

December



ALL SAINTS NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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[www.all saints ncc.org](http://www.all saints ncc.org)

December



# The Reason for the Season



Christmas 2019 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 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 SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER †

- Sunday, December 1 at 9:00 a.m. For the parish family of All Saints  
Sunday, December 8 at 9:00 a.m. +Veronica Podkulski & Kay Lynch, offered by Terri Podkulski Miller  
Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m. +Andrew Stasko Sr. & Karen Rose Blanford, offered by Sophie Stasko  
Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 a.m. +Irene Ruda, offered by Family  
Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward & Eddie Gidzinski, offered by Mike & Debbie Cushner  
Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m. +Jadwiga Sperka, offered by son Vincent  
Sunday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m. +Ruth Campbell, offered by Ed Jr. & Yvonne Campbell Nowakowski  
Tuesday, December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Mass of the Shepherds  
Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass  
Sunday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m. +John and Jean Borowski, offered by daughter Carole Muller

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

Florence Ottman at Ideal Living Center

Dolores Butora Duke

Alice Spach

Mae Raychel at St. Louise Manor

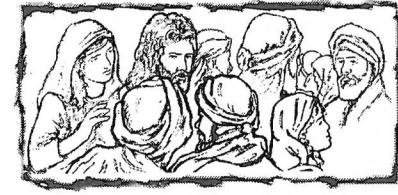
Peter Dyman III

Ed Samuelson

Wanda Raychel Broczkowski

Christina Dyman

Edward Ambrose



Jesus heals the sick

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

☺ to Stephen Pokrinchak and Wai Ling Lee for their donation of the pair of blue Advent Liturgical Banners in honor of Fr. Dennis & Betty Ruda with gratitude love & peace and in memory of the departed parish members of All Saints a donation of \$1,209.00.

☺ to David and Sherry Laskowski for their \$100.00 church donation

☺ to Brian Kot/Martin Bread Co. for donating the bread products for our Turkey Party.

☺ to Diane Turock for her time and ambition serving as our Sunday greeter handing the out mass music programs.

☺ to Andy Stasko Jr./AMS Electric Co. for his time, labor and materials helping around the parish complex.

☺ to Jason, Kelley and Tim Yeomans for maintaining our church website physically and financially.

☺ to all who helped and supported our Men's Society Turkey Party making it the best one financially ever ☺ ☺ ☺ \$3,856.00 - also a Thank You to all who supported the October Chicken Barbecue.

☺ to George Kolba Jr. for his time, labor & materials taking care of the snow and ice.

☺ to Debbie Benzi for her time, labor and materials helping around the church complex.



And the God  
of all grace ... will himself  
restore you and make you  
strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10, NIV





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

The evening of Tuesday, 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**

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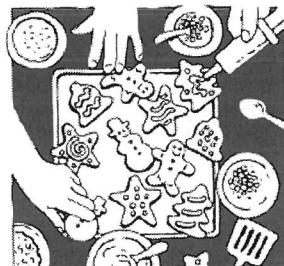
On Sunday, December 22, immediately following the end of mass, our Sunday School students will present their Christmas Program to the parish family in the church.

*This year's program will feature some alumni participants of 30 years ago participating in the program.*

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.*



## Sunday School Program



## Christmas Cookie Raffle

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 22, 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 21 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.

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## 2020 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2020 offering envelope packet will be available on Sunday, December 15. **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.





## MUSIC MINISTRY

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

The adult and student choirs are busily rehearsing music for our **upcoming Christmas pageant on December 22**. The program will be a repeat of last year's, by popular demand! The congregation is sure to enjoy it!

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 22**. Because of a **huge financial expense for organ repair**, our fund was almost **depleted**, so we're hoping for **many ticket sales!**

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.

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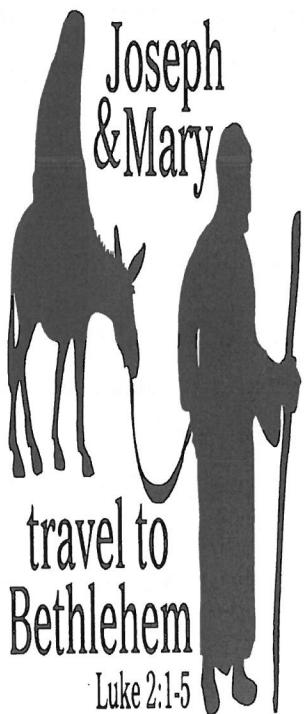
On Sunday, December 22, immediately following the end of mass, our **Sunday School students** will give their **Christmas Presentation** to the parish family in the church.

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

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## 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, if possible.
- 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 15.



ADVENT

## FINANCIAL NEWS FOR DECEMBER



Parish  
Membership

With the beginning of December, the Parish Council would like to remind those who have not fulfilled their membership obligations for 2019 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.

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MEN'S SOCIETY

The next scheduled meeting of our **Men's Society** will be on **Sunday, December 15, 2019**, 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.

