



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**  
**Polish National Catholic Church**  
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**TODAY. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**9:00 am— Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be  
 celebrated in the Traditional rite.**

**Prior to Holy Mass, the lighting of the Second  
 Candle of Advent, the “Candle of Peace,” will be lit.**

**OPENING HYMN**

**“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”**

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,  
 Before Thine altar, Father

Thou knowest best our yearning hearts.  
 This supplication answer.

Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,  
 Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared,  
 To serve Thee with devotion.

Be it with sweat of blood or tears,  
 Or humble resignation.

For we Thy people are, O Lord,  
 Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

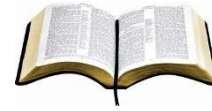
**ENTRANCE HYMN**  
**(Malachi 3:1-2)**

**V. Lo, I am sending My messenger to prepare the  
 way before Me; And suddenly there will come to  
 the temple the Lord Who you seek.**

**R. And the messenger of the covenant Whom you  
 desire, yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.**

**C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the  
 Holy Spirit,**

**R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever be,  
 world without end. Amen.**



**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF BARUCH  
 (Baruch 5:1-9)**

**Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and  
 misery; put on the splendor of glory from God  
 forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God,  
 bear on your head, the mitre, that displays the glory  
 of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth  
 your splendor: you will be named by God forever  
 the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship. Up,  
 Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east  
 and see your children gathered from the east and  
 the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that  
 they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by  
 their enemies they left you: but God will bring them  
 back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.  
 For God has commanded that every lofty mountain  
 be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges  
 be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance  
 secure in the glory of God. The forests and every  
 fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at  
 God’s command; for God is leading Israel in joy by  
 the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for  
 company.**

**C. The Word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**  
**(John 1:6-8)**

**C. A man named John was sent by God. He came  
 for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all  
 might believe through him.**

**R. He was not the Light but came to testify to the  
 Light.**



**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT  
PAUL TO THE PHILLIPIANS  
(Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11)**

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.  
R. Thanks be to God.

**ALLELUIA VERSE  
(Psalm 85:8)**

C. Alleluia, alleluia.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
V. Show us, Lord, Your love: grant us Your salvation.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE  
(Luke 3:1-6)**

C. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.  
C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.  
R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE  
CREED**

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
Of all that is seen and unseen.  
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
The only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father.  
God from God, Light from Light, True God  
from true God, begotten not made  
Of one being with the Father.  
Through Him all things were made  
For us and for our salvation.  
He came down from heaven:  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
He was born of the Virgin Mary  
AND BECAME MAN.  
For our sake, He was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and  
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead

And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The Lord and Giver of Life

Who proceeds from the Father,

With the Father and the Son

He is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in One, Holy, Catholic

and Apostolic Church

I acknowledge one baptism

for the forgiveness of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead

And the + life of the world to come.

Amen.



### OFFERTORY VERSE

(Luke 1:76)

V. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

C. Lord our God, through this oblation help us to prepare for the coming of Your Son. May He find us waiting and eager in joyful prayer. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



### **ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

C. **Let us Pray:** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

### COMMUNION VERSE

(Baruch 5:5;4:36b)

V. Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and behold the joy that comes to you from God.

### CLOSING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray: Almighty Father, through the merits of this Holy Communion, help us to show our gratitude of Your precious gift, Jesus Christ, to think more of others than of ourselves, and to seek Your presence more deeply, We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

R. Amen.



### **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

#### **“A Candle of Peace”**

**“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’” – Isaiah 40:3**

Last Sunday, we lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath. This candle represented “Hope.”

“Hope,” as mentioned, is defined as “a desire with expectation of obtainment.” I spoke last week of how there was a hope, a deep longing and an expectation for a Deliverer, a Messiah, who was promised by God and who would redeem His chosen people. This Savior, who’s coming into the world, was spoken in the books of the Old Testament by the Prophets, the spokesmen of God, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Daniel, and Malachi.

