

# 1st Sunday of Advent



Advent is a special time, given to us by the Church, to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. As Paul reminds us in the second reading, this is “the moment for you to wake from sleep.” Yet there is much in

our culture and daily lives that distracts us and keeps us busy. Especially in these next weeks, it is easy for us to get caught up in all the socializing, shopping, and expectations of family and friends.

Today’s Gospel may frighten us when it challenges us to be ready. Dare we believe in God’s promise that “the Son of Man is coming” into our world? Can we risk trusting our desire for him and the transformation his coming will bring us, even as we wait for the fulfillment of his coming?

Yes, we can and we must be awake and ready this Advent season to receive the unexpected gift of God’s loving presence at any moment! Our God loves us unconditionally – just as we are, this very day. We don’t have to earn this love or prove ourselves worthy of it. Once we accept this truth, everything changes. We begin to “walk in the light” as we are called to make God’s love alive through our actions. Then they too can wake up and be ready to receive God’s promise through faith.

Joe Egan; Toronto, ON

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2.1-5

**Responsorial Psalm:** Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Romans 13.11-14

**Gospel:** Matthew 24.37-44

**COFFEE & DONUTS** will be served by Lay Franciscan Order, for the needs of the parish.

**ROSARY** is being led by Rose number 55.

**First Thursday of the month, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Prayer for Vocations at 6:30 p.m.

**First Friday of the month, December 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mass

**First Saturday of the month, December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the 8 a.m. Mass

## PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Parishioners who had their photo taken for the pictorial directory and had not picked one up yet are asked to visit the parish office.

## The Sacrament of Baptism

will be bestowed upon:

**Oliwer Dominik Cieplak**,  
son of Sylwia & Marcin  
**Ania Lauren Dybel**,  
daughter of Jill & Jaroslav  
**Aleksander Kurpaska**,  
son of Agnieszka & Marcin

We welcome all children and congratulate their parents and Godparents.

## Advent

Advent is a special time of year when we meditate on the Word of God given to us by the Church and renew our hope for the glorious coming of our Saviour.

We are called to prepare the way for the Lord – not the physical path, but that of our heart. It is a time for our conversion, cleansing of sins, getting rid of pride and selfishness, fixing our relationships with our neighbours and our families.

We have to make our own lives a straight path to God, a path without potholes and compromises. These tasks are not only for this year’s Advent, but every Advent well lived better prepares us for the Saviour’s coming. This extraordinary period speaks of salvation that comes to man from God.

**ADVENT RETREAT** (in Polish) will begin on **Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** and will be led by Fr. Arkadiusz Cichla OMI, a Missionary from Ukraine. A detailed schedule will be announced next Sunday.

**Fr. Arkadiusz Cichla OMI** was born on July 12, 1972 in Wroclaw. On June 15, 2002, he was ordained in Wroclaw and received his first obedience to Ukraine. He worked in Yevpatoria (Crimea), Obukhiv, and Kiev, where he was also a pastor. He finished additional schooling in order to become a member of the formation team at the seminary. Currently, he is working in Obukhiv, where he is the superior. He is also the treasurer of the Ukranian Delegation.

## Rorate Caeli for Children

*Roraty* with “St. Joseph, the Guardian of Treasure” will take place **from Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Together with Mary and Joseph we want to make sure we’re ready for Jesus’ birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>. We will conclude with a special Rorate Caeli Mass on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast in the parish hall.

## Happy Birthday Fr. Tomasz!

On **Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**, Fr. Tomasz Jarosz will celebrate his birthday. We keep Fr. Tomasz in our prayers and wish him lots of happiness, an abundance of God’s grace, and loving protection of Mary Immaculate. Sto lat Fr. Tomasz!

**ROYAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS** Exchanging of gifts during the Christmas season goes back to the baroque era. The belief was that each gift is a gift from the heart; therefore, even the smallest of gifts would provide the receiver with extreme joy.

For the past number of years, our parish has been sponsoring “**Royal Christmas Gifts**” for **orphanages in Poland**. If you would like to be a part of this tradition, please consider making a monetary donation **today** at the door of the church.

**FOOD DRIVE** We also remember about those in need in our local community. The Parish Council and the Knights of Columbus are organizing an annual food drive for the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mississauga Food Bank. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off **today** in the parish hall and by the church entrance. Most needed items are: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). **No expired food, please!**

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**, blessed Christmas Wafers, and calendars are available in the parish hall after Mass and in the parish office during office hours.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2020** are displayed in the parish hall in alphabetical order by last name. IMPORTANT! Please make sure that the number on the label matches the number on the envelope. Also, please write your full name, address, and phone number on the first envelope in order to match the envelope number with the family name printed on it. Any errors should be directed to the parish office.



**We did it together!** It’s impossible to quantify how you, the parishioners of the Archdiocese of Toronto, are making your communities more caring and compassionate. But there is a number worth celebrating: \$13 million. That is how much was raised by thousands of people in over 200 parishes through the 2019 ShareLife Parish Campaign. The Holy Spirit inspired you to reach out to those in need, and you responded generously. You have lived the Gospel and, on behalf of ShareLife agencies and those they serve, we can never thank you enough.

**THANK YOU** to all parishioners who shared their treasure and supported the Marian Chapel of Polonia of the World in Warsaw.

## The Knights of the Immaculate

The Knights of the Immaculate is a Marian apostolic movement founded by Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Their objective is to strive for the conversion of sinners and those who have not yet found Christ, the conversion of the enemies of the Church, the unification of Christianity and for the sanctification of all, under the protection and through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin.

