

Third Sunday of Advent



Baptism



The following child will receive the Sacrament of Baptism:

Anthony Rutkowski son of Malgorzata & Pawel

We welcome Anthony and congratulate his parents and godparents.

Today - Sunday, December 17th our Youth is inviting for PEROGIES and unpasteurized HONEY. Please support our Youth preparing for Panama WYD.

ADVENT TIME

BLESSED CHRISTMAS WAFER (OPLATEK) is available in the parish hall.

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

Wednesday, Dec. 20th at 7:00pm and Friday, December 22nd at 7:00pm. We remind everyone that penitential service is also held a half hour before every Mass.

A reminder - there will be no confession during the Christmas Octave.

GROUP MASS INTENTION

Due to the Christmas Season preparation there will be no Group Mass intentions as well as Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday, December 20th.

All offered intentions will be read on Wednesday, December 27th

ANNUAL CLEANING OF THE CHURCH - before Christmas will be on Tuesday, Dec. 19th from 6:00pm. All volunteers are welcome!

Youth & Scouts are welcome! We invite especially our youth, who can use this opportunity to complete their volunteer hours required for their high school diploma.

MASS CELEBRATION

Due to Christmas preparation there will be no 7:00pm evening Masses from December 19th until December 22nd.

PARISH OFFICE

will be closed on Tuesday, December 26th.

In the four weeks of Advent the third Sunday came to be a time of rejoicing that the fasting was almost over. The shift from the purple of the Season to pink or rose for the third Sunday Advent candles reflected this lessening emphasis on penitence as attention turned more to celebration of the season.

As Christians, we recognize the season of Advent as a time of great anticipation in which we prepare for the coming of the Lord. In today's Gospel John the Baptist calls us to "Make straight the way of the Lord." This call to action is not easy in an ever-growing secular world. Although it should be the very opposite, the season of Advent is perhaps the most difficult time of year to rise and to meet John's call. More often than not, today's reality is one where the season of Advent is inundated with commercialism and anything but Christ. To remain focused while we await the coming of the Lord is increasingly difficult and requires humility, discipline and patience. These qualities require a great deal of practice and prayer. Seemingly enough, the reverse is true as practice and prayer require a great deal of humility, discipline and patience. If we are to lead a virtuous Christian life then we must follow John's example, displaying humility, discipline and patience when responding to those who questioned him. Despite the heavy commercialization of Advent, let us as Christians persevere through prayer and practice as we celebrate and share the coming of the Lord with everyone that we encounter during this blessed season.

Dana Kenny, Charlottetown, PE

First reading: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11
Responsorial Psalm: My soul shall exult in my God.
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
Gospel: John 1.6,19-28

Rose # 15 will lead the rosary this week.

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

A new Coffee & Donuts schedule for 2018 is available in the parish office.

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

2018 PARISH CALENDAR - was issued already and is available in the parish hall today. Cost \$5.00. Our new calendar illustrates parish life as well as informs about all important parish events. We encourage each family to have one.

From the Pulpit

It happens occasionally that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. How does this affect our liturgical celebrations?

Advent is a liturgical season spread over four weeks (and cannot be longer). They are not always exactly four weeks. Since Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday, the fourth week of Advent will only consist of one day - Sunday. Therefore, Christmas Eve celebrations will not be moved as it cannot be celebrated before the fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas carols will not be sang during Sunday Masses on December 24. We will begin singing Christmas carols during the midnight Masses.

NOTE: participation in the midnight Mass does not substitute participation in Sunday Mass on December 24, as it is considered the first Mass of Christmas Day.

A lot of Catholics are also asking whether fasting from meat products is still required on December 24, as it falls on a Sunday. Fasting from meat products on Christmas Eve is a Polish tradition and not a requirement of the Church. According to the rules of the Church, fasting on any Sunday is not required. Therefore, we can follow the Polish tradition and not consume meat products during our Christmas Eve supper if we choose to but it is not a requirement and if we choose not to do so, it will not be a sin.

THE POPE'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS - DECEMBER 2017
THE ELDERLY
That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



From the Pulpit



ACCEPTANCE OD NEW ALTAR SERVERS CANDIDATES - will take place today, Sunday, December 17th during 11:00am Mass.

OFFERATORY ENVELOPES FOR CURRENT & NEW USERS FOR 2018 - 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 on it.

A.A - support group (reg. problems with consumption of alcohol). Oplatek for AA Group will be held on Monday, December 18th at 8:30pm. The next open meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 20th at 8:30pm in Br. Anthony Room. Info: Wojtek 647 920-5859

OPLATEK FOR THE ROSARY FAMILY will take place on Saturday, December 30th at 3:00pm in the parish hall. Admission with tickets only!

