



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

Polish National Catholic Church  
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TODAY. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am - Holy Mass of the Eucharist

Prior to Holy Mass, the lighting of the Forth candle of Advent, the **“Candle of Love,”** will be lit.

10:00 am - Decorating our church proper for the Christmas season.

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

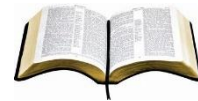
(Micah 5:1)

V. But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah  
R. From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel: Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.

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 shall be, world without end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.\  
C. Let us pray: Heavenly Father, You filled Your servant Elizabeth with Your Holy Spirit, as she greeted the Mother of our Lord. Fill us now with Your grace that we too may rejoice in Your salvation. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
R. Amen.



**LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MICAH THE PROPHET (Micah 5:1-4)**

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem - Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me, One who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore, the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

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

GRADUAL

(Micah 5:3)

C. He shall stand firm and shepherd His flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, His God.  
R. And they shall remain, for now His greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth.



**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT  
PAUL TO THE HEBREWS  
(Hebrews 10:5-10)**

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for Me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of Me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First, He says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then He says: Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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



**ALLELUIA VERSE  
(James 5:8)**

C. Alleluia, alleluia.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.  
V. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.  
R. Alleluia, alleluia.



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT  
LUKE  
(Luke 1:39-45)**

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.

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice, and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, at the moment, the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

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**  
(Numbers 24:17a)

V. I see Him, though not now; I behold Him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

**O God**, You showed the world the splendor of Your glory in the coming of Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary. May we worthily offer this Holy Sacrifice and celebrate the mystery of God-made-man. 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**

**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**  
(Isaiah 7:14)

V. Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name Him Immanuel.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- C. The Lord be with you.
- R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray. O God, most gracious Father, the mystery of Your eternal Word took flesh on earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life in Your service. Through this Eucharist, may we receive the Spirit to help us prepare for His coming in truth, faith and love. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



**SERMON - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
THE POWER OF LOVE**

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

On this, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, we light the 4<sup>th</sup> candle on our Advent wreath: the **Candle of Love**. Over the past three weeks, we lit candles that represent Hope, Peace and Joy, three great pillars of Christianity. Today, we light and reflect on the fulfillment of these great Christian pillars; that being “Love.”

It has been said that is no greater power than love, for it has also been said that “love conquer all.” I am reminded of a song that the rock group, the Beatles, wrote back in 1967, with a title of 4 simple words: “All You Need is Love.” In its lyrics, we find that nothing is impossible as long as you have love.

There have been millions of words spoken and thousands of books and poems written about love. Love is simply defined as: “an intense feeling of deep affection.” I believe that when one finds love, one clings to that power of love, for it changes, transforms, and makes an individual find their higher self, based on the love as expressed in the Ministry of Jesus the Christ.

I would teach children in catechetical instruction of two words: physical and spiritual. I explained that when we speak of the virtue of love, love can be experienced in life through the five human senses, but true love is not just experienced through the senses but rather felt. Although the physical heart is not directly associated with the spiritual power of love, there have been countless writings that say that love comes from the heart.

I think one of the greatest thoughts that I can share is found in this simple statement. If you collected all the things that you have experienced as being love, it is only a “scratch on the eternal glass” of the love that God has for each of us.

While I am no expert on the subject of love, I have felt love in my life, as we all have. I would like to share with you, the thoughts of two Early Christian writers who had great spiritual insight and who wrote and experienced divine love. They were Saint Paul and Saint John.

In Corinthians 13:1-3 Paul speaks of love. He writes:

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing” Paul says that without love, one is empty, one is nothing and one gains nothing in life.

In the First Letter of John 4:7-12, the Apostle and Evangelist speaks of love. He writes:

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves, has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us, and his

love is made complete in us”. In just these 6 scripture passages, love is mentioned 15 times.

Today’s Gospel brings us to know the depth of God’s love. It is found in a young virgin named Mary, who, was righteous and truly loved her Lord. She was devoted to the love she shared this with her Lord in prayer and God chose this love and her prayers and choose her to bear His only begotten out of love.

My brothers and sisters: If but for a moment we could reflect upon the significance of the relationship that God had for this young virgin named Miriam or Mary, and in her innocence, the love and devotion she had for her Lord, we begin to understand the reason why it would be her to carry His only begotten Son who offered eternal life in Him, you will come closer to understand that spiritual love which comes from within. It is a gift, called “Grace” that God placed inside each of us for it comes from the One who gave us Life. It is in the Good News of Jesus Christ that we see love. That birth that took place that night in Bethlehem was given out of love and through our willingness to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives we become perfected in His love.

Amen.

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> CANDLE OF ADVENT - LOVE**

During this season of Advent, we lit candles representing “Hope”, “Peace” and “Joy.” Today, on this last Sunday of Advent, we light the fourth candle which represents “Love”. As we look back on our spiritual journey during the season of Advent, we recall the story of the longing of God’s people and the expectation that He would hear the cries of His people for deliverance and salvation. We read of the prophets such as Isaiah, Joel, Jeremiah, and Malachi who God would have them speak through prophecy that indeed there was a plan for our salvation. We read the story of John the Baptist, who was the last prophet who would usher in the Deliverer. The final piece of the miracle of the birth of our Lord is told by introducing us to Mary, and her visitation to her cousin Elizabeth as told in Gospel of Luke, As, we prepare for the coming of our Lord, we realize that the mortar that brought God’s divine plan into play for mankind was love.



## **MARY – THE MOTHER OF THE LORD**

**Mary** (Aramaic, Hebrew: מַרְיָם, Maryām, Miriam; Arabic: مريم, Maryam), venerated in the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran and many other Christian denominations.

