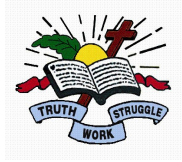


# The Spirit of Our Savior



**OUR SAVIOR PNCC**  
**REV JOHN CRAMER**



## PASTOR'S NOTE DECEMBER 2016/JANUARY 2017



Advent has begun, Christmas is almost here and after that, Epiphany followed by Ordinary Time. What a wonderful time of year! As the snow starts to fall and our thoughts turn to the joyous time of Christmas, the Nativity of Our Savior.

nity. We will get there, if we choose to follow the one who's birthday we celebrate.

**In Christ,**  
*Fr. John*

Advent is a time of preparation for this miracle of the incarnation. In many ways we do prepare for Christmas. We make or purchase gifts for loved ones and friends, we host and attend parties, we send out cards. Inherently, there is nothing wrong with any of this, if it is done with the real reason for the celebration in mind.

All of our preparation, gifts, parties, etc... for Christmas needs to be done in the light of the miracle that we are preparing to celebrate... that God came to us in human form as an infant in order to grow up to take upon Himself all of our sins, and through His death, conquer death for us. That is the true, real meaning of the celebration of Christmas.

So, let us have our parties, our gifts, our feasts. But let these be in celebration of the miracle that changed the world forever... the gift of all gifts... the saving act of Jesus the Christ that gives all of us the opportunity to share in the heavenly banquet for all eter-

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# December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent Mass at 10:30 AM	5	6 Daily Mass	7 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM Polka Boosters Meeting in Hall 5 PM	8 Daily Mass Conception of Mary	9	10 Chicken Parmesan Dinner 4-7 PM
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Mass at 10:30 AM	12	13 Daily Mass	14 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting 6 PM	15 Advent Penance Service 6 PM	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent Mass at 10:30 AM Election Mtg. Parish Committee Mtg.	19	20 Daily Mass	21 Daily Mass Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle	22 Daily Mass	23	24 Christmas Eve Mass at Midnight 11:30 PM Choir Concert
25 Christmas Day Mass at 10:30 AM	26 Feast of St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr Mass at Noon	27 Feast of St. John, Apostle, Mass at 5:30 PM	28 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM	29 Daily Mass	30	31 Feast of the Holy Family Mass at Noon

Sunday Mass 10:30 AM  
 Daily Mass W at 12:00 PM -  
 T, Th @5:30 PM  
 unless otherwise noted.

# January 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu	Fri.	Sat.
1 Solemnity of the Circumcision of the Lord Mass 10:30 AM	2 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus Mass at Noon	3 Daily Mass	4 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM Polka Boosters 5 PM	5 Daily Mass	6 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Mass at Noon	7
8 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds Mass at 10:30 AM	9 Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord Mass at Noon	10 Daily Mass	11 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting in Hall	12 Daily Mass	13	14 Monthly Dinner 4-7 PM
15 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time Mass at 10:30 AM Parish Committee Mtg. Noon	16	17 Daily Mass	18 Feast of Peter's Chair at Antioch Mass at Noon Bible Study 1 PM	19 Daily Mass	20	21
22 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	23	24 Daily Mass	25 Daily Mass Bible Study 1 PM	26 Daily Mass	27	28
29 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mass at 10:30 AM Music Scholarship Sunday	30	31				

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM  
 Daily Mass: W @ 12:00 PM  
 T, Th @ 5:30 PM  
 Unless otherwise noted.

## Spojnia Christmas Bowling Party

On December 4, District 7 of Spojnia, the Polish National Union (PNU) hosted the annual Christmas Bowling Party at Five Star Lanes in Sterling Heights, MI. This was attended by parishioners and families from the parishes of the district, which includes Our Savior, Holy Cross in Hamtramck, All Saints in Sterling Heights and Resurrection in Temperance, MI.

The party included two games of bowling, pizza, soda and gifts for the children. All who attended had a great time. Next years event is already being planned!



Photos By:  
Kathy Chockly

Birthdays for December 2016/ January 2017**Happy Birthday**

Congratulations to all of you

Donna Collyer	12/2	Robert Abraham	1/2
Paul Grzesik	12/2	Don Krcmarik	1/6
Gloria Koceski	12/7	Wendy Tomsett	1/8
Fred Mack	12/13	Donna Abraham	1/12
Jean Januszczak	12/16	Carol Whited	1/21
Dolores Milek	12/16	Lindsey Gilbert	1/26
Zachary Perry	12/25	Leo Koceski	1/28
		Fr. John Cramer	1/29

**Christmas Fair 2016**

We would like to thank all of the people who helped out with our Christmas Fair this year. From those who supported us by making angel wings, baking, donating prizes for the tin can raffle, helping out the day of the event and the crafters, you all helped us make this a wonderful event.

We were even more successful than last year, as we made a larger profit as well, which goes directly to help support Our Savior Parish and all of the things that we do.

We look forward to next year's fair as well, which is scheduled to be held November 11, 2017.



