

# Fourth Sunday of Advent



By far, the best way to celebrate Christmas is to be with children. And we are so close to Christmas now that our children can barely contain their excitement! Yet, before his marriage, poor Joseph could not have been very excited to hear that Mary was with child. Sure, most fathers, when they learn their wife is expecting, can get a little bewildered, too. But Joseph felt that this was not the expected way to bring children into the world, and so he planned to dismiss Mary quietly from his life. And then the unexpected happened to this bewildered man who was just looking to do the right thing. Divine intervention arrived in the form of a dream – complete with talking angels. This convinced Joseph that his plans had to change. Will the unexpected presence of God awaken us this Advent, and really change our lives as a result? Advent is all about deeply living this exciting time of expectation, a precious time to prepare to change ourselves, our homes, and our hearts, for sharing. We have to remember that it was the Divine who initiated this sharing in that first Feast of the Incarnation, sending his Son to be the Saviour that our lives yearn for most. Emmanuel - "God with us!" Can we open our hearts to see the signs that "God is with us" today?

Joe Gunn, Ottawa, On

**First reading:** Isaiah 7.10-14  
**Responsorial Psalm:** May the Lord come in; he is king of glory.  
**Second Reading:** Romans 1.1-7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 1.18-24

Rose # 24 will lead the rosary this week.

**COFFEE & DONUTS** will be sold today by the **Rosary Family**.

**PIEROGIES FROM SUPREME**  
**PIEROGIES & HONEY** will be sold today - Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall by our Youth.

You make your purchase at the youth table in the parish hall and pick up your pierogies from the car at the parking lot.

**TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION** - will be taken for the building and renovation fund.

**LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** - new schedules for Polish Masses can be picked up in the sacristy.

**BLESSED CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPŁATEK) & PARISH CALENDAR 2017** are available in the parish hall through the Rosary Family members.

**HELP FOR VICTORIA**  
A 12-year old Victoria from Lodz in Poland was born without hands and legs, with several internal abnormalities. Left behind by her parents, Victoria was adopted 10 years ago by one good hearted lady. Victoria's new mother is trying to provide her with the most important necessities. The most crucial is currently to build a special elevator, which will allow moving Victoria from the first floor to the ground floor. Family friends are asking for financial help. Donations can be made through the charity with a note "Help for Victoria" through Charity Foundation of Canadian Polish Congress.

## Baptisms



The following children will receive the Sacrament of Baptism:

*Julia Kasperski daughter of Agnieszka & Andrzej*

*Carter Dean Cieniaki son of Stephanie & Wiktor*

*Christian Roman Kielbasinski son of Oksana & Matthew*

*Enzo Szydowski son of Malgorzata & Andrzej*

We welcome those children and congratulate their parents and godparents.

**Dear brothers and sisters of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish.**

I would like to thank your Pastor, Fr. Janusz, as well as all of you for welcoming me in your parish community on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the parishioners of St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish, I thank you for your generosity. Your donations totaling 25,000.00 are sincerely appreciated by our community. Your support will help us with our most important projects.

May God bless you!

Keeping in my prayers,  
Fr. Wojciech Blach, OMI  
Pastor of St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish

## ADVENT TIME

If there is anyone who would like to donate flowers for the nativity scene, we ask for big red poinsettias.

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE**  
In both languages will be held:  
in our parish on  
Monday, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm  
and Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm.  
On that days there will be more priests to listen confession.

**A reminder - this will be a last chance to go for confession before Christmas and there will be no confession during the Christmas Octave.**

**ANNUAL CLEANING OF THE CHURCH - before Christmas will be on Tuesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm. All volunteers are welcome!**

**MASS CELEBRATION**  
Due to Christmas preparation there will be no 7:00pm evening Masses for the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
is available in a special envelope by the entrance to the church, as well as in the main hall. Please pick up one!

**PARISH OFFICE**  
will be closed on  
Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>,  
as well as on December 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Pulpit

**THANK YOU & GOD BLESS**

To all preparing Advent performance presented during all Masses on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:

Adrianna, Piotr, Maya Elise and Izabella Kiedrowski & Malgorzata, Krzysztof, Marysia, Julianna, Jonasz and Marlena Lalik & Karolina, Jacek, Laura and Julian Pietrasik & Waldek, Basia, Mateusz, Julia and Olivia Sobolewski, Marek, Asia, Mateusz, Jas and Piotr Chrzanowski & Aneta, Julia, Dawid and Robert Mrugała & Konrad, Marta, Zuzia, Karolina and Hania Czyszowski, Mariola and Agata Brozda & Urszula and Magda Hofman & Stefanio Glowacki & Fr. Wojciech Stangel.

