

December



ALL SAINTS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
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December



The Reason for the Season



Christmas 2021 is a whole lotta jingle and not so much Jesus.

Two new surveys find more than nine in ten celebrate Christmas - even if they're atheists, agnostics or believers in non-Christian faiths.

A closer look at Christmas activities reveals what may be the first measurement of an "alarming" gap between belief and behavior.

Surveys by USA Today Gallup indicate that while most call this a holy day that is primarily religious, their actions say otherwise. Many skip church, omit Jesus and zero in on the material aspect of the day.

A survey of 2,110 adults found 74% called Christmas "primarily religious" and in another survey poll of 1,000 adults 51% say, for them, it's "strongly religious" up from 40% in previous years.

Most surveyed said they will give gifts (89%), dine with family and friends (86%), put up a Christmas tree (80%) and play Christmas music (79%).

But the percentages plummet when it comes to religious activities: ☹ 58% say they "encourage belief in Jesus Christ as Savior." ☹ 47% attend church on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. ☹ 34% watch "biblical Christmas movies."

☺ 28% read or tell the Christmas story from the bible."

"It's alarming that while nine in ten people celebrate Christmas, only six in ten encourage any belief in the source of Christmas.

People who are the believers put Christ in Christmas by how we care for others and give people chances to change their lives. *"It isn't what we do in December, it's what we do the other 11 months of the year that matters.*



† PARISH FAMILY MASS & SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER †

Sunday, December 5 at 9:00 a.m. - +Veronica Podkulski & Kay Lynch, offered by daughter/friend Terri Miller
Sunday, December 5 at 9:00 a.m. - +Edward and Eddie Gidzinski, offered by Mike and Debbie Cushner
Sunday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m. - +Linda Watts, offered by Vince Sperski
Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. - +Jadwiga Sperska, offered by son Vincent
Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. - +Irene Ruda, offered by family
Sunday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m. - + Ruth Campbell, offered by Edward Jr. & Yvonne Campbell Nowakowski
Friday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds
Saturday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, December 26 at 9:00 a.m. - +Joseph & Edith Nosal, offered by Rev. Dennis & Betty Ruda
Sunday, December 26 at 9:00 a.m. - +Lisa Sobiech, offered by St. Stan's Cemetery Committee
Saturday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m. - New Years Day Mass

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

☺ to Tom Jr. and Cindy Novobilski for their \$250.00 church donation in memory of +Robert and Geraldine Kubeli and +Thomas Sr. and Irene Bagan Novobilski.

☺ to Grace Fell for her \$125.00 church donation.

☺ to Jay, Karen Konar and daughters for their \$100.00 church donation in memory of father and grandfather Robert Bo Miller.

☺ 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.

☺ a donation sheet for Christmas flowers will be posted soon.

☺ to Bob Blakeslee Sr. for his time, labor and donation taking group pictures during the recent Confirmation Service.

☺ to Debbie Benzi for donating her time and labor keeping the parish family center clean and orderly.

☺ to Peter III, Judy & Corey Dyman for donating their time & labor helping around the complex.

☺ to Mary Perkins for donating her time, labor and talents coordinating monthly craft projects during coffee fellowship on Sundays after mass.

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

Ed & Jeanette Samuelson, Wanda Raychel Broczkowski, Michael Cushner, Dave & Pam Kelley, Dolores Butora Duke, Robert Blakeslee Sr., Gary & Pamela Coletta Himko, Cliff Butler Sr, Gerry Turock.

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

Privacy laws do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to inform priests of admission. Family members must make this notification to the priest.





Donations for altar & manger Christmas Poinsettia plants are now being accepted until Sunday, December 19. 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.



We will do the flowering of the church, preparation of altars and final decorations on the interior of the church on Wednesday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m.

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias will be taken until December 19.

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.

