



## The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

(December 8<sup>th</sup>)

A feast dedicated to Mary's conception first appeared in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and by the 12<sup>th</sup> century was firmly established in England. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, great thinkers such as St. Bernard and St. Thomas Aquinas debated whether Mary could have been born without original sin if, as St. Paul says, all persons are born in sin (Romans 5.12). By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the theological debate was resolved and in 1854 Pius IX defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of faith.

Each year on December 8<sup>th</sup>, Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate celebrate their Feast Day. On this special day, we remember and pray for all Oblate Fathers and lay associates who serve in various ministries. We wish them an abundance of God's grace and continued protection of Mary Immaculate, their patroness.

The parish office will be closed, and the phones will be off on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. When leaving a message on the answering machine, please remember to include your name and phone number.

**A Cup of Living Water for Missions**  
Today and next Sunday, Oblate Youth are collecting donations for the construction of a well in Fr. Jan Kobzan's mission in Cameroon and other local missions. The youth have prepared small wells with a quotation from the Holy Scriptures for everyone who donates to this worthy cause. May this be a Christmas gift from us to our brothers and sisters in Cameroon, for whom the greatest gift will be clean drinking water in their village. On behalf of the youth and those who will benefit from your generosity, God bless you.

### Mass for Children and Youth

On Sundays, 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.

**Advent Vespers – Nieszpory**  
Each Sunday of Advent at 6:30 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.

### Bible Contest for Youth

This year's and last year's candidates for Confirmation 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). Deadline for registration is **Monday, December 6**. The contest will take place on **Thursday, December 16** at 5:50 p.m. in the Catechetical Centre.

### Knights of Columbus

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

### Adoremus

Adoremus Prayer Group is hosting an evening of praise on **Friday, December 10** after the evening Mass. Join us for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and joyful praise.

### Kolbe ProLife Events

On **Sunday, December 12**, Kolbe ProLife group is selling Polish donuts (pączki) in the parish hall (4 pre-packed donuts for \$5) and collecting Coins for Life bottles. Thank you for supporting pro-life initiatives.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

On **Sunday, December 12**, immediately after the evening Mass, Kolbe Pro-Life Group invites one and all to take part in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in reparation to Lord Jesus for sins against life and its dignity.

### Catechesis for Parents

Mandatory catechesis for parents of children preparing to receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation will take place on **Sunday, December 12 at 3:30 p.m.** in the church (in English) and in the parish hall (in Polish).

### 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.

### The Sacrament of Baptism

will be bestowed upon

**Amelia Wyrebek**,  
daughter of Kinga & Adrian

**Benjamin Jan Falco**,  
son of Monica & Michael

**Emilia Maria Kuczynski**,  
daughter of Paulina & Artur

**Feliks Zachary Frelek**,  
son of Natalia & Tomasz

**Maksymilian Lisiecki**,  
son of Ewelina & Rafal

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

### The Sacrament of Marriage

Please join us in praying for

**Katarzyna Olszewska**,  
daughter of Stanislaw & Tadeusz  
& **Krzysztof Chrzan**,  
son of Jadwiga & Edward  
who are preparing for Holy Matrimony.

### 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.**

### 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.

### Poland – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Watch

Once again, the Polish Canadian Congress has the pleasure of presenting a limited-edition watch: Poland – 100<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.**

### Events at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre

**Christmas Market**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Santa's Visit**  
January 5<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### 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.

## – MASS INTENTIONS –

### MONDAY, December 6<sup>th</sup> St. Nicholas

8<sup>00</sup> ◦ ✚ Andrzej Krupa (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – sister with family  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Members of the Szaflarski and Ludwik families  
✚ Zenon Koczwara - wife

### TUESDAY, December 7<sup>th</sup> St. Ambrose

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Stanislaw Wiercinski  
10<sup>00</sup> ◦ For members of the Kolbe Seniors Club  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Jozefa & Stanislaw Mucha and Rozalia & Jozef Zelek – daughter and daughter-in-law

### WEDNESDAY, December 8<sup>th</sup> The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Artur Ostrowski (anniv.), Franciszek & Zofia Ostrowski, Maria Mietus, Jan & Weronika Malec, Ryszard Lalewicz – Andrzej with family and Agnieszka  
✚ Maria & Jozef Jemiolo – daughters  
19<sup>00</sup> ◦ For the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

### THURSDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup> St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Leokadia Swiercz  
19<sup>00</sup> ◦ For conversion for brother Henryk – Halina  
✚ Kazimiera & Tadeusz Wojciechowski – Ruta family

### FRIDAY, December 10<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Loreto

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Henryka Dudkowska (10<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – son Dariusz with family  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Aleksandra & Stanislaw Kubrynski – niece  
✚ Lucyna & Jozef Chrusciel – family

### SATURDAY, December 11<sup>th</sup> St. Damasus I

8<sup>00</sup> ◦ For all life at risk of abortion and euthanasia – Kolbe ProLife  
17<sup>00</sup> ✚ Bronislaw & Wacław Papuga  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Barbara (3<sup>rd</sup> anniv.) & Antoni Karpinski

### SUNDAY, December 12<sup>th</sup>

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Eudocja & Teodor Wethacz – daughter with family  
9<sup>30</sup> ✚ Teresa & Kazimierz Zinkiewicz, Maksymilian & Grzegorz Pilich, Marta & Tomasz Sromek – family  
11<sup>00</sup> ◦ For Parishioners and Benefactors  
13<sup>00</sup> ✚ Sławomir Lipiec – family  
14<sup>30</sup> ✚ Jerzy Scieszka – family  
18<sup>30</sup> *Advent Vespers*  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Karol Ruta – son with family

### Reflection

When we first begin our life's journey, the pathway is simple and clear. Ordinarily, our parents simply point us in a direction – and off we go. As we grow up, though, the journey becomes more complicated. Eventually we want to choose our own path.

And that is usually the time we arrive at an important crossroad, where we face a dizzying number of choices. We could follow the pathway of power, or the pathway of success; or the most popular one, the one with flashing lights, colourful streamers, and a golden roadway: the pathway of possessions. Many people like that one.

So we choose one and continue walking. But the way of power often passes through the valley of loneliness, the way of success often leads to the labyrinth of exhaustion, and the way of possessions leads to the mountain of heavy burdens. Later, maybe years later, we start to wonder if we made the right choice.

And if we're lucky, one day we encounter John. "Repent!" he says. "Stop. You're going the wrong way! Choose again and walk the Way of the Lord. There the valley of Loneliness is levelled, the labyrinth of Exhaustion is straightened, the mountain of Burdens made low. Turn and go the Lord's Way, where you will find your yoke is easy and your burden light."

Patrick Gallagher, Toronto, ON

**First Reading:** Baruch 5.1-9

**Responsorial Psalm:**

*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.*

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3.1-6

### Group Mass Intentions

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