Today, the second candle on our Advent wreath is lit. It represents “Peace.” We read in the Old Testament, of the struggle of the children of Israel. From their enslavement in Egypt, to their deliverance by God through Moses; from their wandering in the wilderness for 40 years to finding

a land of “milk and honey” in Canna; from the first destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 587 BC, by the Babylon king Nebuchadnezzar, the history of the Jewish people, would continue in the New Testament where Rome would be the ones to enslave the Jews. Again, there was a renewal of a desire of hope and that God would hear their cries and fulfill His promise to them. We are told that this Deliverer and Redemer, as spoken by the prophets, would not only bring hope to God’s chosen but also peace.

And so, in our faith in God’s divine plan, He heard the cries of His people, and He would answer their prayers. Out of the wilderness, we read, there came a man, named John, who came with a message. It was a message of hope, about the One who would bring peace. Just as a “shofar,” or ram’s horn, was sounded announcing the coming of the Jewish holy days, of repentance, the voice of John the Baptist also spoke of “repentance” and the coming of a Deliverer. It is interesting that even today, the “shofar” is sounded to mark the beginning of the two holiest days in Judaism; Rosh Hashana, and Yom Kippur; times that were and are set today for people of the Jewish faith to set aside time for fasting, prayer and repentance. John’s call was like the sounding of the shofar, for John, who Jesus called John a prophet, spoke also of “repentance.”

His message would echo the words spoken by the Prophet Isaiah 40:3-5:

“A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; The rugged land shall be a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

“A voice of one crying out in the wilderness.” We are living at a time in our world, in our nation, and in our communities, that this message of Jesus and most importantly the significance of this message is not heard and taken to heart. God gave us a promise of hope that Christians find in “the Word made flesh,” in the Lord Jesus who came with a message from the Eternal God, the creator of all.

There are some, who believe what is taking place in our world today is the “birth pangs” of the beginning of the “end times” We heard words of warning from Jesus as we ended the liturgical year of 2024 from the Gospel of John 18:33-37 on the Solemnity of Christ the King and the beginning a new liturgical year, the First Sunday of Advent from the Gospel of Luke 21;25-28, 34-36.

With the increase of violence in our streets, “road rage” on our highways, and “air rage” in our skies, I believe that we should all take a step back and consider the severity of all these negative and destructive actions, that humankind emulates.

Should we not also, all take a couple of steps back of the result of such hostilities:” which we read on the last Sunday of the Christian Church, the Solemnity of Christ the King as well as the First Sunday of the new Liturgical year, as found in Holy Scripture and seek a peaceful resolution without pointing fingers and considering ourselves “self-righteous” The radical, racial, and social injustice committed against one another, the economy struggling to “upright” itself, and the millions who are still homeless. hungry and will not even be able to put a simple Christmas gift under a tree for their child. And then there is the selfishness of politics, all those senators and representatives who seek to advance their own political careers So much divisiveness, so much anger, so much chaos. January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, with an act of insurrection, proved how far we are from peace. Have things gotten better? I believe that the Spirit of God, has touched so many in our congregation to strive to live the “Gospel” of Jesus and give to others in need. I believe that when we are faithful in our devotion to the Lord, He guides us to others, where we can share what we have experienced in the growing of our personal relationship with the Lord.

If there was any time where humankind needed to stop and listen to that one voice crying out in the wilderness, is now. John led a simple life and had two simple messages. “Repent” and “Prepare the way of the Lord.” Saint Bernard wrote that there are actually three comings of the Lord. The first was at Christmas, when Jesus came as the “Prince of Peace” to redeem humankind. The third time will

be at the end times when the Lord will come to judge humankind. The second time is when Christ is born within one self; to give hope and peace through difficulties.

“Prepare the way of the Lord” is a timeless message to all who would seek and call upon God to be in their lives. But with this, we all must individually be on guard not allow ourselves to be distracted by the influence or the chaos of this world. It is a message that St. Paul spoke about in his letter to the Christian Church at Philippi:

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”

My brothers and sisters: “Prepare the way of the Lord” is today’s message. It is a message of peace. It is a message that calls upon all of us to hearken to that inner voice that speaks to us in the depths of our being, who came to us as the breath of God. But how do we prepare the way of the Lord?

