

Holy Family Parish  
1921 Eden Park Boulevard  
McKeesport, Pa. 15132  
412.678.0566; 412.276.5562

[www.hfpncc.org](http://www.hfpncc.org)

Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church  
Fr. Bruce Sleczkowski, Pastor  
Celebrating 100 Years



## Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds December 26, 2021

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 412.276.5562 or 412.678. 0566. Office Hours: 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)

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## THIS WEEK

**Sunday, December 26, 2021**                      **Humble Shepherds**

*Collection for Savonarola Seminary*

Holy Mass    9:00 A.M.

*Burial of Time Capsule*

Holy Mass    11:00 A.M.

**Monday, December 27, 2021**                      **St John's Day**

Holy Mass    10:00 A.M.

*Blessing of Wine*

**+Nicholas Fioravanti, John, +Mary, + Kenny, +Tom**

**Zaucha Int. Antoinette Fioravanti**

**Saturday, January 1, 2022**                      **Circumcism of the Lord**

Holy Mass    10:00 A.M.

**Sunday, January 2, 2022**                      **Holy Name of Jesus**

Holy Mass    9:00 A.M.

*Oath of Office 2022 – Parish Council Members*

Holy Mass    11:00 A.M.

## It's that time of year again.

We make resolutions because we want to bring change to bear on our circumstances. We want to improve ourselves and our quality of life. And the top resolutions, for most people, tend to revolve around the same three poles: money, health and family. But what would a set of New Year's resolutions look like for you and your church, your role as a leader, or simply as someone who wants to live a life of strategic Kingdom investment? And specifically, what if they came from the Bible?

Though many more could be added, here are 15 to consider:

**1. Pray more.** So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord... 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,'" says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6, NIV)

**2. Invest in your spiritual gift(s).** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that

A	B	Y	M	E	L	C	H	I	O	R	R	E
B	D	E	L	B	A	T	S	L	A	A	E	S
S	I	V	D	L	E	O	N	Z	T	R	H	N
A	S	R	E	J	O	S	A	S	T	E	R	E
N	G	G	C	N	O	H	O	S	P	E	T	C
T	N	Y	O	M	T	S	A	H	G	I	J	N
A	I	B	R	L	Y	M	E	N	T	E	R	I
C	K	A	A	S	T	R	A	P	S	A	C	K
L	A	B	T	S	D	M	R	U	H	T	O	N
A	B	R	I	G	H	O	S	H	O	L	Y	A
U	M	R	O	O	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R
S	H	E	N	L	E	S	N	I	T	A	R	F
C	R	I	S	D	S	Y	R	A	M	I	N	G

CHRISTMAS TREE  
DECORATIONS  
HOLLY  
REINDEER  
TINSEL  
MANGER  
BABY  
JOSEPH  
JESUS  
SHEPHERD  
KINGS  
STAR  
STABLE  
SANTA CLAUS

ADVENT  
CAROLS  
ANGEL  
CRIB  
HOLY  
NOEL  
MARY  
BALTHAZAR  
MELCHIOR  
CASPAR  
GOLD  
FRANKINCENSE  
MYRRH



everyone may see your progress. (I Timothy 4:14-15, NIV)

**3. Get more intentional about evangelism.** I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. (I Corinthians 9:22, NIV)

**4. Care for yourself spiritually.** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (Philippians 3:12, NIV)

**5. Make the tough decisions you know are best.** And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (Acts 20:22-24, NIV)

**6. Confront debilitating patterns of sin.** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1, NIV)

**7. Do the hard work needed to build community.** If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. (Matthew 18:15, NIV)

**8. Keep in touch with contemporary culture.** From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders... All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take. (I Chronicles 12:32, NLT)

**9. Quit comparing yourself to other Christians, other leaders, and other churches.** Turning his head, Peter

noticed the disciple Jesus loved following right behind. When Peter noticed him, he asked Jesus, “Master, what’s going to happen to *him*?” Jesus said, “If I want him to live until I come again, what’s that to you? You – follow me.” That is how the rumor got out among the brothers that this disciple wouldn’t die. But that is not what Jesus said. He simply said, “If I want him to live until I come again, what’s that to you?” (John 21:20-23, Msg)

