

All Saints NCC Newsletter December 2023



“Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan ...”

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt
December 8, 1941*

Merry Christmas!



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CHRISTMAS WISH FOR THE WORLD

Hear
Our
Prayer



There is a **Christmas song** that starts off with lyrics “ All I want for Christmas is my”.....

However, our **world** during this **2023 Christmas** finds itself in a **very difficult and unique mode of thinking**. Amidst all of the **insanity and craziness** that we **see and hear** in the **World, our Country and Communities**, it is **very difficult** to be at **ease**.

For **children and teenagers**, there should be the sense of **excitement and innocence** during the upcoming **Christmas time**. We as **adults** had our **special time** during this **season** and **so should they**.

But we must be **conscious** of the fact that we are **living** in **difficult and dangerous times**.

Prayfully, the **inhabitants** of the **world** must be on their **guard** and more.

As we all know the **attitude** and **mentality** by many toward **religion** is at an all time **low**. One has to wonder what is on **God's mind** regarding **His philosophy** of what **He wanted His creation to be**.

Many **discoveries** in the **universe** are finding **planets** that can support life **trillions of light years away** (*one light year equals 5.9 trillion miles*).

We are fortunate in our **lifetime** to have experienced the **positive advancements** in so many areas: **Medicine, Technology, Transportation** and many others.

So what will be your **spiritual contribution** to the **2023 Christmas Church Season**?

Will you and your **children, teens, relatives** be a part of the **Christmas Liturgy acknowledging the birth of Christ**?

Or will you be a **part of society** with the **negative attitude condoning** what is **happening around us** - the **violence, the drugs, lack of respect of human life and property**.

Not to say that this is an **overnight fix** - but it is a **movement** in the **right direction**. We cannot always **worry** about the **next guy - worry about yourself, then others**.

† Parish Family Mass Schedule for December †

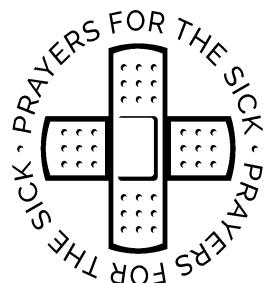
- Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. - +Florence Ottman, offered by daughter Janet
- Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. - +Veronica Podkulski & Kay Lynch, offered by daughter/friend Terri Miller
- Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. +Steven Miller, by Fr. Dennis & Betty Ruda
- Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. +Valentine & Alice Machalek, offered by Family
- Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward & Eddie Gidzinski, offered by Family
- Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. +Vincent Sperski, offered by Kay Arcangeli
- Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. +Jadwiga Sperski & Linda Watts, offered by the late Vincent Sperski
- Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 a.m. Regular Sunday Mass
- Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Shepherds Mass
- Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
- Sunday, December 31 at 9:00 a.m. +John, Dorothy & Daniel Krystiniak, +Thomas Vassil, offered by Family
- Monday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m. New Year's Day Mass

FROM THE



I acknowledge the following who have *given of themselves in time, labor and material offerings* to our parish:

- ☺ to Stephen Pokrinchak and Wai Ling Lee for their \$1,000.00 contribution to FDR's personnal retirement fund.
- ☺ to family and friends of our brother of blessed memory Fred Daszewski for their \$245. 00 in church donations in his memory.
- ☺ to Stephen Pokrinchak and Wai Ling Lee for their \$700.00 church donation in memory of Jacqueline Pokrinchak.
- ☺ to Grace Fell for her \$50.00 church donation
- ☺ to Brian Kot/Martin Bread Co. for donating the rolls for the Turkey Party
- ☺ to those who donated food and items to the Humane Society, there were many wagging tails and meows when items were delivered to the Humane Society.
- ☺ to those who assisted our Men's Society with their Turkey Raffle "THANK YOU". A profit of \$3,900.00 was realized in three hours.
- ☺ to Cliff Butler Sr. for placing American/Service flags for display when needed
- ☺ to Performance Auto/Chris Butora and Warehouse Carpet who will be sponsoring our parish Christmas message during Advent on the Bill Flynn Polka Show WNBF 1290 AM radio on Sunday mornings.
- ☺ to Jay & Karen Miller Konar for their \$100.00 church donation



Please remember the following in your prayers, with a **Christmas card or call**:

Wanda Raychel Broczkowski, Mike Cushner, Dave & Pam Kelley, Peter Dyman III, Dolores Butora Duke, Erica & Charlotte Blakeslee, Aggie Dedrick, Theresa Borkowski, Annie Kaczmarek, Dave Plahanski, Carolyn Kolba, Steven Ottman, David Samuelson, Charlene Laskowski, Sally Cooper, Diane Fiacco, Michael Cushner Jr., Tyler Derkowski.

