

Third Sunday of Advent



“O come, o come, Emmanuel” opens the Advent hymn, gathering voices in hope and praise. It harkens back to Isaiah’s time over two-and-a-half millennia ago when God’s chosen people called on him to “ransom captive Israel.” Isaiah’s words sought to comfort a weary people. He proclaimed his message to them and now to us. Bring good news to the oppressed. Set the captives free. Bring up the broken-hearted. Be faithful “until the Son of God appear” and then righteousness will spring up before all nations.

Paul tells us to rejoice always, praying and giving thanks continually. “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

Our waiting cannot be a passive act. From down deep in each of us individually and stretching out to the far ends of our global society, we, as followers of Jesus, know what is right. We know that kindness, caring and love must prevail. Our voices cry out in a wilderness of deception and greed, hatred and abuse. Like John before us we can be witnesses testifying to the light. As the Baptist did, we in this time and place can by our actions “make straight the way of the Lord.”

*O Come, Desire of Nations
bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Michael Dougherty; Whitehorse, YT*

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 1.6-8, 19-28

Rosary Intention for December
We pray that our personal relationship
with Jesus Christ
be nourished by the Word of God
and a life of prayer.



Today we light the third Advent candle, known as the Shepard’s Candle. It is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

Confession

Sacrament of Reconciliation is available by appointment only. **If you have access to the Internet**, please go to our parish website www.kolbe.ca, click on Confession, and choose a date and time. **If you don’t have access to the Internet**, you may call the parish office at (905) 848-2420 and we will book an appointment for you. Space is limited. **Don’t wait until the last minute to register for Confession as it may not be available at the last minute.** Confession takes place in the Catechetical Centre.

Christmas Wafers – Oplátky

Blessed Christmas Wafers are available in the parish office. The door is locked, so please ring the office bell. **Each large pack** contains 3 big wafers and 2 small wafers. Cost is \$3.00. **Each small pack** contains 4 small wafers. Cost is \$1.50.

Food Drive

Once again, **Knights of Columbus** are organizing an annual food drive in support of those in need in our local community. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside the entrance to the church. The following are in high demand: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). **No expired food, please!** Food drive ends on December 21st.

Attention all Children and Youth!

We’re collecting hand-made greeting cards for homebound parishioners. If you like to draw, please consider making a card or two, write Christmas greetings, and drop it off into a box located by the entrance to the parish office. All cards will be delivered to our senior parishioners who are spending Christmas alone. Thank you for sharing your talent with others!

10 People in the Church

Please note that we are only allowed to have 10 people in church at one time. As you enter the church foyer, you’ll notice a large number indicating the number of people presently in the church. If the number is less than 10, turn the page and go in. If the number is already at 10, please wait for someone to leave the church. As you leave the church, turn the page back. This way we’ll be able to keep track of the number of individuals inside the church building. Thank you for your cooperation.



Poinsettias for the Manger

Thank you to those who have already donated beautiful poinsettias. If you would like to help us decorate our Christmas Manger, we will gladly accept **red and white poinsettias of various sizes** until Monday, **December 21st**. Thank you kindly.

Honey

Kolbe Youth has some delicious light honey for sale. If you would like to purchase a 1kg jar at \$10, please call the parish office.

Food for Madagascar

Friends of the Missions (MAMI) has organized two initiatives to help feed children in Madagascar: Food Parcels and Hot Meals. Special envelopes are available near the entrance to the church and the parish office. A completed submission form (found inside the envelope) and your donation can be deposited into any of the collection boxes in our parish. More information can be found on posters in the main entrance to the church. Also, Fr. Adam Filas spoke about this initiative at the Advent Retreat. Thank you for supporting children in Madagascar. God bless!

Change for Life Bottles

Change for Life Bottles in support of Pro-Life will not be collected in December as originally scheduled. However, there is a collection box beside the Relics Altar where you can drop off your collection bottle. Thank you for your generous support.

Offertory Envelopes for 2021

Offertory envelopes for 2021 are available for pick-up in the parish hall. The church and the parish hall are open on weekdays from approximately 9 o’clock in the morning until approximately 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Collection

We are very grateful to our parishioners who regularly bring their Sunday collection. The parish must function despite the crisis and continue to pay expenses on regular basis. Sunday collection can be placed in a secure box found by the parish office door. Donations can also be made online at www.kolbe.ca by clicking on *Donate Now* and choosing *St. Maximilian Kolbe Church* from the list of parishes.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. May God Bless you.

