



Christ is Born!!! Rejoice!!

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

On the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus, our Holy Church offers three separate Masses to be celebrated, each of them focusing on different aspects of the birth of our Savior. During the second one, at the Morning Mass, we hear from the Gospel of St. Luke: “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this Child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” (Luke 2:15-20)

There is certainly much here that we need to consider as we celebrate this year a Christmas that is unlike any that has occurred in our lifetimes. As we face challenging times, what are we to take from these words? How should we respond to the message of the birth of the Savior, especially in this time of difficulty and pandemic?

As we consider this Gospel and ponder it we can spend some time putting ourselves in the place of those within the passage. A spiritual exercise such as this is especially appropriate since these words are not just a retelling of a historical event, important as that event is within salvation history, but they are meant to say something for us today and therefore should guide us in our daily lives in the here and now. In examining this we consider the words and

actions of the Blessed Virgin Mary and also of the shepherds.

In the Scripture passage we are told that the Blessed Virgin Mary “treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19) What exactly are we to take from these words and from her attitude? The key words, of course, are “treasured” and “pondered.” We can then ask ourselves, are we pondering and then treasuring the words of Scripture and also then how these words of Scripture are lived out in our worship and daily lives?

We must consider that to “treasure” these words and how they are lived, we have to go beyond “hearing” them or merely “knowing” them. I am sure that all of us, even from the youngest among us, can in general retell the story of the Nativity. We all “know” it. I am also sure that over the years we have “heard” it many times. And even this year, while many may still be too afraid to attend their parish churches, they can still “hear” the Gospel message in various ways, online or through reading their Bible. But that’s just a beginning. That’s not “treasuring” those words. We are called to take the Gospel message of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and let it become a part of who we truly are. We must have it penetrate every aspect of our daily lives and also motivate us to more fully live out that Gospel message as well as all of the teachings of Jesus.

This must begin with our worship. Mary, in the annunciation, gave a very firm “yes” to God and the work of His mission on earth through her. This time of year is an opportunity for us as well, like Mary, to say “yes” to God in our own lives. It begins within

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Email Addresses for the P.N.C.C. Offices

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and *God's Field* are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@PNCC.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop — Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@PNCC.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer — Joan Scheuneman
treasurer@PNCC.org

God's Field - Rola Boża Editor — Julie Orzell
godsfld@PNCC.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

God's Field — Rola Boża Publication Information

The deadline for article submissions is the 1st of the month; online publication date is mid-month. Submissions received after the 1st will be included in the following month's issue.

Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@PNCC.org and to godsfld@PNCC.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

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our worship lives. I am very concerned about the situation within our nation that has continually stated that we can participate in the essential aspects of our lives, but worship isn't one of them. If we truly "treasure" and "ponder" the words of Almighty God within our lives we must conclude that He desires to have a true and close relationship with us. He sent us His only-begotten Son so that we could be more truly united to Him. If we ponder and treasure this message, then we must put the worship of Almighty God at the center of our lives. While I certainly know that there are many and true reasons while one might be concerned about being in the public setting of worship, I also know that because the worship of Almighty God is so important to us as Polish National Catholics we have gone to great lengths to make sure that we can all participate safely and securely in the worship of Almighty God within our parishes. And I can think of no better time to return to that worship than the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. As we celebrate that moment when Jesus comes to us, let us also think about our returning to the worship of God and spending time within His presence during Holy Mass.

We are all likewise to consider the actions of the shepherds within this Gospel passage as well. When the shepherds heard the announcement of the angels, they could have very easily returned to their own work and their own lives and done nothing else. Even if they were happy to hear this good news, they could have easily done nothing else. But they did not. They went to seek out the newborn King, they shared the message of the angels and then when they finally did return, they did so glorifying and praising God. This too must be our response to knowing that Jesus Christ is once again born into the world through the liturgy of our Holy Church. Like the shepherds we are all called to go and see. We are called to seek out Christ once again within the celebration of the Holy Mass; we are called to encounter Him present upon our altars; we are called to be with Him in those quiet moments of prayer within this vital part of our lives as we worship at Holy Mass.

And then we are called to once again go back to our lives, but now changed because we have seen and encountered Christ the Lord. We are to be ones who go about our lives glorifying and praising Almighty God, in the ways we work together; in the ways we

speak and act; in the many things that we do to serve each other as fellow Christians.

My brother bishops within the Polish National Catholic Church, my brothers within the priesthood and diaconate, my dear brothers and sisters of our Holy Church, as we know that Jesus Christ is coming to us once again in this season of the Nativity let us celebrate a joyous time in the worship of Almighty God as we celebrate the birth of His only-begotten Son through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us "treasure," appreciate and love these vital moments of our lives and then let us, like the shepherds, go out to live our lives glorifying and praising God in how we treat each other, how we work together to build up His kingdom and how we support each other, especially as we are still facing these difficult and challenging times.

Let us worship and live as the Polish carol reminds us:

Christ is born, sings an angel chorus,
Now on earth, comes to dwell among us.
In a lowly manger bed,
Baby Jesus rests His head.

Now rejoice! Now rejoice! Now rejoice!

Christ is born, stars proclaim His glory.
Heaven's hosts come to spread the story,
Lowly shepherds heed their call.
Rush to greet the Lord of all.

