



Reflection

Now Advent begins, when we wait with eager anticipation to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. With his birth Jesus brings the promise of salvation and peace. He is the righteous Branch sprung up for David, as was foretold by Jeremiah. It is a glorious moment of great joy!

The birth of Jesus is also a sign: he is born poor and vulnerable in a stable among the lowliest of animals. His coming is first welcomed by shepherds, outcasts of the community, yet heralded by angels because his birth brings redemption and new life. His birth is a lesson for us: we are to live our lives in humility, trusting in the Lord. As the psalmist says, "He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way."

Advent prompts us to prepare for Christ's coming by examining how we are living our life in light of the gospel and how well our actions reflect our response to Christ – Paul says we must "abound in love for one another," especially the most vulnerable in our community.

Advent also calls us to look ahead to the *Parousia*, Christ's glorious return at the end time. As Luke reminds us, we must ever be prepared and ready to meet and greet Christ – to stand before him when he comes.

Jack Panozzo; Toronto, ON

First Reading: Jeremiah 33.14-16

Responsorial Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3.12-4.2

Gospel: Luke 21.25-28, 34-36

Rosary intention for December

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Advent Retreat for Adults

Advent retreat (in Polish) will take place **December 12 – 15** and will be led by Fr. Piotr Wroblewski OMI, a Missionary from Ukraine. The theme of this year's retreat is "Cardinal Virtues."

Rorate Caeli for Children

Rorate Caeli and a mini retreat for children will take place **December 16 – 18** at 7 p.m.

Christmas Wafers – Oplátky

Blessed Christmas Wafers are available in the hallway of the church. Each large pack contains 3 big wafers. Cost is \$2.00.

Mass for Children and Youth

Starting this Sunday, **children** are invited back for a special Mass at **1 p.m.** All **youth** are invited for the **7 p.m.** Mass with the Gospel and homily preached in English.

Bible Contest for Youth

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." This year's and last year's candidates for Confirmation (grades 7-8) are invited to take part in a Bible Contest as part of the Advent preparation for Christmas. The contest will be based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew and will be administered in English in the form of a quiz (multiple-choice and short-answer questions). Round 1 will take place on **Thursday, December 16** at 5:50 p.m. in the Catechetical Centre. Five individuals with the highest scores will move to the second round of the competition which will take place on **Saturday, December 18**. Winners will be announced on **Sunday, December 19** and will receive prizes while all participants will receive diplomas. To register, please speak to your catechist or call the parish office before **December 6**. The purpose of the contest is to encourage students to read the Bible, gain better knowledge of the Holy Scripture, and prepare spiritually for Christmas.

Advent Vespers

Join us for Vespers (*Nieszpory*) on each Sunday of Advent at 6:30 p.m.

2022 Calendars

2022 religious calendars highlighting selected Eucharistic miracles from around the world are available for purchase in the sacristy after each Mass. The cost is still \$5 per calendar.

Upcoming Devotions

First Thursday of the month, Dec. 2nd
Prayer for vocations at 6:30 p.m.

First Friday of the month, Dec. 3rd
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses

First Saturday of the month, Dec. 4th
Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the 8 a.m. Mass

First Sunday of the month, Dec. 5th
Holy Rosary Devotion at 7:15 a.m.

Group Mass Intentions

Please note that there will be no Group Mass Intentions on **December 8, 15, or 22**.

The Sacrament of Baptism

will be bestowed upon

Avery Charlotte Rembisz,
daughter of Eva & Alexander

Mia Jeleniewski,
daughter of Karolina & Karol

Petrinja Katarzyna Burdon,
daughter of Sara & Patrick

We welcome all children to our community and congratulate their parents and Godparents.

Confession

Sacrament of reconciliation is available 30 minutes before each Mass. Face masks are mandatory. **Please note that there will be no confession on December 24 – 26, 2021 and January 1 – 2, 2022.**

Faithful Departed



The following parishioners passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

✠ Izabela Mical, 48
✠ Ewa Rodrigues, 58
✠ Dorota Nytko, 59
✠ Slawomir Baranowski, 62
✠ Tadeusz Zacios, 69
✠ John Talarowski, 73
✠ Stanislaw Sreba, 79
✠ Benedykt Wojciechowski, 81
✠ Jozef Koziol, 82
✠ Janina Parniak, 83
✠ Janina Klub, 90
✠ Maria Forys, 90
✠ Marianna Lesiuk, 91

Offertory Envelopes for 2022

Offertory envelopes for 2022 can be picked up from the parish hall. They are arranged in alphabetical order. All those whose envelope number was higher than #2030 have been assigned a new number. Please do not use the new envelopes until January 2022.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus (4th degree) will meet in the parish hall on **Tuesday, December 7** after the evening Mass.

