in syrup), Canned Tuna in
Water, Low Sodium Crackers,
Organic Applesauce.

Lenten Retreat

Our Seniorate Lenten Retreat will be
held on Saturday, March 16th at
Holy Cross Parish, 3690 Armstrong
Rd., Lakeland, NY starting at 11am.

Please let Father Jim know if you are
attending (everyone is strongly
encouraged to attend as part of our
Lenten Discipline) so proper
preparations of food and materials
may be made.

Music Scholarship Applications



A special collection
was accepted on
January 28th 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://
nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com](http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com).

To date, the Church has provided
1,136 scholarships totaling
\$353,085.

2024 Scholarship applications must
be submitted no later than May 1,
2024. Winners will be announced at
the National Youth Convo in the
summer of 2024. See Fr. Jim for
assistance in applying.

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.*

Basket Social Around the Corner

It is time to get ready for our annual basket social - April 21st. We really need your help to make this year's Social a success. Can you donate a basket, or two, or three? They don't have to be huge - anything will do. Through your love and charity we are able to touch the lives of others and maintain a vibrant faith community. Need ideas - check out Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/cmck1953/basket->

party-ideas/.

Ministry at Pathways



Since October 1, 2023 Fr. Jim has been offering ministry to the residents at Pathways Nursing and Rehabilitation

Center on Providence Ave. in Niskayuna. He visits with residents, offers prayer, and brings the sacraments to Catholic residents.

Pathways provides services to people from infancy to old age. The residents are affected by traumatic brain injury, are on ventilators, or face other challenges. Please keep this ministry and the residents of Pathways in your prayers.

National Mission and Evangelism Conference



The Twenty-Third Mission & Evangelism Workshop, with the theme

"Christian Ambassador, Thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3: 16-17)" will be held Friday, April 12th

through 14th at St. Barbara's Parish in Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. Our parish will provide support for one or two people to attend (travel, lodging, fees). We would love a volunteer or two to step forward. Please see Fr. Jim.

Fr. Jim and Joe Kaczynski Elected



This past November 12th Fr. Jim was elected Chaplain of the Polish American Congress Central Division of New

York State. Joe Kaczynski was elected Secretary. Congratulations.

I'm Incensed!

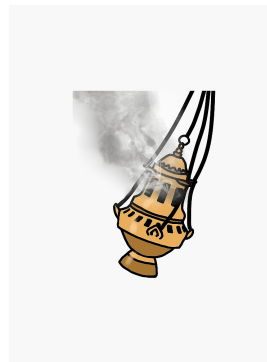
What is it with incense in the church? Many wonder about that.

Incense is used in the church, primarily for special masses, typically Solemn Holy Masses, during Exposition and Benediction, when the Blessed Sacrament is processed, or whenever the Blessed Sacrament might be exposed.

In the Old Testament, the offering of incense to God is a sweet smelling burnt oblation presented as part of worship and in thanksgiving. Recall how Abel's offering to God rose

before God while Cain's less worthy offering would not rise to God.

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. (Genesis 4:3-5)



The rising of incense is particularly meant to symbolize our worthy offering before God and recalls our prayers rising up to Him.

As the priest places incense in the thurible he prays: *May my prayers rise like incense and my hands as an evening offering.* (Psalm 141:2).

As you see incense being offered place your thoughts on the sweet oblation of your heart offered to God and see your prayers rise before Him.

Parish Ministry Is For You

We need people to step forward to take up various ministries in the parish, particularly as Lectors and adult Altar Servers. If you consider this a challenge, that's good. Let us all be challenged to serve God and His Holy Church in new and different ways.

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Holy Mass at Noon. ¹	Solemnity of the Presentation, Holy Mass at Noon with blessing of candles. ²	Commemoration of St. Blaise. ³
⁴ Sexagesima Sunday. Scout Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY with Blessing of Throats. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. ANNUAL MEETING follows in person and via Zoom.	⁵	⁶ Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	⁷ Holy Mass at Noon.	⁸ Holy Mass at Noon.	⁹ Holy Mass at Noon.	¹⁰ Women's Empowerment Meeting, 10am till Noon.
¹¹ Quinquagesima Sunday. SouperBowl Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.	¹²	¹³ Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet. Final Day for Epiphany Home Blessings.	¹⁴ Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass at Noon and 7pm.	¹⁵ Holy Mass at Noon.	¹⁶ 71st Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop Š+P Franczisek Hodur. Holy Mass at Noon. Stations of the Cross, 3pm.	¹⁷
¹⁸ 1st Sunday in Lent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski. Bitter Lamentations, 3pm.	¹⁹ Presidents' Day. Parish Committee Meets at 6pm.	²⁰ Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	²¹ Holy Mass at Noon.	²² Holy Mass at Noon.	²³ Holy Mass at Noon. Stations of the Cross, 3pm.	²⁴ Feast – St. Matthias, Apostle.
²⁵ 2nd Sunday in Lent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. Bitter Lamentations, 3pm.	²⁶	²⁷ Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	²⁸ Holy Mass at Noon.	²⁹ Holy Mass at Noon.		

EVENTS

All of February - Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

March Upcoming

Mar. 3rd: 3rd Sunday in Lent. Holy Mass at 10am **ONLY**. Annual Financial Meeting.

Mar. 10th – Solemnity, Institution of the PNCC.

Stations of the Cross on Lenten Fridays at 3pm.

Bitter Lamentations on Lenten Sundays at 3pm.

Holy Name of Jesus
National Catholic Church – P.N.C.C.
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Schenectady, NY 12303

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