



Reflection

Today's readings extend a hope-filled invitation: Prepare, for the Lord is coming. What is our response to this invitation? Will we listen to the voice speaking truth into the wilderness areas of our lives? Will we speak truth into the wilderness areas of others' lives – offering hope when life is difficult, challenging, pain-filled or exhausting?

When John the Baptist spoke in the wilderness, he carried a message of hope to people facing the challenges of living in those times. He offered them a fresh opportunity to begin their lives anew. People paid attention.

We are called to pay attention with prayer-filled pondering, focusing on the words that touch our minds and hearts. We are offered tender words of comfort, the promise of debt-free forgiveness, the coming of a world filled with righteousness and goodness – all reminders of God's enduring faithfulness. A bold offer: every one of us will find something that brings light into the wilderness areas of our lives. Whatever darkness we are facing, there are lifegiving words that offer the light of hope.

This day, as we light the second candle on the Advent wreath, may we hear the voice of truth and respond with our own yes. May we look beyond the wilderness areas in our lives – and see the promises that are before us.

*Breanda Merk Hildebrand
Campbell River, BC*

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First Reading: Isaiah 40.1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm:

*Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.*

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3.8-14

Gospel: Mark 1.1-8

ROSE 53 will lead the rosary this week.

– THIS WEEKEND –

Polish Language Congress

Polish Language Congress will be held in our parish today and will begin with Holy Mass at 2:30 p.m. We will host Fr. Mirosław Kalinowski, rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, along with other professors. All are welcome to attend.

Coffee, Donuts, and More...

This Sunday, December 10, coffee and donuts will be sold by Oblate Youth, with proceeds going to support missionaries and their work. Christmas wafers and parish calendars will also be available for purchase.

Handicraft Holy Land Christians

This weekend, we welcome 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 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. All payment methods will be accepted. More info at www.HolylandChristians.ca

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for 2024 are arranged in alphabetical order in the parish hall on the right-hand side of the stage. 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.

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.



Beware of Fake E-mails

Please be cautious of emails allegedly sent by the pastor of our parish. Father Bogdan or any other priest will never contact a parishioner directly with "discrete request for assistance." Neither will they email or text parishioners asking for cash or gift cards. Messages asking parishioners to help fulfill a need would come through the parish's official communication channels.

– IN PREPARATION – – FOR CHRISTMAS –

Christmas Program is available in the hallway of the church. Please take one home.

Advent Confession

Monday, December 18, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Wednesday, December 20, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
There will be no confession December 24-26.

Advent Retreat for Youth

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

Advent Retreat for Children

December 15 and 16 at 7 p.m.
December 17 at 1 p.m.
Please bring a lantern.

Poinsettias for the Manger

If you wish to help Sister Halina decorate the Christmas Manger, please consider donating white or red poinsettias of any size. Plants can be dropped off at the sacristy or at the parish office during work hours. Thank you kindly.

Hay for the Christmas Table

In the Polish tradition, when setting the table for Christmas Eve dinner, bits of hay are spread under the tablecloth as a reminder that Christ was born in a manger. To uphold this tradition, Girl Scouts will be selling hay on December 10 and 17. All proceeds will help support scouts as they prepare to travel for the World Scouts Rally in the United States in the summer of 2024. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Caroling in Your Home

If you live in Mississauga and would like to invite Christmas carolers to visit your family on December 26, Sokoly of the Radość-Joy Ensemble will be happy to stop by and sing carols with you. To arrange a visit, please contact Ania at apiekn@yahoo.ca or by phone at (416) 587-0976.

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.

– COMING UP –

Meetings

Knights of Columbus

Tuesday, December 12
Mass at 7 p.m. followed by a meeting at the John Paul II Cultural Centre

Grade 8 and 9 Students

Tuesdays, 8:20 p.m., Fr. Bak Room

Grade 10, 11, and 12 Students

Thursdays, 8:20 p.m., Fr. Bak Room

College and University Students

Fridays, 8:20 p.m., Bro. Anthony Room

Food Drive

Once again, Knights of Columbus are organizing an annual food drive in support of the Mississauga Food Bank and Good Shepherd Ministries. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside the entrance to the church from December 10 to 17. The following are in high demand: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). No expired food, please!

Pierogi and Uszka

Next Sunday, December 17, Oblate Youth will be selling frozen pierogi (dumplings) and uszka (little ears). ☺ These can be purchased in the parish hall and picked up in the parking lot.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Sunday, December 31 at 11 a.m.

Please call the parish office if you wish to have your name added to the list of couples celebrating their wedding anniversary.

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 by email at mserwin@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 mserwin@omiap.org

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Martial Law Exhibition

On Sunday, December 17 we invite you to an exhibition commemorating the anniversary of the introduction of martial law in Poland. This event will take place in the parish hall and is being organized by the Polish Gazeta Club in Toronto.

Advent Mission

Advent Mission on the Infancy Narratives will take place at St. Benedict Parish, 2194 Kipling Ave. in Etobicoke and will be led by Fr. Thomas Rosica CSB. This event will be in English.

Monday, December 18, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Vespers and Talk 1

Tuesday, December 19, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Mass with Talk 2

Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Reconciliation Service with Talk 3

Reception in the parish hall

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 Czapla. 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.

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 www.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 11

8⁰⁰ ✠ Janina Czula, Aleksandra Mistela
19⁰⁰ ✠ Jan Aksamit
○ For God's blessing, gifts of the Holy Spirit, and Mary's protection for Nicole and Beata on their birthdays

TUESDAY December 12

8⁰⁰ ✠ Stanislaw Gawron and son Tadeusz – son and family
19⁰⁰ ○ For respect of life from conception to natural death – Kolbe ProLife

WEDNESDAY December 13

8⁰⁰ ✠ Kazimierz, Leokadia, Edwarda, Stanislaw, Czesława, Anna Krysztopik – daughter and sister
19⁰⁰ ○ Collective Mass Intentions

THURSDAY December 14

8⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing and health for Michal and Piotr
○ For God's blessing, Mary's protection, and health for Anna, Wladyslaw, their family, and Tadeusz Badzioch
19⁰⁰ ✠ Genowefa Niznik (12th anniv.) – daughter and family

FRIDAY December 15

8⁰⁰ ✠ Members of the Milewski and Dworzanski families
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Children**
✠ Edward Kulina (anniv.) – brothers and families
✠ Janina and Boleslaw Konaszenko – son and family

SATURDAY December 16

8⁰⁰ ✠ Members of the Pyczak, Stankiewicz, Derecki, Puchta
17⁰⁰ ✠ Aniela and Andrzej Tokarz – son and family
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Children**
✠ Maria, Marian, Piotr and Jozef Bialoszewski

SUNDAY December 17

8⁰⁰ ✠ Janina and Jozef Ogorek – daughter and family
9³⁰ ✠ Natalia, Adam, Michal Dec – son and family
11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✠ Anna and Jozef Osadca and family members – daughter
Retreat for Children
14³⁰ ✠ Members of the Sawoniuk, Dziuda, and Olszak families
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Youth – Homily in English**
✠ Benedykt Wojciechowski – wife and son

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.