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CH CH  
What's missing?  
UR (you are)

Hold this page to your face and blow on it.

If it turns:

Green - call your physician

Brown - see your dentist

Purple - consult your psychiatrist

Red - see your banker

Yellow - call your lawyer and make a will.

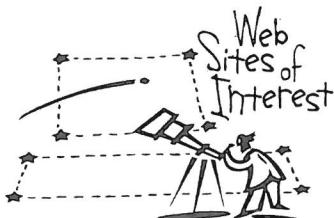
If it remains the same color you're in good health, and there is no reason on earth why you should not be in church this week.

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The Binghamton Downtown Singers will be presenting Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 21 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. For ticket information contact Betty.

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The following are church web-sites that you might be interested in exploring:  
National Catholic Church : [pncc.org](http://pncc.org) - Central Diocese of the NCC: [centraldiocesepncc.org](http://centraldiocesepncc.org), All Saints Parish: [allsaintsncc.org](http://allsaintsncc.org) - Polish National Union: [www.pnu.org](http://www.pnu.org).



## Congratulations on Your Retirement!

At the end of 2019, parish family member George Kolba Jr. will be retiring and closing the family business Kolba Construction Company. For the last 60 + years Kolba Construction Company has been a part of the parish family of All Saints. Three generations: +George Kolba Sr., George Kolba Jr., Ernie Kolba and George Kolba III have offered their services and help to All Saints, many times on a no charge basis plus their radio sponsorship for our Christmas and Easter messages to the community and our Parish Community Picnics, also for donating their services, time and materials for snow removal and salting for the past over the past 60 years.

We wish George Jr. a happy and healthful retirement and thank him and the Kolba Construction Company for their support given to All Saints over the years.

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### 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) 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.

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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.

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### *Mitten & Scarf*



Basket

Our Sunday School students will be collecting new children's and teenagers winter hats, mittens and scarfs for those in need until December 15. There will be a collection box in the vestibule for these items. Please help if you can to remember those who need these items for the winter months. Thank you in advance for your caring.

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We would like to set up an emergency e-mail/text directory by the end of this month to contact parish family members in case of mass cancellation, change of time, or any sudden irregularity concerning with the parish schedule.

You may place your information in the collection basket with your Sunday offering or leave it on the desk in the parish office.

## 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.

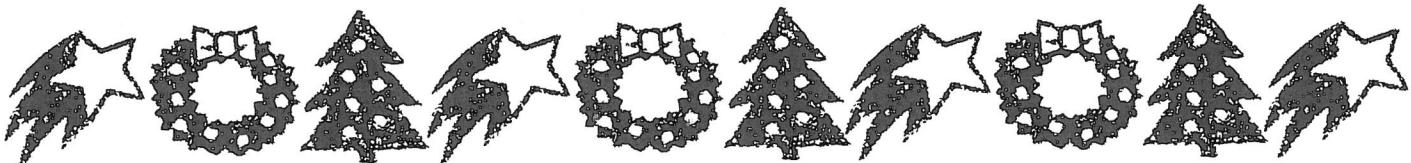
Nicholas died at Myra in 350. His popularity, already great, increased when, in 1087, his relics were brought to Bari, Italy. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him. St. Nicholas is the patron Saint of Russia, Greece, Apulia, Sicily and Lorraine. His Feast Day is December 6.

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As we rapidly approach the end of the year 2019, 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 Kelley Yeomans, Council Chairman Kevin Cushner, God Bless - FDR





## Silent Night, Holy Night

### SILENT NIGHT

Josef Mohr & Franz Gruber

Silent Night, Holy Night, is the hymn to be considered as 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.*

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### 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.*

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### 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.



Poinsettias

### THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM





December 2019

Events at All Saints



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																												
1 9:00 AM Sunday Mass - Fr. Tom Basta celebrant <b>Advent 1</b> Sunday School Thanksgiving break  <b>Fr. Ruda away for Thanksgiving</b>	2	3	4	5 6:45 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	6 St. Nicholas Day 	7 Men's Society workers appreciation social at Tioga Downs.  																																																																												
8 8:30 AM Priv. Confession 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Parish Council Mtg. 10:15 AM Music class <b>Advent 2</b>	9	10	11	12 6:45 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	13	14																																																																												
15 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Men's Society Mtg 10:15 AM Sunday School/Religion Classes <b>Advent 3</b>	16	17	18	19 6:45 pm CHOIR PRACTICE	20 Cookies are due for cookie raffle	21 9:30 AM Table preparations for Advent Breakfast 11:00 AM Making Cookie Raffle Trays																																																																												
22 9:00 AM Holy Mass followed by Christmas presentation & free Advent Breakfast. <b>Advent 4</b> Cookie raffle drawing	23 Christmas Eve	24 11:00 AM Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds	25 10:00 AM Christmas day mass	26 No choir practice Saint Stephen	27 Feast of Saint John	28																																																																												
29 9:00 AM Holy Mass Sunday School on Christmas break	30	31 New Year's Eve	<table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
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