



## HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

15 THAYER STREET

SOUTH DEERFIELD, MA 01373

Rev. Fr. Robert M. Koerber, Pastor  
Parish email: koerber702@comcast.net

Emergency Contact: (413) 530-8575

Parish Phone: (413) 665-2129

Website: holynamesouthdeerfield.org

FB: Holy Name of Jesus, South Deerfield

### TODAY - DECEMBER 28, 2025 **SOLEMNITY OF THE HUMBLE SHEPHERDS**

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

### 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

(Wisdom 18:14-15; Psalm 93:2)

V. For when peaceful stillness compassed  
everything and the night in its swift course half  
spent, Your all powerful Word from heaven's  
royal throne bounded a fierce warrior, into the  
doomed land.

R. Your throne stands firm from of old; You are  
from everlasting, Lord.

V. 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: God our Father, when Your Son  
came into this world You chose humble  
shepherds as the first witnesses of His  
Incarnation. As we honor them, may we  
continue to proclaim His presence among us.  
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.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

#### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

(Isaiah 62:11-12)

The LORD has proclaimed to the ends of the  
earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your savior  
comes! See, His reward is with Him, His  
recompense before Him." They shall be called  
"The Holy People," "The Redeemed of the

Lord." And you shall be called "Cared For," "A City Not Forsaken."

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

### **GRADUAL**

(Psalm 45:2-3)

V. You are the most handsome of men; fair speech has graced Your lips

R. My heart is stirred by a noble theme, as I sing my ode to the king.



### **A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS**

(Galatians 4:1-7)

Brothers and sisters: I mean everything, so the heir is not of age,\* he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything, but he is under the supervision of guardians and administrators until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were not of age, were enslaved to the elemental powers of the world.\* But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

V. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

### **ALLELUIA VERSE**

(Psalm 93:1)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

V. The Lord is King, robed with majesty; the Lord is robed, girded with might.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE**

(Luke 2:15-20)

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with you.

V. A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So, they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



### **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.

And I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



### OFFERTORY VERSE

(Psalm 96:8)

V. Give to the Lord the glory due His Name! Bring  
gifts and enter His courts.

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

C. Heavenly Father, in Your mercy accept our gifts  
that we offer. By sharing in this Holy Eucharist  
may we come to more fully live the love we  
profess. 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.

### 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. Inflame my heart with the fire of Your  
love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

### COMMUNION VERSE

(Psalm 9:19)

V. The needy will never be forgotten, nor will the  
hope of the afflicted ever fade

### CLOSING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray: Almighty and Eternal God, through  
this Holy Communion may Your steadfast love  
be with us. Before all others You called the  
humble shepherds to give praise, honor and  
glory to Your Son at the stable in Bethlehem.  
We thank You that the poor, the humble and the  
forgotten in the world are remembered by You.  
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 HUMBLE SHEPHERDS

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the  
kingdom of God." - Matthew 5:3

The Solemnity or the Feast of the Humble  
Shepherds was established by our First Bishop,  
Francis Hodur, at the Special Synod of the PNC  
Church held on August 21-23, 1906 in Scranton,  
PA, along with the Feast of Brotherly Love. Isn't it  
interesting that Bishop Hodur would use these two  
solemnities to emphasize "humility and love?"  
Some would find the phrase "poor in spirit" to be  
somewhat confusing, but I think when we substitute  
the word "humble" for "poor in spirit," this  
scripture passage takes on a clearer understanding.

The shepherds who we honor today tended  
flocks of sheep for others and were among the  
poorest of all professions. They dedicated  
themselves to watch over their flocks at the peril of  
their own lives. They were "baby-sitters" 24/7 who  
took care of every need of their flocks. They would  
lead their sheep from a pen early in the morning for  
grazing. They would lead them to quiet brooks for  
drink and rest. They would look for sheep who  
strayed from the flock. Late at night, they would  
lead the sheep back to a pen and would count every  
sheep and examine them for any injuries. They  
would keep watch over their flock at night, to

protect them while they slept from wolves and hyenas. During the cold and inclement weather, they would guide them to protection in caves. As previous noted, these sheep were special “unblemished lambs,” who would be used in sacrifice at the temple and so these shepherds were important and valuable stewards who had many important responsibilities.

Even with all these responsibilities, shepherds were mostly “humbled in spirit”. To truly be righteous unto God, a shepherd could not be “self-centered,” arrogant or proud and so it was that God first announced the birth of His son to these humbled shepherds.

If we look at the Christmas story, God chose the humbled to usher in His kingdom of heaven on earth. He first chose Zachariah and Elizabeth, parents of John the Baptist, who he himself was to lead a very simple and humble life. He chose a simple carpenter, Joseph who would be the protector and provider for this ‘Son of God,’ and God would choose a young virgin, Mary, who would bear in her womb the “Word of God made flesh.”

Bishop Francis the Organizer of the PNCC was himself humble throughout his entire life. It is said that he did not wear a bishop’s cassock (house coat) with purple piping but rather wore a simple priest’s cassock. It has also been said that he did not wear a pectoral cross or other signatures of his Apostolic office, which included wearing an amethyst ring, declaring his Apostolic ascension as the Bishop of our beloved Polish National Catholic Church.

In the Letter of Saint James 2:5 we read: “Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised to those who love Him?

Humility is defined as “having or showing a modest or low estimate of one’s own importance.” There are so many who miss the message of God’s kingdom on earth because they are proud, arrogant, self-centered and are concerned only for their own being, ignoring others.