"Saint Mary," "Mother Mary," the "Virgin Mary," the "Blessed Virgin Mary," or "Mary, Mother of Jesus," was a Jewish woman from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, and who lived c. 1<sup>st</sup> century BC to 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.

According to the Gospels of Matthew and Luke as found in the New Testament, Mary as a virgin and according to Christian theology, she conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit while still a virgin. This miraculous conception took place when she was already betrothed to Joseph and while traveling to Bethlehem with Joseph for a census, she gave birth to her first born, Jesus, or in Aramaic, Yeshua.

It is in the Gospel of Luke, that we read of her Annunciation, the time when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that she would bring forth a son. We read how she traveled, while through her pregnancy and stayed with her cousin, Elizabeth, who was many years older, bore John the Baptist.

One of the most beautiful of all readings as found in the New Testament is the song of praise of Mary, upon hearing that she would be the mother of the Anointed One of God. It is known as "The Magnificat."

Mary has been venerated since early Christianity and is venerated by millions of Christians to be the most blessed of all saints and is a patron saint of many countries. She is claimed to have miraculously appeared to believers many times over the centuries. She is believed to be the mother of Jesus, is the Mother of God (Greek: Θεοτόκος, *Theotokos*, lit. 'God-bearer') in the

Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran churches While The Catholic Church holds distinctive Marian dogmas, namely her status as the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity, as well as her Assumption into heaven. There are many other Christian denominations that have differences with all the dogmas proposed by Rome. It should also be known that Mary is highly revered in Islam, where one of the longer chapters of the Quran is devoted to her.

In Holy Scripture, we find that Mary was present in the life of Jesus and was present at the crucifixion and among those who went to the His tomb. She is depicted as a member of the early Christian community in Jerusalem and according to Catholic and Orthodox teachings, at the end of her earthly life, her body was raised directly into Heaven. This is known in the Christianity as the Assumption of Mary.



### **THE MAGNIFICANT OF MARY**

In Luke 1:39-56, we read of Mary, who traveled to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, the future mother of Saint John the Baptist. Scripture tells us that Elizabeth, upon hearing Mary's greeting was filled with the Holy Spirit and upon her giving a blessing to Mary, Mary declares:

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for He has regarded  
the low estate of His handmaiden.  
For behold, henceforth all generations  
will call me blessed;  
for He who is mighty  
has done great things for me,  
and holy is His name.  
And His mercy is on those who fear Him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm,  
He has scattered the proud

in the imagination of their hearts,  
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
and exalted those of low degree;  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
As He spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his posterity forever.

## **CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

2024-2025

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

#### **THE VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

9:00 pm – “Pasterka” – Mass of the Shepherds

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2024

#### **SOLEMNITY- THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

9:00 am - Holy Mass of the Eucharist to in the  
Traditional rite to celebrate the birth of  
our Lord, Jesus Christ.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2024

#### **STEPHEN, PROTO-MARTYR**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to  
Remember blessed St. Stephen.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2024

#### **JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist with the  
blessing and distribution of wine to the  
faithful.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2024

#### **SOLEMNITY – HOLY FAMILY**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to remember  
the Holy Family.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024

#### **PNCC - SOLEMNITY - HUMBLE SHEPHERDS**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to remember  
shepherds of Christmas.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025

#### **FEAST – CIRCUMCISION OF THE LORD**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist recalling the  
presentation and circumcision of Jesus.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2025

#### **SOLEMNITY – HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to honor the  
Most Holy Name of Jesus.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025

#### **SOLEMNITY – EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist with the  
traditional blessing of chalk incense  
and charcoal.



### **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 illnessness 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, I am so  
proud that our Parish family, here in South Deerfield,  
has throughout this past year of 2024, supported and  
became deeply involved in so many “outreach”  
programs in helping others: from donating non-  
perishable food items for our monthly “grocery  
giveaways,” to being involved in other ministries,  
such as “Adopt-A-Family,” “Warm the Children”  
and “Socks for Vets.” From the donations for school  
supplies to local schools as well as the many monetary  
donations that have been made.

We continue to ask for assistance and donations, if possible, for non-perishable food items that may be left in our Parish Hall. We are currently collecting toiletries for “survival kits” for the Northampton Survival Center which may be left in the vestibule of our church. A flyer of these 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**

Recently, I met with John Czyz, who has been involved for many years, to aid local veterans in our area, including, the **“Soldier On”** program, which provides clothing, etc. to our local veterans, John was very grateful and happy to receive from our parish over 600 pairs of socks, underwear and other items of clothing, both for men and women. I wish to thank all who gave towards this special “outreach.”



### **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, January 18th 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**

This past week, I was able to bring to Holy Family RC Parish the various gifts and donations that many of our parishioners made to aid single parent families with children through the Adopt-A-Family project.

This year our Parish adopted ten (10) families. I wish to thank all those who chose to adopt a family this Christmas season.

The “spirit” of this “season of giving,” was evident with the enormity of gifts that I found when I brought our donations over to Holy Family Parish. It should be noted that our Parish over the years have helped along with other churches, to make all this happen.

I remember the words of Jesus found in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats as found in Matthew 25:40:

**“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”**



### **WARM THE CHILDREN**

This year, our Parish decided again to help with the “Warm the Children” Campaign. This yearly project began in 1993 and is sponsored by Greenfield Recorder. The aim of this special ministry is to help provide children of Franklin County and the North Quabbin regions with coats and clothing. I wish to thank all who gave towards this special “outreach.”



### **OPLATEK – CHRISTMAS WAFER**

**Oplatek**, or the Polish Christmas Wafer, is available in the vestibule of our church.

**Also please note:** We currently have some potato & cheese as well as some cabbage pierogi available. Please see Linda Puchalski for purchase. Thank you.