

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

2024



AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE FATHER, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH.

In so many ways we are in a time of preparation. There were preparations for Halloween, All Saints and All Souls Days, Thanksgiving, and we now prepare for Advent, the Nativity of the Lord, the New Year, and Epiphany. It truly is a wonder we get it all done.

On top of that are our weekly preparations, work, normal shopping, cleaning, and cooking as well as the good works we do with our Food Pantry partnership and our CarePortal work that serves families in crisis.

With all that understood, it comes down to approach. I have learned through many a lesson in the pitfalls of forgetfulness that a well documented list of to-dos helps. I like making shopping lists, or taking the ones sent me (can you pick up some milk on your way home) and then deleting the items as I accomplish them. Gives one a certain sense of satisfaction.

On top of all the preparing and accomplishing we tend to be influenced by expectation. I know

that too - remembering the search for Cabbage Patch dolls and Teddy Ruxpin - and that was when there was no online shopping outlets.

I am not going to deride the preparations, the work involved, or even the expectations around us.

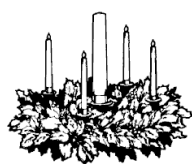
The work is typically done with love and concern, a way to make our loved ones' days brighter, an effort to ease their burdens in life. The expectations are really a call from the heart - a desire to be seen and acknowledged - to be loved.

Jesus did the same and asks the same. Let us be careful to ensure He is on our lists and let us make every effort not to cross Him off the list. Let us be careful so that when Christmas arrives we are not surprised, shocked, or whispering to ourselves - that went so fast.

Our efforts done out of love for Him need to reflect all He has done and continue to do for us. From His incarnation to His death it was all for us. Let our lives then be all for Him and His gospel way. Prepare, He is near.

Blessing of Oplátky and the Advent Wreath

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.

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, December 6th at 7:30am. The other dates are December 4th, 11th, and 18th.

Our Vigil / Wigila Dinner

On Sunday, December 15th 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 on December 15th. If you wish, please sign up. You can also sign up at the dinner. Simply bring a wrapped ornament costing \$7 or less.

Christmas Vigil Raffle

Annual Christmas Vigil Raffle GRAND PRIZE UP TO \$2,500* <small>*Based upon sale of 100 tickets. Otherwise proceeds split 50/50*</small> Drawing on December 11, 2022 <small>WINNERS WILL BE CONTACTED VIA PHONE</small>		No. 001 <small>REPLACE BY CROSSING OUT WINN.</small>	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 15th at our Vigil Dinner.

New Liturgical Year

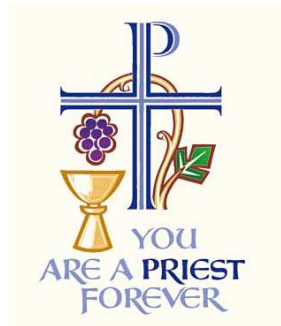
Readings from Scripture are part of every Holy Mass and hold a very

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 December 1st we entered Year C and Cycle I. In Year C, we read mostly from the Gospel of St. Luke.

10th Anniversary - Ordination to the Holy Priesthood



I was ordained to the Holy Priesthood ten 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

The Bishop's Wife

The Bishop's Wife, produced in 1947, is the story of a suave Angel who comes to earth to save a woman and her husband, an Episcopal Bishop, from spiritual doubt, and a lack of love for life itself.

The movie features a sermon at the end, written by the Angel, that applies equally well today. This is the closing sermon (thank you to Thy Grace is Sufficient blog):

Tonight I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking.

Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry, a blazing star hung over a stable, and wise men came with birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries. We celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, with the sound of bells, and with gifts.

But especially with gifts. You give me a book, I give you a tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer and Uncle Henry can do with a new pipe. For we

forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled, all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. Its his birthday we're celebrating. Don't let us ever forget that.

Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then, let each put in his share, loving kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on earth.

Sixty years old, and still so very relevant. Let us, in our preparations, ensure we hang up His stocking and let us fill it with what He desires most - our hearts.

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 lived 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

Advent Charitable Giving - food, clothing.

As usual, we will be collecting canned and dry food donations now through December 22nd. 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.

If you need help, just bring the clothing in.

