



Reflection

In today's Gospel, the priests and Levites challenge John the Baptist, asking: "Who are you? What do you say about yourself?" John confesses he is not the Messiah, but that his life is a testimony to what God has done for us. We too would be wise to consider this all-important question – who are we? What do our lives say about ourselves?

I am Harry, married to Jennifer for nearly forty years. I am a father of six and grandfather of three – so far. I suffer with memory loss, I wear hearing aids, and arthritic pain is a frequent companion. Each day I join my suffering with Jesus, who makes it holy. I don't understand how, but I believe.

I recognize the joys and sufferings in this life to be opportunities for God's love and mercy. When I walk with others, whether in celebration or consolation, I am always pointing, like John the Baptist, to Jesus, the reason for my hope.

We who believe must rejoice, as did our Blessed Mother, that we have been chosen, and give thanks in all things. We are called to be witnesses, crying out in the wilderness of our day, testifying so that others might hear and believe. This is the will of God, and it is to this worthy mission that we are called to dedicate our lives and to persevere.

Harry McAvoy; Newmarket, ON

©Living with Christ/Novalis/Bayard Presse Canada. Used with permission.

First Reading: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul shall exult in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Gospel: John 1.6-8, 19-28

Second Collection

This weekend's second collection is for the building renovation fund. Thank you for your generosity.

– THIS WEEKEND –

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. In just one week, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with our families. May this be a truly Christian celebration and an opportunity for our families to unite and reconcile. Let us remember to pray and reflect on the birth of Christ by reading a passage from the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 2, verses 1-20. The culminating point of the celebration should be our active participation in the midnight Mass.

English Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve December 24 at 10 p.m.
Christmas Day December 25 at 9:30 a.m.
St. Stephen December 26 at 9:30 a.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Through the sacrament of baptism, the following children will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We congratulate their parents and Godparents.

Cole Adao Tadeusz Queijo,
son of Barbara and Alvaro
Zuza Gorniak,
daughter of Agata and Piotr

Coffee, Donuts, Last Minute Gifts

This Sunday, coffee and donuts will be served by Radość-Joy. The group will also be fundraising by selling cabbage/mushroom croquettes, crepes, and last-minute Christmas gifts. There is something for everyone.

Pierogi and Uszka

This Sunday Oblate Youth are selling frozen *pierogi* (dumplings) and *uszka* (little ears). ☺ These can be purchased in the parish hall and picked up in the parking lot.

Food Drive

Today is the last day to contribute to the Knights of Columbus' annual food drive in support of the Mississauga Food Bank and Good Shepherd Ministries. The following are in high demand: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). Non-perishable food items can be dropped off inside the entrance to the church. No expired food, please! Thank you for your kindness.

Holiday Office Hours

Saturday December 23 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Sunday December 24 closed
Monday December 25 closed
Tuesday December 26 closed
Wednesday December 27 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

– THIS WEEK –

ROSE 54 will lead the rosary this week.

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.

Annual Church Cleaning

As we prepare for Christmas, we want to make sure our church is spotless for the holidays. Will you lend a hand? Please join us for our annual church cleaning on **Tuesday, December 19th at 6 p.m.** Bring your whole family and invite your friends. Groups who use parish rooms are especially welcome. 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 Tuesday.

Evening of Praise

Adoremus Prayer Group is hosting an evening of praise on **Friday, December 22**, after the evening Mass. Join us for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and prayer.

Christmas Eve Mass for Children

Children who will be attending the 8 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass are encouraged to dress up as characters from the Christmas Manger: Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise men.

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

Advent Retreat for Youth

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

Poinsettias for the Manger

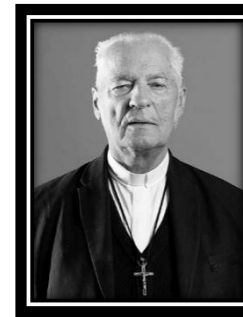
Thank you to the many individuals who donated beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Manger. If you still wish to contribute, we will gladly accept white or red poinsettias of all sizes. Plants can be dropped off at the sacristy or at the parish office during work hours. Thank you kindly.