ANNIVERSARY MASS - December 31st at 11:00am for couples celebrating their wedding anniversary. Please forward the names to the parish office at 905 848-2420.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH - The next Exchange of Mysteries of the Living Rosary for the English groups will take place on Sunday, January 7th 2018, 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 January 29th - March 12th 2018. Classes will be held on Monday from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, for a total of 7 classes. Sign up - parish office. Cost \$100.00

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE FOR SECOND UNIONS - couples should attend a specialized marriage preparation offered by the Catholic Family Services. Information/registrations call: 416 921-1163

ADULTS PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION - Meetings for adults preparing for the sacrament of confirmation will take place on following Fridays: February 23rd & March 2nd & 9th & 16th at 8:00pm in Sister Faustyna Room (new Catechetical Centre). Classes will be held in both languages Polish and English. All those interested are asked to contact the parish office at 905 848 2420. A copy of the baptismal certificate is mandatory upon registration.

In Short

RADIO MARYJA OPLATEK will be held on Sunday, January 14th 2018. 2:30pm Mass at St. Maximilian Kobe and 4:00pm-banquet at Polish Culture Centre. Tickets \$60.00 can be obtained through: Joanna Szydłowska 905 819-1040 or Joanna Strzezek 905 845-3553 or Health from Nature Store at 416 532-9805 or Something Special Store at 905 629-2347 or John Paul II Culture Centre at 905 306-9900



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN - April 30th - May 10th 2018 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan under the spiritual direction of Fr. Janusz Blazejak. In the program: Haifa, Nazareth, Cana of Galilee, the Yardenit Baptismal Site, Petra, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada and Dead Sea. Cost: \$ 3,990.00 (taxes included). Info: Polimex Travel 905 238-6683 ext 427 (ask for Mira)

DIVINE MERCY CHAPEL

In 1995, on Good Friday, the Chapel of Divine Mercy of Perpetual Adoration was officially opened. On August 15 of that same year, perpetual adoration of the living God began and continues until today.

Throughout the entire 22 years, there is always somebody adoring Christ in the chapel.

To be present in front of the Holy Sacrament, each person receives God's grace, even if they don't feel it. Adoration is not just benefiting the individual but it also influences a community and is an invaluable treasure. The continuous prayer influences the quality of life of all of us.

Recently, due too many reasons, mainly as a result of sickness, death or moving, about 30 people had to cancel their allocated time of adoration in the Divine Mercy Chapel.

As a result, there are several open spots. We ask everyone, especially those, who were never part of the perpetual adoration, to consider signing up for one hour every week. We need at least 30 people to continue the perpetual adoration. Accept Jesus' invitation and dedicate one hour of your time each week, or even once a month. Information: Barbara and Andrzej Chmura: 905-949-1237.

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 18th

8:00 ✚ Joanna Sasko - friends from workplace In intention known to God only Special intention for God's blessings for family mourning Adam's death
19:00 ✚ Helena Belz - granddaughter & family
8:00 ✚ Tadeusz Antonik (2nd anniv.) - son & family Special intention for God's blessings for Beata Chojacka and her family Special intention for God's blessings for Ireneusz - family Special intention for God's blessings and for help to find a job
18:00 Cleaning of the Church - No Mass at 7:00pm
WEDNESDAY, December 20th

8:00 ✚ Iza & Tadeusz Slotwinski (10th anniv.) - son & his wife ✚ Emilia Lisisci - husband & family ✚ Kathy DeSouza - sister Special intention for God's blessings for husband Pawel on his 55th birthday - wife & children
19:00 Penitential Service & Confession at our parish THURSDAY, December 21st
8:00 ✚ Wladyslawa Robak - son & family ✚ Zofia & Edward Zubalski - granddaughter & her husband ✚ Jozef & Bronislawa Stachel - daughter ✚ Barbara Prokop & Maria & Ryszard & Helena Tomczak

19:00 Penitential Service & Confession at St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish FRIDAY, December 22nd
8:00 ✚ Zbigniew Burek (2nd anniv.) - wife & children ✚ Witold Jaworski (10th anniv.) - daughter & family ✚ Halina Rozycka - sister & family Special intention for God's blessings for Stryjnik family

19:00 Penitential Service & Confession at our parish SATURDAY, December 23rd
8:00 ✚ Jadwiga (26th anniv.) - daughter & family
17:00 ✚ Janusz (4th anniv.) & Jakub Smagala (26th anniv.) - Barbara Smagala & family
19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Michal on his 29th birthday - parents & grandmother
SUNDAY, December 24th
Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 ✚ Adam Szweczyk - sister Irena & her husband
9:30 Special intention for God's blessings for Halina & Waldemar Paliga & their family - John & Connie Manuel
11:00 FOR PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS
13:00 ✚ Wlodzimierz Krupka - daughter & family

Christmas Eve

20:00 Midnight Mass - In intention of children
22:00 (Midnight Mass - church-Eng.) ✚ Stanislaw Wojna - brother & family
22:00 (Midnight Mass - hall-Pol.) ✚ Jacek Stadnik (4th anniv.) - wife & daughters
24:00 (Midnight Mass - church-Pol.) ✚ Aleksandra & Stanislaw Teczar - son
24:00 (Midnight Mass - hall-Pol.) ✚ Joanna Swiderska - daughters