If you are hospitalized, please call the rectory. Privacy laws do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to inform priests of admission.

Decorating the church for Christmas will be done in two phases this year. On Sunday, December 17, following the breakfast (phase one) will be done bringing up the various Christmas items and symbols.

Then on Friday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m. (phase 2) placing of the poinsettias and final decorating will take place. Please lend a helping hand with either date or both dates - **It will be very much appreciated.**





2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2024 offering envelope packet will be available on **Sunday, December 10**.
Please do not use any left over envelopes from last year or previous years because most envelope assignment numbers change from year to year.

To review our parish offering envelope format - **Current Expenses:** Day to day operation expenses, insurance, utilities, salaries etc. **Parish Center Expenses:** Goes exclusively to pay utilities, insurance plus upkeep of the parish family center. **Mission Fund:** Helps with the mission work of the National Catholic Church and our mission endeavors on a local scene.



As we rapidly approach the end of the year 2023, I as pastor would like to publicly acknowledge the fine work of our **Parish Council and Directors**, especially those of the Executive Branch, who take care of the financial books, recording of the offering envelopes, and meeting minutes, setting and tracking the church budget.

These good people take their work home and spend countless hours during the year on book work and record keeping.

A tip of the hat goes out to: our Treasurer Terri Miller, our Offering Envelope Secretary Betty Ruda our recording secretary Tracy Cooper, Parish Center/Cemetery Treasurer Judy Dyman, Financial Secretary Debbie Cushner (before her untimely passing) Vice-Chairmen All Directors, Parish Council Chairman Dan Derkowski. **God Bless.**



FDR



Free Parish Breakfast

On Sunday, December 17, immediately following the **end of mass**, our **Men's Society** will treat the parish family members to a **free breakfast** served in the parish family center.

A reservation sheet will be in the **vestibule in December** so the Men's Society will know how much to prepare. Please sign the sheet with your reservation.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY



Christmas Cookie Raffle

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 17, following the 9:00 a.m. mass & Advent Breakfast. Tickets are attached to your newsletter. For those of you who receive this newsletter via e-mail tickets are on the vestibule table. A volunteer sign-up sheet to help bake is posted in the vestibule. Cookies should be in the Family Center on Saturday, December 16. by 10:30 a.m., assembly of trays will begin thereafter. There will be 12 large trays this year for a variety of homemade cookies to win. Ticket donation is a book of three for \$2, and are included in this newsletter. Tickets and money may be given to any choir member or to the financial team in the church office following Sunday mass.

CHRISTMAS EVE



Looking ahead to **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**, the following masses have been scheduled:

The evening of Sunday , December 24, Mass of the Shepherds will be celebrated at 9:00 p.m. with full choir and organ music. The Christmas Day mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with organ music.



**Christmas
—Day—
Service**

THE SAINTS - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas was born in Asia Minor. He was named **Bishop of Myra**, a poor and run down Diocese. When his wealthy parents died, he gave His wealth to the poor and devoted himself to the conversion of sinners.

Once he heard that a man who had become very poor intended to abandon his three daughters because he could not afford a dowry for them. Nicholas, on three occasions, threw a bag of gold into the window of the sleeping father, and his daughters were soon married. Later the father fell at his feet and said, "*Nicholas, you are my helper. You have delivered my soul and my daughters' souls from destruction.*" This and many other works of his charity led to the tradition of giving presents on his Feast Day and at Christmas in his name. St. Nicholas is regarded as the special patron of children. The name of Santa Claus evolved from the word *Sint Klaes*, by the Dutch.

Nicholas died at Myra in 350. His popularity, already great, increased when, in 1087, his relics were brought to Bari, Italy. Both the **Eastern and Western Churches** honor him. St. **Nicholas** is the patron Saint of Russia, Greece, Apulia, Sicily and Lorraine. **His Feast Day is December 6.**



ST. JOHN,
APOSTLE

One of the **holy days** following the **birth of Jesus** is the **Feast of Saint John the Apostle** on **December 27**.