Filled with awe, Filled with awe, Filled with awe.

Heaven's light fills them with a warm glow,
Before Him, they fall down on knees low.
They confirm Him as their Lord;
Through their hearts and deeds adored.
He is Lord. He is Lord. He is Lord.

Let us in hearts and deeds adore the newborn King, Jesus Christ our Lord. I wish you all a truly blessed Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. And I wish you a New Year in which all are wrapped in the safe arms of our Heavenly Father and that is filled with the blessings and good things of Almighty God.



In This Time ... of Longing

Rev. Jim Konicki, Chair, P.N.C.C. Vocations Commission

I absolutely love the Advent journey, and particularly our Church's repertoire of Advent music. *From Heaven A Voice, Hail, O Blessed Mary, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* – hymns that are at once joyous and that so well capture our expectation and longing. *Advent Longing* wraps these all together:

*In this time of Advent longing,
We await our Savior's coming.
Filled with hope and expectation
Of the coming peace salvation
Z żalem serca rozważajmy,
z Patryarchami wołajmy.*

If there were ever a year in which we might identify with longing, it is this one. Of course, nothing to compare with the 1,992 years of longing between Abraham and Jesus. Israel had a severe case of longing...

It might be helpful, beyond just considering perspective as to whose longing is worse (history is a tough enough judge), to consider what we are longing for. Do I want a return to the normal? Certainly, we miss going out, hanging with friends, traveling, but it may be a longing for something far more serious – a lost job, a broken relationship, freedom from an old temptation that has come back in isolation. Whichever of these longings is pressing on our spirits, notice that they are all about looking back.

Advent is never about looking back. It is a longing for what is next, new, and changed.

Advent calls us to *await our Savior's coming* again – looking forward. Advent calls us fill up with *hope and expectation* – looking forward. Advent calls us to cease looking over our shoulder and to absolutely look forward, to long for what will be and what we can be.

What was lost in these times may have been inconvenient or may have been deeply felt and painful, may have really hurt, but hope, expectation, and longing remain. The gift of Christmas will still come. Christ is still enthroned on high and He continues to exhort us: Look forward, long for tomorrow.

Looking at ourselves through other's eyes, we might think people perceive us as being ok with what is, the status quo. But inside we know we are an Advent people, looking forward to what will be, what is possible. We could say along with Bugs Bunny, "They don't know me very well, do they?"

We have all faced challenge after challenge including the current sets of crises. We know we cannot help but look forward. We do not want to go back, not one day, one month, or one year. Forward is where *hope and expectation* are, where the *Savior's coming* is, where our future is. So, we long.

Looking forward then, where will we be one day, one month, or one year forward. Will this Advent take hold of us and move us from a time of longing to a new and fresh reality in the place God wants us to be? Indeed, God speaks to us through our longing, as Advent people, to move forward, into the future. You are called to speak *hope and expectation*. So, take the step forward to a future as a priest or deacon of our Holy Church. Call or text me at 518-522-0944 or E-mail me at frjim@holynamencc.org.

On behalf of all the members of Church's Vocations Commission: Fr. Mark Niznik, Fr. Carmen Bolock, Fr. Antulio Alvarado, Fr. David Gaydos, and Deacon Jim Ploskonka we pray that the light of the Christ Child envelops you and meets your longing with the blessings of lived hope, fulfilled expectation, and a blessed future.



The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Pamphlets Available to Parishes

THE SOLEMNITY OF HUMBLE SHEPHERDS

POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH



THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

SOLEMNITY

A Solemnity is a day of great importance in the Church commemorating significant events pertaining to our Lord Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, All Saints, the Trinity, and the Holy Spirit. Solemnities that are unique to the Polish National Catholic Church include the Solemnity of Brotherly Love, the Solemnity of the Christian Family, the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds and the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church.

The Solemnity of Humble Shepherds is Sunday, December 27, 2020. A full color brochure describing this unique P.N.C.C. feast is again available for purchase from the Office of the Prime Bishop.

25 brochures: \$8.50

50 brochures: \$15.00

75 brochures: \$21.50

100 brochures: \$27.50

(All prices include shipping costs.)

Checks, payable to P.N.C.C. Book Department, should be sent to:

P.N.C.C. Book Department
National Church Center
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Order forms are available online at:

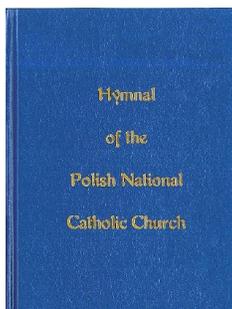
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Time to rejoice!

Want to sound heavenly?.



Purchase a P.N.C.C. Hymnal and sing joyous songs!



Hard Cover \$25.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping; Spiral Bound: \$30.00/each + \$5.00/each Shipping

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P. Kazinetz

Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C.

The Polish National Catholic Church Commission on History and Archives announced on January 14, 2008 in a God's Field article that it planned to prepare and publish an Encyclopedia of the Polish National Catholic Church (P.N.C.C.). Unfortunately, we were never able to muster support from within the Church. In order to not overwhelm any one person, many people are needed to contribute to the Encyclopedia's production.

Over the past 30 or so years, many questions about our Church, its beliefs, organization, activities, societies, committees, commission, mission activity, ecumenical activities, parishes, clergy and lay members have been asked of the members of the Commission and others who belong to our Church. At the present time there is no single source of accurate, truthful information about the entire P.N.C.C. This void could be filled by such an Encyclopedia. It would also give the P.N.C.C. excellent exposure to other denominations, researchers, the academic community and genealogists. It could also be used to focus our energies in further developing this jewel of ours. Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert M. Nemkovich often said that our light was hidden under a bushel. I believe that an Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C. would help to lift this bushel.

As envisioned the Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C. will have 22 sections. These will contain the following information:

(1) The section on Theology and Beliefs of the P.N.C.C. would include listings for the: Theology of the P.N.C.C., Eleven Great Principles of the P.N.C.C., Apostolic Succession of the P.N.C.C., Beliefs of the P.N.C.C., Liturgy of the P.N.C.C., Declaration of Scranton, Union of Scranton, International Catholic Bishops Conference (ICBC), Missals of the P.N.C.C., Celibacy, Marriage, Birth Control, Divorce, the Sacraments of the P.N.C.C., Catechisms of the P.N.C.C. and Feasts of the P.N.C.C., including the four Feast Days exclusive to the P.N.C.C.;

(2) The section on Masses, Services and Liturgical Practices of the P.N.C.C. would include the languages used for Masses in our parishes (Latin, Polish, Lithuanian, French, Spanish, Italian, Slovakian, and Hungarian) and how the language of the Mass changed over the years;

(3) The section on Intra-church Development would

include listings for CONVOs, Zlot, Kurs, Youth Associations of the P.N.C.C. and Dioceses, Polish National Union, Davie, FL Vacation Center - Western Diocese, McHenry, IL Vacation Center - Western Diocese - Warsaw Village, Thornhurst, PA Vacation Center- Central Diocese, Conference of Scholars, Scouting Awards, Altar Boy Retreats, Altar Server Retreats, Adult Retreats and Choir Concerts, Polish National Catholic Church, Lithuanian National Catholic Church, Slovak National Catholic Church, Polish Catholic Church, Polish National Catholic Church of Canada;

(4) The section on P.N.C.C. Synods will identify the results of General, Special and Diocesan Synods;

(5) The section on Constitution and Laws of the P.N.C.C. describes the changes to the 15 editions, the change from being written in the Polish Language to the English language;

(6) The section on Organizational Structure, would include listings for the: Supreme Council, Committees, Commissions, Dioceses, Seniorates, and Deaneries;

(7) The section on Polish Organizational Activities would include listings for the Polish National Alliance and the Polish American Congress;

(8) The section on Societies of the P.N.C.C. would include the purpose and descriptions of each, their starting dates, their organizational structure, and their constitutions. These societies include: God's Love, Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Children, Polish Girl's Society of the Most Holy Mother Mary, Resurrection, Maria Konopnicka, Polish Women, Home for the Aged, Polish Girls Society, the Friends of the Polish National School Society, the Divine Love Society, Circles of Friends of the Polish Soldier, the Young Men's Society of Resurrection and Women's Suffrage in the P.N.C.C.;

(9) The section on Committees and Commissions of the P.N.C.C. would include the purpose and descriptions of each, their starting dates and history. These include: Commission on Administration and Discipline, Matter of Bishops Commission, Celibacy Issues Commission, Church Mission Commission, Church Flag Commission, Church Name Commission, Confession of Faith Issues Commission, Constitution Commission, Commission on Division into

Dioceses, Education Commission, Commission for Election of Bishops, Humanitarian-Social Commission, Liturgical Commission, Liturgical Books and Publications Commission, Marriages and Divorces Commission, Commission for National Church Matters in Poland, Publications Commission, Matter of Rites Commission, Relationships with other churches Commission, Seminary Issues Commission, Seminary Commission, and the Commission for Territorial Division;

(10) The section on Parishes would include the identification of the location of and a short history of every parish; both active parishes and those that have been closed or merged with other parishes, Parishes of the P.N.C.C., cathedrals of the P.N.C.C., rectories of the P.N.C.C., cemeteries, grammar schools, parish incorporation, altar servers, Parish Committees, stained glass windows and Fellowship Halls;

(11) The section on Clergy, would include names of deacons, priests, senior priests and bishops; dates and location of their births, deaths, burials, and ordinations, Consecrators of Bishops, Permanent Diaconate Program, Clergy Hospitalization Plan and the Clergy Pension Plan;

(12) The section on Dioceses would include, their development, history and geographical changes;

(13) The section on mission activities would include listings for those in the United States, Canada, Italy, Germany, Brazil and Poland, the Polish Catholic Church, Outreach to Brazil, and Anglican Rite Churches;

(14) The section on Ecumenical Activities, would include listings for the: Old Catholic Church, Union of Utrecht, Roman Catholic Church/Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue, Episcopal Church/Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue, Orthodox Church/Polish National Catholic Church Dialogue, Nordic Catholic Church, and Council of Church Membership;

(15) The section on Publications will list the titles and authors, publisher, and date of publication of publications about the Church and its members. It would include listings for the Publications: by the P.N.C.C., by Clergy of the P.N.C.C., by Laity of the P.N.C.C., by Committees of the P.N.C.C., by the Commissions of the P.N.C.C., by parishes, and by non-members. These will include Rola Boża [God's Field], Straż [The Guard], Trybuna [Tribune], Przebudzenie [Awakening], Publications about the

