



Holy Family Parish National Catholic Church

1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, PA 15132



Office 412.678.0566; Auditorium 412.664.7009
www.hfpcncc.org info@hfpcncc.org pastor@hfpcncc.org
Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church

Holy Family (Saturday, Dec 30, 2023)
Humble Shepherds (Sunday, Dec 31, 2023)
Circumcision of Our Lord (Monday, Jan 1, 2024)



Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.678.0566. Office Hours: by appointment.

Bulletin announcements should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication.

Parish Staff:

Fr. Mariusz Mularczyk, Pastor 412.330.8286
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 724.765.4269
Carol Davelli, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.2368
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.926.6029
David Kost, Lector Coordinator 412.519.7771
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033
Parish Custodian 724.765.4269



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The text 'HAPPY NEW YEAR' is written in a large, bold, red font with a sparkling, glittery texture. The words are stacked vertically. Two stylized red fireworks are positioned on either side of the word 'NEW'.

*May God bless your family with prosperity,
good health, and happiness in the New Year.*



OPENING HYMN

(Dec 30) **Angels We Have Heard On High** (verses 1 & 4) – Ritual Song #504

(Dec 31) **Another Year is Dawning** – PNCC #84

(Jan 1) **Another Year is Dawning** – PNCC #84

(Dec 30) **ENTRANCE HYMN** (Luke 2:15b-16)

C. The shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

R. So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Infant lying in the 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.

Reading 1

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

For the Lord sets a father in honor over his children and confirms a mother's authority over her sons. Those who honor their father atone for sins; they store up riches who respect their mother. Those who honor their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray, they are heard. Those who respect their father will live a long life; those who obey the Lord honor their mother. My son, be steadfast in honoring your father; do not grieve him as long as he lives. Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him; do not revile him because you are in your prime. Kindness to a father will not be forgotten; it will serve as a sin offering—it will take lasting root. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Happy they who dwell in your house!

Continually they praise you.

Happy the men whose strength you are!

Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage.

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Reading 2

COL 3:12-21

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

Beloved: Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as

the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.
The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia

CF. ACTS 16:14B

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Gospel

LK 2:22-40

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord.

* * *

(Dec 31) **ENTRANCE HYMN** (Isaiah 9:6 [NRSV]; Psalm 98:1a)

C. A Child has been born for us, a Son given to us; authority rests upon His shoulders; and He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

R. Sing a new song to the Lord, Who has done marvelous deeds.

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.

Reading 1

IS 62:11-12

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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." The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

R. A light will shine on us this day; The Lord is born for us.

The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad!

Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

R. A light will shine on us this day; The Lord is born for us.

The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,
Before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his righteousness;

And all the peoples behold his glory.

R. A light will shine on us this day; The Lord is born for us.

Light dawns for the righteous,

And joy for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,

And give thanks to his holy name!

R. A light will shine on us this day; The Lord is born for us.

Reading 2

TI 3:4-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia

PS 93:1a

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

Gospel

LK 2:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

* * *

(Jan 1) **ENTRANCE HYMN** (Genesis 17:10; Psalm 89:35-36a)

C. This is My covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.

R. I will not violate My covenant; the promise of My lips I will not alter. By My holiness, I swore once for all.

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.

Reading 1

GN 17:8-14

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord, God, said: I will give to you and to your descendants after you the land in which you are now residing as aliens, the whole land of Canaan, as a permanent possession; and I will be their God. God said to Abraham: For your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. This is the covenant between me and you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised.

Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin. That will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including houseborn slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your descendants.

Yes, both the houseborn slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant will be in your flesh as an everlasting covenant. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11.

R. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing my soul

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;

The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.

R. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing my soul

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye.

R. The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing my soul

Reading 2

GAL 5:3-6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Galatians.

Brothers and sisters: Once again I declare to every man who has himself circumcised that he is bound to observe the entire law. You are separated from Christ, you who are trying to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we await the hope of righteousness.