SILENT NIGHT

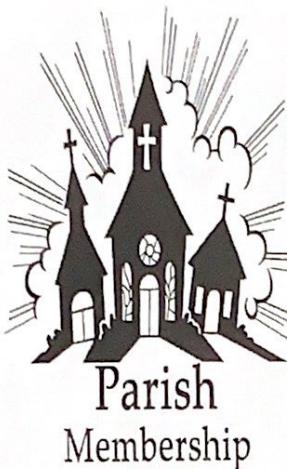
Josef Mohr & Franz Gruber

Silent Night, Holy Night, is the third hymn to be considered a Christmas Carol. There are some sources who disagree with the original story. Joseph Mohr provided the words and Franz Gruber composed the music on Christmas Eve, 1818, in Oberndorf Austria. It is reported that the first singing was accompanied by a guitar as the church organ was broken.

The words were not translated into English until 1863 by John Freeman Young.

Mohr and Gruber had often talked about the fact that the perfect Christmas hymn had never been written. When Mohr brought these words to Gruber, he exclaimed, "*Friend you have found the right song.*" This happened in the middle of the winter, high in the beautiful Alps. *Again, God had the right man in the right place at the right time.*





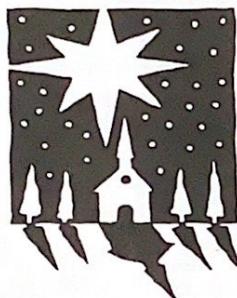
FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER

With the beginning of December, the Parish Council would like to remind those who have not fulfilled their membership obligations for 2021 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.

CHRISTMAS EVE



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

The evening of Friday , 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**



In conjunction with the above Mass of Shepherds, the parish council would like to re-institute the Open House gathering following the Mass of the Shepherds but in the parish family center.

Following mass we will gather in the parish center for the sharing of the Christmas wafer and light refreshments. Please make this a part of your schedule on Christmas Eve along with church.



**Christmas
Cookie
Raffle**

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 19, 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. Cookies should be in the Family Center on Saturday, December 18 by 11:00 a.m. The choir has increased the large trays to twelve (12) this year for a variety of homemade cookies to win. Ticket donation is 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.



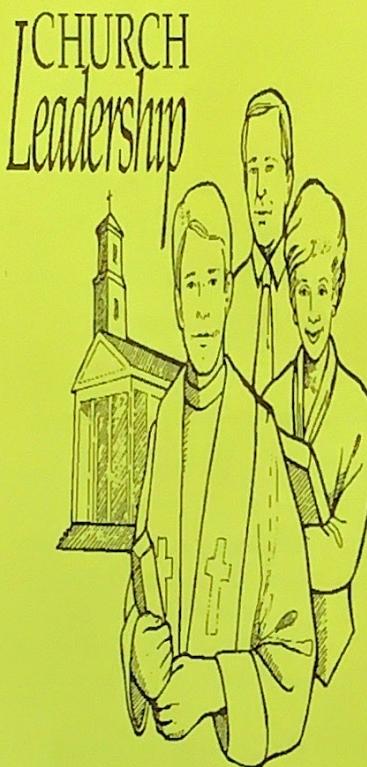
The Binghamton Downtown Singers will be presenting Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sarah Jane United Methodist Church in Johnson City. Our organist/choir director Betty Ruda will be singing with this group. There are free tickets available for this performance - for information contact Betty.



2022 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2022 offering envelope packet will be available on **Sunday, December 12**. 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 2021, 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 Tracy Cooper, Parish Center/Cemetery Treasurer Judy Dyman, Vice-Chairman Kevin Cushner, Council Chairman Kelley Cooper. God Bless



FDR



On Sunday, December 19, 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.



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.**

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**. The **choir** will **again** have its **Christmas Cookie Raffle!** Books of chances are available in the **vestibule**, **family center** and attached to this newsletter. Cost is \$2.00 per book of three chances. Drawing will be on **December 19**. There are many books of chances, so feel free to take as many as you'd like!

Thank you to **Dave and Loreen Plahanski** for their **donation** of a **music anthem** - "Love Lifted Me".

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.

One of the interesting holy days that follows 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**, with enough poison to kill ten horses, to drink. As John was drinking the chalice of wine God purified it, causing John no harm.



ST. JOHN,
APOSTLE



December 2021

Events at All Saints



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