COVID-19 and Our Parish

Recognizing the health and safety measures announced by the Province of Ontario on November 20, 2020, Cardinal Thomas Collins directed parishes to implement the following in the Toronto and Peel regions:

- By Monday, November 23, 2020, parishes must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests hearing confessions or a staff member/volunteer required to monitor capacity restrictions. **Due to these measures, public Masses must be temporarily cancelled.** Priests are asked to celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from COVID-19.

- Churches, wherever possible and according to the judgement of the pastor, are encouraged to remain open for private prayer and for the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Weddings, funerals and baptisms (without Mass) are restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.).

- Parishioners are encouraged to view online/livestream/televised Masses. A full list is available at www.archtoronto.org

- No meetings should take place in parish halls or other church spaces at this time. The only exception would be those deemed as essential services.

- Parish offices are closed to the public; limited essential appointments only.

Thank You to Our Volunteers



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who served as greeters before each Sunday Mass. Thank you for your dedication and patience. Andrzej Dutkiewicz; Barbara and Janusz Ornat; Daniel Bagiński; Dominik Prymicz; Eddie Kida; Gabriela and Michał Kasprzak; Greg Broka; Henryk Gadomski; Irena Kaczmarczuk; Izabela Pitula; Janina and Mirosław Ruta; Kolbe Youth; Konrad Dabrowski; Krystyna and Stanisław Reitmeier; Krzysztof Kida; Krzysztof Kołodziejczyk; Krzysztof Markiewicz; Krzysztof Siuda; Magda Rogala; **Małgorzata and Mirosław Prochowski**; Marek and Krystian; Kowalczyk; Maria, Robert, Anthony Branka; Mariusz and Dominik Żuchowski; Mark Noster; **Michał Koturbasz**; Paweł Gieralowiec; Paweł Zajac; Polish Scouts; Rafał Chramęga; Ryszard Kozioł; Tom Magnowski; Tomek Czubat; Zbigniew Chabinka.

Thank You to Our Sponsors



Each year, various businesses and individuals advertise their services in our parish bulletin. By doing so, they offset the printing cost of the bulletin. We thank them for their continued support and encourage our parishioners to support these fine businesses and individuals.

Marriage and Family Counselling

Free marriage and family counselling is available at our parish. If your family needs guidance, please call (647) 677-1142 and leave your name and phone number. A qualified counsellor will call you to schedule a meeting.

Mass Intentions

There are no more individual Mass intentions available for the year 2021. Intentions for Wednesday evening Mass should be submitted **by phone**.

2021 Calendars

Religious calendars highlighting the life and missionary work of Brother Antoni Kowalczyk are available for purchase at the parish office at \$5 each. Exact change, please.

Did you know?

Dec. 14th • With the great Carmelite mystic, Teresa of Avila, **John of the Cross** helped found the reformed Carmelites.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 14th St. John of the Cross

8⁰⁰ ✠ Deceased members of the Dudzic and Biskupski families
✠ Fr. Jacob Szwarc OMI (12th anniv.)
19⁰⁰ ✠ Jill Kucharski – mother, bother, and son

TUESDAY, December 15th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Eleonora Matula – daughter
○ For God’s blessing for the Kowalewski family – father
19⁰⁰ ✠ Janina & Jozef Ogorek – daughter with family

WEDNESDAY, December 16th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Edward Kulina – brothers with families
✠ Deceased members of the Dul, Tofil, and Ludy families
19⁰⁰ Group intentions

THURSDAY, December 17th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Natalia, Michal & Adam Dec – son with family
19⁰⁰ ○ For God’s blessing and Mother Mary’s protection for children and grandchildren
✠ Krzywosz Children & Marian Sapkowski – Bobel family

FRIDAY, December 18th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Tadeusz Antonik (5th anniv.) – family
19⁰⁰ ✠ Jadwiga (29th anniv.)
✠ Eugeniusz Wieliczko (2nd anniv.) – wife and daughter with husband

SATURDAY, December 19th

8⁰⁰ ○ For God’s blessing, grace, and health for Feliksa Siuda on her 95th birthday – children
17⁰⁰ ✠ Janusz Smagala (7th anniv.) – wife with children and grandchildren
19⁰⁰ ✠ Marianna & Stanislaw Osinski and Zofia Kuberczyk – family

SUNDAY, December 20th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Jan and Pawel Poleszuk – sister and aunt with family
9³⁰ ✠ In memory of all deceased of Luczak and Wielgus families – Susie, Lydia, and Diana Wielgus
11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✠ Anna & Jozef Osadca and deceased family members – daughter
14³⁰ ✠ Bronislawa, Sergiusz, and Antoni – daughter
19⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for 50 years of marriage and for God’s continued protection for Elzbieta & Marian Zajac