

December



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

December



SCROOGE, SANTA, SAVIOR

Christmas can mean Scrooge, Santa or Savior



★ **SCROOGE** - To those in the Scrooge image, without his conversion, this season can be painful. Everything about it makes people groan and wince. They resent spending and sharing. They complain about decorating and cooking. To such people, Christmas is a waste of time and money. The shouts and excitement of little children makes them cantankerous. The carols and lights mean commercialism. The good will and charity are marks of hypocrisy.

This is one side of Christmas.



★ **SANTA CLAUS** - To others, Christmas is Santa Claus. It is a chance to go out on the town. It is credit spending to the limit. It is the hoped for season of bonuses and company gifts. It is toys and dolls for the little and perfumes and jewelry for grown ups. Santa rules and decrees fun for everyone.

This is another side of Christmas

★ **SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST** - But, the real Christmas centers about the Savior Jesus Christ. He does not arrive by parade on Fifth Avenue. He is not sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. There can be no real Christmas without Him. Without Him you have either Scrooge or a Santa Claus. You face either disillusionment or fantasy. Jesus Christ brings reality. He makes Christmas more than a holiday season from Thanksgiving to New Year's. He makes it an everyday affair. Jesus Christ at Christmas brings into your life the freshness and expectancy of little children. It is the kind of gladness and joy you cannot find in a bottle or an expense account. It is a gladness of faith.

The birth of Jesus gives meaning to birth, family, work, challenge, and death. It is not suddenly all over like the big Christmas rush. Through Jesus you receive eternal life. The Christmas experience He gives does not depend upon money or credit cards; **Christmas is more than a calendar date.**

We need the same direction today as the Wise Men and Shepherds did.

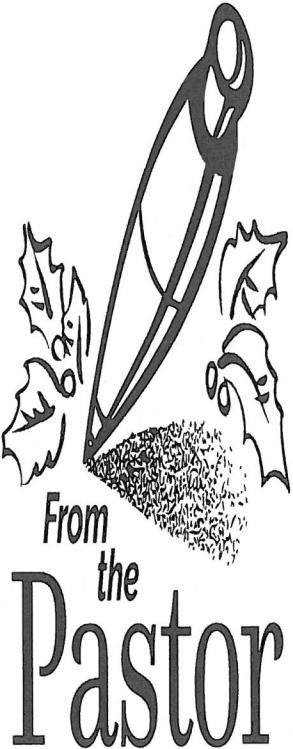


This Gift cannot be wrapped and tagged and laid under a tree. God's gift was nailed to a tree. MAKE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR HIM THIS CHRISTMAS - This is the real side of Christmas.

† PARISH FAMILY MASS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER †

- Sunday, December 2 st 9:00 a.m. +Veronica Podkulski & +Kay Lynch offered by Terri Podkulski Miller
Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m. +Mary Sedlacek, Bertha, Michael, Stanley Gidzinski, by Barry & Emilia Biskup
Sunday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. +Edward Gidzinski Sr.,& Eddie Gidzinski offered by Mike & Debbie Cushner
Sunday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. +Andrew Stasko Sr; Karen Rose Blanford, offered by Sophie Stasko
Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. +Irene Ruda, offered by Family
Sunday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m. + Jadwiga Sperska, offered by son Vincent
Sunday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m. +Rob Mnahoncak, offered by parents Bob and Joanne Mnahoncak
Sunday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m. +Ruth Campbell & + Beverly Nowakowski, by Edward Jr. & Yvonne Nowakowski
Monday, December 24 at 9:00 a.m. *Christmas Eve Mass of Shepherds*
Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m. *Christmas Day Mass*
Sunday, December 30 at 9:00 a.m. + Joseph and Edith Nosal, offered by daughter Nancy Noyes
Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m. *New Year's Day Mass*

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

- 
- ☺ to Mike and Debbie Cushner for their donation of two Christmas Banners that will be used for upcoming Christmas and the Christmas Season. Donation of \$1,086.50.
 - ☺ to David Laskowski/Laskowski Funeral home for his \$100.00 church donation
 - ☺ to Cliff Butler for his time and labor helping around the parish complex
 - ☺ to Brian Kot/Martin Bread for donating the bread products for the Men's Society Turkey Party.
 - ☺ to Charlene Laskowski for her \$100.00 church donation
 - ☺ 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 ☺ ☺ ☺ \$3,200.00 - Also a Thank You to all who supported the October Chicken Barbecue - sold out in one hour !
 - ☺ to Reveille Restaurant Main St. Johnson City for donating food items for the Diocesan Council meeting that our parish hosted.