So many of the Parables of Jesus, such as the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican found in

Luke 18:9-14, speaks about the righteous being justified unto God.

If we would but take the example of those humbled shepherds whom the Angel of the Lord first came to and announced the birth of the Christ child, we would come to know and better understand, that it is only in humility, that the birth of the Christ child, who came in humility, is born and shines within ourselves.

## **OTHER PARISH NEWS**

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026**

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

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

In keeping with the Torah, Jesus was circumcised eight days after His birth. This decree of God, which first appeared in Genesis 17:10 around the year 1879 BC, when God gave to Abraham this commandment: “This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised.

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026**

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

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

### **NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026**

#### **SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to honor the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus.



### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025**

#### **ST. VALENTINE’S PNCC**

#### **NORTHAMPTON, MA**

#### **POLSKIE KOLENY**

2:00 pm -Polish Sing-A-Long sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee. All are invited. Refreshments to follow.



## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

**“And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.” - Luke 2:9**

May we pray for the health and healing for all those, who we remember in our prayer:

George Sadowski, Wayne Shaw, Linda Puchalski, Richard Foster, Carolyn Rapalye, Karen Herzig, Paula Winn, Stefanik Gadecki, Marge Sanderson, Brandon Poe, baby James, Liam & Evelyn Spatcher, Jennie Harrington, Eric Rose, Lori Lukomski, Mick Szumski, Toka Bara, Laurie Lis, Todd Odell, David Moskin, Laurie Lis, Renata Wos, Jan Clark, Zoe Kinnunen, as well as many of all our own personal intentions

**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 are ailing. Deliver them, according to Your will, from all 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, and are One God. Amen.

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

In the month of December, our Eastern Diocese has called upon all its members and others to offer prayer at 12:00 noon each Wednesday:

**Into Your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all who are dear to us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit and strengthen us for the work You have given us to do. May we complete that work with glad hearts. As we serve and walk before You, help us to live in holiness and righteousness all our days. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

## OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

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

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

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

### HELPING TO FEED THE HUNGRY

Our ministry to help feed the hungry, will be on on **Saturday, January 17, 2026** from 10:00 am until supplies last.

We wish to thank all those who have donated to our food ministry. Donations of items needed as well as monetary gifts will be greatly appreciated.

#### **We are still in need of the following:**

- Cereals and instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and Cranberry juices.
- Powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children's snack packs

**Please note:** Also, through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect “full sized” containers of **personal care items and cleaning items** to aid others in need.

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers).
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers,



**Very Rev. Joseph Soltsiak**

Father Senior Joseph Henry Soltsiak went home to be with the Lord he served on earth on December 22, 2025 after battling multiple illnesses.

Born September 14, 1958 in Manchester, NH, he was the son of Henry and Emily (Tomaszewski) Soltsiak. He grew up in the shadow of his grandfather, Bishop Joseph Soltsiak, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church (PNCC). At an early age, his call to serve the Lord at the altar was formed, and after graduation from Manchester West High School in 1976, he moved to Scranton, PA to study at Savonarola Theological Seminary, where he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on May 2, 1979.

He was proud to serve in the National Catholic Church as priest, serving at various parishes across the PNCC, including Assistant Pastor at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton, PA; as well as in the role of Pastor at Holy Name of Jesus in South Deerfield, MA; Holy Saviour in Union City, CT, and St. Joseph's in Westfield, MA.

Upon assuming the pastorate of St. Joseph's in 1994, that same year he was raised to the dignity of Senior Priest, administering the Eastern Diocese Central Seniorate since that time.

Well before he was "Father", he was Joe, who was always a sports enthusiast. He played high school and semi-pro baseball, and as a senior in high school, earned All-New England honors in the javelin throw. Like many in the area, he was an avid fan of the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and

Celtics, in that order. A perfect day ended with one of those teams on his tv, and anyone who visited the rectory was aware of "the shrine" to these teams.

His service to the community was of such importance, as in his various stops, he was a devoted member of the Kiwanis, chaplain to the Westfield Fire Department, the Westfield Clergy Association, and more. He was especially proud to be involved with "Our Community Table", the Westfield Soup Kitchen, where he would often cook Polish delicacies, making sure that St. Joseph's provided "the best meal of the month."

He is missed by his wife of 44 years, Janice (Beggin), formerly of Olyphant, PA; sons Rev. Jason H. Soltsiak (Natalie) of North Royalton, OH, Andrew M. Soltsiak of Westfield, MA, and Nicholas J. Soltsiak of Westfield, MA; brother Stefan of Forestville, CA; grandsons Aiden, Brady, and Jonah, as well as many others who knew and loved him as "Papa".

Fr. Sr. Joe was predeceased by his parents Henry and Emily Soltsiak as well as son Anthony in 2020.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church or St. Joseph's Polish National Catholic Church.

Calling Hours take place at Firtion-Adams Funeral Home 76 Broad St. Westfield, MA from 4:30pm-7pm on Sunday, December 28th.

Father Senior Joseph will lie in state from 9am-10am at St. Joseph's PNCC at 73 Main Street in Westfield, MA on Monday, December 29th.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated by his son, Rev. Jason Soltsiak, at 10am.

Final resting place will be at Holy Trinity Cathedral Cemetery in Manchester, NH.

C. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

R. And may Perpetual light shine upon him.

C. May he rest in peace.

R. Amen.