



## Reflection

Keep awake. Be alert. These words in today's Gospel are clear and direct. But why are they shared with us at the beginning of the Advent season? A time usually associated with preparing for the Christmas season?

It is this question of readiness that is at the heart of the "reason for the season." If God can break into our lives by taking human form, then the season of Advent can challenge us to be on guard for God's coming – both at Christmas and at the end of time. We must be alert in order to answer the call to discipleship we have received and be ready to account for our actions and decisions at the last judgement.

As we do not know the time or place, let us approach our Advent prayer as an opportunity to reflect on our readiness, remembering that God is gentle and loving. As we see in the first reading, the people felt God had turned his back on them; yet, when they recalled all that God had done for them, they trusted in God's goodness and saving power. Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading that God is faithful and will strengthen us to the end. So let us rejoice and give thanks for this Advent opportunity to reflect on our lives and God's goodness, and stay awake for his coming.

*John O'Brien; Oakville, ON*

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**First Reading:** Isaiah 63.16b-17; 64.1, 3-8  
**Responsorial Psalm:**  
*Restore us, O God;  
 let your face shine, that we may be saved.*  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1.3-9  
**Gospel:** Mark 13.33-37

## Thank You!

Missionary Sisters of Christ the King for Polonia thank all those who sent them flowers and good wishes on the occasion of their feast day.

## – THIS WEEKEND –

Today the Church begins the season of Advent. It is symbolized by a wreath with four candles – one for each Sunday of Advent. A candle is a symbol of light, it is a beacon of hope for our salvation made visible in Jesus, the little child of Bethlehem. As we await His birth, each Sunday of Advent we light one more candle on the wreath.

### Call to Commitment Mass

Today at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, candidates in the RCIA program will state their desire to become a member of the Catholic Church. Please keep them in your prayer.

### Advent Retreat for Adults

Advent retreat (in Polish) will take place **December 3 – 6** and will be led by Fr. Krzysztof Machelski OMI. Fr. Krzysztof was born in 1982 in Siemianowice Slaskie, Poland, and was ordained to priesthood in 2008. Currently he is the pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Tyvriv, Ukraine.

#### Sunday, December 3

Retreat Homily during Mass at:  
8 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

#### Monday, December 4

10 a.m. / 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday, December 5

10 a.m. + Anointing of the Sick / 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 6

10 a.m. / 7 p.m.

### Coffee and Donuts

This **Sunday, December 3**, coffee and donuts will be served by the Rosary Society.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Please join us in praying for God's blessing for the following couple as they celebrate Holy Matrimony. ♥

**Julia Lasinski,**  
daughter of Beata and Mariusz  
**& Dominic Joczys,**  
son of Iwona and Mark

### Sacrament of Baptism

Through the sacrament of baptism, **Erik Malcolm Harasimowicz**, son of Sonja and Adam will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We congratulate his parents and Godparents.

### Christmas Program

...can be picked up in the hallway of the church. Please take one home.

## – THIS WEEKEND –

### Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for 2024 are arranged in alphabetical order in the parish hall and can be picked up today. Please check if the number on the label matches the number on the envelope. If there are any discrepancies, let the parish office know. Please hold off on using the envelopes until January 2024.



Kolbe ProLife is distributing "Coins for Life" bottles. All change collected through this fundraiser will support mothers who turned away from abortion and will help promote a culture of life.

With the funds raised last year, the group helped six centers and organizations which work with pregnant women in crisis as well as with mothers and children in need. They also purchased a specialized wheelchair for a young girl. A heartfelt *thank you* to all donors.

### Camino de Santiago – Info Session

This Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.

– in the parish hall –

Join us for a meeting with our parishioners who have walked "The Way of St. James." Each year, pilgrims walk hundreds of kilometres along the route of Camino de Santiago to reach the grave of St. James – one of the 12 apostles – located in the Cathedral of St. James in Spain. Come, listen, and learn from fellow parishioners who will talk about routes, equipment, and training. There will also be a chance to purchase a book entitled *El Camino...33 Days* written by our parishioner.

### Aid Campaign for Madagascar

This **Sunday, December 3**, Friends of the Missions are organizing an Advent aid campaign for missions in Madagascar. All donations will go towards purchasing food and medicine for the Malagasy people as well as Christmas gifts for the children.

### Christmas Wafers – Oplutki

Blessed Christmas Wafers are available in the church and in the parish office.  
 Large pack (3 wafers) – \$2.50  
 Small pack (4 wafers) – \$1.50

### Candles and Christmas Cards

Beautiful Christmas cards (in Polish) and decorative candles are available for purchase this Sunday in the church. All proceeds will support the Jubilee 2000 Children's Choir led by Sister Halina.

### Parish Calendar 2024

New 2024 Parish Calendar is now available. It features beautiful pictures of various Oblate sanctuaries from around the world and includes Church feast days, solemnities, holy days of obligation, patron saints, and lots more. The calendar is available at \$5 each.

## – COMING UP –

### The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8<sup>th</sup>)

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 on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Kolbe Seniors Club

Kolbe Seniors Club will meet on **Tuesday, December 5** at 10 a.m. for Mass followed by a meeting at John Paul II Polish Centre.