**OFFERATORY ENVELOPES FOR CURRENT & NEW USERS FOR 2017** - are displayed in the parish hall in alphabetically order according to the family name. All users of the envelopes are asked to write their name, last name and address on the first "beginning offertory" envelope in order to match the envelope number with the family name signed for it.

**MASS INTENTIONS & GREGORIAN MASS SERIES** - All those who did not get a chance to reserve individual Mass intentions in our parish can still book Mass intentions in our parish office. Those extra Masses will be celebrated at Provincial House or at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre or by Fr. Marcin Rosinski.

**FR. STANISLAW BAK LIBRARY** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre would like to invite everyone on December 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 4:00pm for the biggest book fair. There will be a book to read for everyone above 5 years old. Books available in Polish and English! The fair will take place in the big hall of the Centre.

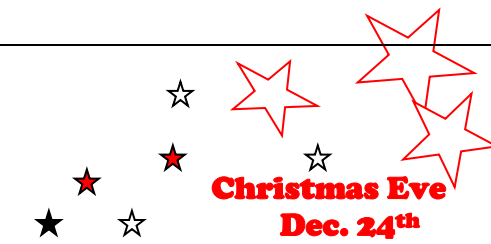
**A.A** - support group (reg. problems with consumption of alcohol). The next open meeting will be held on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm in Br. Anthony Room. Info: Wojtek 647 920-5859

**ANNIVERSARY MASS** - December 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am for couples celebrating their wedding anniversary. Please forward the names to the parish office at 905 848-2420.

**OPŁATEK FOR THE ROSARY FAMILY** will take place on Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 4:00pm. Tickets \$10.00 Due to the New Year First Sunday the next Exchange of Mysteries will take place on Second Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017.

**FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** -The next Exchange of Mysteries of the Living Rosary for the English groups will take place on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017, after which the Rosary Group shares the Christmas Wafer (OPŁATEK), in the parish hall at 10:30am. All are welcome!

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE** - The next course will be held from Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - March 27<sup>th</sup> 2017. Classes will be held on Monday from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, for a total of 6 classes. Sign up - parish office.  
**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE FOR SECOND UNIONS** - couples should attend a specialized marriage preparation offered by the Catholic Family Services 416 921-1163.



**Christmas Eve Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

On Saturday, we will celebrate Christmas Eve in our families. Let us make sure that it is a truly Christian celebration. Let it be an opportunity to unite and reconcile. Let us not forget about a prayer and a lecture of the passage of the Birth of Christ from the Holy Bible (The Gospel according to Luke). Traditionally, we abstain from consuming meat products on Christmas Eve, although it is no longer obligatory. Let us all meet during the midnight Mass, celebrating the birth of our Lord.

*At this time of the year, millions of people all over the world exchange Christmas greetings!*

Dear Parishioners,

*In the Divine Infant our salvation is revealed. In him, God becomes man, and each of us discovers that we are loved, that we are accepted, that we are valuable and unique in the eyes of our Creator. The Birth of Christ helps us realize the value of life, of each human life. In this spirit let us prepare our hearts to receive the Child Jesus. On this, the longest night of the year, he comes to make a home in our hearts. May these Christmas Holidays be for you an encounter with Love. The love, which each of us longs for and for which we were created. May this Holy Season be for all of us a time of encounter with Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!*

*Fr. Janusz Blazejak OMI - Pastor  
Fr. Wojciech Stangel OMI  
Fr. Marcin Serwin OMI  
Fr. Grzegorz Nowak OMI  
and Sr. Karolina Szymkowiak MChR.*

## Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - December 25<sup>th</sup>

On this day the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God become human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. On Christmas Day we can obtain an indulgence for receiving a Papal blessing "Urbi et Orbi" through any means, even though radio or television. Thinking of how we will spend Christmas, let us remember to reflect in silence and come to adore Baby Jesus. Our church is open all day. Christmas Day marks the beginning of the liturgical period of Christmas, rich in signs of God's presence, which will last until January 9 - the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

## Feast of St. Stephen - December 26<sup>th</sup>

One of the first deacons and the first Christian martyr; feast on December 26<sup>th</sup>. In the Acts of the Apostles the name of St. Stephen occurs for the first time on the occasion of the appointment of the first deacons (Acts 6:5). Dissatisfaction concerning the distribution of alms from the community's fund having arisen in the Church, seven men were selected and specially ordained by the Apostles to take care of the temporal relief of the poorer members. Of these seven, Stephen is the first mentioned and the best known.

Masses on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated as follows:  
Mass in English - 9:30am  
Masses in Polish - 8:00am & 11:00am & 1:00pm & 7:00pm

## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF APPARITIONS OUR LADY OF FATIMA

On May 13, 2017, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Blessed Virgin Mary to three young Portuguese shepherds in Fatima, Portugal. We believe that the celebrations taking place in Fatima will be a time of special blessings.

