



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church
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TODAY – JANUARY 5, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

10:00 am - Fellowship Hour

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

(Luke 2:15-16)

- V. The shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place.
- R. So, they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in a manger.

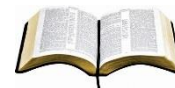
- C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God, and Father
We worship You; we give You thanks
We praise you for Your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

- C. The Lord be with you.
- R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray: Father in heaven, Creator of all, You ordered the earth to bring forth life and crowned its goodness by creating the human family. As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family teach us the sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life, and help us to live in peace with all people. 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 SIRACH
(Sirach 3:2-6,12-14)

For the Lord honored the father above the children, and he confirmed the right of the mother over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and whoever glorifies his mother is like one who lays up treasure. Whoever honors his father will be

gladdened by his own children, and when he prays, he will be heard. Whoever glorifies his father will have long life, and whoever obeys the Lord will refresh his mother; O son, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and against your sins it will be credited to you;

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Psalm 27:4; 84.5)

C. On thing I ask of the Lord; this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house all the days of my life.

R. Happy are those who dwell in Your house! They never cease to praise You.



A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS (Colossians 3:12-21)

Brothers and sisters: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

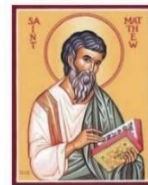
(Isaiah 45:15)

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

R: Alleluia, alleluia. alleluia

C: Truly with you God is hidden, the God of Israel, the Savior.

R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

(Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

Now when the Magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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 2:22b)

V. They took Him up to Jerusalem to resent Him to the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

C. Gracious Father, accept this sacrifice we offer in honor of the Holy Family, Through the prayers of Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, and of her husband, Joseph, unite our families in peace and love. We ask this in the name of Your Son, 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 43:10a)

V. You are My witnesses, says the Lord, My servants whom I have chosen.

CLOSING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray: Loving Father, we desire to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph in peace with you and one another. May this Holy Communion strengthen us to live like the Holy Family and to face the challenges of life. 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.



SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

I am currently reading, “**The World - A Family History of Humanity**,” which was written by Simon Begag Montefiore, a most noted author of many notable books, including his book “Jerusalem.”

In reading this epic 1344-page book, I have read about so many families throughout history and cultures who were evil and I also have read about families who have sought God, through their faith and devotion.

One review from this book reads: “**A magisterial world history unlike any other, that tells the story of humanity, through the one thing we all have in common: families.**”

As we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Holy Family**, our first thoughts, as Christians, are of the ‘righteous’ family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. In so many ways, this Holy Family sets forth the “apex” and the template of the standards of what a “family of God” should be.

In the Gospel of Luke, we find **Mary, or Mariam**, a young virgin, chosen by God and announced by the angel Gabriel, that she would be the “vessel” that would bear God’ beloved Son, Jesus, into the world.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we find **Joseph**, who would be told by the angel, probably Gabriel, not to be afraid to take Mary with child as his wife, and that:

“She will bear a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins.’

- Matthew 1:21

From the roots of our Judeo - Christian tradition, the origin of families begins in the first book of the Old Testament, in the Book of Genesis, of Adam, Eve and their sons, Cain, Abel and Seth.

Throughout the OT we also find other families who were “righteous” unto the Lord; the families of Noah who built an ark; Abraham and Sarah, Issac and Rebekah, Jacob and his family, as well as in the NT of Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist and of course, Mary and Joseph.

Although I have used the word “righteous” many times, was does it mean to be “righteous?”

The word “righteous” is defined as “the quality of being morally right or justifiable.” For Christians, it is being morally right and justifiable in the eyes of God and having a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, His Only-Begotten.

When we look at Joseph, Mary and Jesus, we note that they were “morally right” before God.

First, I believe that they observed prayer at home and the Jewish Holy Days by traveling to the temple in Jerusalem and probably went to their local synagogue for worship in Nazareth.

