Did you know that Mary had a special lamb?

Around this time next year, we’re going to be introduced to our next president. The introduction will be made very plainly and simply like this: *Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.*

The gospel also contains a similarly plain and simple introduction of a very important person: *Behold the Lamb Of God.* John the Baptist was inspired to introduce Jesus Christ to the world plainly and simply.

But for heaven’s sake (literally!) of all the majestic symbolic beasts he could have selected, why does the Baptist characterize Jesus as a *Lamb*? Sheep have no power nor prestige like an eagle or a lion, and yet Jesus the Christ, the promised Messiah, the very Son of God was introduced to the world at his baptism as God’s “Lamb”?

Actually, announcing him as “the Lamb of God” serves to be a preview of how God’s salvation plan will play itself out. But the folks at the Jordan that day couldn’t see then what we can today because what we see is a cross and an altar. These are the primary Christian symbols. They’re our primary symbols. While the cross is a dishonorable and shameful sign, it becomes the altar where Jesus voluntarily laid down his life for us: the cross as an altar is a place of sacrifice.

Okay. So logically, what’s all that to do with sheep? Well, these symbols demonstrate for us something that isn’t logical, that doesn’t make sense, that’s really a paradox. These symbols teach us a contradictory mystery of our faith, *i.e.*, that great power can come in the form of weakness. *Howzat for a piece of illogic?!* But you’ve recently seen an example of that seeming illogic, of seeing power spring from powerless-ness played out in our society.

We recently celebrated Martin Luther King Day. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought to eradicate racism with non-violent civil disobedience, and in that way made significant strides, which is itself a paradox: *that significant power often does lie within perceived weakness.* And in the process of demonstrating this mystery, Martin Luther King, Jr won the soul of the nation.

Just when you think the sheep don’t have a prayer in the world of wolves, you see otherwise. Jesus knew this. So did Dr. King precisely because he was a disciple of Jesus, and he revealed Jesus to others through his work for justice and equal opportunity for all our citizens.

And like Martin Luther King, Jr and John the Baptist, Fr Janusz, the Prime Bishop as well as his predecessor locally, the Primate Emeritus, and I – all of us – likewise endeavor to reveal Jesus to you: *Behold the Lamb of God.*

We will present Jesus to you in Holy Communion. We will show you Jesus in Holy Scripture at Mass, in the School of Christian Living and the Adult Forum. And the four of us will struggle to show you Jesus in ourselves as we live out our lives among you. *Behold the Lamb of God.*

In many different ways, we say to you: Behold the Lamb of God. However, you might ask: Well, where is he? And we will answer you just as Christ answered the Baptist’s disciples by saying: Come and see.

*Behold the Lamb of God* in the sacraments.

*Behold the Lamb of God* in our pastoral and prophetic ministries among you.

*Behold the Lamb* in his Holy Spirit among yourselves.

*Behold the Lamb* when you see each other, for you are, indeed, baptized into that Lamb, into his Body, which is the church.

And as disciples of the Lamb of God, you are invited to go out to invite others to “come and see” – to come here, with you to St Stanislaus Cathedral to see what we have, to see what we are; to experience your relationship with each other because of your relationship with Jesus Christ; to invite others to see your faith and your commitment to the One whom your acknowledge to be your Lord and Savior.

Continued on page 2
Christmas Caroling and Fa-la-la Fun

Once again, the Cathedral Youth Group continued their annual Christmas Caroling to parishioners on the days between Christmas and the New Year. Each of the days, the UYA met at the Cathedral and then set off on their journeys. We had big coed groups the first two nights, but a smaller “boys-only choir” the last night. At the end of each night, the group would end at a special home for refueling and fellowship.

We are so proud of these kids, including the college students and recent grads who still want to come out with us. And so thankful for the parents who encourage all of them and make it possible.

If you would like this great group of carolers to stop by your home next season, contact Maria Hughes at 570-842-8451 or email at mariahughes1@verizon.net, so you can be put on the list.

Can’t wait to hear their “harmonious” singing next season!!

January One Hot Meal

January 4th’s One Hot Meal, was generously sponsored by the Gantz family in memory of a true hero, WWII veteran, and long-time OHM volunteer, Walter “Babe” Gantz.

A few members of our UYA also inventoried and sorted items donated to the United YMS of R winter clothing drive, which also were distributed to our guests along with items from the OHM Food Pantry.

One Hot Meal occurs the first Saturday of every month, from 1:00-3:00. Rain or shine, snow or sleet, holiday or not. Come one, come all!

You are disciples of the Lamb, and as such, Father, the Primates and I eagerly encourage you to invite people to come here to see, to behold, the Lamb of God truly among us - in your love, in your mercy and your faithfulness - for you and I are fed by the Lamb in the Eucharist and in his Word.