10. **Read more.** Timothy, please come as soon as you can... When you come, be sure to... bring my books... (II Timothy 4:9, 13, NLT)

11. **Prioritize your family.** A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife... attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God’s church? (I Timothy 3:2-5, Msg)

12. **Refuse to use ministry to satisfy your personal ambition.** Should you then seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them. (Jeremiah 45:5, NIV)

13. **Love people, not just crowds.** If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don’t love, I’m nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God’s Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don’t love, I’m nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don’t love, I’ve gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I’m bankrupt without love. (I Corinthians 13:1-3, Msg)

14. **Be more open to change.** See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19, NIV)

**15. Stay focused on the vision.** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47, NIV)

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### **Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist life History**

Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist was born in 6 A.D. in Palestinian Territories in Asia. He was a son of Zebedee and Salome and also a brother to Saint James the Great. He was a fisherman and his brother Saint James the Great until meeting Jesus and becoming an apostle. Comparing with other apostles he was the youngest called to follow Christ on the banks of the Jordan during the first days of Our Lord's ministry. Jesus referred to the pair as "Boanerges" (translated "sons of thunder").

Saint John the apostle, along with Saint James and Saint Peter, witnessed the most significant events in Jesus' life such as the Transfiguration and the Agony in the garden. Additionally, he was the disciple whom Jesus loved. At the Last Supper, his head rested on the bosom of Jesus, and in the hours of the Passion, when others fled or denied their Master, St. John kept his place by the side of Jesus and stood by the last cross with Mary.

From the cross, the dying Savior bequeathed His Mother to the care of the faithful apostle, who “from that hour took her to his own;” thus fitly, as St. Austin says, “to a virgin was the Virgin entrusted. “After the Ascension, St. John lived first at Jerusalem, and then at Ephesus. He was thrown by Domitian into a cauldron of boiling oil and is thus reckoned a martyr, though miraculously preserved from hurt.

Because John witnessed the events of Jesus, he wrote his gospel. Additionally, he wrote the letters of John the three Epistles of John, and the book of Revelation.

Afterward, he was banished to the isle of Patmos, where he received the heavenly visions described in the Apocalypse. He died at a great age, in peace, at Ephesus, in the year 100 AD.

### **FUTURE DIRECTION**

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2022. Focusing on the importance of receiving our Lord in the most Holy Eucharist for the strength to faithfully follow Him in word and action. During 2022 we hope more will return to in person worship and an active participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord in Holy Communion. As this is the central aspect of our worship – our Catholic Christian living will have its root therein. We will reflect on different aspect of the Eucharist and how we can live daily as Eucharistic people.

### **JANUARY – PREPARING TO RECEIVE OUR LORD IN THE EUCHARIST**

### **FASTING, PRAYERS BEFORE AND AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

#### **Reflection and Action Item:**

Receiving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist is a sacred and important moment for which we should be prepared. This is not something to take lightly as we are receiving Jesus to strengthen us on our earthly journey in the way that God

has planned for our salvation. We must prepare to meet Jesus by fasting, prayer and participation in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass.

**From PNCC Prayer Book:**

Fasting is an ancient religious tradition, helping one focus on the needs of the soul over the needs of the body: the need for Christ over the needs of self. As Jesus said during His own forty-day fast, “Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Fasting before communion helps us properly prepare for the solemn and reverent receiving of His sacred Body and Blood. Fasting before Communion is not primarily an act of Penance, but one of homage to our Lord.

The faithful are required to fast for two hours before receiving Holy Communion. This means eating no food of any kind (except when necessary, with medication) and drinking nothing except water. Exceptions to this fast are when someone has a medical condition that requires eating or drinking,

When approaching the priest for Holy Communion make sure to do so reverently.