I believe that the Solemnity of the Holy Family reminds us of the standards for each Christian family; to be “righteous,” is to strive to have a right understanding with God. All must be willing to share in making one’s family secure through their words and interactions with each other. The following is but

some thoughts that should be the common responsibilities of each member of a family of God and shared with each other mutually:

1. Love – (1 Cor. 13)
2. Helpfulness - (Proverbs 18:19)
3. Forgiveness – (Matthew 18:21-22)
4. Respect to the family – (Prov. 31:27)
5. Concern for unity- (Psalm 133:1)
6. Worship- (1Cor.16:19)
7. Concern for others- (1 Tim. 5:3-4)

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey His commandments.”

- 1 John 5:1

“Nothing can bring a true sense of security into the home except true love.

- Rev. Billy Graham



THE STORY OF THE MAGI

On the twelfth day of Christmas, the Christian Church, both Western and most Eastern rites, celebrates the “**Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord**” which marks the end of the Christmas season.

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord, or the visitation of the “Magi” is celebrated by the Orthodox Church, on January 7th, twelve days following the birth of Christ. The final characters, which whatever calendar is used .is to this most special event were the Magi, who saw the “Star of David” and were led to the Christ child and who presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Many questions are asked about the Magi. Who were they? Where did they come from? How were they led by a star to Bethlehem, to the Christ child? Were the Magi really present at the birth of our Lord? How did they know about the “King of the Jews? “Were they themselves Jews?”

It has been stated in Holy Scripture that they came from the East, possibly from Persia or Arabia. and that they could have been priests, sages, philosophers or even astrologers, who were able to read the stars. But whatever their professions, they were “wise.”

In the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, we read:

“And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

There is no mention of the “Magi” or the “Three Kings” in any of the other three Gospel accounts and it was never mentioned how many Magi there were. We assumed there were only “three.”

It is interesting that Matthew does not mention a “stable” but rather a “house” and instead of a “baby, Matthew uses the word “child.” That would give credence to the story of king Herod ordering the “massacre of the innocents” of all male children two years of age and under.

Matthew states they “they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Why these gifts? What significance did gold, frankincense and myrrh play in honoring this king of His life and what was their value and purpose?

In value, gold speaks for itself, but in the time of Jesus, frankincense and myrrh were also considered very valuable. Consider frankincense. As a resin, it was burnt not only in Jerusalem, the Jewish Temple, but was also burnt in the Roman, Greek and other pagan temples. Myrrh was also a valuable gift, used in many applications, but mostly was used for the embalming and preservation of the deceased.

To this newborn king, these gifts were to represent the fullness of the understanding of whom this Messiah would be, as revealed in the Old Testament by the prophets. Gold represented the “kingship of the Messiah. Frankincense represented the “divinity” of the Messiah, and myrrh represented the “humanity” of the Messiah. We find that the third element of the coming Messiah would be a “prophet.” We read in the Gospel of Matthew 16: 13-14:

“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

It can be said that the value of these three gifts could also have been used to help support the Holy Family as they departed into the land of Egypt, where they stayed until the death of king Herod.

There has been much conjecture of the star that guided the Magi to the Christ child. We first read that they presented themselves to king Herod and inquired about where this “King of the Jews” might be found. “We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” Calling upon the Sanhedrin and seers, Bethlehem was prophesied as the place of His birth. We read that after the Magi left “the star appeared and went before them until it came and stood over where the child was.”

In 1603, Jonathan Kepler, the noted German astronomer researched the phenomena of the “Star of David.” Searching the ancient records, he understood that this star, might have been a conjunction of the planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, which would have created a new, extraordinary and a colored evanescent phenomenon. Others believe that this star might have been a comet that was recorded preceding the death of king Herod. Whatever this star was, it guided the Magi to worship Jesus the promised Messiah and it the first time that this most special child was to be honored by the Gentiles.



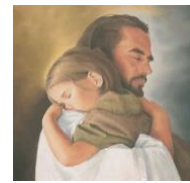
OUR PARISH CALENDAR **January 6th – January 11th**

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours

9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

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| Mon. 1/6 | Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord
Epiphany of our Lord
Wiltrudis, Widow & Abbess
Eminold, Abbot & Monk |
| Tue. 1/7 | Mass of Thanksgiving
Lucian of Antioch, Martyr
Canute of Denmark, Martyr
Tillo of Solignac, Priest & Confessor |
| Wed. 1/8 | Mass of Health and Healing
Apollanaris the Apologist, Bishop
Lucian of Beauvais, Priest & Martyr
Severinus of Noricum, Confessor |

Thurs. 1/9 Mass to the Holy Martyrs of God
Marciana the Martyr, Virgin & Martyr
Julian, Basillissa & Companions, Martyrs
Peter of Sebastea, Bishop



Fri. 1/10 Mass to the Holy Angwla of God
John the Good, Bishop
Agatho of Rome, Bishop
Marcian of Constantiople, Preist & C.

Sat. 1/11 Mass to the Most Holy Name of Jesus
Theodosius the Cenobite, Confessor
Hyginus of Rome, Bishop
Salvius of Amiens, Bishop



NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025
SOLEMNITY – BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

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



TODAY, JANUARY 5, 2025
POLSKIE KOLEDY SING ALONG

Today, Our sister Parish, **Saint Valentine PNCC** in Northampton, MA will hold its Annual **Polskie Koledy Sing Along** in their Church proper at **2 pm**. This annual event is sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee. Refreshments will follow the Sing-Along



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, please remember all our brothers and sisters, who 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 themselves into so many “outreach” programs in helping others:

From donating “non-perishable” food items for our monthly “grocery giveaways,” to being involved in the various ministries, such as “Adopt-A-Family,” the “Warm the Children” and “Socks for Vets” programs. I also want to thank all those who also made monetary many donations towards helping others. May God bless.

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.



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

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

I am happy to announce that through various donations made, we were able to provide ham dinners to 13 families and another 13 families who received groceries for the month of December.

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 bottle 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.



Can Soda Tabs

As most of you know, we are also collecting tabs from soda cans that are then donated to aid the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled children. Please save your can soda tabs. There are containers that are located in our Parish vestibule for this purpose. Thank you and may God bless



ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

Every Wednesday, at 12:00 Noon, a call to prayer is requested by the members of the National Mission and Evangelism Commission of the PNCC.

As we begin the New Year and observe on January 2nd, the Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus, may we ever draw closer to the “Bishop of our souls.”

“For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

- 1 Peter 2:25 KJV

Let us Pray: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Who said: “Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,” give, we ask You, the grace of Your most divine love, that with all our hearts, words and works we may love you and never cease to praise You. May we revere and love Your Holy Name for You will fail to govern those whom You establish in Your love. You live and reign for ever and ever. 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 2025: KNOW YOUR FAITH, GROW IN CHRIST

The Eastern Diocese will focus on:
The Person of Jesus Christ, His Identity and Mission.

Please join us for the **first** in a series of virtual
“Know and Grow” presentations on
Thursday January 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM (EDT).

Rev. Adam Piekarczywski will help us to explore the topic, **Who Is Jesus?**

Each presentation in 2025 will use biblical texts as a starting point, with lecture, meditation, discussion, and practical life applications .

To join via Zoom, please contact:
revpauls@yahoo.com or
ksobiechowski@yahoo.com



WHAT GIFT CAN I GIVE TO THE KING?

I think that so many of us have asked ourselves around the Christmas season, regarding buying presents or gifts for others:

“What can I buy? What size are they? What do they need versus what do they want?”

As we ponder this question, another question is asked at this “most wonderful time of the year.” What gift will I give to the King?

We learn from John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever shall believe in Him, should not perish but have eternal life.”

Each of us have certain abilities and talents that add to the “Body of Christ.” I believe that the greatest gift that we all can give Christ is the “uniqueness” of ourselves. In this New Year of 2025, may we come to know ever clearer our personal relationship with Him.