On this day scripture tells us that the **Roman Empire** wished to eliminate **St. John** because of his **Christian teachings and philosophy**.

Members of the **Roman Empire** gave him a **chalice of wine to drink** with enough **poison to kill ten horses**, to drink. As **John** was drinking the **chalice of wine** God purified it, causing **John** no harm.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

Many families still uphold the Christmas Eve tradition of the sharing of the Christmas Wafer at dusk at the Christmas Eve Holy Supper and throughout the Christmas season. The sharing of the Christmas wafer is a sign of peace, love and unity within the family unit, relatives and friends also acknowledging the birth of Jesus Christ.

In many households there is an empty place set at the dinner table with a piece of straw under the plate for the baby Jesus, also in remembrance of departed loved ones or for an unexpected guest. This custom comes from Poland and has been adopted by many non-Polish people throughout the world. Following the Holy Supper, the pilgrimage to the Shepherds Mass is also a part of the tradition. The Christmas wafer is made from flour, water and unleavened yeast. The Christmas Wafer is available in our parish office during the Season of Advent.

FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER

With the beginning of December, the Parish Council would like to remind those who have not fulfilled their **membership obligations** for **2023** to please consider doing so soon. **Membership for a married unit is \$175.00 and membership for single unit is \$100.00.**

These **obligations** may be paid in the **parish office** on Sundays either before or after mass.

Finally, the financial officers request that you please do not wait until the last weeks of December if possible. Also request a receipt book if you do not have one.

A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens took on a more spiritual significance and were thought to scare away the evil spirits. In the Middle Ages, the Christmas tree, decorated with candles and wafers (symbols of Christ) become popular, as did gaily decorated wooden Christmas pyramids. By the sixteenth century, the two objects merged into what is now known as the Christmas tree. By the nineteenth century, the Christmas tree was popular across Europe and the United States.



MUSIC MINISTRY

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth" - Psalms 96:1

The adult choir is busily rehearsing music for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.

The **choir** will again have its **Christmas Cookie Raffle!** **Books of chances** are **available** in the **vestibule** and **family center**. **Cost is \$2.00 per book of three chances.** **Drawing** will be on **December 17**. There are many **books of chances**, so feel free to take as many as you'd like! Please **return tickets** and **money** to any **choir member** or to the **financial team** in the **church office** after the **Mass**.

The **Binghamton Downtown Singers** will be **presenting** their **40th Anniversary performance** of **Handel's Messiah** on **Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 PM** at **Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial Methodist Church, 308 Main St., Johnson City**. **Betty Ruda** will again be **joining** the **choir of approx. 170 voices**, along with **soloists** and **full orchestra**. Contact Betty for ticket information. The **Messiah** follows the **entire biblical history of Jesus**. Guaranteed that the final 'Amen' will knock you off your seat!



Contact **Betty Ruda** if you'd like to **donate a piece of music** - [email liz@stny.rr.com](mailto:liz@stny.rr.com) or phone/text 607-759-9202, or see her after mass. Cost is \$25.



'Twas The Night Before Jesus Came'

'Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed.
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the late show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter.
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be **THE DAY!**

The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "it's not there" my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

*In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!*

Author Unknown

PREPARE FOR JESUS



December 2023

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Confirmation Class ADVENT 1	4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day 	7 2:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 	8 Conception of the BVM 	9
10 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Parish Council Mtg. ADVENT 2	11	12	13	14 2:00 pm 	15	16 10:30 AM Cookie deadline 11:00 AM Cookie raffle trays assembled.
17 9:00 AM Hly Mass ADVENT 3 Free Advent Breakfast and Cookie Raffle drawing after mass Phase one decorating	18	19	20	21 2:00 PM Chor Rehearsal 	22 10:00am 	23
24 9:00 AM Sunday Mass 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass Christmas Eve Mass at St. Stephens	25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass 	26 St. Stephen's Day 	27 Feast of Saint John 	28 No choir rehearsal 	29	30
31 9:00 AM Sunday Mass New Year's Eve						