### Evening of Praise

Adoremus Prayer Group is hosting an evening of praise on **Friday, December 8**, after the evening Mass. Join us for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and prayer.

### Saint Nicholas' Visit

Saint Nicholas will visit our parish on **Sunday, December 10** after the 1 p.m. Mass. He'll be happy to meet all our parish children.

### Advent Retreat for Youth

Each Sunday of Advent at 7 p.m.  
 Mass in Polish / Homily in English

### Advent Retreat for Children

**December 15 – 17** at 7 p.m.  
 Please bring a lantern.

### Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of **December 9-10**, we will welcome a special guest, Sebastien Cardinal, representing Handicraft Holy Land Christians. After each Mass, he will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. Cash, debit, credit cards and cheque will be accepted. [www.HolyLandChristians.ca](http://www.HolyLandChristians.ca)

## – OTHER NEWS –

### Rosary intention for December

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



**ROSE 52** will lead the rosary this week.

### Calling Young Men

Is God calling you to follow in His footsteps? If you're a young man looking for guidance in discerning a vocation to priesthood, contact Fr. Marcin at [msrwin@omiap.org](mailto:msrwin@omiap.org)

### Need Volunteer Hours?

If you're in high school and need volunteer hours, Fr. Marcin has lots of office work that you can help with. Please contact him at [msrwin@omiap.org](mailto:msrwin@omiap.org)

## – COMMUNITY NEWS –

### YTOL Retreat

YTOL (Youth Teams of our Lady) Canada invites all young adults ages 18-30 for a retreat at the St. Ignatius Retreat Centre in Deemerton from December 28 to January 1, under the spiritual direction of Rev. Chris Czapl. This year's retreat will focus on "Finding Hope in a World full of Evil." The cost for the retreat is \$315; should there be any financial concerns please reach out. For more details, please contact Karolina Jach at: 226-789-1228 or by email at [ytolcanada@gmail.com](mailto:ytolcanada@gmail.com).

### The Francis De Sales Centre Accepting High School Applications for 2024-2025

Students entering grades 9-12 are encouraged to apply to The Francis De Sales Centre (FSC) at Mary, Mother of God School. A unique, affordable independent school rooted in the Catholic tradition, FSC engages students with a rigorous academic program in both the sciences and the humanities through small, seminar-style classes that are lively and engaging. It has a joyful and dynamic student life centred on daily prayer. For more information and to access an application package, please call the school at (416) 531-7897, or visit [marymotherofgodschool.org](http://marymotherofgodschool.org)

### Pilgrimages

**Guadalupe** April 8 – 14, 2024  
**Medjugorje** May 3 – 13, 2024  
 For more information please contact:  
 Marzena (647) 284-1631  
 Malgorzata (416) 859-8469

## – MASS INTENTIONS –

### MONDAY December 4

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Jan Rogowski  
 10<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 ✚ Irena Cwik (3<sup>rd</sup> anniv.)  
 19<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 ✚ Roman, Ryszard, Weronika, Juliusz Barton  
 ✚ Stanislaw Lewandowski

### TUESDAY December 5

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Jerzy Scieszka  
 10<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 o Members of Kolbe Seniors Club  
 19<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 ✚ Zygmunt Kucz  
 ✚ Urszula and Henryk Wisniewski

### WEDNESDAY December 6

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Julian Lizon (anniv.)  
 o For health and God's protection for Bozena, Dagmara, Dominika Dworzanska  
 10<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 o For God's blessing and Mary's protection for Helena on her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday  
 19<sup>00</sup> **Advent Retreat for Adults**  
 ✚ Wanda Zajac-Magnowska

### THURSDAY December 7

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Maria Dabal and members of the Wojtowicz family  
 ✚ Maria and Jozef Jemiolo  
 18<sup>30</sup> *Prayer for Vocations*  
 19<sup>00</sup> o For God's blessing for all Priests and Religious

### FRIDAY December 8

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Anna and Edmund Antosiewicz  
 19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Maria Eckhardt  
 o In thanksgiving for graces received and for Mary's protection for children and parents

### SATURDAY December 9

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Parents Maria and Wojciech, brother Bogdan  
 17<sup>00</sup> ✚ Members of the Szczepanek and Jaworski families  
 19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Franciszek Boczkowski (6<sup>th</sup> anniv.)

### SUNDAY December 10

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Tomasz, Ewa, Aleksander Kucharski  
 9<sup>30</sup> ✚ Stefania and Dominik Wojciechowski  
 11<sup>00</sup> o For Parishioners and Benefactors  
 13<sup>00</sup> o For health, God's grace, gifts of the Holy Spirit for the Mialkowski, Lech, and Kowalczyk families and for Barbara on her birthday  
 ✚ Jan Bryla (3<sup>rd</sup> anniv.)  
 14<sup>30</sup> ✚ Lucyna Woloszczak (16<sup>th</sup> anniv.)  
 19<sup>00</sup> **Retreat for Youth – Homily in English**  
 ✚ Lidia and Marian Kowalski

Please inform the parish office of any errors in the spelling of the above names.

Moved? Please keep us up to date.  
 Not registered? Please sign up.