

**HOLY NAME OF JESUS**  
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# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY

# 2025



"A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES,  
AND GLORY FOR YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL."

**W**e begin this month with an excerpt from the Canticle of Simeon which is part of the Gospel for the Solemnity of the Presentation, February 2nd.

Simeon was an old man at the very end of his life by the time Jesus was presented in the Temple. This Canticle is a poignant reminder, prayed each night at Compline (Night Prayer) of our journey toward the end of our day and our lives. Simeon's prayer calls to mind the light he and we have seen and experienced in Jesus. Having experienced Him and His revelation we can rest peacefully and in peace.

Simeon had waited all his life for this moment in which he meets Jesus, the Messiah. As noted in scripture, Simeon had listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit and trusted in the Spirit's direction even though it seemed to have taken forever to come to fruition.

Last month we concluded our leadership reflection by considering our 'why' and how that why, if we rightly listen to the Holy Spirit, is at

the core of our Christian life and the leadership we are called to exercise.

For both Simeon and the Prophetess Anna, their length of days is a testament to their faith and trust. Listening to God's direction was their why, was the center of their lives. They lived with total dedication. Those attributes make them leaders from their why, examples for us in living our why.

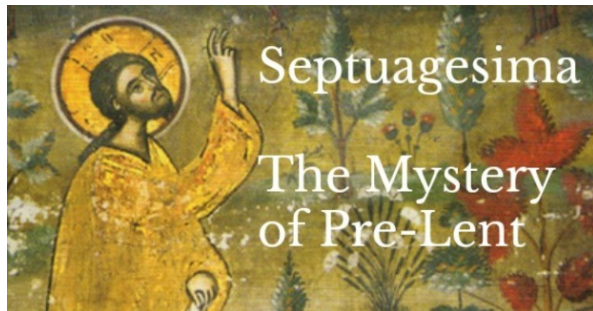
As leaders there are two ways by which others see our why and find inspiration for their why. Those are what we demonstrate and what we tolerate or do not tolerate.

Simeon and Anna demonstrate their why by their complete faithfulness and proclamation of what God has revealed to them. Their why does not allow them to tolerate departure from that faithfulness. Their why helps them to see beyond their struggles and the wait.

Focused on leadership let us take account of what we demonstrate and tolerate. As we take or withhold actions, let us ensure we are consistent in living our why.

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## THE PRE-LENTEN SEASON



The pre-Lenten season begins late this year, starting on Sunday, February 16th. 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.

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## THEN... LENT



Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5th. Holy Mass with the blessing and distribution of ashes will take place at Noon and

7pm that day. Please join us.

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## Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 2nd**. 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.

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## Annual Financial Meeting - March 2nd

Our annual financial meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2nd following Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Please attend and help decide on our financial matters.

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## 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.*

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## **The Outrageous Valentine's Raffle**

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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 the next CONVO in 2026.

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.

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## **Souper Bowl Sunday**

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For the 24th 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 9th - will support the work of Schenectady Shares which provides food resources through all Schenectady food pantries and emergency food providers.

*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*

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## **Milestones to Celebrate:**

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### 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!

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## **Epiphany Visitations - Kołęda - House Blessings**

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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 March 4th (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).

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## Scout Sunday

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On Sunday, February 2nd 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 fullness of life. We lift 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 to 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, forever and ever. Amen.*

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**Thank you, Merci, Dziękuję, Ąčiū, Gracias, Mahalo, Grazie!**

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To all who assisted throughout the Christmas season, attending liturgies, and who assisted in the taking down of some of our Christmas decorations (the rest will be removed after Holy Mass on February 2nd, the Solemnity of the Presentation, the 40th day of the Christmas Season).

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!

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## Planning For —

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Holy Mass each Sunday is at 10am and Noon.

Daily Holy Mass is held Tuesday through Friday at Noon unless otherwise noted.

Daily Bread Food Pantry every Monday (except National Holidays) from 3pm until 5:30pm.

- Feb. 2: Solemnity of the Presentation. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY with Blessing of Candles/Gromnica and Throats. Annual Meeting, and Elections follow.
- Feb. 3: Commemoration of St. Blaise of Sebastea, Bishop and Martyr.
- Feb. 9: 5th Ordinary Sunday. Souper Bowl Sunday.
- Feb. 14: Commemoration of St. Valentine, Martyr.
- Feb. 16: Septagesima Sunday. Pre-Lenten Season begins. Also 72nd Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop Ś+P Francis Hodur.
- Feb. 17: President's Day.
- Feb. 23: Sexagesima Sunday.
- Feb. 24: Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.
- Feb. 25 - 28: No Weekday Holy

Masses.

- March 2: Quinquagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Annual Financial/Budget Meeting follows.
- March 4: Commemoration of St. Casimir. Last Day for Home Blessings.
- March 5: Ash Wednesday. Holy Mass with blessing and distribution of ashes at Noon and 7pm.

