

December

ALL SAINTS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
42 Harry L Drive, Johnson City, New York 13790
Telephone/Fax 607-797-4394, Cell 343-6596, Center 644-9075



December



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 **2017 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 **2017 Christmas Church Season**?

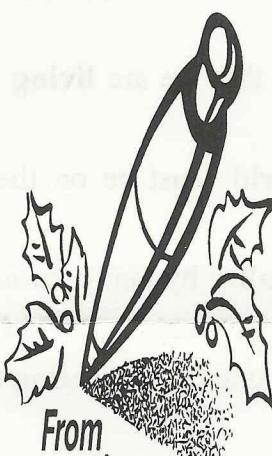
Will you and your children, teens, relatives be a part of the **Christmas Liturgy** acknowledging the birth of Christ? Or will you be a part of society with the negative attitude condoning what is happening around us - the violence, the drugs, lack of respect of human life and property.

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. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY AND ON CHRISTMAS!

† PARISH FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER †

- Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. +Veronica Podkulski, offered by daughter Terri
Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. +Kay Lynch, offered by Terri Miller
Sunday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward Gidzinski Sr., offered by Mike & Debbie Cushner
Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. +Gilbert Vandling, offered by Rev. Dennis & Betty Ruda
Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. +Joan Brozzetti, offered by Rev. Dennis & Betty Ruda
Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. +Patricia Trish Butora, offered by husband Ron and children
Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. +Betty Brail, offered by Rev. Dennis & Betty Ruda
Sunday, Dec. 24/Advent 4 at 9:00 a.m. +Jadwiga Sperska, offered by son Vincent
Sunday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Mass of the Shepherds
Monday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, December 31 at 9:00 a.m. +Rob Mnahoncak, offered by parents Bob & Joanne
Sunday, December 31 at 9:00 a.m. +Ruth Campbell, offered by Ed & Yvonne Campbell Nowaowski
Sunday, December 31 at 9:00 a.m. +Edith Nosal, offered by husband Joseph & Children

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



From
the
Pastor

- ☺ to Fred & Wanda Daszewski for donating the new holy water fonts for the entrance of the church a donation of \$1,150.00.
- ☺ to Frank Gorgol for his \$305.00 cemetery donation.
- ☺ to the Laskowski Family/Laskowski Funeral Home for their \$200.00 church donation.
- ☺ to Ken & Jean Perchinsky Williams for their \$100.00 cemetery donation.
- ☺ to Brian Kot/Martin Bread Co. for donating all of the bread and rolls for the Turkey Party
- ☺ to all who helped and supported our Men's Society Turkey Party making it the best one financially ever ☺ ☺ ☺ \$2,500.50 - Thank You!
- ☺ to those who ordered Christmas Candy from the PTA Christmas Sale. Orders will be available on Sunday, December 10 - Thank you!
- ☺ to Peter & Judy Dyman, Joe Kot for their time/ labor helping around the parish & cemetery.
- ☺ to Jason, Kelley and Tim Yeomans for maintaining our church website.

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

Joseph Nosal at Bridgewater Nursing Home
Jennie Kolba at Willow Point Nursing Home
Emil Kotasek at Ideal Living Center
Edward and Vicky Ambrose
Alice Spach
Jean Chapin
Jeanette Samuelson

Florence Ottman
Mae Raychel,
Genevieve Lupinsky
Peter Zalaffi
Dolores Duke
Mickey & Kay Archangeli

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 the 35th Anniversary performance Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 16 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.



On Sunday, December 10, 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 free breakfast served by our Men's Society in the parish family center. *It will be our sumptuous buffet.* 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.*

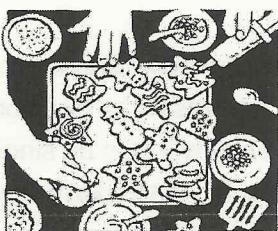
THE SAINTS - St. Nicholas



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 17, 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 Friday, December 15. 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.

Donations of altar & manger Christmas Poinsettias plants are now being accepted until Sunday, December 17. If you would like to donate a plant or plants as a donation or in memory of your departed loved ones, please sign 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.



THE LEGEND OF THE POINSETTIA

On hearing the birth of Jesus, a poor girl set out with her brother to visit Him. The girl wanted to bring a gift for baby Jesus, but her family had no money for gifts.

So along the way, she began picking weeds and making them into a bouquet for the Christ Child.

She felt ashamed when she saw the finer gifts others were bringing.

However, her brother told her that even a humble gift, if given in love, would be acceptable to Jesus.

