

3rd Sunday of Advent



Recently a flyer arrived in our mailbox proclaiming, "Holiday Magic starts with believing." That got me thinking. What is the magic of this season? Advent is a time of waiting; we are waiting for the coming Messiah. At Christmas we will celebrate Christ's birth. God promised through the prophets that a Saviour would be sent for humankind.

John the Baptist asks his followers to determine whether Jesus is the one whom God will send. Jesus points to what he himself says and does as evidence of who he is – "the lame walk, the lepers are cleaned, the deaf hear; the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." Do I believe what I see and hear? Do I trust the words and deeds of God?

Today is also known as Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday, taken from the first words in today's Entrance Antiphon. Isaiah prophesies "the desert shall rejoice and blossom." Why should we rejoice? Because Jesus is coming for each one of us! He is our hope and our light. By entering our humanity he brings eternity to our reality.

With Christmas days away, may we slip away for a moment to focus on the real holiday magic of this season. May our hearts be ready to welcome Jesus as God's eternal gift to the world.

Gerry Sobie; Castlegar, BC

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-6a, 10
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, come and save us.
Second Reading: James 5.7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

Kolbe Youth invites one and all for a hot meal (for here or to go), all sorts of *pierogi*, as well as coffee and donuts. By supporting our youth, you are contributing to their formation through various activities, trips, and pilgrimages.

Rosary is being led by Rose number 57.

FR. PASTOR'S REFLECTION

We are in the second half of Advent. Beginning Tuesday, December 17th, we will enter a period of direct preparation for the birth of our Saviour. How are we living through this holy time? Maybe now is the time to correct our behavior, to reconcile with our loved ones and with God through an honest confession. The Church comes to our aid as a minister of God's mercy and through the beauty and richness of the Advent liturgy.

Let us remember that our life path leads to the final meeting with God - the Just Judge. Let us use this time to deepen our relationships with our family members and our parish community, where we strengthen our friendship with God to be able to better show it to others.

Today's third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, so called after the words of the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near" (Phil 4:4-5). The pink colour of vestments refers to the colour of the sky at sunrise and reminds us that the Saviour – the Rising Sun – is really close.

The Sacrament of Marriage

Please join us in praying for

Bacibel De Marie Vasques,
daughter of Kilmna and Mario
&
Kamil Pawel Klos,
son of Renata and Piotr

who are preparing for Holy Matrimony.

Christmas Program is available by the entrance to the church and in the main hall. Please take one home!

Blessed **Christmas Wafers** (Oplatek), Christmas cards, and parish calendars are available in the parish hall after Mass and in the parish office during office hours.

CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS

Christmas is Upon Us

It's a special time of coming closer to God and a chance to look inside our hearts before we share the Christmas wafer. The question arises, however, how can we, Catholics, prepare well for Christmas? The answer is clear and obvious: through prayer, silence, the sacrament of confession, and penitential obligations. It is also important to realize the importance of Christmas with our loved ones, who may have forgotten about its meaning and value.

Advent Confession

Wednesday, December 18th at 6 p.m.
Friday, December 20th at 6 p.m.
at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Thursday, December 19th at 6 p.m.
at St. Eugene de Mazenod Parish

Sunday, December 22nd at 8 p.m.
at St. Casimir's Parish

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

Annual Church Cleaning

As we prepare for Christmas, we want to make sure our church is spotless for the holidays. Please join us for our Annual Church Cleaning on **Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.** Bring your whole family and invite your friends. We're really counting on you, our wonderful youth, and scouts. There's lots to do for everyone! High school students can receive volunteer hours required for their high school diploma. Hope to see you on Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Poinsettias for the Manger

If anyone would like to help us decorate our Christmas Manger, we will gladly accept red poinsettias of various sizes until Monday, **December 16th.**

Christmas Eve Mass for Children

Children who will be attending the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass are encouraged to dress up at characters from the Christmas Manger: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men.

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.

Offertory Envelopes for 2020



Envelopes 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.

Online Giving Now Available

Please note that you are now able to submit Sunday offerings through on-line payments. To use this method, visit www.kolbe.ca, click on *support* in the top right-hand corner and then *donate*. You will be transferred to the Archdiocese of Toronto website where you will choose your church and fill out a form. You can make a one-time donation or choose a weekly option. Parishioners using this form of parish support will receive a tax receipt directly from the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Parish Office Hours

On Tuesday, **December 31st,** the parish office will be open **from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

RADIO MARYJA BANQUET

will be held on **Sunday, January 12th, 2020** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. and banquet will begin at 4 p.m. Tickets at \$60 are available from:
Health from Nature Store (416) 532-9805
Something Special Store (905) 629-2347
Polish Cultural Centre (905) 306-9900
Joanna Szydłowska (905) 818-1040
Joanna Strzezek (905) 845-3553

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO JAPAN

A pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe" – is being organized for **May 6th - 14th, 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)

Events at
the John Paul II
Polish Cultural Centre



events@jp2pcc.ca

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.

Parish Photo Directory

About 60 families, who had their photo taken for the pictorial directory, have not picked it up yet. If you are one of them, please visit the parish office as soon as possible.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 16th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Maria & Piotr Białoszewski – daughter with family
19⁰⁰ ✚ Edward Kulina – brothers
✚ Franciszek (2nd anniv.) – children with families

TUESDAY, December 17th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Natalia, Adam, and Michal Dec – Ryszard with family
✚ Barbara Wojcik – Sawarski family
Special intention for God's blessing for Halina & Krzysztof Panasiewicz on their 40th wedding anniversary – mother
19⁰⁰ *No Mass*

WEDNESDAY, December 18th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Tadeusz Antonik (4th anniv.) – son with family
✚ Aleksandra and Karol
In thanksgiving for Adam on his birthday
18⁰⁰ *Advent Confession*

THURSDAY, December 19th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Maryla & Zbigniew Pieniazek – sisters with families
✚ Emilia Lisicka (3rd anniv.)
In thanksgiving for all received graces and for God's continued blessing
18³⁰ *Annual Church Cleaning*

FRIDAY, December 20th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Anna Chwiszczuk (1st anniv.) – daughter with family
✚ Mom Wladyslawa Robak – son with family
✚ Zdzislaw Kamycki – wife and son with family
✚ Michał Bartnik (6 mos. anniv.) – family
18⁰⁰ *Advent Confession*

SATURDAY, December 21st

St. Peter Canisius, Doctor of the Church
8⁰⁰ Special intention for the gifts of the Holy Spirit for Nicole and Adrian – parents
17⁰⁰ ✚ Jacek Stadnik (6th anniv.) – wife and children
19⁰⁰ ✚ Aleksander Wysoczanski – daughter with family

SUNDAY, December 22nd

8⁰⁰ ✚ Ludwik & Wladyslawa Tomaszewski – family
9³⁰ ✚ Andrew Gut – wife and family
11⁰⁰ ✚ Fr. Jacob Szwarc (11th anniv.)
13⁰⁰ ✚ Bronislawa, Sergiusz, and Antoni
14³⁰ ✚ Halina Rozycka (10th anniv.) – sister with family
19⁰⁰ ✚ Anna & Stanislaw Kopycki – daughter with family

"To predispose our mind to welcome the Lord who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize him as present in the events of daily life. Therefore, Advent is, so to speak, an intense training that directs us decisively toward him who already came, who will come, and who comes continuously." *St. Pope John Paul II*