



Christmas Day is truly an amazing grace for all humankind. It's a day that has been eagerly awaited

by generations of believers and entertained through the many and hopeful oracles of biblical prophets. Today, the promises of God are now fulfilled through the amazing birth of a child in the night in Bethlehem and in the chillness of a manager. First, Mary and Joseph are the only witnesses of such a marvel. But soon, the good news is proclaimed twice to humble shepherds "keeping watch over their flock by night," by "an Angel of the Lord," joined later by "a multitude of the heavenly host." This was only the beginning of the greatest good news ever proclaimed on earth. In Luke's narrative, it's not the number of heavenly messengers that increases, but also that of the human recipients: "on earth peace among those whom [God] favours." Born in the city of David, this child is not only the Saviour and Messiah awaited by Israel: he is no less, as the Letter to Titus puts it, "the grace of God... is bringing salvation to all." Let us rejoice then - both as people who believe in this Saviour and Messiah, and together with all nations on earth whom God favours.

Jean-Pierre Prevost, Cheneville, QC

First reading: Isaiah 52.7-10
Responsorial Psalm: All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
Second Reading: Hebrews 1.1-6
Gospel: John 1.1-18

Rose # 27 will lead the rosary this week.

A REMINDER

There will be no confession during the Christmas Octave.

PARISH OFFICE

will be closed on Tuesday, December 27th.

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.

Anniversary of Marriage

Congratulations and may God bless the following couples:

- 32nd anniversary Krystyna & Wojciech Szalag
- 33rd anniversary Malgorzata & Mirosław Ciesla
- 35th anniversary Lilianna & Wojciech Krol
- 40th anniversary Halina & Jerzy Wiercigroch
- 46th anniversary Elzbieta & Marian Zajac
- 60th anniversary Kazimiera & Marian Bartoszek

We wish all of our Jubilee celebrant couples God's grace and blessings on your journey together through life.

Nativity of the Lord

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord December 25th

On this day the Church focuses especially on the newborn Child, God became 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 through 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 Baptism of the Lord.

Christmas Octave begins on Christmas Day and lasts for the entire week, which means that Christmas celebrations are prolonged, allowing us to express our joy of the birth of Jesus for much longer than just one day. Abstinence from meat does not apply during Christmas Octave.

CHURCH RENOVATION IN 2016

This past year we had a lot of church renovations and new equipment replacements.

Along with many changes the entire sanctuary was renovated. A new carpet, tabernacle, baptism font, ambo as well as a new altar were installed. The new altar is made from the altar on which St. John Paul II celebrated the Holy Eucharist during the World Youth Days that took place in Toronto in 2002. Additionally, the church sound system was replaced. The old one was installed at the time when Fr. Stanislaw Bak was the pastor. The new sound system was installed by RDUCH Company from Poland. This company is very well known for their spectacular work with church sound systems. The last step is to replace the sound system in the downstairs parish hall. This is planned for the beginning of the next year.

We have completed the construction of the new entrance to the church. It is the most-used entrance to our church. The cost of the entire investment is \$300,000.00 plus unforeseen expenses. Due to snow, the area outside will be cleaned during the spring.

We ask that each family donate a minimum of \$50.00 towards this cause, however we greatly appreciate each and every donation. Currently we have collected \$81,907.00 for this project. We thank all parishioners for their understanding and generosity. God Bless!

DEAR PARISHIONERS AND GUESTS

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world, so that we might have eternal life through him. This is Real Love Inside Greeting:

A Savior has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord. (Luke 2:11)

May the beautiful gift of Jesus fill your home this Christmas season and throughout the coming year of 2017!

Merry Christmas!

Feast of St. Stephen

December 26th

One of the first deacons and the first Christian martyr - feast on December 26th.

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 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 26th will be celebrated as follows:
Mass in English - 9:30am
Masses in Polish - 8:00am & 11:00am & 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 30th

On Friday, December 30th we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, which is a part of the octave of celebrations of the Birth of our Lord.

We pray that our families become a genuine 'home church' built on selflessly serving and forgiving each other.

Let the Holy Family become for us a source of inspiration to overcome daily difficulties.

