

All Saints NCC Newsletter

December 2022

“Merry Christmas”!



42 Harry L Drive
Johnson City, NY 13790
Rev. Father Dennis Ruda

ALL SAINTS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
42 Harry L Drive, Johnson City, New York 13790
Telephone/Fax 607-797-4394, Cell 343-6596



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 **2022 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 **2022 Christmas Church Season**?

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

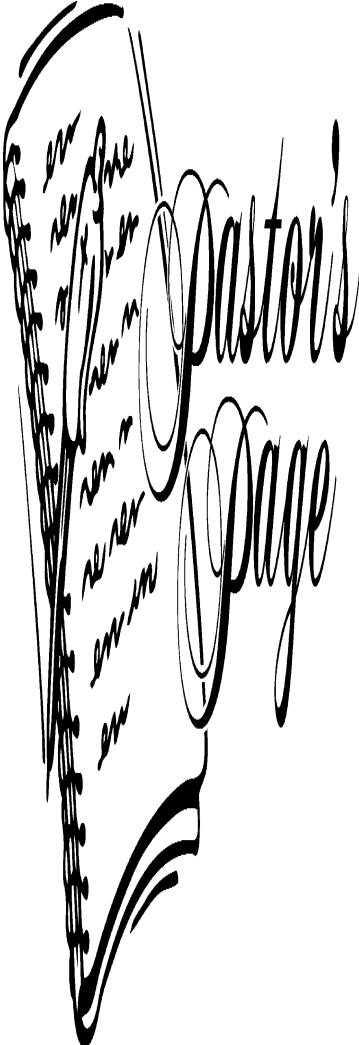
Or will you be a **part of society** with the **negative attitude condoning** what is **happening around us** - the **violence, the drugs, lack of respect of human life and property**.

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 4 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward & Eddie Gidzinski, offered by Debbie & Mike Cushner
Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. - +Veronica Podkulski & Kay Lynch, offered by daughter/friend Terri Miller
Sunday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. +Jadwiga Sperski & Linda Watts, offered by Vincent Sperski
Saturday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Shepherds Mass (see article in newsletter)
Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m. +Bernard & Mary Wnuk, Paul & Mary Arcangeli, offered by Katherine Wnuk Arcangeli

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

- 
- ☺ to the following who have graciously donated their time, labor and talents helping around the parish complex: **Terri Kozloski, Joe Fiacco, George Kolba Jr., George Kolba III, Corey and Peter Dyman, Mary & Bill Perkins, Betty Ruda., Joe Kot, Judy Dyman.**
 - ☺ to **Andrew Minol** for his **\$600.00 church donation**.
 - ☺ to **Grace Fell** for her **\$50.00 church donation**
 - ☺ to **anonymous** for their **\$250.00 church donation**
 - ☺ to **Mark & Janine Pokrinchak Dubik** for their **\$100.00 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 **Linda Machalek Miller** for her **\$100.00 church donation in memory of her mother Alice Machalek.**
 - ☺ to **Andrea & Angela Arcangeli** for their **\$50.00 choir donation**
 - ☺ to **Dave, Sherry and Charlene Laskowski** for their **\$50.00 church donation**
 - ☺ to **those who assisted our Men's Society** with their **Turkey Raffle "THANK YOU". A record breaking profit of \$4.781.00 was realized in three hours.**
 - ☺ to **Cliff Butler Sr.** for **placing American/Service flags for display when needed.**

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

Ed & Jeanette Samuelson, Wanda Raychel Broczkowski, Rick Machalek.
Michael & Debbie Gidzinski Cushner, Dave & Pam Kelley , Shirley Michno
Dolores Butora Duke, Robert Blakeslee Sr., Peter Dyman III , Cliff Butler Sr., Gerry Turock,
Betty Ruda, Theresa Borkowski, Florence Ottman, Shay Ruda Salazar.

Our local hospitals are still in a Covid lock down. If you are hospitalized, please contact the Catholic Hospital Chaplain.

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



2023 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES



Your 2023 offering envelope packet will be available on **Sunday, December 11**. **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 2022, 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 Cusner, our Offering Envelope Secretary Betty Ruda our recording secretary Tracy Cooper, Parish Center/Cemetery Treasurer Judy Dyman, Vice-Chairman Dan Derkowski, Council Chairman Kelley Cooper, and all Directors. God Bless.



FDR

On **Sunday, December 18**, 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.





