

**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24**



On the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

"The Lord is with you." One can only imagine how Mary felt receiving this knowledge. Despite her lowliness, she was chosen to give birth to the Son of God. She was perplexed and moved by what she heard, yet Mary accepted the tremendous responsibility and proclaimed a joyful "yes." Mary's faithful response to God's call carried her through life when, years later, she watched her son be put to death. Even then she drew on God for strength. Just as Mary felt perplexed by the angel's greeting, we too can feel overwhelmed by the intense love of God. In a few hours' time, we will gather at the crèche and celebrate that the Word of God took on human form to be present with us. It is astonishing to think that, regardless of our failings, we are not alone. As Advent comes to a close, may we allow ourselves to find peace in the knowledge that God has a plan for each one of us and that the love of God will not lead us astray. God is with us every hour of the day, and we need only ask for the strength and hope that will allow us to overcome our challenges.

Elizabeth Chesley-Jewell Toronto, ON

First reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Responsorial Psalm: Forever I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.
Second Reading: Romans 16.25-27
Gospel: Luke 1. 16-38

Rose # 17 will lead the rosary this week.



Weddings

The following couples are planning to be married:

Joanna Bozena Kruszynska daughter of Malgorzata & Waldemar
Kevin John Gordon Pye son of Beatrice & Gordon Wayne

Anna Brozda daughter of Mariola & Kazimierz
Patrick Karp son of Anna & Krzysztof

We wish them all God's blessing.

Nativity of the Lord

**Christmas Eve
December 24th**

Today, 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.

★ **Solemnity
of the Nativity
of the Lord
December 25th**

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 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.**

Reminder

There will be no confession during the Christmas Octave.

PARISH OFFICE
will be closed on
Tuesday, December 26th.

ADVERTISEMENT

The cost of printing the church bulletin is covered by businesses advertising in them. Our appreciation and thanks to all our existing sponsors. Let us repay their sponsorship and patronage by using the services that they provide.

PARKING

Please be aware that when parking on private property there are certain bi-laws that must be obeyed by all drivers. The Pastoral Team is not held responsible for any parking tickets issued by the city's authorities.



**DEAR PARISHIONERS
AND GUESTS**

As we fix our gaze on the Prince of Peace, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a poor manger, surrounded by a love without boundaries of Mary and Joseph.

We hear the words of the Angel:
"For unto you is born this day
in the city of David a Savior."

Let us let this joyful news proclaimed that night in Bethlehem resound in our homes, unite the quarreled, bring relief to the suffering, comfort the sad and convey hope to the hearts of those who doubt.

May the Divine Child of God nestled in Mary arms bless each one of us and our entire community, so that we may walk in the Lords paths in the coming New Year of 2018.

For this coming Christmas, on my own behalf, the Missionary Oblates and the Sisters, I wish that each one of you experiences an intimate encounter with Jesus, our Master and Friend, who constantly awaits us with His love.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank You & God Bless!

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas initiative of sending gifts for children from orphanages in Poland, as well as Cameroon and South Africa.

This year, we have sent packages to the following orphanages in Poland: Stara Wies, Pacanow, Wolsztyn, Klenica. Altar Servers sponsored parcels for children from Knurów and Wloclawek.

We have also sent financial support to Albertine Sisters in Czestochowa, who work with disabled children, the newly established Catholic mission in Cameroon, as well as a foundation for children in South Africa.

Andrzej & Malgorzata Szczepanek from our parish sponsored a new tabernacle for the new mission in Cameroon. It was done in Poznan and will be transported by air to Cameroon. The group Families of John Paul II collected funds for packages for children in Poland.

**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 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 31st**

On Sunday, December 31st 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 as follows:
Mass in English: Saturday, Dec.30th at 5:00pm
& Sunday, Dec. 31st at 9:30am
Masses in Polish:
Saturday, Dec.30th at 7:00pm
& Sunday Dec. 31st at 8:00am & 11:00am
& 1:00pm & 2:30pm.

BLESSING FOR CHILDREN on the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 31st) will be held after the Holy Mass at 9:30am & 1:00pm.

★ **Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
January 1st**

On Monday, January 1st we will celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and pray for much needed peace in the world. This Marian Feast is a holy day of obligation in our Catholic Church, calling us to attend Holy Mass where we encounter a wealth of graces.

From the Pulpit

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.

PRAYER EVENING WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Adoremus Prayer Group invites on Saturday, January 6th 2018 from 8:00pm - 9:00pm 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.

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!

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

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.

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)



NEW YEAR'S DANCE at JPPII 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 25th
Nativity of the Lord**

8:00 ✚ Szczeban Bryk - wife
9:30 ✚ Eddy Niedziela - Veronica
11:00 **FOR PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS**
13:00 Special intention for God's blessings and for health for Nicole & Nicholas
14:30 Special intention for God's blessings for Wanda & Ryszard Zebrowski & their family on the 44th wedding anniversary
19:00 ✚ Stefan Bernat - Lucy Springer

**TUESDAY, December 26th
Saint Stephen**

8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Julia & Roman Sroslak
9:30 ✚ Walenty Siuda - son & family
11:00 ✚ Jan Kurzydło (1st anniv.) - daughter & family
13:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Anna & Artur on their 14th wedding anniversary
19:00 ✚ parents & Irena Karbarz & Ludwik & Mieczyslaw & Anna Paz - family

WEDNESDAY, December 27th Saint John

8:00 ✚ Janina Ambroza & Tadeusz Wrobel - children
Special intention known to God only

**THURSDAY, December 28th
The Holy Innocents**

8:00 ✚ Franciszek Boczkowski - Balinski family
19:00 ✚ Seweryn & Jacek Stadnik - wife & mother
✚ Helena & Jozef & Eugeniusz Grabowski & Eugeniusz & Teresa & Celina Wierciszewski

**FRIDAY, December 29th
Fifth Day within the Octave**

8:00 Thanksgiving intention and asking for many God's blessings for Thomas Urbaniak on his birthday-Julia
19:00 ✚ Stanislaw Burek - family
✚ Zofia & Wlodzimierz Choinski & Stanislaw Czach - family

**SATURDAY, December 30th
Sixth Day within the Octave**

8:00 ✚ Marianna Bialy (3rd anniv.) - son Wlodzimierz & family
17:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Wioletta & Paulina & Adam - family
19:00 ✚ Krystyna Siemiginowski - children

**SUNDAY, December 31st
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:00 ✚ Stanislaw Szarek - wife & family
9:30 ✚ Esperanza Estoy - family
11:00 **Intention for couples celebrating their wedding anniversaries**
13:00 In intention of families of Domestic Church
14:30 Special intention for God's blessings for Rogala Family

**MONDAY, January 1st 2018 - New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

19:00 - Sunday, Dec. 31st
8:00 Special intention for God's blessings for members of Holy Trinity Rose #56
9:30 ✚ Esperanza Estoy - family
11:00 ✚ Leokadia Mendel (2nd anniv.) -husband Marian & sons Henry & Richard
13:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Dagmara on her 40th birthday - mother
14:30 ✚ Zofia & Marian & Stanislaw Olejek
19:00 ✚ Emilia Serwin - son & family