In St. Paul letter to the Romans, he sets forth a formula to successfully prepare the Way of the Lord: “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

We prepare the way of the Lord, my brothers and sisters, when we love more and hate less, when we learn not to judge others more harshly than we judge ourselves, when we learn to be more forgiving as Christ taught John ushers in the one who would bring peace and stability. Did not our blessed Lord say: “Peace, I leave you, my peace I give unto you, not like the world gives, but as I give unto you.’ May you prepare spiritually and find peace and tranquility within as we “prepare the way of the Lord.”



### **JOHN THE BAPTIST: WAS HE REAL OR FICTIONAL?**

“[And] the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” - Luke 3:2b-6

It is at Advent, that we are introduced to John the Baptist. But a question is asked: Did John the Baptist really exist? What proof, outside of Holy Scripture, do we have, that he was more than just a biblical character in Holy Scripture.

One of the greatest historians of that time. was Flavius Josephus (c. 3 - 100 AD), a Jew, we read that he, among many things was a scholar, and a historian. One of his most famous writings is” the **Antiquity of the Jews**, where he writes:

“Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God and was a very just punishment for what he did against John called the baptist [the dipper]. For Herod had him killed, although he was a good man and had urged the Jews to exert themselves to virtue, both as to justice toward one another and reverence towards God and having done so join in washing. For immersion in water, it was clear to him, could not be used for the forgiveness of sins, but as a sanctification of the body, and only if the soul was already thoroughly purified by right actions. And when others massed about him, for they were very greatly moved by his words, Herod, who feared that such strong influence over the people might carry to a revolt -- for they seemed ready to do anything he should advise -- believed it much better to move now than later have it raise a rebellion and engage him in

actions he would regret. And so, John, out of Herod's suspiciousness, was sent in chains to Machaerus, the fort previously mentioned, and there put to death; but it was the opinion of the Jews that out of retribution for John, God willed the destruction of the army to afflict Herod." The writing of Josephus not only gives insight into the times that John the Baptist and Jesus lived in, but most importantly gives credence, merit, and validity to Holy Scripture which historical account that John the Baptist was real and more not just a character as found in the Bible.



**OUR PARISH CALENDAR**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup>- December 14<sup>th</sup>**

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours  
 9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

- Mon. 12/9 Solemnity – Conception of the BVM  
 Leocadia, Virgin & Martyr  
 Hipparchus & Companions, Martyrs  
 Gorgonia, Matron
- Tue. 12/10 Mass of Thnaksgiving  
 Mitiades of Rome, Bishop & Martyr  
 Eulalia (Merida), Virgin & Martyr  
 Gregory III of Rome, Bishop
- Wed. 12/11 Mass of Healing  
 Damasus of Rome, Bishop  
 Fuscian, VVictoricus & Gentian, M  
 Daniel the Stylite, Monk
- Thurs. 12/12 Solemnity – Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Epimachus & Alexander, Martyr  
 Finnian of Clonard, Bishop
- Fri. 12/13 Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus  
 Lucy, Virgin & Martyr  
 Eustratius & Companions, Martyrs  
 Judoc, Hermit
- Sat. 12/14 Private Prayer & Meditation  
 Spiridion of Termithus, Bishop  
 Nicasius of Rheims, Bishop & Martyr  
 Verantius of Poitiers, Bishop

**Please note:** I will be away from the Parish today, Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> as I will be attending the funeral service for Sp. Lorraine Krusienski, wife of Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski who recently passed away. Her service will be held at Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT. Please remember her in prayer.



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9:00 am Holy Mass to be celebrated in the Traditional rite of the PNCC with the lighting of the “**Candle of Joy.**”

**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS AND THE MARTYRS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

I would like to share with you, some of the Saints and Martyrs of the Christian Church that we will remembering this week during our Holy Mass.



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024**  
**Solemnity – Conception of the BVM**

The Eastern Christian Church first celebrated the "Feast of the Conception of the Most Holy and All Pure Mother of God" on December 9, perhaps as early as the 5th century in Syria. By the 7th century, the feast was already widely known in the East. It spread from the Byzantine area of Southern Italy to Normandy during the period of Norman dominance over southern Italy. From there it spread to England, France, Germany, and eventually Rome.