# CHRISTMAS

## — FAIR —

## Returnable Bottle & Can Report

As of December 4, 2016, our Bottle Return Grand Total has reached \$1378.90. Thank-you again to all who have contributed to this worthy cause, which helps to beautify and maintain our church grounds. Sending a special thanks to the Knights of Columbus for donating to this cause so generously, especially following their successful Oktoberfest!

Grateful thanks, also, to Karen Darnell, who has so kindly, in the past few weeks, been assisting me by returning bottles and cans to the stores. Her help has been SO much appreciated!

As we all gather with family and friends during this Holy Season, please remember to bring those empties to Our Savior Parish.

*Pat Mack*



## MONTHLY DINNERS

*By: Agnes Cramer*

Many thanks to all who attended the October Baked Chicken Dinner. The turnout was good, and we were aided by the donation of chicken from Joyview Meat Market, who also donated the chicken for the Chicken Parmesan Dinner on December 10, which also includes our famous Salad Bar. On January 14, we will be having a Polish Dinner, which will have:

**Polish Sausage  
Golumpki  
Kapusta  
Mashed Potatoes  
Green Beans  
Bread**

We look forward to seeing you there. Also, thanks to all who attended the Christmas Fair and enjoyed the Polish Kitchen!

## Kroger Rewards

We are still encouraging everyone to sign up for Kroger Rewards on their Kroger Plus Card. Let's face it, we all go shopping, so why not help the parish as you shop? There is no extra cost involved to you, and it helps the parish with extra funds. If you need to renew, just go to: [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), click 'sign in', enter your e-mail and password, click 'enroll now', put in the number 91251 or type 'Our Savior', check the correct group and click 'enroll'.

If it is your first time enrolling though, you will have to register your Kroger card. To do that just go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and follow the instructions. This is a great, easy way to help the parish just by going grocery shopping. Thank you for taking a few minutes and doing this!

If you need help, see a Parish Committee Member or Fr. John



**Do Unto Others  
As  
You Would Have  
Done Unto You**

### Project: Donation

By: Nan Cramer

Thank you for the donations of kitchen items that we asked for in October. As winter approaches, we will need some items for the Church. These include:

**Ice Melt  
Contributions for Snow Removal  
Shovels (*just a couple*)**

I would like to thank everyone in advance for donations. Let's keep this Parish clear of snow!!!



### Ubly Update

On December 3, 2016, some of the former parishioners of St. Ignatius Parish (Roman Catholic) in Ubly, MI met with Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski, Bishop Ordinary of the Western Diocese, and Rev. John Cramer, Pastor of Our Savior. At this meeting, they indicated their intention to formally petition for a parish to be organized. So, it looks like we soon will have a new parish in Michigan!

Tentative plans are to rent a near-by church for weekend Mass until a permanent structure can be acquired. They are hoping to purchase the former St. Ignatius Church from the Diocese of Saginaw, but cannot do it until they officially become a PNCC Parish.

Ubly, MI is located in the 'thumb' area of the state, and is located about 17 miles south of Bad Axe, MI.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new brothers and sisters to the PNCC!

### Advent and Christmas Schedule

The Advent and Christmas schedule of events for Our Savior Parish is as follows:

- December 11– 3rd Sunday in Advent– 1 PM Knights of Columbus Christmas Party
- December 11– Circle Choir Concert at All Saints in Sterling Heights, MI at 4 PM
- December 15– Advent Penance Service at 6 PM in Church (No 5:30 Mass)
- December 18– 4th Sunday in Advent– Decorating of Church after Mass
- December 18– Parish Election Meeting following Decoration
- December 24– 11:30 PM Choir Concert followed by Midnight Mass
- December 25– Christmas– Mass at 10:30 AM

We look forward to having you join us at these events!

## The Editor's Note:

By Fr. John Cramer

Beginning with the next issue of *The Spirit of Our Savior*, we will be welcoming a new editor, Mrs. Elizabeth Kasprzak. Mrs. Kasprzak has generously agreed to take over the editing duties of *The Spirit of Our Savior*, and we are looking forward to seeing her mark on this publication. We thank Eugene Krisztof for his work in starting off this publication 6 years ago, and we look to continue the quality that you have come to expect, and even improve! So thank you Liz, and we look forward to your stamp on the newsletter.

Stay warm!

Respectfully,  
Temporary Editor, Fr. John Cramer, "Spirit of Our Savior" newsletter



## Suggestions

by Kris Kryzstof

Please note that there is a suggestion box located on the shelf by our church office window.

Please feel free to make suggestions or comments that will benefit our parish. If you like or dislike something that our parish is involved with, your comment -suggestion will then be heard at a parish council meeting.

***All suggestions - comments must be signed by the writer/ submitter.***

## Parish Hall Now Available for Rent

The Our Savior Parish Hall is now available for Rent. Anyone looking to rent a hall for an event can now contact Our Savior and have a nice place to gather.