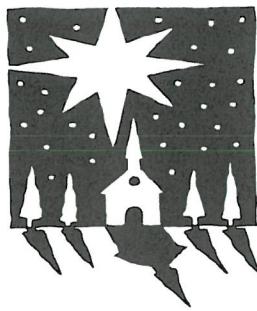
Please remember the following in your prayers, with a Christmas card or call:

Florence Ottman
Mae Raychel at St. Louise Manor
Emil Kotasek at Ideal Living Center
Wanda Raychel Broczkowski
Edward and Vicky Ambrose
Alice Spach
Dave & Pam Kelley

Genevieve Lupinsky
Peter Zalaffi
Ed & Jeanette Samuelson
Jean Chapin
Steve Falvo

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





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

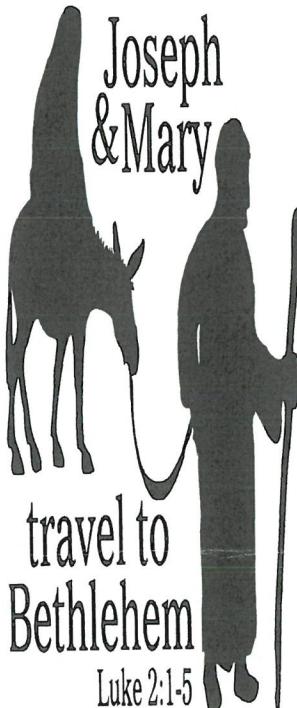
The evening of Monday, December 24, Mass of the Shepherds will be celebrated at 9:00 p.m. with full choir and music. The Christmas Day mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with organ music.



**Christmas
Day
Service**

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 16.



On Sunday, December 9, 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**.



*Free Parish
Breakfast*

The Binghamton Downtown Singers, will be presenting their performance of Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Sarah Jane Johnson Methodist Church, 308 Main St. Johnson City. Our choir members Christina Dyman and Betty Ruda will be singing with this group. For ticket information contact Christina or Betty.





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

Donations for Christmas Poinsettias will be taken until December 16.

As we rapidly approach the end of the year 2018, 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



Donations of altar & manger Christmas Poinsettia plants are now being accepted until Sunday, December 16. 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.

2019 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2019 offering envelope packet will be available on Sunday, December 9. 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.

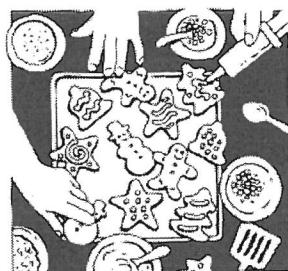


Sunday School Program

On Sunday, December 9, 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.*



Christmas Cookie Raffle

The choir will be sponsoring its annual Christmas cookie raffle drawing on December 16, 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 15 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.

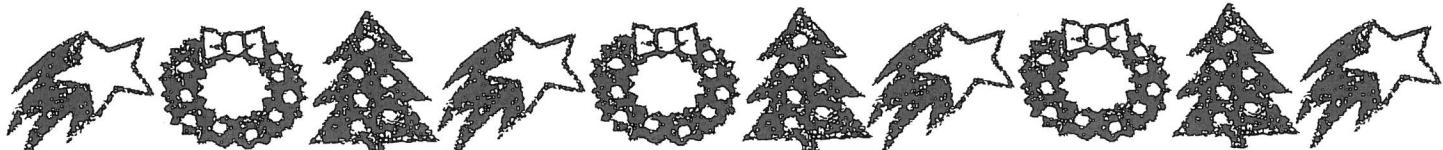
THE SAINTS - St. Nicholas



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.**





Silent Night, Holy Night

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.*

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.*

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.

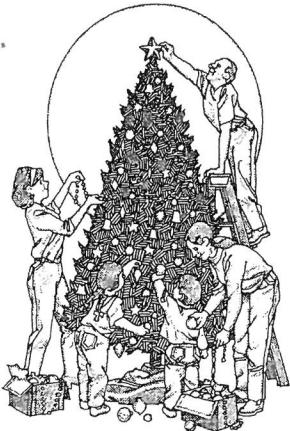


Poinsettias

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



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.

