

2nd Sunday of Advent



Compelled by visions of God's kingdom, Isaiah and John the Baptist build up and tear down.

Isaiah envisions God's peaceable kingdom, where "they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain." He waits for the Messiah, the "shoot...from the stump of Jesse," who will bring righteousness and justice. His people, mired in sorrow and despair, have stopped waiting for God's kingdom. He builds them up, offering hope.

The Baptist is "preparing the way" for Jesus, the Messiah. His people, mired in greed and exploitation, have stopped waiting for God's kingdom. John warns: change your ways...find the right path, bear good fruit – now!

Prophets do what's necessary, so others can see reality. For John and Isaiah, God's kingdom is a compelling reality, their goal and guide. They are connected to that kingdom and long for its fullness.

We celebrate the in-breaking of God's kingdom in Jesus. How slowly that kingdom comes to fullness! But the vision is strong and compelling, as it was for Isaiah and John: God's reign of peace, justice, healing.

We experience it in our midst and long for its fullness. Graced by the Spirit, fed by the Eucharist, we proclaim it and practice it...living in hope, love, peace, justice. The many glimpses and tastes of God's kingdom draw us in and send us forth to share this vision with others.

Dinah Simmons; Halifax, NS

First Reading: Isaiah 11.1-10

Responsorial Psalm: In his days may righteousness flourish, and peace abound forever.

Second Reading: Romans 15.4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3.1-12

COFFEE & DONUTS will be served by Radość-Joy.

ROSARY is being led by Rose #56.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS buttons are being distributed today by the Knights of Columbus. It's a good idea to wear one this season to remind others about the true meaning of Christmas.

Fr. Pastor's Reflection

Advent vigil is not an empty wait. It is a time of conversion, and therefore of intense work on oneself. Today the Church teaches us this by presenting the first great figure of Advent – St. John the Baptist. He is a man "sent by God to prepare the way for the Lord." This is his life calling. Today in the Gospel we hear how St. John undertakes this mission. He begins it with a clear message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Not only his words, but his whole attitude and extraordinary lifestyle become a sign for many, so that "the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan." He aroused great interest in what he said and what he did.

In light of today's Gospel, we have a better understanding of our Advent and our spiritual and corporal practices undertaken in it. We are not surprised by the purple color of vestments for this period of time. It is a color of penance and conversion. According to St. John the Baptist, we are to use fasting and penance to restore in us the ability to walk the ways of God, the ways of God's commandments. Our parish Advent retreat is a wonderful tool for that.

ADVENT RETREAT (in Polish) begins today and ends on Wednesday, December 11th. Retreat Homily will be preached at the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mass. On Tuesday after the morning Mass we invite all elderly and ill parishioners to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. On Wednesday after the evening Mass there will be an opportunity to support our missionaries in Ukraine. Special offertory envelopes can be found by the entrance to the church and in the church hallway.

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. Currently, he is working in Obukhiv, where he is the superior.

ADVENT CONFESSION

Wednesday, December 18th at 6 p.m.
Friday, December 20th at 6 p.m.

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

The Sacrament of Baptism

will be bestowed upon:

Matthew Alexander Gal,
son of Lori & Alexander
John Phillip Siemieniuk,
son of Kamila & Lukasz

We welcome all children and congratulate their parents and Godparents.

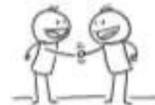
The Sacrament of Marriage

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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



THANK YOU for your generous contribution of non-perishable food items in support of the Good Shepherd Ministries and the Mississauga Food Bank.

THANK YOU, also, for your outstanding support of the Royal Christmas Gifts for children in foster homes and orphanages in Poland and the work of the Albertine Sisters who care for women with mental illnesses in Krakow, Poland. Together we raised \$8,435.

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

Annual Church Cleaning

As we're getting ready 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 and 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.

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

New Parish Office Hours

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.

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.

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

Parish Photo Directory

Some 70 parishioners, who had their photo taken for the pictorial directory, had not picked it up yet. If you are one of them, please visit the parish office as soon as possible.

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.

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.

Upcoming Events



Christmas Concert by the prestigious Song and Dance Ensemble "Slask" will take place next **Saturday, December 14th at 2 p.m.** Some tickets are still available today in the parish hall and in the parish office during regular office hours.

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

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 JAPAN – "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)

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.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, December 9th
The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8⁰⁰ ✚ Leokadia Swiercz
10⁰⁰ ✚ Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
19⁰⁰ ✚ Alicja Lewandowski – mother
Special intention for health and God's blessing for the entire family

TUESDAY, December 10th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Tadeusz Gawron Gal (3rd anniv.) – mother
✚ Parishioners and Benefactors
10⁰⁰ Special intention for God's blessing for the Zamarlik family
19⁰⁰ ✚ Jan Chudzinski (22nd anniv.) and Czesław Leszczewski (19th anniv.) – children and grandchildren

WEDNESDAY, December 11th

8⁰⁰ Special intention for God's blessing and Mother Mary's protection for Alexander and Jessie
✚ Barbara Zlot – daughter with family
10⁰⁰ ✚ Stanisława & Bronisław Swist and Helena & Jozef Zal – granddaughter with family
19⁰⁰ ✚ Zbigniew Kochman (9th anniv.) – son with family

THURSDAY, December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas
8⁰⁰ ✚ Teresa Krzak (12th anniv.) – mother
19⁰⁰ For all life at risk of abortion and euthanasia – Kolbe ProLife
✚ Jerzy Sciezka – wife with children

FRIDAY, December 13th
St. Lucy

8⁰⁰ ✚ Maria Medon – friends
✚ Jan Jesion (1st anniv.) – son with family
19⁰⁰ ✚ For the soul in need, known to God – Janina
✚ Parents of the Kaczorowski & Kielb families - children

SATURDAY, December 14th
St. John of the Cross

8⁰⁰ ✚ Lucyna & Jozef Chrusciel – family
17⁰⁰ ✚ Antoni & Apolonia Maksimowski – Edel with family
19⁰⁰ ✚ Maria & Wincenty Kubisztal – daughter with family

SUNDAY, December 15th

8⁰⁰ ✚ Zygmunt Trzeciakowski – daughters with families
9³⁰ ✚ Bernice Lychowyd (2nd anniv.) – husband and friends
11⁰⁰ For parishioners and benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✚ Stanisław & Helena Wilk – family
14³⁰ Special intention for Bożena & Andrzej Chyjek on their 35th wedding anniversary
19⁰⁰ Special intention for health and God's protection for Justyna on her birthday – parents and siblings

Poinsettias for the Manger

If anyone would like to donate plants for our Christmas Manger, we will gladly accept red poinsettias of various sizes until **December 16th**.