

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH, PNCC**  
**1040 PEARL STREET**  
**SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12303-1846**  
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**ON THE WEB: [WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG](http://WWW.HOLYNAMENCC.ORG)**

# NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY

# 2026



AFTER EIGHT DAYS HAD PASSED, IT WAS TIME TO CIRCUMCISE THE CHILD;  
AND HE WAS CALLED JESUS

**E**ach January first we celebrate the Solemnity of the Circumcision of the Lord. Seems like an odd thing to commemorate doesn't it? Yet, it is important that we do so because its meaning is deeper than expected.

Circumcision was a matter of God's covenant (contract) with Israel and was part in the Law. God commanded Abraham to have every male circumcised, whether that male be a part of Israel or a slave within Israel (see Genesis 17).

This circumcision in the flesh was an outward sign of belonging to God and the community. It meant inclusion among God's chosen people.

Because circumcision was to be performed on the eighth day after birth, that falls to January first, eight days after Jesus' birth on December 25th. That is the technical reason for January first.

There are however much deeper meanings.

As we begin the new year it is important for us to reflect on our belonging. As the people of Israel's

belonging was marked in the flesh, our belonging must go beyond that. We are called, as Scripture points out repeatedly, to circumcision of the heart. Who do I belong to, where are my people, what are my loyalties, where is my heart?

Important questions that need an answer with the only proper answer being that we belong to, and our loyal to, God and His Holy Church.

Circumcision was a change, it was different and made one different. We are called to consider how our belonging to God and His Church has made us different. Do I live and act differently day-to-day, hour-to-hour? Again, our flesh is not required to be changed, but our hearts are. In our examination, if we have fallen short in being changed let's change that in 2026.

Jesus' circumcision was a mark of obedience to His Father's will. He sheds His blood for the first time on that eighth day. He obeys the Law to make its true meaning clear to us: To love and sacrifice for God and our neighbor. Jesus, the true Son of God and son of Abraham and David leads the way for us.

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## Doing LOTS of Good

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Holy Name of Jesus continues as a member of the CarePortal project, we work in partnership to help our neighborhood through the Daily Bread Food Pantry, we offer gifts of food, financial support, and clothing to those in need, and we are a place of welcome for all who are caught up in the whirlwind of life.

Let us thank God for the gifts He has given us so that we may continue to lead in serving others.

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## Thank YOU for Your Generous Food and Clothing Offerings

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Thank you to all who donated so generously. Food was added to the Daily Bread Pantry at our parish.

Branch 56 of the YMSofR will be closing out its work for the National YMSofR clothing drive as of January 11th. This event involves all branches of the Church's YMSofR in a friendly competition for good. Based on data to date, we have been exceptionally generous to those in need in our community. We will report the total number of items next month.

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## SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

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**TACKLE HUNGER**

Over the past 24 years our parish has raised over \$3,211 as part of the SouperBowl of Caring effort. This year's collection will be held on February 8th. The soup pot is out. Please continue your generosity in this worthy effort which helps Schenectady Community Ministries in feeding the hungry.

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## We Are All Needed!

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Our annual congregational meeting is planned for Sunday, February 1st along with the election of a new Parish Committee.

As we prepare to meet, pray for God's continued care and grace for all who serve or intend to serve in positions of leadership. We really need you to lead in this.

**THIS IS IMPORTANT: WE NEED YOUR LEADERSHIP. Several of our positions will be vacant and we need you, or someone you know, to serve. We also need a delegate to this year's Holy Synod of the Church. Please write down your or their name along with the office (Chair, Co-Chair, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Secretary, Trustee) you/they would like to run for and drop them in the collection basket in an envelope marked**

**nominations. You can also see Donna.**

Anyone may attend the annual meeting to share in the information provided, but please note that only paid parish members may cast a vote or run for office.

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**Membership and Dues**

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Membership requires the payment of annual dues which support the

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**KEEP CALM AND PAY YOUR DUES**

larger Church and our Diocese. Certain benefits of the parish, including burial in our cemeteries, are reserved to members.

Dues are \$125 per year for each adult member regardless of age.

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.