Christmas Cookie Raffle

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 18, following the 9:00 a.m. mass & Advent Breakfast. Tickets are attached to your newsletter and a volunteer sign-up sheet to help bake is posted in the vestibule. Cookies should be in the Family Center on Saturday, December 17, by 11:30 a.m. 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.



Decorating the church for Christmas will be done in two phases this year. On Saturday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. (phase one) will be done bringing up and setting up various Christmas items and symbols. Then on Thursday, 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 - *It will be very much appreciated.*



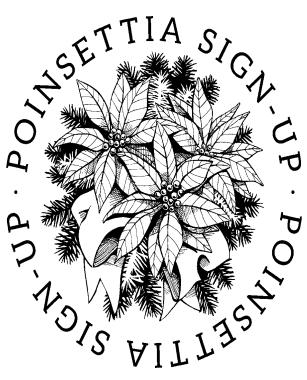
CHRISTMAS EVE

Due to FDR's surgery recuperation period, the Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds is scheduled tentatively as of now. If there is a change, parish family members will be apprized through our notification system. A parish open house will be held in the parish family center following the Christmas Eve mass, treated by our Men's Society - again tentatively.

Christmas Day mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. and is a go at this point.



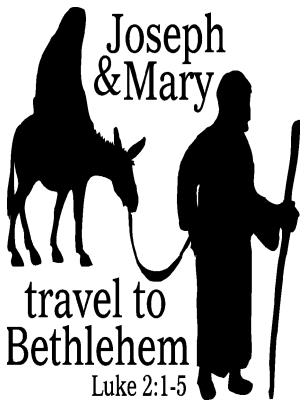
Christmas
—Day—
Service



Donations for altar & manger Christmas Poinsettia plants are now being 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. Cost for a double bloom plant will be \$16.00, \$11.00 for a single bloom plant, \$10.00 for small 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 after their use in church, if you wish.

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

ADVENT REMINDERS



- **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**.



ADVENT

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.**

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.



THE STAR OF
BETHLEHEM



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**.

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 **2022** 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.

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 18 following the breakfast**. There are **many books of chances**, so **feel free to take as many as you'd like!**

The **Binghamton Downtown Singers** will be **presenting** their **40th Anniversary performance** of **Handel's Messiah** on **Saturday, December 17**, 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. 150 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 or **phone/text 607-759-9202**, or **see her after mass**. **Cost is \$25.**

Please, Please - if you go into a room in the church or family center and turn on lights or adjust the thermostat please make sure you turn off the lights or readjust the thermostat when you exit. Thank You!





'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



We are now taking orders for Christmas Pierogi, Kolachki and Raisin Bread. All orders for Pierogi and Kolachki are by the dozen; Note: Pierogies come Frozen

Pierogi

Potato	\$12
Cabbage	\$15

Kolachki

Apricot & Cherry	\$12
Walnut	\$15

Specialty Bread (Round Or Square loaves)

Raisin or Cinnamon \$10

Cinnamon Raisin \$12

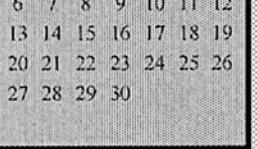
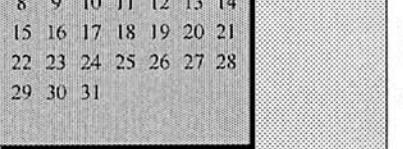
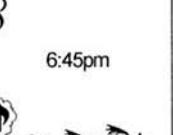
Last Day to order is December 15 Call **607-797-8222** to place an order or stop by the restaurant (93 CFJ Blvd, Johnson city, NY) during business hours to order.



December 2022



EVENTS ALL SAINTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:45pm  ADD YOUR VOICE!	2	3
4 9:00 AM Holy Mass Advent 2 Coffee fellowship with Christmas Craft	5	6 St. Nicholas 	7 <small>DECEMBER 7, 1941</small> 	8 6:45pm  ADD YOUR VOICE!	9	10
11 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Parish Council Mtg. Advent 3 Coffee Fellowship	12	13	14	15 6:45pm  ADD YOUR VOICE!	16	17 12:00 PM Cookie raffle trays assembled 10:00 am 
18 9:00 AM Holy Mass Advent 4 Cookie raffle drawing Free Advent breakfast after mass	19	20	21 	22 10:00 AM Church decorating phase two 6:45pm  ADD YOUR VOICE!	23	24 Open house in family center following 9:00pm mass - see article 
25 10:00 AM Christmas Day mass 	26	27 	28	29	30	31  New Year's Eve