P.N.C.C. and P.N.C.C. Studies;

(16) The section on Buildings and Facilities constructed by the P.N.C.C., Parishes and Dioceses would include listings for the: National Church Center, Diocesan Chanceries, Mausoleum - Scranton, PA, P.N.C.C. Archives, Eastern Diocesan Archives and Western Diocesan Archives;

(17) The section on Publicity would include Radio Station programs, Television advertising and Internet websites;

(18) The section on Relationships to the Parishes Developed by: Bishop Kozłowski, Bishop Kaminski and other Independent Polish parishes which later became part of the P.N.C.C.;

(19) The section on Charitable Activities, The section on charity would include listings for these programs: Medical Bridge to Poland, Post WW1 Aid to Poland, Post WW2 Aid to Poland, Sponsorship of Immigrants, aid after floods or fires in P.N.C.C. parishes and aid to non-P.N.C.C. charities;

(20) The section on Spójnia Farm would include listings for: Ustronie, the Home for the Aged and Disabled, Spójnia Manor, the Bishop Hodur Retreat Center and Farm Product Sales;

(21) The section on Polish National Union includes short history of the PNU, Spójnia, Inc. and what has been accomplished by the PNU.

(22) The section on Prominent P.N.C.C. Laity would include listings for: their activity within the P.N.C.C., dates and location of their births, deaths, and burials.

There is much work yet to be done in organizing this extensive project. Format decisions need to be made. First would be the manner in which the book is to be organized. Should it be alphabetical? An alphabetical structure is the most conventional; however it has the downside in that the book must be completed in its entirety before publication. Should it be organized by topical sections? This lends itself to prioritizing the gathering of information and publishing in sections. It would require that an index be a separate volume and also that the index be the last book published.

There are many items to be discussed and finalized yet. These include the number of books, page sizes, font selections, paper quality, printing methods, the thickness of each volume related to the use of the

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(Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C. - Continued from Page 7.)

books. Also to be discussed and finalized is whether the book should be published only in book form or in addition in electronic format, either DVD or CD.

Guidelines for writers need to be established. These will include: page limits, word count maximums, photograph submission format, text entry submission formats. These would help determine the number of pages and consequently the number of volumes.

This is not going to be a short term project. We are going to need a lot of help: writers, reviewers, proof

readers, fact checkers, section editors, index preparers and computer formatters are needed. Please consider volunteering your help and be a part of this project. Ask others to help with this worthwhile project.

The P.N.C.C. History and Archives Commission would like to hear from the members of the P.N.C.C. about this project. What do you think about the contents described above? If you are willing and capable of working on the Encyclopedia of the P.N.C.C., please contact the P.N.C.C. History and Archives Commission.

P.N.C.C. Joseph Francis Seliga,
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives



2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar - Ordo Orders Now Being Accepted

The 2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar – Ordo is available for ordering at this time. The cost of the Liturgical Calendar is \$12.75 per book for pick-up orders or \$15.75 per book for mail orders to U.S.; \$25.00 per book for mail orders to Canada. (Please note that additional shipping costs may accrue for large volume orders depending on weight and distance shipped. Additional shipping costs will be invoiced accordingly.)

To order your 2021 Ordo, please fill out the order form, below, and mail it with your payment. Your Ordo(s) will be shipped to you as soon as they return from the printer.

PARISHES/CLERGY NO LONGER AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A COPY OF THE ORDO PRIOR TO PAYMENT. No phone orders or email orders will be shipped until full payment has been received.

We appreciate your support for this very important P.N.C.C. liturgical reference calendar.

Detach invoice, below, complete and send with payment to

The Polish National Catholic Church – L R C

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Your order will be shipped as soon as the Ordo becomes available.



Please detach, complete and return this bottom portion only with your remittance.

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2021 Liturgical Reference Calendar (Ordo); Includes shipping cost: \$15.75 U.S.; \$25.00 Canada			
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Please make check payable to: Polish National Catholic Church – LRC			
			Thank you for your payment.

2021 Home Liturgical Wall Calendar Orders Now Being Accepted

The Polish National Catholic Church has full color 2021 home liturgical calendars for sale on a first-come, first-served basis. This calendar with original photographs for each month includes information concerning P.N.C.C. holy days. We urge you to order calendars for your parishioners as soon as possible because our supply will be very limited.

Calendar prices have increased slightly due to an increase in paper and printing costs. Shipping costs have also changed. The chart below can be used for calculating your costs.

Quantity	<u>Cost per Calendar</u>	Calendar Cost Sub-total	U.S. Shipping	U.S. Total	Canada Shipping (USD)	Canada Total (USD)
1	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.00	\$6.75	\$3.75	\$7.50
2	\$3.75	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$10.50	\$5.05	\$12.55
3	\$3.75	\$11.25	\$3.00	\$14.25	\$6.15	\$17.40
4	\$3.75	\$15.00	\$3.50	\$18.50	\$12.25	\$27.25
5	\$3.75	\$18.75	\$3.50	\$22.25	\$20.75	\$39.50
6	\$3.75	\$22.50	\$3.50	\$26.00	\$20.75	\$43.25
7	\$3.75	\$26.25	\$3.90	\$30.15	\$32.00	\$58.25
8	\$3.75	\$30.00	\$3.90	\$33.90	\$32.00	\$62.00
9	\$3.75	\$33.75	\$3.90	\$37.65	\$32.00	\$65.75
10	\$3.60	\$36.00	\$4.50	\$40.50	\$50.25	\$86.25
11+	\$3.60	\$39.60+	*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*		*Depends on package weight & recipient's geographic location*	

*An invoice for shipping costs will be included in your shipment.