In 1568, Pope Pius V revised the Roman Breviary, and though the Franciscans were allowed to retain the Office and Mass. Furthermore, the pontiff of the Roman Catholic church, requested that the “papal bull” be notarized in the Holy See to be further be copied and reproduced for dissemination.

Prior to Pope Pius IX's definition of the "Immaculate Conception" as a Roman Catholic dogma was instituted in 1854, where most missals referred to this "Feast of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

The observance of this Feast Day, "the Conception of the BVM," is celebrated in various degrees with the Anglican, Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and the PNC churches.



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023**  
**Solemnity of our Lady of Guadalupe**

Did you know that there are several parishes in the PNCC whose Pastors celebrate the Holy Mass of the Eucharist in the Spanish language and whose congregations are mostly Mexican?

In the Liturgical Calendar of the PNCC, we find that December 12<sup>th</sup> is a day aside to observe the **Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. But what is the story that most of us do not know concerning Our Lady of Guadalupe?

"Our Lady of Guadalupe," or in Spanish, "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe," is also known as the "Virgin of Guadalupe."

This Solemnity recalls the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her appearance to Juan Diego in a vision in 1531 AD. Juan Diego was later to be canonized as a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place in the religious life of Mexico and is one of the most popular religious devotions. Her image has also played a significant role as the national symbol of Mexico.

According to tradition, Mary appeared to a farmer, Juan Diego, who was an Aztec convert to Christianity, which took place on December 9<sup>th</sup> and again on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1531 AD. During the

first apparition of the Blessed Mother, Mary requested that a shrine to her be built on the spot where she appeared on Tepeyac Hill (now in a suburb of Mexico City).

In historical accounts, the bishop demanded a sign before he would approve the construction of a church. However, Mary then appeared a second time to Juan Diego and ordered him to collect roses.

In a second audience with the bishop, Juan Diego opened his cloak, letting dozens of roses fall to the floor and revealing the image of Mary imprinted on the inside of the cloak—the image that is now venerated in the Basilica of Guadalupe.

A shrine to the Virgin has existed on this site since 1556 when the archbishop of New Spain promoted devotion to the image of Mary at a chapel in Tepeyac. The story of Mary's appearance to Juan Diego was codified in the work of Miquel Sánchez in 1648 AD, and an account in the indigenous language (Nahuatl) was published in 1649 AD and widely accepted as accurate. The devotion continued to grow, especially after Our Lady of Guadalupe was credited with ending a deadly epidemic of hemorrhagic fever that ravaged Mexico City in 1736–37.

In 1737, "Our Lady of Guadalupe" was proclaimed patroness of Mexico City, and in 1746 her patronage was accepted by all the territories of New Spain, which included part of present-day California as well as Mexico and regions as far south as Guatemala and El Salvador. Veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been particularly strong among women, especially in Mexico, and since at least the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the devotion was spread throughout the world by the Jesuits and other religious orders.

Our Lady of Guadalupe's role in Mexican history is not limited to religious matters; she has played an important role in Mexican nationalism and identity. In 1810 Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla promoted her as the patroness of the revolt he led against the Spanish. The image of the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared on the rebels' banners, and the rebels' battle cry was "Long Live Our Lady of Guadalupe." During a religious revival in Mexico in the late 19<sup>th</sup>

century, preachers declared that the foundation of Mexico could be dated to the time of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe, because she freed the people from idolatry and reconciled the Spanish and indigenous peoples in a common devotion. Emiliano Zapata's peasant rebels carried the banner of Our Lady when they entered Mexico City in 1914, and, during the civil war in Mexico in 1926–29, the banners of the rebels bore her image.

Her continuing significance as a religious and national symbol is attested by the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who visit her shrine every year.



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024**

### **Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

Blessed Saint Lucy, also known as “Lucia of Syracuse: who lived c. 284–304 A.D, was an early Christian who was martyred during the persecution of Christians during the reign of the emperor Diocletian.

Blessed Saint Lucy is one of the most highly venerated saints in Christianity and one of only eight women, who is mentioned by name in the earliest Canon of the of Catholic Church.