Masses will be celebrated at 11:00am & 7:00pm in Polish.

BLESSING FOR CHILDREN on the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Family will be held after the Holy Mass at 7:00pm.

The End of 2016 Year December 31st

On Saturday, December 31st we will celebrate the liturgical memorial of St. Sylvester. Evening Mass at 5:00pm & 7:00pm will be celebrated according to a New Year's Day. We will thank God for all blessings and miracles of this past year and apologize for our sins and neglects. We will also ask God for continual blessings and protection for us, our families, our parish and our priests.



From the Pulpit

OFFERATORY ENVELOPES FOR CURRENT & NEW USERS FOR 2017 - are displayed in the parish hall in alphabetical 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.

Parishioners who did not pick up their envelopes for 2017 are asked to do as soon as possible. Envelopes that were not collected will be passed onto other parishioners. We also ask not to use envelopes from previous years.

OPLATEK FOR THE ROSARY FAMILY will take place on Friday, December 30th 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 8th 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 8th 2017, after which the Rosary Group shares the Christmas Wafer (OPLATEK), in the parish hall at 10:30am. All are welcome!

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE - The next course will be held from Feb. 20th - March 27th 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.

PRAYER EVENING WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Adoremus Prayer Group invites on Saturday, January 7th 2017 from 8:00pm - 9:30pm in the church (following the evening Mass) for a prayer evening with the Blessed Sacrament. We praise and worship God in joyful songs, listen to a formation talk on selected themes in spirituality, do a guided meditation on the Gospel, pray for healing and receive individually a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OPLATEK on Saturday, January 14th at 6:00pm Info & tickets 905 276-3789

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

The following members have left our community, and entered into the eternal life with the Lord in December:

The Late: † Jozef Glowacki 74,

† Mieczyslaw Wolczak 66, † Czeslawa Moss 76,

† Stanislaw Sztrajt 72, † Zofia Trojanowska 64, † Tadeusz Gal 55.

Eternal Rest Grant unto Them and Let Your Light Shine upon Them.

December 25th 2016 Vol. 37, No.52



NEW YEAR'S DANCE at JPPII Polish Culture Centre - Saturday, December 31st 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 26th Saint Stephen, the First Martyr

- 8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Julia & Roman Sroslak
- 9:30 Thanksgiving for blessings for Matteo, Christian and Emma - parents
- 11:00 † Szczepan Bryk (anniv.) - wife
- 13:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Anna & Artur on their 13th wedding anniversary
- 19:00 † Stanislaw Dziedzic (anniv.) - son & family

TUESDAY, December 27th St. John the Apostle

- 8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Elzbieta Kluz on her 60th birthday - friends
- 19:00 † Andrew Gut - wife & family † Janina Ambroza & Tadeusz Wrobel - family

WEDNESDAY, December 28th The Holy Innocents

- 8:00 † Jozef & Eugeniusz Grabowski & Eugeniusz & Teresa & Celina Wierciszewski - daughter & son & family † Mieczyslaw Lewicki - son
- 19:00 **Group Intention**

THURSDAY, December 29th Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

- 8:00 In intention known to God only
- 19:00 † Wladyslaw Kacprzyk & his parents - Barbara & family † Marek & Stanislaw Kopec & Jozef Pliszka

FRIDAY, December 30th The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

- 8:00 † Antonina & Ludwik Sroczyński
- 11:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Malgorzata & Jan Podolak and their family on their 31st wedding anniversary
- 19:00 † Marianna & Tadeusz Bialy - son & family † Irena Popkowska (6th anniv.) - husband & children & grandchildren

SATURDAY, December 31st Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity

- 8:00 † Michal Michniewski
- 17:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Maciej and his family
- 19:00 † Alfreda Zankowicz - husband & children

SUNDAY, January 1st The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- 8:00 † all deceased from Wozniowdzki family - Alicja & her husband
- 9:30 † Teresa Rosinska (1st anniv.)
- 11:00 **FOR PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS**
- 13:00 † Marianna Basak (anniv.) - son Jan & family
- 14:30 † Mieczyslaw Kozierski (1st anniv.) - family
- 19:00 † all deceased from Baniak & Witarowski & Frey families