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

Greening of the Church - December 22nd

Please join in and lend a hand on Sunday, December 22nd after 10am Holy Mass to decorate the Church, beautifying it for the arrival of our newborn King. We need all-hands-on-deck.

TMC 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 Night Divine at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady on Saturday, December 7th at 2pm. Tickets are \$15.

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.

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 2025 Kurs program and Kurs and Convo in 2026.

With Thanks

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 Liz, Linda F. and Denise for preparing the altars for Advent, to 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 Lauren, Jeff, and Dottie for your work with the Daily Bread Food Pantry.

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 except for Rorate Masses in Advent on Wednesday mornings at 7:30am.

The Daily Bread Food Pantry is every Monday from 3 until 6pm.

- December 1: First Sunday of Advent.
- December 4: Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.
- December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's Ordination Anniversary.
- December 8: Second Sunday of Advent. Goulash Food Sale.
- December 9: Solemnity - Conception of the B.V.M. (translated). Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 11: Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.
- December 12: Solemnity - Our Lady of Guadalupe. Holy Mass at Noon.
- December 14: Women's Empowerment Group at 10am.
- December 15: Third Sunday of Advent. **One Holy Mass at 10am.** Parish Vigil / Wigilia Dinner, Sing-Along, Ornament Exchange, Raffle Drawing.
- December 18: Rorate Holy Mass,

7:30am.

- December 21: Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle.
- December 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent. Holy Masses with Advent Penitential Service. Greening of the church.
- December 24: **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: Memorial - Holy Innocents.
- December 29: Sunday - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds.
- January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Happy 2025! Holy Mass at Noon.
- January 2: **Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus. Parish Feast. Holy Mass at Noon.**
- January 5: Sunday - Solemnity of the Holy Family.
- January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord. Holy Mass at Noon includes blessing of chalk, charcoal, and incense.
- January 12: Sunday - Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord.

Milestones to Celebrate:

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!

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 establish the dues.

What happens without dues?

The Church would go bankrupt and would dissolve.

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, include the right to vote on matters, service on the Parish Committee, serving as a Synod delegate, and 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. 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 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.

Epiphany Blessings

The Solemnity of the Epiphany is celebrated on Monday, January 6, 2025.

If you would like your home blessed in the traditional Epiphany home blessing between January 6th and March 4th (the day before Ash Wednesday), please see Fr. Jim to make an appointment.

Chaplain Sir?



Between October 1976 and October 1981 Fr. Jim was a Cadet in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) attaining the rank of Cadet

Major and designation as Deputy Squadron Commander.

Recently, Fr. Jim looked into rejoining CAP having learned that they are desperately in need of Chaplains. He is in the process of getting certified as a Chaplain, likely with the rank of Captain. For him, it is a way to repay what he was given as a Cadet.

CAP is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force charged with three key missions, Cadet Programs for youth, Search and Rescue, and the provision of Aerospace Education.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. PAC Meeting at 2pm in Amsterdam.	2 Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3 until 6pm.	3 Holy Mass at Noon.	4 Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	5 No Holy Mass.	6 Commemoration – St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's 10th Anniversary of Ordination. Holy Mass at Noon. Goulash Dinner prep.	7
8 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil. Goulash Take-away Dinner.	9 Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M. Holy Mass at Noon. Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3 until 6pm.	10 Holy Mass at Noon. Chaplet – Infant of Prague in Polish.	11 Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe, Holy Mass at Noon.	13 Holy Mass at Noon.	14 Women's Empowerment Meeting at 10am.
15 3rd Sunday of Advent. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Lector: Joe Kaczynski. Vigil / Wigilia Dinner , Sing-Along, Ornament Exchange, Raffle Drawing.	16 Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3 until 6pm.	17 Holy Mass at Noon, Chaplet – Infant of Prague in Polish.	18 Rorate Holy Mass at 7:30am.	19 Holy Mass at Noon.	20 Holy Mass at Noon.	21 Feast – St. Thomas the Apostle.
22 4th Sunday of Advent Holy Mass and Advent Penitential Service at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. Greening of the Church.	23 Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3 until 6pm.	24 Vigil of the Nativity.	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.
29 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.	30 Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3 until 6pm.	31				

Events

January 2025 Upcoming

- 1st - Solemnity of the Circumcision, Holy Mass at 10am and Noon/Happy 2025!
- 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