One of the interesting holy days that follows the birth of Jesus is the **Feast of Saint John the Apostle on December 27.**



ST. JOHN,
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** with enough poison to kill ten horses, to drink. As John was drinking the chalice of wine God purified it, causing John no harm

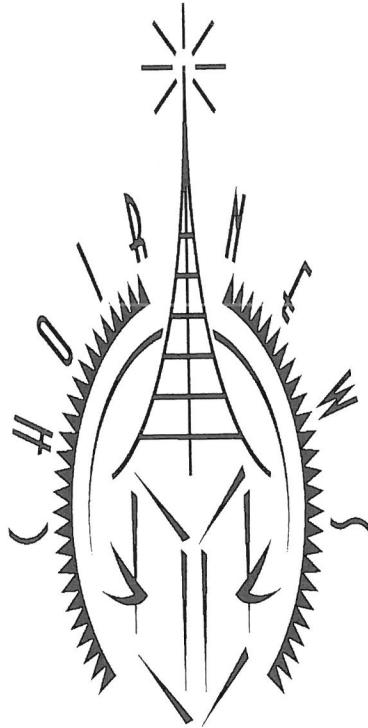
MUSIC MINISTRY

"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 9. The program will be quite different this year, and the congregation is sure to enjoy!

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 16.**

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.



Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

SPIRITUALISM vs. COMMERCIALISM

**John the
Baptist
Prepares
the Way**



Get on your mark, get set, go.....

These are **infamous words** that should start after **Thanksgiving** but somehow now is the **custom** even before **Halloween** from the **commercial world** in regard to Christmas shopping and the events that lead to Christmas Day.

But there is **another side** of these **words** for those who look at the **weeks before Christmas** in another light, and that is the **four weeks before Christmas - the Advent Season**.

Advent is the “**New Year**” of the church year and the **liturgical calendar**. December 3 begins the **religious cycle** of the life of the church. Each Sunday of **Advent** represents 1,000 years that the world awaited in a **spiritual darkness**, waiting for a leader, the **True Light**, to come into the world to give peace, Light and true teachings.

The **heraler of this Good News was John the Baptist**. John’s mission, unknowingly to him, was to prepare the world for this Good News, even though he knew not when or for whom he was to prepare the way.

As the weeks before Christmas are a time of preparation, spiritual preparation should also be included. We will be preparing with decorations, shopping, and fellowship, but we should also prepare the soul and spiritual being and also understand the true meaning of the upcoming Christmas season.

There is not much that I can tell you about Christmas that you don’t already know. However, I hope that you will not get caught in the commercial trap and find yourself financially overextended for this Christmas season.

During this **Advent time**, we have the lighting of the **Advent Wreath** every Sunday before mass, children and teens will have their **Advent Calendars** at home and the opening of the 24 slots during the days of **Advent**, and we will have the **Sunday School Christmas Presentation on Sunday, December 10**. These are the **true meanings** of these days before Christmas. **Shopping, gift wrapping and parties, which are a part of the celebration, should not be the priorities.**



Advent

December 2018

Events at All Saints



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday													
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8:30 AM Priv. Confession 9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Christmas Rehearsal 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Parish Council Mtg				6:45 PM Choir Practice St. Nicholas Day	 PEARL HARBOR Remembrance Day	9:30 AM Set up for the free Advent Breakfast We Need Your HELP!													
9	10	11	12	13	14	15													
9:00 AM Holy Mass with Christmas presentation followed by free Advent breakfast.				6:45 PM Choir Practice		Cookies for raffle due at 11am then making up of trays Making Cookie Raffle Trays													
16	17	18	19	20	21	22													
9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Sunday School Craft Class				6:45 PM Choir Practice	 FIRST DAY OF Winter	9:30 AM Flowering & final decorating of the church. Church Preparing and Decorating													
23	24	25	26	27	28	29													
9:00 AM Holy Mass 10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship 10:00 AM Flowering of church 10:00 AM Sunday School	9:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Service	10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass Faithful Stephen		6:45pm Choir Practice	Feast of Holy Innocents														
30	31																		
9:00 AM Holy Mass Sunday School on Christmas break	 New Year's Eve																		