PLEASE NOTE that an additional \$30.00 is required for ad setup for a sponsor (quite often a funeral director) and specific parish information regarding Sunday services, telephone numbers, name of pastor, etc.

Please place your order and send in your payment as soon as possible so that we can ship your calendars to you before the New Year. We have already begun shipping out paid orders. Hurry and get your order and payment in because this year's stock is limited, and once we have run out of stock, no more will be printed! You must pay for your calendars in full prior to us shipping them to you.

Thank you for your continued support of this Church-wide endeavor. If you pick up your order at the National Church Center, there will be no shipping charge.

(Detach here, complete and send in order slip with your payment. **Only paid calendar orders will be shipped.**
If you have a sponsor paying for your calendars, please inform them that they must pay for the cost of the calendars prior to them being shipped out.
We will send invoices only for extra cost of shipping)

(You will be invoiced for shipping costs if they must be calculated at the time of packing.)

2020 P.N.C.C. Calendar Order Form

<u>Shipping Information</u>	<u># of Calendars</u>	<u>Cost of Calendars</u>	<u>Ad Fee</u> (if applicable)	<u>Shipping Cost</u> (if calculable)*	<u>Total Enclosed</u>
Name					
Address					
City, State Zip Code					

***PLEASE NOTE:** We cannot predetermine the cost of shipping on orders of 11 or more calendars because this cost is calculated by weight and geographic location of recipient. You will be invoiced for this cost in your shipment.



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



We wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!
Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert and Florence Nemkovich
Cape Coral, FL

Merry Christmas!
Michael R. & Mary Gorgol Mietlicki
Scotch Plains, NJ

Chancery of the Eastern Diocese
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary
May the birth of our Lord bring joy to the world.

Wishing all a Blessed Christmas!
Clergy Circle of the Western Diocese
Bishop Jarosław Rafalko, Priests and Deacons

May this Christmas season bring peace to all!
Merry Christmas!

National United Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

United Young Men's Society of Resurrection
Glory to the Newborn King!
Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Central Diocese Board Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Laura Alfano, President

Praying your Christmas is filled with miracles and memorable moments you'll cherish forever!

Eastern Diocese United Women's Society of the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Chaplain

ANS - Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA
Carol Bondurich - President
Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year!

The Adoration Society of Holy Trinity Cathedral P.N.C.C., Manchester, NH
Susan Bodner, President
A Blessed Christmas and New Year

All Saints Cathedral Parish, Chicago, IL
Rt. Rev. Jarosław Rafalko, Pastor
O come, let us adore Him!

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH
Pastor Bp. Paul Sobiechowski, Chair Raymond J. Pieczarka, Vice-chair Stefan Swiadas,
Treasurer Frances C. Dobosz, Rec. Sec. Jo-Ann O'Connell, Fin. Sec. Nancy Reilly

Christmas Blessings to all!
Cathedral Parish of St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr
Scranton, PA

Blessed Trinity Parish — Fall River, MA
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Pastor
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Healthy New Year 2021!



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Christmas Blessings and Joyous New Year Wishes
Church of Resurrection, Brooklyn, New York
Parish Committee and Father Koterba*

Wesołych Swiąt!

*Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT
Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor*

*Guardian Angel Parish, Los Angeles
Fr. Andrew Machowski*

May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Good Shepherd Parish, Plymouth, PA
Very Rev Lucian Urbaniak and Parishioners
Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*Holy Cross Church
220 Browertown Road, Woodland Park, NJ
May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

Wesołych Swiąt!

*Very Rev. Marian Pociecha, Committee & Parishioners
Holy Cross P.N.C.C., Syracuse, NY*

*Holy Cross Parish — Central Falls, RI
Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., Administrator
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas & Healthy New Year 2021!*

*Holy Cross Parish — Hamtramck, MI
Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak
His birth brings hope, joy, peace and love to the world.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Father Paul Zomerfeld and
Holy Cross Parish, Portage, PA*

*Holy Family Parish
1921 Eden Park Blvd.
McKeesport, PA 15132*

*Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA
Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid
May the peace, joy and love of Christmas live in your heart all year long.*

*Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a healthy New Year!
The Parishioners of Holy Trinity P.N.C.C., Plantsville, CT
Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor*

*Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Lilly, PA
Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill, Pastor
Rejoice! Christ is born!*

*Our Lord's Ascension Parish, Bethlehem, PA
Rev. Bogdan Yurchishin, Pastor
Christ in Bethlehem was born — Let us rejoice and give thanks to God!*

(Continued on Page 12.)

(Continued from Page 11.)