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 are selling hay this Sunday and fundraising for their trip to the World Scouts Rally in the summer of 2024.

– IN MEMORIAM –

Fr. Jan Szkodzinski OMI
January 14, 1938 – December 10, 2023



Jan Szkodziński was born in Kodeń, Poland. After discerning his vocation, he decided to join the Oblate juniorate in Markowice. Upon graduating high school, he had to complete compulsory military service. He then entered the novitiate of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, made his first religious vows on September 8, 1962, and began philosophical and theological studies at the Major Seminary in Odra.

After making his perpetual vows in 1965, he was sent to study English in Battleford, Saskatchewan. He was ordained a priest in Canada on May 23, 1970 and served at Holy Ghost Parish in Winnipeg as an associate pastor. Afterwards, Fr. Jan worked at St. Helen's Parish in Kuroki and nearby parishes in Wadena and Quill Lake (SK); St. Hedwig's Parish in Oshawa (ON); Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. Catharines (ON); St. Patrick's Parish in Sturgis and nearby parishes in Norquay, Rockford, Preeceville, Rama. Fr. Jan was also a chaplain at Copernicus Lodge in Toronto. Most recently, he resided at the Provincial House in Toronto (ON) and helped out at local parishes.

Funeral Mass took place in our parish on Friday, December 15, with interment at Assumption Cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace

– OTHER NEWS –

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 anniversary.

Offertory Envelopes for 2024

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

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Martial Law Exhibition

Today 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) 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. 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.marymotherofgodsschool.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 18

8⁰⁰ ✚ Tadeusz Antonik (8th anniv.)
✚ Teofila and Stanislaw Bienarz
✚ Members of the Kuligowski, Ulbin, and Ziemianek families

18⁰⁰ **Advent Confession**

TUESDAY December 19

8⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's continued blessing for the Guzik, Caminero, and Rigota families

✚ Wladyslawa and Michal Ilnicki
✚ Parents Alfreda and Edward, brother Wojciech Bawara

18⁰⁰ **Church Cleaning**

WEDNESDAY December 20

8⁰⁰ ✚ Emilia Lisicki
✚ Bronislawa, Sergiusz, Antoni
✚ Tadeusz Ryszkiewicz (33rd anniv.)

18⁰⁰ **Advent Confession**

THURSDAY December 21

8⁰⁰ ✚ Members of the Trzaskoma family

19⁰⁰ ✚ Sister Leonarda (19th anniv.) and brother-in-law Edward (2nd anniv.)
Krawczyk
✚ Izydora and Tadeusz Slotwinski (16th anniv.)

FRIDAY December 22

8⁰⁰ ✚ Danuta Pisarek and Kazimiera Bartoszek
✚ Maria Loba

19⁰⁰ ✚ Daughter Diana Pereira, husband Kazimierz Kokoszka, parents Julia and Wiktor Lipowicz

SATURDAY December 23

8⁰⁰ ✚ Kazimierz Stec and his parents
17⁰⁰ ✚ Bozena Przyjemaska
19⁰⁰ ✚ Edward Wilk

SUNDAY December 24

8⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for Ewa

9³⁰ ✚ Mirosław Zebrowski and Stanisława Dabrowska

11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✚ Wiktoria and Ignacy Stachowicz

CHRISTMAS EVE December 24

20⁰⁰ **Church:** For God's blessing and health for the Chabinka, Pietrzyk, and Witkowski families

22⁰⁰ **Church:** ✚ Edward Niedziela and Walenty Siuda (*Mass in English*)

Parish Hall: ○ For God's blessing, Mary's Protection, and health for Julian and Bozena Bendarczyk and their family, and for Beata and Krzysztof Badzioch

24⁰⁰ **Church:** ○ For health for husband Stanislaw

Parish Hall: ✚ Lucyna Syrek, Paulina and Franciszek Stachurski, Kazimierz Daniel

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