Behold the Lamb of God. Behold his sacred cross and altar. Behold, no less, the Lamb’s faithful and sanctified people, you yourselves.

She really did have a special lamb!

Bishop Bernard
ANS Christmas Party

On Sunday, January 12th, at 12:30, the Women’s Blessed Sacrament Society held its annual Christmas Party in the Parish Hall. There was a great turnout of 34 women present for this annual event, with Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rev. Janusz Lucarz and their wives as special guests. Vice-President, Barbara Nowicki, delivered the opening welcome remarks on behalf of Kathy Michalina, President, who was, unfortunately, unable to be present due to illness. Her remarks reminded us, through this poem by Mary Fairchild, that although Santa is gone, Jesus is still here with us.

A New Year’s Plan
I tried to think of a clever new phrase—A slogan to inspire the next 365 days, A motto to live by this coming New Year, But the catchy words fell flat to my ear. And then I heard His still small voice Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice: With each new dawn and close of day Make new your resolve to trust and obey." "Don't look back, caught in regret Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet; Don't stare forward anchored by fear, No, live in this moment, for I Am here."
"I am all you need. Everything. I Am. You are held secure by my strong hand. Give me this one thing—your all in all; Into my grace, let yourself fall."
So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way. It's to daily follow, trust, and obey. I enter the New Year armed with a plan, To give Him my everything—all that I am.

President Michalina wished all members and guests present a Healthy and Happy New Year with much love and peace. She looked forward to spending more time with everyone in the year of 2020, praying that the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit be with everyone, always keeping them safe, today and always.

Bishop Nowicki offered the Grace and a wonderful afternoon of fellowship followed with a catered menu that included lemon chicken strips in wine sauce, roast beef, roasted vegetables, penne pasta in vodka sauce, and delicious homemade desserts provided by the members. A relaxed atmosphere of friendly conversation and pleasant activities made this event enjoyable for all. The dinner was followed by a Christmas sing-a-long with Barbara Nowicki accompanying on the piano. Several games, led by Sue Techmanski, were then played, including a movie themed matching game, playing-card bingo, and a left-right passing game, with prizes for the winners. A special thank-you must be given to Sue Techmanski and Kathy Michalina for organizing and planning this very pleasant, memorable event.
For the Feast of the Three Kings, the little ones, listened to the story read to them from their children’s Bible and then made Glitter Star ornaments for their Christmas trees to remind them of the visit of the magi and the gifts that they brought.

The students loved painting their project with glue and then sprinkling the glitter. Hopefully the students were not as covered with glitter as their project.

Remember, you can join Sunday School Classes at any time. We are always happy to have new faces.

Buzzers, Whistles, and “Swoosh”!
The St. Stanislaus Youth Basketball League is underway for the 2020 season. Every Friday night the Youth Center comes alive with buzzers, whistles and the occasional “swoosh.”

Boys and girls from Pre-K through High School come together to have fun, play some hoops and enjoy the comradery and competition of the game.

Come join in the fun and enjoy watching these young people as they play their hearts out on the court. Games start at 6:30 p.m. every Friday night and end after the 9:00 p.m. game with the High school kids.

YMS of R Annual Meeting
Branch #1 YMS of R held their Annual Meeting on January 14 at Dooley’s Pub and Eatery in Old Forge. Before the meeting, three new members were welcomed into the Branch; brothers Austin and Ethan Stankowski, sons of Branch member Dr. Leon (Mac) Stankowski and Nick Cimino, son of Branch member Paul Cimino. President Joe Nasser led them in their oath of membership.

In attendance were Bishop Bernard Nowicki, Father Janusz Lucarz and 11 Branch members. All current officers/chairmen retained their positions for 2020.

Members present were sworn into office by Bishop Nowicki. President: Joe Nasser; Vice President: Frank Gerardi (Breakfast Chairman); Vice President: Jake Stankowski (Valentine Dance Chairman); Treasurer: Jerome Hughes; Recording Secretary: Dr. Mike Umerich; Sick Committee: Bob Seliga; Refreshment Committee: Ed Meleski, YMS of R Park Chairman: Art Golembeski. Congratulations to the new members and returning officers. Good luck in 2020!
Music Scholarship Sunday
Sunday, January 26th was Music Scholarship Sunday. Since its inception in 1964, the National United Choirs Music Scholarship program has awarded many scholarships to adult and young members of the PNCC who use them for funding private music study or funding music studies in institutions of higher learning. Please be generous in your support of this important program in our Church.