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*Our Savior Chapel — Tripp Park, Scranton, PA
The Right Rev. Bernard J. Nowicki, Pastor
May the love of our Lord and Savior fill your holidays with joy!*

*Our Savior Parish
610 North Beech Daly Road, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
A Blessed Christmas to all!*

*Wesołych Świąt!
Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI
Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor*

*Merry Christmas!
Resurrection Parish of the P.N.C.C.
Temperance, MI*

*St. Adalbert's P.N.C.C., Dickson City, PA
Very Rev. William Chromey, Pastor
May the light and love of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas season.*

*St. Casimir's P.N.C.C., Lowell, MA
Rev. Andrzej Tenus - Pastor, and Members of Our Parish Family
Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year!*

*St. Francis Parish, East Meadow
Rev. Andrzej Koterba, Pastor
May you have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*St. John the Baptist P.N.C.C. — Frackville, PA
Rev. Robert Plichta, Pastor
Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year!*

*St. Joseph's Mission Parish, Fairhope, PA
Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas.
Father Felix Pyzowski and Parish Members*

*St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA
May this year's celebration of God's light dispel darkness.
Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor*

*Wishing all a Blessed Christmas!
St. Mary Parish — South Bend, Indiana
www.stmarypncc.org*

*St. Mary's Parish, Duryea, PA
Rev. Fr. Carmen G. Bolock, Pastor
May we have a Merry Christmas and may 2021 be healthy and happy!*

*St. Mary's Parish, Parma, OH, wishes everyone
God's blessings this Christmas and through 2021.
Fr. Jason Soltysiak, Pastor*

*Christmas Greetings!
St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cedar Lake, IN
Very Rev. John Kowalczyk, Jr.*

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Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, P.N.C.C.****Rt. Rev. John Mack**

I begin this greeting with the words of a song entitled “Welcome to Our World” written by Lloyd Larson. The song begins: “Tears are falling, hearts are breaking, how we need to hear from God. You’ve been promised, we’ve been waiting; welcome Holy Child. Hope that you don’t mind our manger, how I wish we could have known. But long-awaited holy Stranger, make yourself at home, please make yourself at home.”

As we approach once again our celebration of His Incarnation, His coming down to earth to save us from sin, there is always the risk to be drawn away from the spiritual and into the secular in our preparations for this monumental event. When faced with the words “how I wish we could have known,” we oftentimes rationalize away our own shortcomings and sins by saying: even most of those who were living in that era and in the vicinity, were oblivious to His coming. One of the villains of the Christmas story for us is the innkeeper who turned away the holy family. Luke’s Gospel records these words: “And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” No one knows for sure what type of inn this was. Perhaps only a small collection of shacks with a central space for the animals; others have speculated that it was nothing more than a cave with some livable space carved out. We really have no evidence of exactly who delivered the sad news or why we’ve been angry at this innkeeper for two thousand years. The perceived inappropriateness of such humble surroundings for the birth of the King of kings still haunts us.

The church fathers waxed poetic about the meaning of Jesus’ birth. St. Jerome writes, “The Lord is born on earth and He does not have even a cell in which to be born, for there was no room for Him in the inn. The entire human race had a place, and the Lord about to be born on earth had none.” The reading from the Book of Micah predicted the location centuries beforehand. “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.” The innkeeper probably didn’t have Micah in his head as he began the final rounds of closing up his establishment for the night, when the knock came. The couple at his door were a distraction, an inconvenience, a problem he didn’t plan for. This is how God often enters our life. From David, the shepherd boy, tending his sheep when he was summoned inside where a priest named Samuel poured oil on his head to a fallen prince who was working the backside of the desert when God appeared to him in a flaming bush and told him to go to Egypt. All these were inconvenienced by our God. We are tempted, with the hindsight of twenty centuries, to judge. Could the innkeeper not have found better accommodations for Jesus? Could he not have given up his own bed for a pregnant woman? But before we judge, we need to examine our own hearts and their preparedness this Christmas. We too, are often disrupted by Jesus.

We are religious up until the point it costs us something. We want a Jesus who forms Himself around our priorities and who can be sprinkled on top of our agendas. But Jesus invades our lives and disrupts them. He asks us to leave our nets and follow Him. He asks us to drop our ambition and join His mission. He asks us to leave behind our idols and worship Him with devotion. While we were yet sinners, while we were apathetic, ignorant and unfazed, Jesus came for us. This is the Jesus who knocks. Where we least expect Him, He comes most fully. He invades our lives; He goes where there is no room so we might find a home in Him. The One who had no home is making a home for us. The One who had no place to lay His head is our rest, our comfort, our joy. The words: “how I wish we could have known” are no less hollow today as they were two thousand years ago because we do know -- if we open our eyes and ears to His presence in the world. In the end, the innkeeper – whoever he or she was, found room for Jesus. I hope and pray that the same may be true for us in this season of His Birth.

May your Christmas be blessed with His abiding presence both now and in the coming year.



Central Diocese

Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Central Diocese, P.N.C.C.

Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki

I was pouring over the catalog I planned to order this year's Christmas cards from, the kind of cards with cut outs and gold and silver foil and elegant fonts in crimson and cyan, that fold out to stand in three-dimensions the expensive kind when Barb, my beloved, muttered something not so indistinctly and not so fully under her breath that I couldn't make out her loving threat to cancel my credit card if I placed that order.