A Message regarding the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre



When our parish church was completed about 30 years ago, its pastor Fr. Stanislaw Bak began to realize his next dream – the building of a Polish Cultural Centre. It was to be a place for everyone who cared about their roots and valued the language and culture of their forefathers. Thanks to the generosity of many – some are still among us – the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre was built.

Now, after lack of income due to Covid 19, the necessity of replacing the leaking roof, and loss of many tenants – particularly the Credit Union – the Centre finds itself in a very grave financial position. A line of credit necessary to pay for the roof and other needed repairs, and the lack of income to pay it off raises the question of how the Centre can survive.

Therefore, we must ask for help from all those who value the work of the Centre in preserving the Polish heritage for themselves and future generations. We desperately need this help. We can not let the Centre close, as has been the case for other similar Polish Centres throughout Ontario.

On **Sunday, November 28** we will be conducting a fundraising blitz at the Centre. Members of the Maximilian Kolbe Foundation will be at the Centre to answer your questions and accept donations. Income tax receipts will be issued for any contributions in excess of \$50.00.

Christmas Market at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre
December 28 – January 5
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Our Church is Open

Our church is open for in-person celebrations. All Masses are held indoors.

- For sacramental celebrations, in Step 3, there is no capacity limit for places of worship. However, physical distancing of 2 metres is still required between parishioners attending Mass who are not from the same household.

- Livestreaming** of services and dispensation from physical participation in the Sunday Eucharist continues. The elderly, those with compromised immune systems or other health conditions should be encouraged to exercise extreme caution about any outings, including attendance at church.

- Funerals** take place from Monday to Friday in the morning.

- Baptisms** take place outside of Mass, on Saturday mornings.

- Meetings** in parish halls or other indoor spaces are permitted in Step 3. Attendance may not exceed 50% of meeting space capacity. Participants must be masked and physically distanced. In addition, a sign-in sheet for meetings should be provided for the purposes of contact tracking. Meals and food services at meetings is discouraged at this time.

- Most up-to-date information** is always communicated at the end of Mass. Please listen carefully.

- When leaving a message on the parish answering machine, remember to include your name and phone number.

- Local municipal by-laws remain in place – the use of face masks inside all public places is still in effect, even for those who are fully vaccinated.**

Poland – 100th Anniversary Watch

Once again, the Polish Canadian Congress has the pleasure of presenting a limited-edition watch: Poland – 100th Anniversary. The cost is only \$150, far below its retail value of around \$250. A slim watch with a Japanese Seiko mechanism, covered with 24-carat gold plating with an engraved case back and a designer leather strap in black, red, or blue. The watch will be available on Saturday, **December 4** and Sunday, **December 5** in the parish hall.

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY, November 29th

8⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for all graces received and for God's continued blessing for Maria & Jerzy and Aleksandra & Tomasz
19⁰⁰ ✠ Malgorzata Motyka – husband and children
✠ Jerzy & Karol Rogowski and Jan & Helena Grylik

TUESDAY, November 30th

8⁰⁰ ○ Special intention for health, God's protection, and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Barbara
19⁰⁰ ✠ Maria Jankowski – son and daughter
✠ Eddy Niedziela, Walenty Siuda, and members of the Bubacz family

WEDNESDAY, December 1st

8⁰⁰ ✠ Maria & Piotr Joniec and Jozef Augustyn – son with family
✠ Jan Wielocha (anniv.) – son with family
19⁰⁰ ○ Group Intentions

THURSDAY, December 2nd

8⁰⁰ ✠ Maria Niepsuj – daughter with family
19⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for all Priests and Religious – Gold Rose Apostolate

FRIDAY, December 3rd

8⁰⁰ ✠ Zofia Kawa (26th anniv.)
10⁰⁰ ✠ Jadwiga Sajewska & Stanislaw Sajewski
19⁰⁰ ○ Special intention for God's continued grace, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Mother Mary's protection for David on his 17th birthday – parents, grandparents, and brother

SATURDAY, December 4th

8⁰⁰ ○ For members of the Rosary Family and Knights of Mary Immaculate
17⁰⁰ ✠ Walter, Magdalena, and John Jedrzejek
19⁰⁰ ✠ Franciszek Boczkowski (4th anniv.) – son with family

SUNDAY, December 5th

8⁰⁰ ○ For members of the Rosary Family
9³⁰ ○ For God's blessing and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Alexandra on her birthday
11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✠ Lucyna Woloszczak (14th anniv.) – children with families
14³⁰ ○ For healing and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Magdalena – mother
18³⁰ *Advent Vespers*
19⁰⁰ ✠ Fryderyk Wisniowski – wife and family

Gaudium Press

Gaudium Press, a Catholic media platform run by the Congregation of the Heralds of the Gospel, is looking for people to help translate articles from English to Polish or to check Polish translations for their website. If you would like to get involved and help, please contact the editor-in-chief, Brother Gustavo at: editor@gaudiumpress.ca You don't need to know English well.