When they arrived, the girl took her gift up to the manger and laid it down with a shy smile. To her amazement, her handful of weeds was transformed into beautiful red flowers shaped like stars. This is why in Mexico poinsettias are known as **Flowers of the Holy Night**. *They bloom each year during the Christmas Season and remind us of Christ's love and acceptance.*

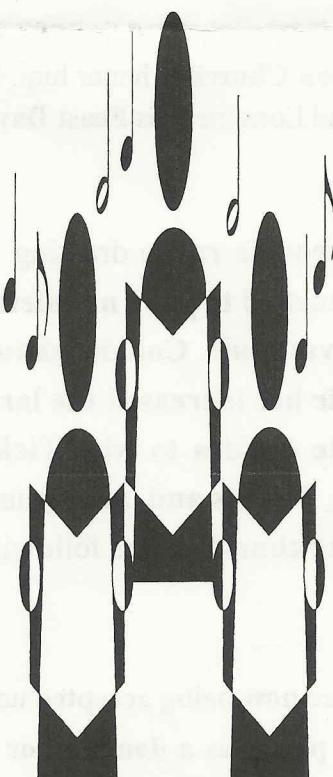


MUSIC MINISTRY

"I will praise the Name of God with a song" - Psalms 69:30

Choir rehearsals are being held on Thursdays at **6:45 PM**. We **welcome anyone** who would like to join us. If you like to sing for God and can carry a tune, just come to a rehearsal.

Our adult and children's choirs are very busy rehearsing for the Christmas season, and beyond.



Christina Dyman and Betty Ruda will be singing with the **Binghamton Downtown Singers**, with the **Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra**, in "**The Messiah**" by George F. Handel on December 16 at The Forum in Binghamton. They will also be singing in the "**Home For The Holidays**" concert on Friday, December 8, at the Roberson Center.

MUSIC DONATIONS

Please keep in mind our ongoing program of donating a piece of choral music for \$25. Contact Betty Ruda for details - call or text 607-759-9202, or email liz@stny.rr.com liz@stny.rr.com.

WIN A TRAY OF CHRISTMAS COOKIES!

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 17. Tickets are available now in the vestibule. This year, you may win one of 12 large trays of a variety of homemade cookies. Ticket donation is three for \$2. Tickets and money may be given to any choir member or to the financial team in the church office following Sunday Masses. Of course, we will need many cookie bakers! Sign up sheet is in the vestibule.

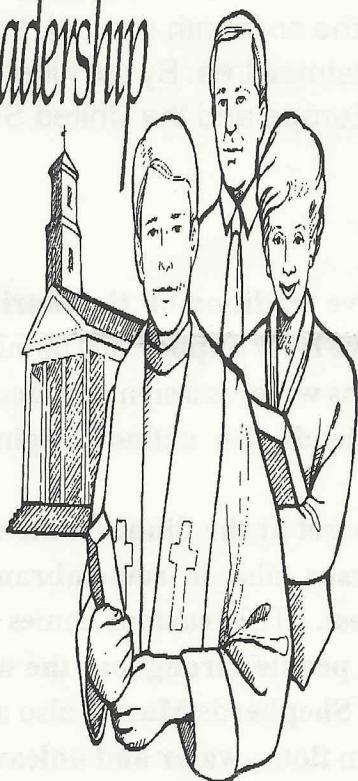
Music Ministry

FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER



Parish
Membership

CHURCH
Leadership



With the beginning of December, the Parish Council would like to remind those who have not fulfilled their membership obligations for **2017** 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.

As we rapidly approach the end of the year 2017, 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 Kevin Cushner, Council Moderator David Plahanski. God Bless - FDR



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.



ST. JOHN,
APOSTLE

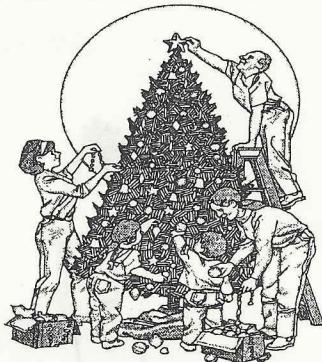
Altar Servers Crosses



The following young adults of our parish will receive their **Cross of Merit** for their service serving at the altar to sixteen years of age and beyond: *William Kozloski, Mackenzie Drum, Abbey McKiernan and Raina Creller.* They will receive their **Crosses** prior to the start of the 9:00 a.m. mas on Sunday, December 10.



HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



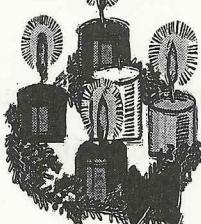
Evergreen trees and wreaths have been used as symbols of eternal life since the ancient times of Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. After the coming of Christianity, evergreens took on a more spiritual significance and were thought to scare away the evil spirits. In the Middle Ages, the Christmas tree, 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

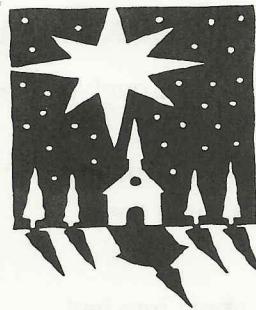
Many families still uphold the Christmas Eve tradition of the sharing of the Christmas Wafer at dusk at the Christmas Eve Holy Supper and throughout the Christmas season. The sharing of the Christmas wafer is a sign of peace, love and unity within the family unit, relatives and friends also acknowledging 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, (**December 3 through December 24**) we will have the lighting of the Advent Wreath every Sunday morning before the start of mass on **Sundays December 3, 10, 17 & 24**. 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**.



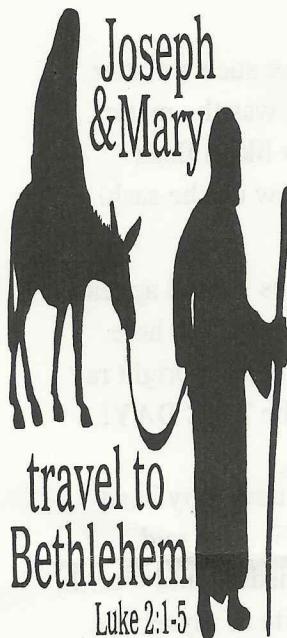
Looking ahead to **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** the following masses have been scheduled:

With the Advent Season ending on Sunday, December 24, the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. on with organ music.

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

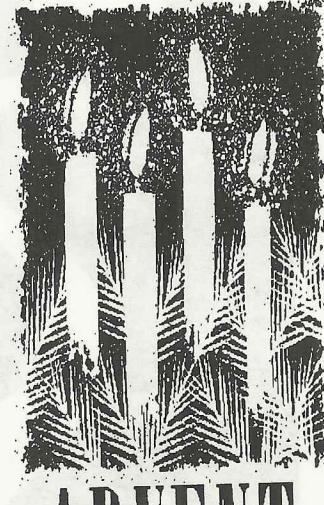


Christmas Day— Service



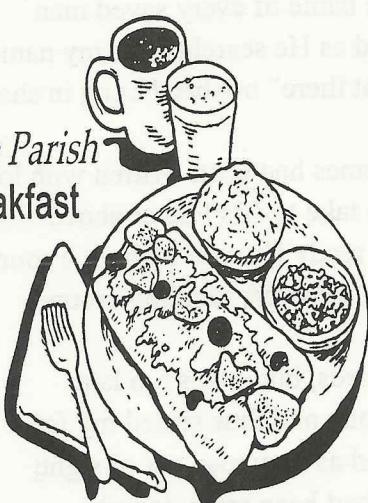
Those wishing to receive **Holy Communion** before **Christmas** who are confined to their homes, hospitals, or nursing homes, please call the rectory to make an appointment for a visit from the priest.

- 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 17**.



ADVENT

Free Parish Breakfast



On Sunday, December 10, immediately following the end of mass, our **Sunday School students** will give their **Christmas Presentation** to the **parish family** in the church.

Then our **Men's Society** will treat the **parish family members** to a **free breakfast** served in the **parish family center**.

Of course, **parish members** are invited, and also **grandparents, aunts and uncles** of the **students** who attend church to witness the **Sunday School Christmas presentation**.

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



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 9:30 a.m.

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias will be taken until **December 17**.

'Twas The Night Before Jesus Came'



PREPARE FOR JESUS

'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



December 2017

Events at All Saints



Advent

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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8:30AM Priv. Confessions 9:00AM Holy Mass 10:00AM Parish Council Mtg. 10:00AM Sunday School/Music			6:45 PM Choir Practice St. Nicholas Day	PEARL HARBOR Remembrance Day	Feast of Divine Love	9:00 AM Set up & prep for Men's Society Breakfast																																																	
						LEND a HELPING HAND																																																	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16																																																	
9:00 AM Holy Mass followed by Christmas Program & Breakfast Pick up Christmas Candy orders today.			6:45 PM CHOIR PRACTICE		Christmas cookies for raffle are due today.	11:00 AM Making Cookie Raffle Trays																																																	
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9:00AM Holy Mass 10:00AM Cookie Raffle 10:00 AM Men's Society Mtg. 10:00AM Sunday School craft day				6:45 PM CHOIR PRACTICE	9:30 AM Church Preparing and Decorating																																																		
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9:00AM Advent 4 Mass 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds	10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass	Faithful Stephen	Feast of Saint John	6:45 PM CHOIR PRACTICE																																																			
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9:00AM Holy Mass Sunday School on Break New Year's Eve																																																							