



Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 29, 2024

Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds Uroczystość Ubogich Pasterzy

December 29, 2024

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, Lauren DeBlois

- Matins, Holy Mass at 10am (Contemporary Rite, Pew Missal pg. 63).
- Coffee Hour / SOCL
- Holy Mass at Noon (Traditional Rite, Pew Missal 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

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Today's Music

- Entrance: R177, Good Christian Men Rejoice.
- Gloria: R184, Hark The Herald.
- Sacrament of the Word: R194, Infant Holy.
- Offertory: B64, Christ Is Born.
- Communion: B46, When Our Christ Was Born.
- Communion Reflection: R179, The First Noel.
- Recessional: R171, Joy To The World.

+++ Reminders & Notes +++

- Please keep inviting people to meet the Lord and join in worship and fellowship.
- **EVENTS:** of various kinds are upon us as we approach the Winter. Please see Fr. Jim or Paul in relation to these events.
 - **Winter Clothing Drive**, now until January 6th. Only a week left.
 - **Food Collection for those in need in our community.** Thank you. 203 pounds of food was donated.
 - **Annual dues** of \$125 per individual are due by today for proper accounting. Please have yours paid-in-full,
 - **Greening of the Church**, thank you to all who did such a beautiful job.
- **Please continue to pray** for our six seminarians: Especially on the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds help those who are training to be out pastor shepherds, Deacons Sean and Justin, David, Todd, Joel, and Jon. Pray for a continued increase in vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. Please donate to assist in their training and support.
- **New envelopes are here.** Please take yours.
- **Epiphany Home Visitations:** We celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany on Monday, January 6th with the blessing of chalk and incense. Home blessings begin on January 7th. See Fr. Jim to make an appointment. Visitations end on March 4th.

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."* ---

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Welcome! We are already a few days into the forty-day celebration of Christmas. As Charles Dickens wrote, and I paraphrase, I hope we are all keeping it well. Better than any man ever has.

Today we celebrate another of those special Solemnities established by the people of the Church.

It was at the First Special Synod of the Church in 1906 that the people set aside two special days, the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, and this day, the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds.

In 1914, at the Third General Synod, the people would set aside the other special days we honor, the Solemnity of the Institution of the Church and the Solemnity of the Christian Family.

Let's place ourselves in the environment of those days.

In 1906 the Church had been

organized for only nine years and was facing significant resistance and persecution. In the face of those struggles what did the people of the Church focus on? What did they do? They placed their focus and emphasis on, and called each other to work at and live, love and humility.

Those people saw the story of the Good Samaritan and the action of the shepherds who were called upon to visit the infant Jesus as their model.

This was no mistake, rather it was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit which brought about this conviction to love and humility.

The 1906 Synod speaks of us as being drawn to the Church and to the Lord's table as the true source of life. We are called to draw close just as those shepherds were called to draw close to the long-awaited Messiah in a stable. We are called to partake of the Bread of Life, and we need those who will bring it to us. They are

called to act as those first shepherds – hearing, going in haste, believing and declaring.

Throughout subsequent Synods the needs of the Church for humble shepherds, priests who take after the Lord's love and humility was regularly discussed. How do we train and support them? There is desperate need for that. Thus, we take up a special collection today and pray for that very purpose, to train priests who are humble and loving – not lords and rulers – not princes – but servant shepherds.

If there is cause for hope it is this – many are stepping up to serve, to enter those three years of training needed. They are sacrificing much and will be called upon to sacrifice still more. They willingly are laying their lives on the line in absolute self-sacrifice and effacement to stand in the breach ushering us to meet the newborn King. Let us love and support them.

Memory Verse

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called

Ephesians 4:1

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Romans 12:4-8
MONDAY: Matthew 22:14
TUESDAY: Luke 4:18
WEDNESDAY: John 15:16
THURSDAY: Romans 11:29
FRIDAY: Colossians 3:23
SATURDAY: Mark 1:17

Pray the Week

Lord Jesus, I lay my prayers before You for those called to the Holy Priesthood. Guide them, guard them, and keep them in Your constant care. Grant them courage in the face of all adversity. Help me to support them fully. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Laura Covari, Stan Podkulski, Kelly Noble, Elizabeth Węglinski, Curtis Szczepkowski, Joshua Moraski, Tom Abbot, Karen Kisch, Gregory Henderson, Theresa Ordon, Michelle Zawistowski, Susan Jones, Garry Packer, Gary & Sandra Tatlock, Fred Hendricks, Theresa, Carla, Francine, Eileen, Joyce Colson, Helen Spencer, Michael Clough, Frances Gary, Dan Crawley, Bob Chelkowski, Lyle, Ralph Zell, Phil Wielewinski, Brian Rohan, Tom Walters, Nedra Liebert, Dawn Main, Fran Muscatello, Zosia Wiczorek, Bob Giczkowski, Bishop John, Bishop Paul, Gordon Lamb, Aimee, Liz, Dorothy Morrison, Pat, and all needing God's healing grace.

- 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
- The residents and staff of Pathways.
- All who have asked for our prayers for any need or intention.

This week we pray for the people and clergy of Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles, CA.

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

Upcoming

- **December 29: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois.**
- **December 30: Monday in the Octave. No Food Pantry.**
- **December 31: Tuesday in the Octave. No Holy Mass. New Year's Eve.**
- **January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at Noon. Happy 2025!**
- **January 2: Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus – Parish Feast. Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **January 3: No Holy Mass.**
- **January 5: Solemnity of the Holy Family. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.**
- **January 6: Solemnity of the Epiphany. Holy Mass at Noon with Blessing of chalk and incense. Food Pantry, 3 till 6pm.**
- **January 7: Tuesday in the Octave. Holy Mass at Noon.**