For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia

PHIL 3:3

For we are the circumcision, we who worship through the Spirit of God, who boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put our confidence in flesh.

Gospel

LK 2:16-21

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem 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. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND RELATIVES

Hudson Tutko, Athena Becker, Stephen Pociask, Marian Sleczkowski, Al & Betty Ann Perhas, Ed Babish, Barbara Cook, Darren Geyer, Paul Koper, Ted Flora, Dave Guillot, Emily Guy, Marcy Raiford, Johanna Pardoe, Allan Soltez, Antoinette Drake, Marianna Pełka, Bronisław Korus, Ewa Nowak, Justin Riddle, Ford Bartle, Rosalie Clark, Lucille Davelli, Joan Kotulsky, Karyn Muse.

Please keep us informed that we might minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital or nursing home. Father Mariusz will visit them with the Holy Communion.

CLOSING HYMN

(Dec 30) **Away In A Manger** – Ritual Song #504

(Dec 31) **New Yaer comes Flying** – PNCC #55

(Jan 1) **New Yaer comes Flying** – PNCC #55

FAITH SHARING (Humble Shepherds – Sunday, December 31)

Among the occupations in the Holy Land in the first century, shepherding had a lowly place. Because their work made them ceremonially unclean, shepherds were considered untrustworthy. They were “living” in the fields. Their occupation required them to provide water, food, shelter, medication, aid and protection.

Shepherding was strenuous, even dangerous work. It was expected that the shepherd would come between the lion or bear when one would attack the flock.

God reveals himself to the downtrodden and despised. They represent the lowly and humble who receive God’s revelation.

The most obvious implication is that the Gospel first came to the social outcasts of Jesus’ Day.

The entire drama that surrounds the birth of Jesus takes place with no part given to the secular or religious rulers of the land. No politicians. No celebrities. No paparazzi. No athletes. No religious leaders. He is still doing this today. God seeks the forgotten, those who society rejects or ignores – the downtrodden and dejected.



SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY (Saturday, December 30)

The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that Jesus might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.

We need to make the family a confessional rather than a courtroom. If the husband and wife start arguing like attorneys in an attempt to justify their



behavior, their family becomes a court of law and nobody wins. On the other hand, if the husband and the wife — as in a confessional — are ready to admit their faults and try to correct them, the family becomes a heavenly one.”

Marriage is a sacrament of holiness. Each family is called to holiness. By the Sacrament of Matrimony Jesus sanctifies not only the spouses but also the entire family. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the power of God by prayer.

WHAT IS A SOLEMNITY OF THE CIRCUMCISION? (January 1)

On the eighth day after His Nativity, our Lord Jesus Christ was circumcised in accordance with the Old Testament Law. All male infants underwent

circumcision as a sign of God’s Covenant with the holy Forefather Abraham and his descendants [Genesis 17:10-14, Leviticus 12:3]. After this ritual, the Divine Infant was given the name Jesus, as the Archangel Gabriel declared on the day of the Annunciation to the Most Holy Mother of God, Mary.

The Fathers of the Church explain that the Lord, the Creator of the Law, underwent circumcision in order to give people an example of how faithfully the divine ordinances ought to be fulfilled. The Lord was circumcised so that later no one



would doubt that He had truly assumed human flesh, and that His Incarnation was not merely an illusion, as certain heretics had taught.

In addition to circumcision, which the Lord accepted as a sign of God's Covenant with mankind, He also received the Name Jesus [Savior] on the eighth day after His Nativity as an indication of His service, the work of the salvation of the world. These two events – the Lord's Circumcision and Naming – remind Christians that they have entered into a New Covenant with God. The very name "Christian" is a sign of mankind's entrance into a New Covenant with God.

HOLY NAME OF JESUS (Tuesday, January 2)

January is the Month during which the Church places great emphasis on the *Holy Name of Jesus*. There are several reasons for this, but first and foremost it is because the second Commandment tells us that "*One should not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain*".

The Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus we celebrate this year on Tuesday, January 2.

The holy name of Jesus produces holy thoughts in us, fills the soul with noble sentiments, strengthens virtue, lets good works bloom, and nourishes pure affections. All nourishment leaves our soul dry, if it contains not that penetrating oil, the name Jesus. When you take up your pen, write the name Jesus: you may make books, but if the name of Jesus is not in them, you are without strength and flavor for me; you may speak, or you may reply, but if the name of Jesus sounds not from your lips, you are without unction and without charm.

Jesus is honey in our mouth, light in our eyes, a flame in our heart. This name is the cure for all the ills of the soul.



LIFE MESSAGE

With your imagination, ponder the field, hear the sheep, notice the crisp evening air as these ordinary shepherds were first tending their sheep.

Quietly imagine the angel appearing while the "glory of the Lord" shines around them and you.

Hear the announcement of the birth of the Lord. Try to imagine hearing it as if you were hearing it for the first time.



Repeat this prayer, over and over, with the hosts of Heaven:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!” Imagine discussing this experience with the other shepherds, and then choosing to enter the town to see this Child.

Imagine seeing Mary and Joseph. What do they say? This is the Mother of God. See her holiness, her simplicity, her tenderness, her sanctity. Ponder these truths in silence.

SAMBS MEETINGS AND MISSION COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Jan 14, 2024; Feb 11, 2024; Mar 10, 2024; Apr 7, 2024; May 12, 2024

USHERS FOR SUNDAY COLLECTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, January 7: Bill Griffiths, Richard DeLong

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your Sunday Offering envelopes for 2024. Next week the envelopes will be mailed to those who cannot pick them up. Thank you, all parishioners, who delivered those envelopes to their relatives and neighbors.

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive our weekly bulletin by email, please simply send an empty email with the title BULLETIN to pastor@hfpncc.org.

✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠

EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS

Contact Father Mariusz (cell 412-330-8286, office 412-678-0566) or email pastor@hfpncc.org if you would like your home blessed during the 2024 Epiphany Season where time and date arrangements can be made.

WALL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Please take home our newly issued wall calendar. They are available in the Narthex. Thank you **Jaycox-Jaworski Funeral Home** and **Willig Funeral Home** for sponsoring them.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

10:00 AM – Holy Mass and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, short thanksgiving devotion for the Old Year and Benediction

† Josie, Angelo Tarli – requested by Bob, Cindy, Diane and Archie

Monday, January 1, 2024 – Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Raymond Kostovny – requested by Dolores Zoretich

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 – Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

For God's blessing for the Pastor and his Family – requested by the anonymous Parishioner(s)

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 – Christmas Weekday

Thursday, January 4, 2024 – Christmas Weekday

Friday, January 5, 2024 – Christmas Weekday

Saturday, January 6, 2024 – Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord

10:00 AM – Holy Mass with the blessing of incense, charcoal & chalk

† Kenneth Kost – requested by Rev. Bruce and Marian Sleczkowski

Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

10:00 AM – Holy Mass with the renewal of our baptismal promises and the Installation of the 2024 Parish Committee

† Josephine Dorazio – requested by Rose Marie Korch

1/14/24 Su 10:00 AM 2 Ordinary Sunday

† Bonnie Zaucha – requested by Ted & Janis Gibala

† Warren Albeck – requested by Henrietta Albeck

1/21/24 Su 10:00 AM 3 Ordinary Sunday

† Laura Adamek – requested by Alexa Foster & Karyn Muse

1/28/24 Su 10:00 AM Septuagesima Sunday

OPEN

2/2/24 Fr 10:00 AM Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord

OPEN

2/4/24 Su 10:00 AM Sexagesima Sunday

OPEN

2/11/24 Su 10:00 AM Quinquagesima Sunday

OPEN