

**Holy Family Parish**  
**National Catholic Church**  
**1921 Eden Park Boulevard**  
**McKeesport. Pa. 15132**  
**412.678.0566 Office; Auditorium 412.664.7009**  
**[www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org)**  
**Facebook Holy Family National Catholic Church**  
**Celebrating 101 years of ministry in McKeesport**



**Advent 4**  
**December 18, 2022**

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678.0566. Office **Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at [BSleczkowski@aol.com](mailto:BSleczkowski@aol.com)

Parish Staff:

Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor 412.276.5562  
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 412.678.7347  
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 412.678.7347



**PRAY FOR UKRAINE**

## THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 18, 2022

**Advent 4**

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+**Raymond Kostovnt** Int.Dolores Zoretich +**Mildred Kotulsky**

Int. Frances Palko

SOCL Classes

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

### Monday, December 19, 2022

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:30 P.M.

### Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Frederic Chopin Choir Rehearsal

1:00 P.M

### Friday, December 23, 2022

Combined Choir Rehearsal

1:30 P.M.

### Saturday, December 24, 2022

**Christmas Eve**

10:15 P.M. Festival of Polish Pasterka Christmas Carols presented by the Frederic Chopin Choir & Annunciation Bell Choir followed by the Lighting of the Christmas Candle and the Mass of the Shepherds

### Sunday, December 25, 2022

**Christmas Day**

Mass of the Nativity

10:00 A.M.

### **Christmas Flowers**

There is still time to purchase poinsettias for the Church this year. Christmas flower envelopes are available in the Narthex. Remember your loved one by purchasing a poinsettia as we beautify the altars and narthex this Christmas season.



***Congratulations to our PNU Education and Youth Raffle winners. We had two winners from our parish: Dr. Ed Goralczyk and Johanna Pardoe. First Prize (\$250.00 – Marlene Hill, Scranton, PA Second Prize (\$100.00) – Dr. Edward Goralczyk, Elizabeth, PA Third Prize (\$50.00) – Johanna Pardoe, N. Versailles, PA. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthwhile fundraiser.***



**Oplatki Christmas Wafers**  
available in the Parish Vestibule. All donations this year will go to our parish choirs for the purchase of music.

### **Amazon Smile**

When purchasing Christmas gifts or any purchases throughout the year, click on the Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/81-1800642>  
By doing this, our parish receives a financial donation from your purchase.

### **Parish Fair Share**

The 2023 Parish Envelopes are in the Church Narthex.

Mandatory Offerings

General Church Fund \$100.00

Diocesan Development \$40.00

6% Fund \$25.00

Parish Fair Share Offering: Minimum \$300.00 per adult member. Keep in mind that our parish Fair Share Offering includes all envelopes which remain in our parish. If there is no envelope with your name, contact the parish office and one will be issued. Adult membership are those 18 years and working; College students are exempt until graduation. Children are encouraged to make stewardship offering and are exempt from the Fair Share Adult requirements. God does love a cheerful giver. Help defray mailing costs. If you see a friend or relative's envelope still on the table, take it and deliver it to them. Thank you.

Always check out our website [www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org) for schedules and events and our Facebook Page: Holy Family National Catholic Church for updates and information

*The 2023 Parish Calendars can be found in the Narthex. Once again, we thank the Jaworski-Jaycox and Willig Funeral Homes for sponsoring our parish calendars.*

***Jesus is born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David***

H	T	R	I	B	D	R	E	A	R
E	L	E	T	C	E	N	R	U	D
H	F	W	H	O	H		O	I	I
M	E	I	M	P	T	N	V	S	V
O	L	F	W	S	O	O	T	O	O
D	D	I	T	H	R	R	O	E	R
E	E	R	S	C	T	O	P	M	E
N	A	G	E	E	E	O	L	O	C
A	N	D	N	A	B	S	U	H	I
L	E	G	N	A	M	O	H	E	S

BETROTHED	CHILD	HUSBAND
HONOUR	DIVORCE	ANGEL
DREAM	WIFE	BIRTH
SON	PROPHET	HOME



### Advent Home Penitential Liturgy

Happy the man whose offense is forgiven, whose sin is remitted. a happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. I kept it secret and my frame was wasted. I groaned all the day long, for night and day your hand was heavy upon me. Indeed, my strength was dried up as by the summer's heat. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide. I said: "I will confess my offense to the Lord." And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. So let every good man pray to you in the time of need. The floods of water may reach high but him they shall not reach. You are my hiding place, a Lord; you save me from distress. You surround me with cries of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will give you counsel with my eye upon you. Be not like the horse and mule, unintelligent, needing bridle and bit, else they will not approach you. Many sorrows has the wicked but he who trusts in the Lord, loving mercy surrounds him. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just! a come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart.

**Psalms 32**

Dear Lord, stir up your power and watch over us. Save us from the harmful dangers of our sins. We ask this through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord who live and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

## Reflection

The countdown to Christmas has entered its final week. Since the beginning of the season of waiting, giving gifts, and receiving gratitude, you may have seen Salvation Army bellringers at local stores. Many people have given to their favorite charities, and others are preparing to do so, spreading Christmas cheer. Already, the Christmas trees at our homes are decorated as the anticipation of receiving gifts from our loved ones grows. Our experience of giving and receiving reflects the spirit of the season.

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was promised long ago now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

In the first reading, God asks Ahaz to make a grandiose request because God is disposed to benefit us far beyond what we can imagine. Ahaz declines to ask, perhaps because of his human inability to know his own needs. The Psalmist ascribes to God unbounded knowledge and discernment of human need to the extent that God offers humanity the greatest gift, namely, God-self, present among us, Emmanuel. It is an extraordinary birth of divine presence, restoring the human family to our original unity with God. The Gospel of John identifies this gift of divine presence among us as God choosing to dwell with humanity. By relating to us, and taking on our human nature, God displays compassion and vulnerability. And this extraordinary gift of divine indwelling among us is for the purpose of service.

In the second reading, Paul uses the same disposition to service, by which we identify God's habitation among us, to identify his

calling to proclaim the gospel. Just as God gives Godself to us through the presence of Jesus Christ, likewise Paul, in a show of gratitude, gives himself in service to Jesus Christ, proclaiming the good news of God's presence among us for the sake of transformation of the human condition towards a life with God. Paul names the presence of God among us through Jesus Christ as the beginning of grace, that experience of God's gratuitous gift of divine favor, unconditionally bestowed because the initiative to favor humankind comes from God. Ahaz, Paul, and Joseph all received divine grace, regardless of their human limitations, and cooperate with God, allowing the gift granted them to bring transformation in their lives, and in the world. God's gift of grace reassured Ahaz and the whole of Judah during a time of troubling military invasion. Receiving God's grace, the king embodies God's reassuring presence to the Judeans. Likewise, Joseph opens himself to the presence of God's grace and cooperates with God for the salvation of the world. And Paul identifies his experience of God's gift of divine favor through Jesus Christ as an invitation to service, sharing this gift of God's presence in his ministry to the gentiles.

### Prayer

O merciful God, I thank you that you did not summon me out of this world burdened with mortal sins, but that you prevailed upon me to repent and change my life. Assist me, O God in the performance of this important task, that my confession may truly be the means of cleansing myself of sin and the beginning of a new spiritual life. Before you, O God, I desire to make a confession of all my sins, but I realize that I cannot do this of myself; therefore, I invoke Your divine help. O Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind with heavenly light that I may see all my sins. Kindle my heart with true contrition that I may sorrow sincerely over my sins, and confess them with deep humility before my God, my confessor and my Church.