This year, Kaitlyn Gingerlowski, one of our young parishioners, has been awarded a scholarship again for the study of violin. Kaitlyn has occasionally played her violin in Church. The Cathedral Chorale also presented her with a small token of their appreciation.

Beth Howden then spoke on the rewards and spiritual enrichment that singing can have for us and the possibility of some in the congregation joining the choir.

Congratulations Kaitlyn on your scholarship and keep up the good work!

“Hear ye, Hear ye!”
The annual parish meeting of St. Stanislaus Cathedral will be held on Sunday, March 1st, following Mass. **There will only be one mass this Sunday at 9:00 a.m.** so we can start the meeting a little earlier.

This is an opportunity for us, as parishioners, to exercise our rights in a democratic church and to discuss and vote on major issues in our parish.

It is also the time when the Parish Committee and other support members are elected. These individuals will be important in guiding the directions of our parish over the next 12 months.

Please take a moment to consider joining this team for the 2019-2020 term. Any questions regarding requirements and responsibilities of serving on the parish committee can be answered by any current committee member or calling the parish office.

Please keep our annual meeting in your prayers that God will guide us as a parish and inspire those parishioners who can serve the parish through the Parish Committee.

**ANNUAL VALENTINES’ DANCE**
**SPONSORED BY THE YMS OF R**

**WHEN:** SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8th
**WHERE:** ST. STANISLAUS PNCC YOUTH CENTER
530 E. ELM STREET

**COST:** $37.50/PERSON
$75.00/COUPL e
B.Y.O.B. – BEER & SODA PROVIDED

**BUFFET DINNER**  7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
**MUSIC & DANCING PROVIDED BY THE WANABEES**
TIL 12:00 A.M.

**FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION,**

**Set-up for the Valentine Dance**
Help with setup on Sunday afternoon, February 2nd, 2020 as well as Friday evening, February 7th, 2020 will be greatly appreciated.

Come and have some fun while decorating the Youth Center for this beautiful event!
St. Stanislaus Prayer Shawl and Blanket Ministry

From the time of its inception in 2011, the St. Stanislaus Prayer Shawl and Blanket Ministry has made and distributed 182 prayer shawls and blankets to those in need of comfort after the loss of a loved one, one undergoing a medical procedure, a shut-in, one being baptized, or one who has graduated. If you know some person who will benefit with a prayer shawl or blanket, please notify a member of the ministry or call Arlene Swantek (570-343-3176).

If you would like to become a member of this group which works to help those in need, as stated by Jesus in St. Matthew’s Gospel 25:34-43, please join us at our announced meeting in the Sunday bulletin. When we help those in need, we are serving our Lord Jesus Christ. At the present time we have six dedicated ladies in this ministry who meet once a month.

Take the Opportunity Today

Merriam-Webster.com defines opportunity as “a favorable combination of circumstances, time, and place.” But Thomas Edison said, “Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” Francis Bacon wrote, “A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds.” And writer Thomas Peters warned, “If a window of opportunity appears, don’t pull down the shade.”

The Bible also talks about opportunities, but with a difference. While the world looks for opportunities for success, the Christian looks for opportunities for servanthood.

We don’t know how much time we have left on earth, so it’s important to do what we can for the Lord at every opportunity. Is there someone you can help today? Is there a friend needing a favor, a call, a note, or a financial gift? Is there a little extra money in your purse that could advance the Kingdom? Is there a neighbor who needs a plate of cookies or a word of counsel?

Unexpected windows of opportunity will appear today, giving you the chance to serve and to give. Look for those occasions, and don’t pull down the shade.

20th Annual P.N.C.C. Mission & Evangelism Workshop

“Discovering the P.N.C.C.” is the theme for the upcoming P.N.C.C. Mission & Evangelism Workshop, which will take place at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Temperance, MI, from Friday March 27 – Sunday March 29, 2020. The registration fee has been waived, so that as many people as possible may attend, to gain a better understanding and deeper appreciation of our Church. There will be presentations and breakout groups for discussion, and participants will gain practical tools for effectively sharing their faith in Christ. Further details will be forthcoming – in the meantime, mark your calendars and save the date. We hope to see you in Temperance!
A Message from the Education & Youth Commission

Now is the time for all students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree or a post-secondary certificate to start the application process for the PNU stipend (December 1st – April 15th).

The criteria for the stipend application, is as follows:

- a student currently enrolled in a College or University, part-time or full-time. This means the student or applicant must be attending college at the current time, does not pertain to high school college courses taken while still in high school.
- a member of the PNU having a life insurance policy – current paying, single premium, or fully paid-up that is in force and in good standing for at least 5 years.
- One application can be filled out in its entirety and returned no later than April 15th, 2020 to: PNU c/o Education & Youth Commission- Attn: Mary Ann Stankowski, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, Pa 18505.
- This application and information sheet can be found through the PNU website (www.pnu.org) as a downloadable form for the Education & Youth Commission, or in your parish halls.