I was persuaded instead to peruse the bargain basement online Christmas card websites where I came upon the strangest article about the quandary Christmas card companies are in within this year of Covid-19. Apparently, they're trying to ascertain the kind of messages they can place in their Christmas cards. Take a look:

One of the biggest challenges facing the greeting card industry this year is what sentiment do people want to send out this year? It has been a disruptive year that has impacted holiday cheer.

But in a year of stress, anxiety, disruption and sadness, will "merry" be the right sentiment?

Well, I thought to myself (with no little amount of indignation), " merry [as] the right sentiment " is being questioned in these times? Indeed! I can't believe it! There is no way the pandemic will steal Christmas 2020! (Just recall the reason for the Grinch's failure.) While it will alter the *ways* we celebrate, it will never change the *essence* of what we celebrate, nor the *truth* of what we celebrate, nor the *reality* of what we celebrate on that Silent Night, that O Holy Night of nights!

What we celebrate is the good news of our God's coming to us in the form of a vulnerable baby so that he might be present to us in all life's many dimensions, including a world-wide plague. We celebrate this year just as we have in years past the almighty omnipotent God who comes to us in a vulnerable baby so we know God is with us in *our* vulnerability. And we celebrate the fact that there is no feeling we may experience this season that is either too trivial for our God or too big for his healing, merciful power.

That strange article I referenced offered this possibility for a Christmas card at Hallmark:

A Christmas with peace and soft twinkling light.

A warm cozy corner on a cold winter night.

A place at the table with family and friends.

A feeling of hopefulness that never ends.

Christmas-y enough, I suppose, as far as it goes. In contrast, here's the sentiment of the season Barb and I have chosen for the Christmas card we'll be greeting and encouraging family and friends with in this undeniably worrisome year (spoiler alert):

REJOICE!

Unto us is born a Savior,

who is Christ the Lord

Indeed, rejoice! *O come, all ye faithful - Joyful - and triumphant O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.* And yes, a *Merry* Christmas to you all in the Lord!



Holy Mother of Sorrows Assists Local Meals on Wheels Program

Dupont, PA

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA., donated tote bags to Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston, PA. The bags will be filled with non-perishable food items and paper products and distributed to the recipients of meals so that they can be prepared in a weather or pandemic emergency.

Meals on Wheels of Greater Pittston is a non-profit organization that serves the elderly and homebound residents of the Greater Pittston Area.

Submitted by Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid



Lois McHugh, volunteer; Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, pastor; Linda Falzone, President of Meals on Wheels, Pittston



Eastern Diocese

“I PROCLAIM TO YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY...”**Luke 2:10b**

Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, P.N.C.C.

Now there's something the world could use, some good news to give us great joy. After a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, a year of social unrest, a year of economic turbulence and a year of quarantine...some good news, any good news would be so welcome.

And that is what our Christian faith has to share...Good News. Jesus said, ***“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”*** (John 16:33b). In the Book of Isaiah the Prophet we read: ***“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’”*** (Isaiah 52:7).

There is Someone who can bring relief to the millions of victims of the pandemic; the health care workers exhausted by the recurring waves of sickness, those exhausted by the search for and production of PPE. Jesus said, ***“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”*** (Matthew 11:28)

During the current pandemic, commentators have often referenced the epidemic of the Spanish Flu that killed many millions during the time of World War I. A most interesting article is available on the Internet about this period. It was written by Mr. Robert Johnson to the USA Today Network-Wisconsin and published on December 14, 2018. Mr. Johnson offers a number of insights on how the Christmas season was experienced by citizens in that area. I share a few excerpts from the article:

“1918 was a hard year, not only for Door County [Wisconsin] but for the entire world. The war in Europe had been raging for four years, taking the lives of young men as they fought and died on foreign battlefields. Newspapers had regularly reported the losses and Door County had not been exempt from that sorrow.

“Then the unexpected swept in like an ill wind, bringing with it a type of death that medical authorities were not prepared to fight. The Spanish Influenza taking the lives of the young and healthy in the faraway lands of Europe had moved quickly across the ocean and around the world.

“The influenza devastated families. During the previous seven weeks, the sudden and fast-moving disease had hit the United States, and Prudential Insurance had paid out more civilian death claims than those of the war dead. With worldwide losses building toward 50 million, few families escaped being touched by death.

“As autumn moved toward Thanksgiving, families kept away from houses of worship out of fear of getting sick. This was a hardship not only for the churches but the community of families that gathered during holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“These were times that churches decorated for Thanksgiving and quickly moved into Christmas. For Christians, church attendance was a way to worship the birth of Jesus. It would not seem like Christmas without getting together to worship. Churches would traditionally be gaily decorated in Christmas beauty in an attempt to capture the same sense of wonder and joy of Christmas night. Choir concerts, both in church and other gathering places, were also part of the observance of the most holy of holidays. Now it looked like they would not be taking place.

“Was Christmas to be canceled just at the time that the community needed it the most? What was to be done when the very gathering of people could cause them to contract the malady? Priests and pastors of all denominations felt the need to comfort their flocks, but their very presence could be bringing the illness right into the homes of their congregation members. It was early in December — a bleak and hard time full of sadness and isolation. What was to be done? Would this be the first time in Sturgeon Bay's history that Christmas would not be celebrated?