[**NOTE:** Stations of the Cross Fridays at 3pm. Bitter Lamentations Sunday at 3pm throughout Lent starting March 7th]

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## Lenten Devotions

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

connection with our

Lord and Savior in prayer this Lent. These devotions begin Friday, March 7th.

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

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## Lenten Disciplines

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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.

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## Lenten Retreat

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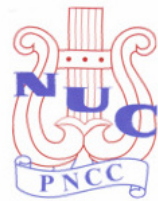
Our Seniorate Lenten Retreat will be held on Saturday, April 5th at our parish starting at 11am.

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

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## Music Scholarship Applications

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A special collection was accepted on January 26th 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](mailto:nucscholarship@gmail.com) or online at <http://nucmusicscholarship.weebly.com>.

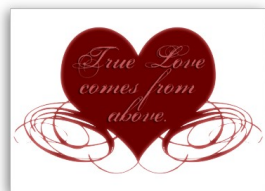
To date, the Church has provided 1,145 scholarships totaling \$358,085.

2025 Scholarship applications must be submitted no later than May 1st. Winners will be announced at the National United Choirs Convention and Workshop in the summer of 2025. See Fr. Jim for assistance in applying.

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### ***Prayer for St. Valentine's Day***

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*"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love*

*one another." — John 13:34*

*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.*

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### **Parish Ministry Is For You**

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We need people to step forward to take up various ministries in the parish, particularly as Lectors and adult Altar Servers. We are each

called to leadership, so let those called step forward with courage.

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## **Basket Social Around the Corner**

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It is time to get ready for our annual basket social - April 27th. 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.

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## **National Mission and Evangelism Conference**

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The Twenty-Fourth Mission & Evangelism Workshop, with the theme "One In Christ" will be held Friday, May 30th through Sunday, June 1st at St. Francis Parish in Denver, Colorado. Thank you to Jeff and Lauren for volunteering to attend.

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## **Your WHY**

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To find your why, reflect on when you felt most alive, what drives you, and the impact you want to have. Think about peak moments when you felt fulfilled. Consider your talents and passions. Ponder the legacy you want to leave.

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## ***The Sacrament of Penance in the Polish National Catholic Church***

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*"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained'." (John 20:19-23)*

At the Fourth General Synod of the PNCC held in 1921, Bishop Hodur taught that: *"Public confession, general or particular, has in the Polish National Catholic Church, the same significance as private or auricular confession. It is one of the necessary conditions of penance, that holy act ordained by Jesus Christ for the rebirth of a person and the uniting of him to God."*

While he had started the practice of public general confession at St. Stanislaus Parish in Scranton at

an earlier time, it was only at this Synod that it was established as sacramental teaching and practice for the whole Church, when the delegates accepted it unanimously. Bishop Hodur provided a theological rationale for this when giving a lecture on the sacrament of Penance around that same time, stating that:

*"Christ established the Sacrament of Penance, as he established the Sacraments of the Word of God, Communion, Baptism or Order, but He did not leave specific regulations as to how this saving, penitential method is to be applied. The creation of forms He left to the Church...Christ the Lord did not like to keep to the letter or the form but to the principle and the spirit... We, therefore, the spiritual and historical heirs of this religious trust, whose foundation is the Apostles and cornerstone Jesus Christ, retain these ancient forms of penance: public confession, general and individual, and private or auricular, appropriate to the discretion and needs of the penitent and confessors".*

Auricular confession is recommended for the young and all who need the private advice of the priest."

**To be continued next month.**



# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Solemnity of the Presentation, Holy Mass at 10am ONLY with blessing of candles and throats. Scout Sunday. Lector: Joe Kaczynski. ANNUAL MEETING follows.	3 Commemoration of St. Blaise.  Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3pm until 5:30pm.	4 Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	5 Holy Mass at Noon.	6 Holy Mass at Noon.	7 Holy Mass at Noon.	8 Women's Empowerment Meeting, 10am till Noon.
9 5th Ordinary Sunday. SouperBowl Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois.	10 Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3pm until 5:30pm.	11 Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	12 Holy Mass at Noon.	13 Holy Mass at Noon.	14 No Holy Mass.  Fr. Jim teaches Seminarians via Zoom.	15
16 Septuagesima Sunday. 72nd Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop S+P Franciszek Hodur. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Larry Panfil.	17 Presidents' Day.  Parish Committee Meets at 6pm.	18 Holy Mass at Noon. Infant of Prague Chaplet.	19 Holy Mass at Noon.	20 Holy Mass at Noon.	21 Holy Mass at Noon.	22
23 Sexagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski.	24 Feast – St. Matthias, Apostle.  Daily Bread Food Pantry, 3pm until 5:30pm.	25 No Holy Mass.	26 No Holy Mass.	27 No Holy Mass.	28 No Holy Mass.	

## EVENTS

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

### March Upcoming

March 2nd: Quinquagesima Sunday. Holy Mass at 10am ONLY. Annual Financial Meeting.

**March 5th: Ash Wednesday.** Holy Mass at Noon and 7pm.

### Lenten Devotions starting March 7th:

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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