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**Envelopes and Tax Statements**

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God bless you for your generosity and support of our parish in 2025. Because of you and your sacrifice we have been greatly blessed. Donation envelopes for 2026 are available in the back of the church (see Linda DePaula). Please take a packet home and avail yourself of these envelopes in the coming year. Doing so allows the parish to

provide you with a statement for accounting and income tax purposes.

Annual statements for income tax purposes for last year will also be available this month.

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**Epiphany Visitations - Kolęda - House Blessings**

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The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on Tuesday, January 6th.



If you would like your home blessed in the traditional

Epiphany home blessing between January 6th and February 17th (a much shorter period of time this year), please see Fr. Jim to make an appointment.

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**The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle**

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Make February 2026 – the month of love – a month to win in more ways than one!

This effort supports the youth of our parish particularly in their attendance at this year's Kurs and CONVO.

We need your support to give our young people a great beginning in 2026. As God has told us, starting our children off right in the knowledge of the Lord will cause

them to bear much good fruit in their lives.

Each ticket for the Outrageous Valentine's Raffle gives the purchaser a chance to win up to \$1,180. The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle will include drawings for \$40 daily prizes and a \$100 daily prize on Valentine's Day. The raffle is drawn each day of the month, giving the ticket holder **28 chances to win!** Winning tickets are returned to the raffle bucket, making them eligible to win again and again.

We ask that you sell them and return completed stubs to the parish by February 2nd so that all tickets may be entered. Tickets cost only \$10 each. Feel free to contact Fr. Jim or Linda DePaula with any questions or to get more tickets if needed.

We thank you for your support and wish you good luck!

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## The Holy Name of Jesus

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January 2nd marks the annual celebration of the Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Our parish was established and dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. Let us always honor and praise the Holy Name of Jesus in all we do – in our witness to His Holy Name and our mutual affection, fellowship, love, and charity and to NEVER take His Name in vain.

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**THANK YOU, MERCI,  
DZIĘKUJE, ĄĆIŪ, GRACIAS,  
MAHALO, GRAZIE!**

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**There is so much to be thankful for.** To all who joined in to decorate the parish so beautifully for Christmas and who participated in our Vigil/Wigilia dinner.

*Thank*

*You*

Thank you to all who attended the Holy Masses of Advent, Rorate Holy Mass on Wednesday mornings, the Masses of

Christmas Day. Thank you to Liz, Christina, Victoria, and Larry for your beautiful music unto the Baby Jesus.

Thank you Amy for your representation in ministry, bringing in the Baby Jesus.

Thank you to those who have worked so tirelessly over the past year: our parish officers and committee members, our jurors, nomination committee members, members of the ANS, YMSofR, and choir, Liz Battaglia, Mike Emanuele, Christina Supinski, and Victoria Konicki for service in music, our lectors, and Andrea, Joe, Paul Z., Pete, Mike, and all who cared for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish facilities (often extraordinarily) as well as Pete for taking care of things at the cemetery and Joe for mowing at

both cemeteries. To Liz, Denise, Lauren, and Linda F. Who helped with Altar and Sanctuary care. To Gayle for her first year of work as coordinator of the Basket Social, Joe for his work on the annual Vigil Raffle and Linda for her work on the Valentine's raffle.

Thank you to all who gave of their time and treasure to build up the ministry and community of our parish, Seniorate, and the wider Church, most especially Lauren, Jeff, Dorothy, Gary, and Amy for your food pantry work and to Lauren for all her help in various ministries.

A special thank you to our youth and their parents/grandparents for your dedication and hard work and participation in Kurs.

May God bless and reward you for all you have offered and done!

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## **Milestones to Celebrate**

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### Birthdays

1 Jon Linscott  
3 Logan Slezak  
4 Zach Bixler, Zachary Prusky,  
Courtney Carroll  
5 Derrick D'Amico  
8 Alex D'Amico, Lawrence Panfil,  
Christine DeCocco  
11 Cyndie Williams  
14 Karen DeMidio  
25 Adam Konicki  
27 Eric Kaminski  
29 Judi Horton

**Wishing you all many years!**

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## **Music Scholarship Sunday**

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Sunday, January 25th is Music Scholarship Sunday.



Our parish has been blessed with great musicians and aspiring musicians. Scholarships are available to both youth and adults.