Our parish is organizing a pilgrimage to Fatima, as well as other holy places in Portugal and Spain in May of 2017. It is currently sold out. Due to such high interest, we will organize a second pilgrimage from September 11th -18<sup>th</sup> 2017. It is, however, a program for those on a stricter budget but who wish to visit Fatima in the year of the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, as well as Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Cost \$2195.00plus taxed \$504.00 Total: \$2699.00 Direct fly to Lisbon by Air Canada Sign up & info Polimex 905 238-6683 ext. 427 ask for Mira

## Archdiocese of Toronto Celebrates 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

December 17 marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto, kicking off a year-long celebration of this historic milestone. Originally part of the Diocese of Kingston, on December 17, 1841, Pope Gregory XVI formally created the Diocese of Toronto and named Michael Power its first bishop.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is planning numerous historical and spiritual activities to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including a large-scale celebration at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica on May 30, 2017.

In acknowledging this significant anniversary, Cardinal Thomas Collins remarked:  
*"It is a tremendous blessing to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Toronto. It is always a joy to express my gratitude to those, past and present, which have made incredible contributions to our city, province and country, inspired by their faith. Over the next year, we will honour the past, energize our present faith community and look forward to an exciting future."*

More information on the Archdiocese of Toronto 175<sup>th</sup> celebrations can be accessed by visiting: [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org).

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**NEW YEAR'S DANCE** at JPII Polish Culture Centre - Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm - Cost \$140.00 Included in the cost of the ticket is a hot supper by Jan Gromada. Music provided by SONET Info & tickets: 905 306 9900

## Mass Intentions

**MONDAY, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 ☩ Antoni & Apolonia Maksimowski - son Edward & family  
☩ Jadwiga Danilewicz (1<sup>st</sup> anniv.) - daughter & Family  
☩ Jozef Gazurek  
Special intention for God's blessings and for health for Zofia Zmijak - Zofia & Maria

**19:00 Penitential Service & Confession TUESDAY, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for husband Pawel Jakubicki on his 54<sup>th</sup> birthday -wife & family  
Special intention for God's blessings for Szczepan & Sebastian & Jerzy & Michal - mother  
☩ Edward & Czeslawa & Longin Kulina - family  
☩ Iza & Tadeusz Slotwinski (9<sup>th</sup> anniv.) - son & his wife

**18:00 Cleaning of the Church - No Mass at 7:00pm WEDNESDAY, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

8:00 ☩ Wladyslawa Robak - son & family  
☩ Wladyslawa Czarnecka (2<sup>nd</sup>anniv.) - Artur & family  
☩ Grazyna Kulig - friend Danuta  
Special intention for God's blessings for Anna on her 26<sup>th</sup> birthday - aunt & uncle

**19:00 Penitential Service & Confession THURSDAY, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

8:00 ☩ Zbigniew Burek (1<sup>st</sup>anniv.) - wife & family  
☩ Jan Cichowicz - Joanne & Dan Hynek  
☩ Tadeusz Gal & Stanislaw Dusza  
Special intention for God's blessings for son and his family

**18:30 Rosary Prayer FRIDAY, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00 ☩ Roman Baginski - daughter & family  
☩ Stanislaw Bednarczyk - daughter & family  
☩ Darrin Wilkie (9<sup>th</sup> anniv.) - wife & children  
☩ Jadwiga (25<sup>th</sup> anniv.) - daughters & family

**18:30 Rosary Prayer SATURDAY, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve**

8:00 ☩ Henryk Zmudka (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.) - sister & her husband & daughter  
20:00 **Midnight Mass - In intention of children**  
22:00 **(Midnight Mass - church-Eng.)** ☩ Jacek Stadnik (3<sup>rd</sup> anniv.) - wife & daughters

22:00 **(Midnight Mass - hall-Pol.)** ☩ all deceased from Jankowski & Miklaszewski families - family  
24:00 **(Midnight Mass - church-Pol.)** ☩ Aleksandra & Stanislaw Teczar - son

24:00 **(Midnight Mass - hall-Pol.)** ☩ Henryk Szczutkowski - wife & son  
**SUNDAY, December 25<sup>th</sup> Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 ☩ Jozef Mochocki & Zofia Andrzejewska - Godson  
9:30 ☩ Boleslaw Ulinski - family  
11:00 **Intention for couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries**  
13:00 ☩ Jozef Skos (2<sup>nd</sup>anniv.) & Genowefa Skos Katarzyna Madej-Kusnierz - Jadwiga & family  
14:30 ☩ Mieczyslaw Wiesek (1<sup>st</sup>anniv.) - wife & children & grandchildren  
19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Wanda & Ryszard Zebrowski & their family on their 43<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary