



ALL SAINTS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
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ADVENT - The Coming



John the Baptist speaks to the people

The new Church year begins with the first Sunday of **Advent**, which this year falls on **Sunday, November 27**. The word "**Advent**" means "**the coming**." It is a four week period of preparation just before **Christmas**. This sacred season has a penitential character, but it is also a time of joyful anticipation, as the church reminds the faithful to be in a state of readiness for Christ's return.

We know that **Advent** was first observed in Spain in **650**, but that season differed from the season of **Advent** as the Church celebrates it today, because it consisted of five weeks. Later on, the Church adopted the four week period of **Advent**. It is stated by some that the four weeks of this season which precedes **Christmas** represents the four thousand years in which the Jewish people waited for the promised **Messiah**.

Advent again means the coming of Jesus Christ, but for many in the Churches today that also means the coming of the pre-**Christmas** season, the time when many hours will be spent on decorating of homes with hundreds of colored lights, candles and creches. The practice has become so common today that many people spend a great deal of time in the car going through a number of neighborhoods just to view the different decorations that have been placed on houses and lawns.

But in all reality, **Advent** is also that time to turn our attention to the coming of Christ, which may be understood in a number of ways. We may think about the coming of Christ in human flesh as the Savior who was born in those humble and poor surroundings in Bethlehem. **Christmas** commemorates that event for which many in the world waited for many years. It is the time when God entered into space and time in the person of Jesus.

† PARISH FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER †

Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. +Veronica Podkulski and Kay Lynch, offered by Terri Podkulski Miller
Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward Gidzinski, offered by the Cushner Family
Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. +Irene Ruda, offered by Family
Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 a.m. +Edith Nosal, offered by husband Joseph and Family
Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. +Jadwiga Sperski, offered by son Vincent
Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. +Rob Mnahoncak, offered by parents Bob and Joanne
Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. +Ruth Campbell, offered by daughter Yvonne and Family
Saturday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Mass of the Shepherds followed by rectory open house
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass followed by rectory open house

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

- ☺ to Diane Turock for being our Sunday Mass greeter and handing out the mass music programs.
- ☺ to Brian Kot/Martin Bread Co. for donating the bread products for our Men's Society Turkey Party.
- ☺ to all who helped and supported our Men's Society Turkey Party making it a huge success ☺ ☺ ☺ - Thank You!
- ☺ to those who ordered Christmas Candy from the PTA Christmas Sale. Orders will be available on Sunday, December 13 - Thank you!
- ☺ remember the Choir Cookie Raffle to be held on Sunday, December 18.

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

Joseph Nosal at Bridgewater Nursing Home

Jennie Kolba at Willow Point Nursing Home

Jacqueline Pokrinchak at Susquehanna Nursing Home

Emil Kotasek at Ideal Living Center

Edward and Vicky Ambrose

Patricia Butora

Jean Chapin

Florence Ottman

Barb Kotasek

Mae Raychel, Genevieve Lupinsky, Peter Zalaffi

Privacy laws do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to inform priests of admission.

Family members must make this notification to the priest.



The Binghamton Downtown Singers, accompanied by The *Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra*, will be presenting *Handel's Messiah* on Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Forum. Our choir members Christina Dyman and Betty Ruda will be singing with this group. For ticket information contact Christina or Betty.





Offerings for Poinsettias will be accepted until Sunday, December 18. If you would like to donate a plant or plants as a donation or in memory of your departed loved ones, please sign the sheet in the vestibule. Donations are \$16.00 for a double bloom plant, \$11.00 for single bloom plant. A mass will be celebrated at a later date for plants donated in memory of your departed loved ones. Plants will also be available to take home to after their use in church, if you wish.

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.

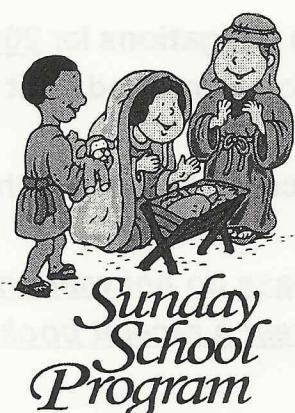
Once he heard that a man who had become very poor intended to abandon his three daughters because he could not afford a dowry for them. **Nicholas**, on three occasions, threw a bag of gold into the window of the sleeping father, and his daughters were soon married. Later the father fell at his feet 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.**



**Christmas
Cookie
Raffle**

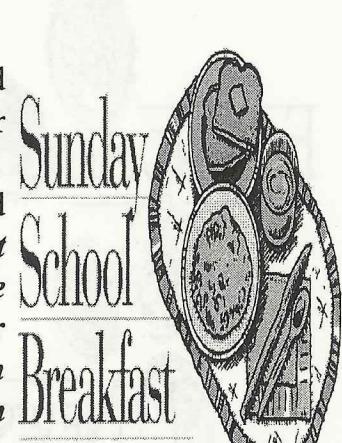
The choir will be sponsoring its annual **Christmas cookie raffle** drawing on December 18, following the 9:00 a.m. mass. Tickets are attached to your newsletter and a volunteer sign-up sheet to help bake is posted in the vestibule. We will again have ten large trays of a variety of homemade cookies to win. Ticket donation is \$1 each or 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.



**Sunday
School
Program**

On Sunday, December 11, immediately following the end of mass, our **Sunday School students** will present their **Christmas Program** to the parish family in the church.

Following the presentation. There will be a breakfast served in the parish family center. *It will be our sumptuous buffet menu for \$6.00 per adult. Sunday School students will be free of charge.* There will be a special visit from Santa for children and teens participating. *Please mark this date on your calendar and be a witness to the Christmas program and join us for breakfast and fellowship.*





ST. JOHN, APOSTLE

One of the holy days following the birth of Jesus is the Feast of Saint John the Apostle.

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. As John was drinking the chalice of wine God purified it causing John no harm.

As we rapidly approach the end of the year 2016, 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 Financial Secretary Deb Cushner, our Offering Envelope Secretary Betty Ruda our recording secretary Kelley Yeomans, Parish Center/Cemetery Treasurer Judy Dyman, Council Co-Moderator Dave Plahanski, Council Moderators Mark Broczkowski & Dave Plahanski for sharing the duties. God Bless - FDR

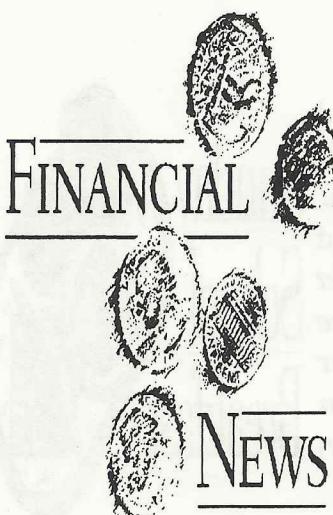


FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER

With the beginning of December, the Parish Council would like to remind those who have not fulfilled their membership obligations for 2016 to please consider doing so soon. Membership for a married unit is \$155.00 and membership for single unit is \$85.00.

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.





Looking ahead to Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24, and Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, the following services have been scheduled: Thursday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass of the Shepherds with full choir, Friday, December 25 Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. with organ music.



Christmas Day Service



We will do the flowering of the church, preparation of altars and final decorations on the interior of the church on Friday, December 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias will be taken until December 18. Thanking you in advance for your help!



Rectory OPEN HOUSE

As holiday tradition holds, Betty and I invite you all to the rectory following the 9:00 p.m. Mass of the Shepherds on December 24 and on Christmas Day after the 10:00 a.m. mass for the sharing of the Christmas Wafer, baked goods and refreshments.

After forty five years of hosting this Christmas Rectory Open House, this will be the last one. Hoping you will be able to share with us.

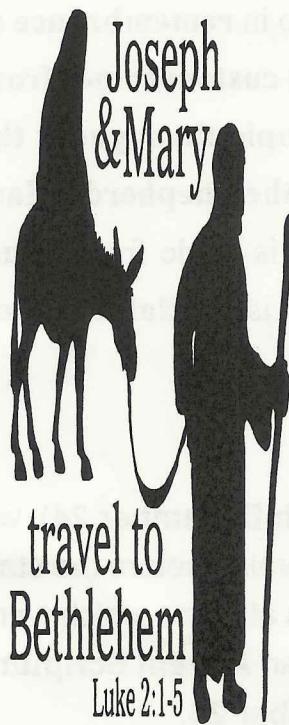


Rectory OPEN HOUSE

ADVENT REMINDERS

Here are some Advent reminders:

- Those wishing to receive Holy Communion before Christmas who are confined to their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes, please call the rectory to make an appointment for a visit from the priest.
- Take care of your parish membership obligations during the first two weeks of December.
- Christmas wafers are available every Sunday in the parish office at \$2.00 per pack.
- Donations for Christmas Poinsettias will be accepted until Sunday, December 18.

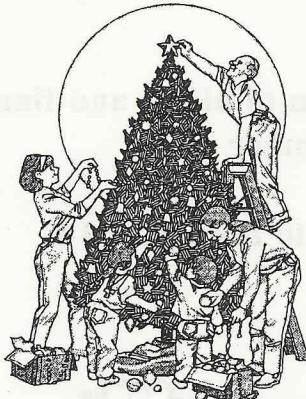




MEN'S SOCIETY

The next scheduled meeting of our Men's Society will be on Sunday, January 15, 2017, following the 9:00 a.m. mass. An invitation is extended to all men of our parish family to become a member of our society. Our men's society is a back bone organization of our parish sponsoring many activities and supporting our children and teen programs.

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), became 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.

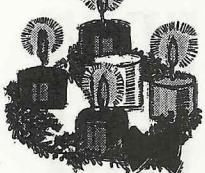
THE CHRISTMAS WAFER

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.



Lighting of
Advent Wreath



Again, during the Advent Season, (November 27 through December 24) we will have the lighting of the Advent Wreath every Sunday morning before the start of mass. Children and teens have their Advent Calendars at home which were supplied by our Sunday School PTA to open one slot with an Advent Scripture message during each day of Advent, concluding on December 24.



Advent

December 2016

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:20 AM Priv. Confessions 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Christmas Program rehearsal 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Parish Council Mtg.	5	6 Feast of St. Nicholas 	7 DECEMBER 7, 1941 ★PEARL HARBOR★ Remembrance Day 	8 6:45 PM Choir Practice Feast of Divine Love 	9	10 9:00 AM Kitchen prep for Sunday School breakfast.
11 9:00 AM Holy Mass followed by Sunday School program and breakfast. <u>Pick up candy orders</u> 	12	13	14	15 6:45 PM Choir Practice 	16	17 Cookie Raffle Donations due at 11:00 a.m.
18 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Sunday School, Religion and Music classes 10:15 AM Christmas cookie raffle	19	20	21 + * + * . FROST DAY OF Winter 	22 6:45 PM Choir Practice 	23 10:00am Church Preparing and Decorating 	24 9:00 p.m. followed by rectory open house
25 10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass followed by rectory open house 	26 Faithful Stephen	27 	28	29 No choir rehearsal tonight	30	31