This is a great opportunity for our families and students to research and review the benefits of being a member within the PNU and see what this commission represents so they can become the future leaders within our church community! Any questions or concerns, please direct to Mary Ann Stankowski, EYC@pnu.org.

Stewardship Pledge

The yearly Stewardship Pledge statements have been sent out to all our parishioners, along with a new pledge form for 2020. Our new pledge system seems to be working well thanks to your generous and faithful contributions.

We ask all parishioners to submit their Stewardship Pledge for 2020 as soon as possible, hopefully by the end of February. You can send the form to the Cathedral address, drop it off at the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket on Sunday.

If you have any questions, please stop by the parish office, see a Parish committee member or call the office during the week.

Thank you for your generous contributions this past year, and as you pledge for 2020, remember the needs of our church for

February Birthdays
Feb 1 – Stacey Crispino
Feb 2 – Michael Umerich
Feb 3 – Jake Stankowski
Feb 5 – Gloria Makowski
Feb 6 – Jacob Gerardi
Feb 9 – Jeanne Kowalski
Feb 12 – Eric Middleton
Feb 14 – Susan Raub
Feb 15 – Caroline Golembeski
Feb 16 – Donald Godek
Feb 18 – Linda Umerich
Feb 19 – Mary Coloma
Feb 20 – Joanne Edwards
Feb 21 – Michael Gorgol
Feb 22 – Jeanne Kowalski
Feb 23 – Michael Meleski
Feb 24 – Christine Ostroski
Feb 25 – Michael Gorgol
Feb 26 – Donald Blackledge
Feb 28 – John Tempaugh
Feb 29 – Michael Osterstrom
Mark Your Calendars!

Here are some of the upcoming events, so mark your calendars to keep them in mind.

**February 1st** - One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**February 2nd** – Presentation of the Lord - Candlemas Day
8:00 am – Holy Mass, Cathedral
9:30 am – Holy Mass, Cathedral
11:15 M – Holy Mass, Tripp Park Chapel

**February 8th** – Valentine Day Dance in the Youth Center

**February 13th** – Basketball Practice starting at 6:30 p.m.

**February 16th** – Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Hodur

**February 20th** – Basketball Practice starting at 6:30 p.m.

**February 21st** – Basketball in the Youth Center starting at 6:30 p.m.

**February 26th** – Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes at Noon and 7:00 p.m. Masses

**During Lent**
- **Fridays** – 12 noon – Stations of the Cross, chapel, lower Cathedral followed by soup and sandwich in the Library
- **Wednesdays** – 7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross with Benediction, Cathedral

**February 27th** – Basketball Practice starting at 6:30 p.m.

**February 28th** – Basketball in the Youth Center starting at 6:30 p.m.

**March 1st** – Annual Meeting following 9:00 a.m. Mass
Only one Mass this day

**March 7th** – One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**March 8th** – 123rd Anniversary of the Polish National Catholic Church

**March 22nd** – Meal in the Upper Room at Noon

**March 27th – March 29th** – 20th Mission & Evangelism Workshop in Temperance, MI

**March 29th** – Breakfast with the Bunny after 9:30 a.m. Mass

**April 5th** – Palm Sunday Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. with Living Passion

**April 7th** – Diocesan Clergy Conference in the Youth Center
Chrim Mass 4:00 p.m.

**April 9th** – Mass of the Institution of the Eucharist 7:00 p.m.

**April 10th** – 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Holy Hour Litany of the Passion
Mass of the Pre-Sanctified
Opening of the Tomb 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae

**April 11th** – Blessing of Easter Food in the Cathedral
9:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
Blessing of Food at the Tripp Park Chapel 2:00 p.m.
4:00 Vigil of the Risen One

**April 12th** – Easter Sunday
Resurrection Mass 8:00 a.m.
Holy Mass 10:30 a.m.
Holy Mass at Tripp Park Chapel 11:15 A.M

**April 30th** – Consecration of Bishops at St. Stanislaus
1:00 p.m.

**May 2nd** – One Hot Meal 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Youth Center
Come enjoy a meal or be a volunteer.

**May 23rd** – 1st Chicken BBQ for the season starting at Noon until sold out on the corner lot.

**May 25th** – Memorial Day Mass
10:00 a.m. at the Cemetery

**May 29th – May 31st** – 75th YMS of R Bowling Tournament in Lancaster, NY

"The three most important things to have are Faith, Love and Hope. But the greatest of them is..... Love."

1 Corinthians 13:13