A Solemn Act of Consecration for new members will take place on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**, after the morning Mass. **Interested individuals are asked to contact Teresa Wątroba, at (905) 495-7035.**

## Perpetual Adoration Chapel

is a unique place where one can meet Jesus whenever the heart desires it, day and night. At our parish, Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is open 24 hours a day and has been open continuously for the past 24 years. The faithful come before

We encourage our parishioners to join the group of individuals who Adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. **If you are interested in signing up for an hour of Adoration, please contact Mr. and Mrs. Chmura at (905) 949-1237.**



*“The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host.”*  
– Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

## Electronic Devices in the Church

The use of electronic devices (such as e-book readers, smartphones or tablets) during Mass is inappropriate and strictly prohibited. Holy Eucharist is a communal celebration and the use of such devices shut us off from that community and is distracting to others. However, electronic devices may be used outside of Mass (inside the church or Chapel of Perpetual Adoration) if they aid our private prayer, e.g. reading of the Holy Scriptures, litanies, meditations, etc. It is inappropriate to publicly point out to others that they use electronic devices for their personal prayer.

## ADVENT CONFESSION

Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.  
Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

There will be no confession between December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020.

## Upcoming Events



Join us for a Christmas Concert by the prestigious Song and Dance Ensemble “Śląsk”, who is without a doubt one of the greatest ambassador of Polish culture. Their repertoire includes the most beautiful Christmas songs and carols. “Śląsk” – “Silesia” will perform at our parish on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.** About 70 tickets (at \$40 each) are available in the parish hall and in the parish office during regular office hours.

**PILGRIMAGE TO JAPAN** – “In the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe” – is being organized for May 6<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 under the spiritual direction of Fr. Janusz Blazejak. The itinerary is very impressive, hence only four spots remain. More information is available by calling POLIMEX at: (905) 238-6683, ext. 427 (Mira)

**PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE** – *Gold Rose Apostolate* is organizing a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, a place of spiritual rescue for everyone. There you will experience miracles, changes, conversions and healings. There, through Mary’s intercession, you can pray for others. Pilgrimage dates: April 26 – May 6, 2020. For more information call Marzena: (647) 284-1631.

Events at  
the John Paul II  
Polish Cultural Centre

events@jp2pcc.ca

**December 8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
Book Sale

**December 8, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
A visit from Santa Clause. Free admission.

**December 24, 5 p.m.**  
Christmas Eve Dinner for those in Solitude  
Pre-registration is required at:  
(416) 828-2582 or (647) 466-6207.

**December 31, 7 p.m. – 3 a.m.**  
New Year’s Eve Party with the Kompot Band.  
Dinner prepared by Master Chef Jan Gromada,  
open bar, lottery, photo booth.  
Tickets: \$140 per person / Info: (905) 306-9900

## LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

We are currently looking for Polish-speaking young adults or teachers willing to lead the Liturgy of the Word for children at the 11 o’clock Mass. Interested individuals are asked to speak to Fr. Pawel Pilarczyk.

## Mass Intentions

### MONDAY, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

- 8<sup>00</sup> Special intention for God’s blessing for Barbara  
19<sup>00</sup> † Czeslaw Szczepanek and all deceased from Szczepanek and Jaworski families  
† Anna & Stanislaw Wegrzynowski – son and family

### TUESDAY, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### St. Francis Xavier

- 8<sup>00</sup> Special intention for God’s blessing and health for Beata & Ryszard on the occasion of their wedding anniversary  
10<sup>00</sup> Special intention for all members of the Kolbe Seniors Club  
19<sup>00</sup> Special intention for the gifts of the Holy Spirit for Ewelina

### WEDNESDAY, December 4<sup>th</sup>

#### St. John Damascene

- 8<sup>00</sup> † Teonia & Czeslaw Kapustka and Tadeusz & Czeslawa Sowinski  
† Alfreda Zankowicz (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – husband with family  
19<sup>00</sup> † Wladyslaw & Maria Wachnicki – daughter with family

### THURSDAY, December 5<sup>th</sup>

- 8<sup>00</sup> Special intention for Zbigniew Serwin on his birthday – children  
19<sup>00</sup> For God’s blessing for all priests and religious – Gold Rose Apostolate  
† Franciszek Boczkowski (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.) Beata and Mariusz with family

### FRIDAY, December 6<sup>th</sup>

#### St. Nicholas

- 8<sup>00</sup> † Julian Lizon – son with family  
† Stanislaw Wiercinski – daughter  
10<sup>00</sup> † Andrzej Smola (2<sup>nd</sup> anniv.) – wife  
19<sup>00</sup> Special intention for God’s grace for the family of Elzbieta and Marian Zajac

### SATURDAY, December 7<sup>th</sup>

#### St. Ambrose

- 8<sup>00</sup> Special intention for all members of the Rosary Family and Knights of Mary Immaculate  
17<sup>00</sup> † Grazyna Zajac – husband and children  
19<sup>00</sup> † Zygmunt Kucz – wife, son, and family

### SUNDAY, December 8<sup>th</sup>

- 8<sup>00</sup> † Jan Rogowski – daughter Alina with family  
9<sup>30</sup> Special intention for God’s grace for Alexandra Kowalczyk on her birthday – parents  
11<sup>00</sup> For parishioners and benefactors  
13<sup>00</sup> † Lucyna Woloszczak (12<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – children with families  
14<sup>30</sup> † Fryderyk Wisniowski – wife with family  
19<sup>00</sup> † Anna and Jozef Osadcow and all deceased family members

## Parish Office

will be closed on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## New Parish Office Hours

Please note that beginning next year, the parish office will be open on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.