2026 scholarship applications are available now at <https://nucmusicsscholarship.weebly.com>. God bless those who add musical beauty to the worship of God.

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## **IMPORTANT: Upcoming**

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There are a lot of great events ahead of us for 2025. Please take note of the following and stay tuned for updates:

- Pre-Lent: February 1 to 17.
- Scout Sunday: February 8.
- Ash Wednesday: February 18.
- Palm Sunday: March 29.
- Easter: April 5.
- 25th Conference of Scholars: Scranton, PA. April 18.
- Bowling Tournament: TBD.
- Mission and Evangelism Workshop: in New Hampshire. May 29 - 31.
- YMSofR Men's Retreat: Waymart, PA. June 17 - 20.

- Kurs: Waymart, PA. July 4 - 11.
- Youth Convocation, Jaffrey, NH. August 3 - 7.
- YMSofR Golf Tournament: TBD.
- **XXVII Holy Synod of the PNCC, Manchester, NH. September 28 - 30.**

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## The BASKET SOCIAL

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The annual **Basket Social** will be held on **Sunday, April 26th** at the South Schenectady Fire House, 6 Old Mariaville Rd, Schenectady. This beautiful and very large venue comfortably accommodates all our guests.

Please consider donating one or more baskets for the raffle that supports our parish. Stay tuned.

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## Seminarians, Seminary, and Your Help

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We have been regularly praying for the gift of vocations and God is answering our pleas. We have five men in

formation for the priesthood and several on track for entry into the Savonarola Theological Seminary in Fall 2026 and Winter 2027. Others regularly contact Fr. Jim, who is the

National Vocations Director, seeking information. This is indeed a great blessing and we should give thanks.

Much work has been accomplished at the Seminary and your generosity is vital to those ends. approach.

Let us consider what we might do as well. There is a donation basket on the back table. Please continue in your generosity! Donations can also be sent to: The Savonarola Theological Seminary Fund, c/o The Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Ave., Scranton, PA 18505-4109.

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## Circumcise Your Heart

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"Circumcise your hearts" is a biblical metaphor meaning to remove spiritual stubbornness, pride, and disobedience, opening oneself to God's will, representing a deeper, internal transformation beyond physical circumcision, focusing on purity of soul and spirit. It's a call to internal change, removing inner "foreskin" (hindrances) to truly follow God.

- Cut away impurities, worldly desires, and hardened attitudes that separate us from God.
- Align our inner selves (humility, faith, love) with God's commands.

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## Happy 2026!

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On behalf of Fr. Jim, his family, and our Parish Committee we wish you all the best for 2026!

# January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at Noon.	2 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Parish Feast. Holy Mass at Noon.	3
4 Solemnity of the Holy Family. Holy Mass, 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois.	5 Daily Bread Food Pantry 3-6m.	6 Solemnity of the Epiphany - Holy Mass with blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense, Noon	7 Holy Mass at Noon	8 Holy Mass at Noon	9 Holy Mass at Noon	10 Women's Empowerment Group. 10am till Noon.
11 Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.	12 Daily Bread Food Pantry 3-6m.	13	14	15	16	17
18 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski.	19 St. Peter's Chair at Antioch (trans.). Holy Mass at Noon. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins. Martin Luther King Day. Daily Bread Food Pantry 3-6m. Parish Committee Meets. 6pm.	20 Holy Mass at Noon	21 Holy Mass at Noon	22 Holy Mass at Noon	23 Holy Mass at Noon	24
25 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. <b>Music Scholarship Sunday.</b> Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois.	26 Conversion of St. Paul (trans.) Holy Mass at Noon. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends. Daily Bread Food Pantry 3-6m.	27 Holy Mass at Noon	28 Holy Mass at Noon	29 Holy Mass at Noon	30 Holy Mass at Noon	31

## EVENTS

### Starting Jan. 7th:

Blessing of Homes Begins – See or Call Fr. Jim. to schedule.

### February Upcoming

- Feb. 2nd – Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of Candles.

### All of February - Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

**Holy Name of Jesus**  
**National Catholic Church – P.N.C.C.**  
1040 Pearl Street  
Schenectady, NY 12303-1846

**FIRST CLASS**

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