The other seven virgins and martyrs mentioned by the early church were saints “Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Agnes, Cecilia, and Anastasia.”

Accounts of her life differ, but most religious scholars agree that Lucy was martyred after a disappointed suitor reported her as being a Christian to Roman authorities.

Blessed Saint Lucy was born c. 283 AD to wealthy Roman parents in the area of Syracuse, Italy. Her father seems to have been a Roman nobleman, while her mother, Eutychia, had Hellenistic or Greek roots. When Lucy was five years, old, her father died, leaving Lucy and Eutychia without any support.

It is believed that Lucy was a Christian from her early life. As a young girl, she knew that she would be expected to marry and that there was a dowry set aside for her. However, she secretly consecrated her virginity to God, and she had hopes of being able to lead a celibate life and give her dowry away to the poor. Lucy's mother, Eutychia, was either unaware of her daughter's vow or was concerned for her future as a single woman of the Christian faith. Eutychia arranged a marriage for Lucy, betrothing her to a young man from a wealthy pagan family. Part of the sudden betrothal was due to Eutychia's poor health. She suffered from an unknown bleeding disorder and wanted to secure her daughter's future quickly.

It has been written, that because of her illness, Eutychia made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Agatha, a Christian martyr, from an earlier era of Roman persecution. While the women were away on pilgrimage, Lucy reportedly experienced a vision of St. Agatha in her dreams. The vision told Lucy that her mother would be cured because of Lucy's great faith and that Lucy would achieve glory and honor. Eutychia returned home, her health improved significantly. Lucy shared her vision with her mother and asked for permission to distribute most of the wealth from her dowry to the poor. Eutychia tried to convince Lucy to give the riches away in her will, rather than right away. Lucy declined, explaining that true charity meant giving her riches away while she was still alive, not when she was dead and had no further use for them.

Word of Lucy's plans to distribute her dowry reached her Roman fiancé, who denounced her to the Roman authorities. Paschasius, the Governor of Syracuse, ordered Lucy to prove her devotion to the empire by burning a sacrifice to an icon of the emperor. Lucy refused.

Paschasius sentenced Lucy to be raped in a brothel as punishment for her refusal. Christian tradition states that the soldiers sent to take her away to rape her, they were unable to force her to move, even though they outmatched her in physical strength. Tradition states that Lucy was assigned to burnt alive, but the flames did not burn her. She then had her eyes removed through torture by her



Roman captors and finally killed with a sword thus decapitating her. Tradition finally states that, when her body was prepared for burial in her family's mausoleum, her eyes were miraculously restored.

By the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the story of St. Lucy had spread through the Christian world, to the point that she was mentioned in the first Roman Canon of Holy Mass Her feast day was celebrated across the Christian world until the Protestant Reformation and subsequent schisms. Today, she is venerated in the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran churches as well as our PNCC.

Saint Lucy is the patron saint of blindness (tied to the loss of her eyes during her martyrdom), as well as eye ailments. authors, craftsmen, and laborers. She is also the patron saint of Syracuse in Sicily, Italy, where she spent her short life. The island nation of Saint Lucia, located in the Caribbean, also considers Saint Lucy as their patroness.



### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

In our prayers, please remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill, and seek the blessings of God for health and healing.

**Let us pray.** O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### **OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS.**

**“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4**

As Pastor, of Holy Name of Jesus PNCC church, I am so proud that our Parish family, here in South Deerfield, has throughout this past year of 2024, and for many years, supported and became deeply involved in so many various ministries in helping others: from donating non-perishable food items for our monthly “grocery giveaways,” to donating socks, underwear and warm clothing to and for our local veterans, both male and female; from donations for school supplies to area schools as well as monetary donations, which have been used in our various ministries.

We continue to ask for assistance and donations of non-perishable food items that may be left in our Parish Hall. For all other donation, including “socks and underwear” for veterans and donations for the Northampton Survival Center may be made in the vestibule of our church. A flyer of the needs of personal toiletries, etc. may be found in the vestibule of the church.