The Hall is available for meetings, bridal and baby showers, wedding receptions, parties and other events. There is even a discount for parishioners. If you wish to book the hall for your next event, contact Deacon Kasprzak at (313) 278-3969, or go to <http://www.oursaviorpncc.com/Hall-Rental.html>

We will let you know the availability, rates and be your guide to help planning a successful event.







## Dinner Menus for December and January

### December Italian Dinner Menu

December 10, 2016

4-7 PM

Chicken Parmesan

Pasta

Full Salad Bar

Bread

Coffee and Lemonade

Desserts and Drinks Available

Our Savior PNCC  
610 N. Beech Daly Rd.  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127  
(313)561-5233  
www.oursaviorpncc.com



### Polish Dinner January 14, 2017



#### Menu

Polish Sausage

Golumpki

Kapusta

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Bread

\$10.00

*Desserts, Soft Drinks and Water available*

4-7 PM January 14, 2017

#### Our Savior PNCC

610 N. Beech Daly Rd.  
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127  
313-561-5233  
oursaviorpncc@att.net  
www.oursaviorpncc.com



## History and Symbolism of the Advent Wreath

### By Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur

The lights of the candles on the Advent Wreath break through the darkness, reminding us of the Light of Christ that we anticipate during this holy season. Where did this tradition come from, of lighting four candles in an evergreen wreath to mark the weeks preceding Christmas? Like many of our Church traditions, the use of candles in the midst of late fall and winter was originally a pagan tradition. Rev. William Saunders, who wrote an article in the "Arlington Catholic Herald" on this topic, states that "pre-Germanic peoples used wreaths with lit candles during the dark and cold December days as a sign of hope in the future warm and extended sunlight days of spring." In a similar vein, Scandinavians "lighted candles [that] were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn the 'wheel of the earth' back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth."

In the middle ages, the Germanic peoples began incorporating a lighted wreath into the Christian season of Advent. It didn't gain widespread popularity until the 1800s and it wasn't until the 1900s that German immigrants brought the tradition to America.

The Advent Wreath is very symbolic. The evergreens used for the wreath itself are a reminder of continuous life. The shaping of them into a circle reinforces that meaning. The circle is also a sign of everlasting life as well as the eternity of God.

The four candles used, three purple and one pink, mark the Sundays of Advent before Christmas. The purple candles are reminders that this should be a time of prayer and sacrifice to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. On the third Sunday, the pink candle is lit to announce Gaudete Sunday, a Sunday of rejoicing for Christ is coming near. With the lighting of that candle, the light has won out over the darkness (three candles lit vs. the one that remains unlit).

Various meanings have been assigned to the four candles. One interpretation has each candle representing 4000 years, the Biblical time between Adam and Eve and the coming of Christ. In another interpretation, the first candle represents the patriarchs, the second the prophets, the third reminds us of John the Baptist, and the fourth of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They have also been described as the prophets' candle, the Bethlehem Candle, the shepherds' candle, and the angels' candle.

A fifth white candle in the center representing Christ can also be used. It is lit on Christmas Eve as a remembrance of Christ coming into the world. Sometimes, all the other candles of the wreath are removed and replaced with white candles on Christmas.

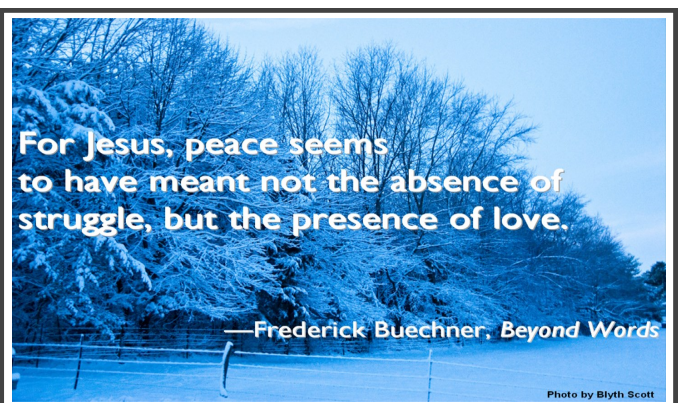
The Advent Wreath serves as a powerful visual reminder of the holiness of the season. The light of the candles invite us to quiet ourselves during this busy time and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Whether at home or at Church, it provides an invitation to wait and pray in hopeful anticipation for the coming of Christ. We are called to welcome the light of Christ into our lives.

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## OUR SAVIOR PNCC

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Our Savior Parish is a part of the *Polish National Catholic Church* established in 1897 after separating from the Roman Catholic Church over the question of allowing the parishioners to own the property of the church building and grounds. Since then, we have based our theology on the teachings of the undivided Church through the first 1,000 years of Christianity. We also have a married clergy and welcome all who sincerely seek the Lord.

Our Savior was established in 1916 at 5271 Chopin St. in Detroit, MI and moved to its current location in 1970.

### A Non-Papal Catholic Alternative



#### Our Savior Polish National Catholic Church

610 N. Beech Daly Rd.  
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