“It was on Dec. 20, 1918, five days away from Christmas, when Health Department officials and local doctors sat down and looked at the lists of those who had died the previous week from the Spanish flu. Quickly they saw that the death toll seemed to be receding. The list was shorter than it had been in the past seven weeks. Dare they, should they, ease the restrictions? Certainly they understood that the community needed the freedom and opportunity to gather together in an action that would lift spirits just in time for Christmas.

“That was the day the Board of Health decided that influenza conditions had improved enough to rescind the order against closing businesses at 5 p.m. and lifted the ban of gatherings in churches. Picture shows, however, remained closed.

*“Within sight of the Christmas season, the church doors were opened and the bleak darkness that had covered them for seven weeks was pulled back. Families still grieved their losses, but finally they were no longer alone, and the churches swelled with the joyous music of the season once again. **And really, how could anyone consider canceling Christmas?**” (My emphasis)*

Scripture gives us so much evidence for the desire of God to heal His people. *“When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.”* (Matthew 14: 34-36)

At Christmas time, we often imagine a newborn in swaddling clothes. We should remember that this infant is the Son of God. Through His ministry, death and resurrection Jesus redeemed all of humanity. By His offering of Himself on the Cross He lifted up humanity that we could become sons and daughters of God. By faith in Jesus we become, in fact, brothers and sisters to Christ Himself. We who believe are the very Body of Christ, the Church.

There is much cause for us to rejoice this Christmas! Let us rejoice in the Incarnation. God took on the human state that one day, humanity could be joined to God. The Christ Child of Christmas is the God-Man, through whom we receive healing and redemption.

On behalf of all the clergy and faithful of the Eastern Diocese, my family and myself, I wish to all of you a most blessed and joyful Christmas. *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia. Feliz Navidad !*

(Continued from Page 12.)



Annual Christmas and New Year Greetings



*St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA 01060
Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
May the birth of Christ bring blessings to us all!*

*May you have a Blessed Christmas,!
Good health and happiness in the New Year!
Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Chicago, IL*

*The Most Holy Name of Jesus Slovak NCC
Rev. Marian Tarnowski, Pastor
May the birth of Jesus Christ bring blessing to us all.*

*Polish National Union of America
District 1—Northeast PA
May you have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*

*Polish National Union District Six
Christine Wachna - District Director, Officers and Members
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

Blessed Trinity Parish November Activities

Fall River, MA

On Sunday, November 8th after Holy Mass, Blessed Trinity Parish's School of Christian Living packed Christmas boxes for children living in extreme poverty. The youth wrote notes to the children who will be receiving these shoeboxes.

Between Blessed Trinity Parish and Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI, 80 boxes were delivered to the collection center on Monday, November 16th.



On Sunday, November 22nd, Blessed Trinity hosted a different version of its annual Thanksgiving Brunch and Parcel Post Auction. After a 10-minute silent auction of 25 parcels that were spread out throughout the Parish Hall, a delicious take-out-only brunch was distributed. Thanks to all who supported this event that raised \$1,500 for the parish Scholarship Fund.



A rainy Thanksgiving Day did not stop 120 Turkey dinners from being served (take outs only) at the Community Turkey Dinner, held in the Blessed Trinity Parish Hall. Thanks to all who supported the efforts in so many ways.

The parish also delivered meals to two Fall River Fire Department firehouses and to the Fall River Police Department's Police Station. We are blessed to be able to help some in our city!



Western Diocese**Christmas Message from the Bishop of the Western Diocese, P.N.C.C.****Rt. Rev. Jaroslaw Rafalko**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

In the first chapter of John's Gospel we read about the coming of God into the world in the person of Jesus Christ. As St. John reflects on Christmas he says: "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." John 1: 5

We celebrate Christmas soon after December 21st, the winter solstice. The winter solstice being in the Northern Hemisphere the darkest time of the year. We know that these ancient Christians who began to celebrate the coming of God into the world knew very well that this Jesus, His teachings, His message, His spirit, His example, His life, point us to the way of life itself, a way of life where we take care of each other. A way of life where we care for God's world. A way of life where we are in a loving relationship with our God, and with each other as children of the one God, Who has created us all.

We will gather with loved ones, family and friends in celebration of God's immeasurable love for us this year again. Not everyone we want to be present will be able to be with us. Restrictions related to COVID 19 will make the celebration of this year's Christmas different. But the message coming from the Bible even during this pandemic, is still the same. "Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth." Christ is born!

God is with us through his Son, Jesus. That light that once shone will shine still. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." His way of love is the way of life. It is the light of the world. And the light of that love shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, cannot, and will not overcome it.

Dear Friends, I give thanks each and every day to God our Father for the opportunity to serve you as your Bishop, knowing well that I am sustained in episcopal ministry by your goodness, your constant prayers and the invigorating witness you provide to the Lord's abiding presence among us.

I wish to offer my prayers and very best wishes for a Holy and Blessed Christmas to all of you. May the New Year that is upon us offer an abundance of health, happiness and peace.

Merry Christmas!



***God's Blessings on the Solemnity of the
Nativity of Our Lord.
Peace and Blessings in the New Year 2020.***



The Staff of God's Field

**Controller:
Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky**

**Editor:
Ms. Julie Orzell**

Blessings and Best Wishes for a Joyous Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

Supreme Council, Polish National Catholic Church