For monetary donations, personal checks may be made out to **“Holy Name of Jesus PNCC.”** with the memo **“HNJ Mission Fund.”** May God bless all our endeavors as we strive to help others in need.



### **SOCKS FOR VETERANS**

Through the efforts of Mr. John Czyz, who is deeply involved in the “Soldier On” program, which provides clothing, etc. to our local veterans, I am happy to announce our simple participation in helping to collect and provide socks to our local veterans I wish to thank all who have donated socks especially to Mary and Josh Tudryn who collected over 500 pairs of socks to aid our local veterans. May God bless.



### **Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”**

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”  
- Matthew 25: 35.**

The next date for providing help for those in need will be held on **Saturday, December 21st from 10 am till noon** or while supplies last.



### **Collecting plastic tops**

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting white or clear plastic tops that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops in this new ministry.



### **ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2024**

I recently spoke with Libby Kolasinski, who heads up the Adopt-A-Family of Franklin County and asked if we, as a Parish, could help this Christmas with, single parents who have children

Last week, Libby brought me a list of 10 families that meet these criteria. We are not obliged to adopt all these families, but we ask if you could help, it would be greatly appreciated. I wish to thank all those who have adopted a family this Christmas season

The final date for the program is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

These profiles are to be found in the Parish Hall. For more information on how you can help, please contact Fr. Koerber at (413-530-8575).



### **WARM THE CHILDREN**

This year, our Parish has decided again to donate to the “Warm the Children” Campaign. This yearly project, which began in 1993 and sponsored by Greenfield Recorder, is to help in providing children of Franklin County and the North Quabbin regions with coats and clothing.

Last year, about 900 children received coats and warm clothing and raised over \$70,000 to cover expenses. All donations are tax-deductible and are placed in an account overseen by the Community Foundation of Western MA. The Greenfield Recorder in cooperation with Target provides gift cards to beneficiaries and are provided by Community Action for each qualifying child, 12 years old or younger.

Vouchers for coats will be given out to children in need for all donations given. Checks may be made out to the “**Holy Name of Jesus PNCC** along with the memo “**Warm the Children**” and given to either Buddy Lafleur or Linda Puchalski who in turn will send a check to the Greenfield Recorder.



### **OPLATEK – CHRISTMAS WAFER**

Oplatek, or the Polish Christmas Wafer, is available and found in the vestibule of our church. Free offerings may be made to cover the cost of this wafer.

### **PIEROGI ON SALE**

We currently have some potato and cheese as well as some cabbage pierogi for sale. Please see Linda Puchalski for purchase.



### **EASTERN DIOCESAN MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION**

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” - 1 Peter 4:10

During the month of December 2024, at noon, may we all pray, to serve others as our Lord, Jesus, taught us by example in Matthew 20:25-28:

“But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not

be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give <sup>His</sup> life as a ransom for many.'

**Let us Pray:** Almighty God, inspire the people of our country of with a spirit of service. Through Jesus Christ You revealed that the greatest law is love of You and our neighbors. In flame our hearts with the fire of Your holy love for one another, May a sense of duty and a call to service come forth from You and may we lead by example in ministering and caring for our family, relatives, neighbors, and all in need. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father** who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### **DISCIPLESHIP 2024**

#### **KNOW YOUR FAITH, GROW IN CHRIST**

The Eastern Diocese will focus on **Being Christian Today; Christian Identity, Sources of Strength and challenges.**

Please join us for the twelfth in a series of virtual "Know and Grow" presentations on;

**Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM (EST).**

Rev. Andrzej Tenus will help us to explore the topic: Being Christian today.

"We demonstrate our Christian identity and testimony of faith in being present and active in church and in social life with courage, love, forgiveness, compassion and charity,"

#### **Do people see Jesus in you?**

Join us to learn more  
To join via Zoom, please contact:

**revpauls@yahoo.com or**  
**ksobiechowksi@yahoo.com**



## **In Christ Alone**

**Song by**  
**Keith & Kristyn Getty**

In Christ alone, my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song.  
This cornerstone, this solid ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.

My comforter, my all in all  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save.

'Til on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay  
Light of the world, by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day  
Up from the grave, He rose again.

And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand.  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.