



Reflection

Happy New Year! We begin our journey with Jesus through the liturgical year with a call to be alert. There is a great temptation to close our eyes to the ugliness of the world. But when we choose voluntary blindness, we can often become closed to wonder and grace.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us to "be alert at all times." How do we open our eyes without being overwhelmed by despair at the suffering around us? How do we see with hopeful eyes beyond brutality? The teaching of Jesus gives us gospel lenses. We are taught to see the signs and recognize in them the work that God calls us to do. These are bifocal lenses where we see the global patterns of injustice as well as the local possibilities of building the reign of God.

Advent is a time of deep discernment – the great gift that helps us convert vision into action. Our pre-Christmas preparations are often marked by haste and distraction, but Advent calls us to embody hope, peace, joy, and love. We are to become the Advent candles we light.

As we become these Advent candles, may we illuminate the dark places in the world and light the path of the coming of the Christ Child, again and again.

*Les Miller
Richmond Hill, ON*

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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

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

– PARISH NEWS –

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.

Pope's Rosary Intention – December –

FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Rose #45 leads the rosary this week.

Coffee and Donuts Schedule

December 1 – The Rosary Family
December 8 – Radosc Joy

Parish Calendar 2025

New 2025 Parish Calendar is now available. It features beautiful sacred art and excerpts from Pope Francis' *Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025*. As always, it includes Church feast days, solemnities, holy days of obligation, patron saints, and lots more. The calendar is available in the parish hall and in the parish office at only \$5 each.

Offertory Envelopes

Offertory envelopes for 2025 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 2025.

Communion Albs

If anyone has a communion alb they would like to donate, please speak to Sister Halina before the end of the year.

– COMING UP –

Kolbe Seniors Club

Kolbe Seniors Club will meet on Tuesday, December 3 at 10 a.m. for Mass followed by a meeting at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre.

Upcoming Devotions

First Thursday of the month, December 5
Prayer for vocations at 6:30 p.m.

First Friday of the month, December 6
Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus after the 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses.
Confession starts at 6 p.m.

First Saturday of the month, December 7
Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after the 8 a.m. Mass

First Sunday of the month, December 8
Holy Rosary Devotion at 7:15 a.m.

December 8th – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Celebrated on December 9th)

A feast dedicated to Mary's conception first appeared in the 7th century and by the 12th century was firmly established in England. In the 13th 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 19th 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 8th, 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.

During the evening Mass, new members will be accepted into the ranks of the Knights of the Immaculate.

Wedding Anniversary Mass Sunday, December 29 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.

– IN PREPARATION – – FOR CHRISTMAS –

Advent Retreat for Adults

Advent retreat (in Polish) will take place **December 14/15 - 17** and will be led by Fr. Krzysztof Buzikowski OMI. Fr. Krzysztof was born in 1977 in Bydgoszcz, Poland, and was ordained to priesthood in 2004. Currently he is the pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Obukhiv, Ukraine.

Saturday, December 14
Sunday, December 15

Retreat Homily during all Sunday Masses

Monday, December 16
10 a.m. / 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17
10 a.m. +Anointing of the Sick / 7 p.m.

Advent Retreat for Children

December 19 – 21 at 7 p.m.
Please bring a lantern.

Rorate Caeli

Join us for *Rorate Caeli* (in Polish) on Saturdays, December 7, 14, 21 at 8 a.m.

Advent Confession

Wednesday, December 18, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Monday, December 23, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
There will be no confession December 24-26.

Saint Nicholas' Visit

Saint Nicholas will visit our parish on **Sunday, December 8** after the 1 p.m. Mass. He'll be happy to meet all our parish children. Saint Nicholas will also stop by the John Paul II Cultural Centre between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Christmas Wafers – Oplátky

Blessed Christmas wafers are available in the parish hall and in the parish office at \$2.50/pack.

Candles

Jubilee 2000 Children's Choir led by Sister Halina is fundraising by selling decorative candles this Sunday. All proceeds will help support the group's trip to Greece in the summer.

Silver Jubilee

Jubilee 2000 Children's Choir will be celebrating its silver jubilee next year. If any former choir members would like to share photos or stories from past years, please speak to Sister Halina before the end of the year.

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Movie Screening

Gietrzwałd 1877 – War of the Worlds
Sunday, December 15 at 4 p.m.
in the parish hall

This movie is in Polish. Admission is free.

The film tells the story of extraordinary events that took place in the summer of 1877 in the Warmia village of Gietrzwałd (then Dietrichswalde under Prussian rule). These are the only apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Poland whose authenticity has been canonically confirmed (by the decree of Bp. Drzazga in 1977).

YTOL Retreat

YTOL (Youth Teams of our Lady) Canada is inviting young adults ages 18-28 for a retreat from **December 28, 2024 to January 1, 2025**. This year's retreat entitled "A Deeper Dive into the Eucharist" will focus on the true presence and implications of Mass and Adoration, their importance and the graces we receive from them. For more details, please contact Natalia at (647) 517-2541.

Radio Maria Banquet

Radio Maria Christmas Banquet will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025**, at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. and banquet will begin at 1:30 p.m. The event includes a concert by Kinga Mitrowska. Tickets at \$75 are available from: Health from Nature Store (416) 532-9805; Joanna Szydlowska (905) 818-1040; John Paul II Centre (905) 306-9900 ext. 22. For details, contact Joanna Strzezek at (905) 845-3553.

Additionally, on Saturday, December 7, Fr. Jacek Cydzik will celebrate the 7 p.m. in the intention of all supporters of Radio Maria.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

April 21 – 30, 2025

For more information please contact:
Marzena (647) 284-1631
Malgorzata (416) 859-8469

Pilgrimage to Greece

May 6 – 13, 2025

For more information please contact:
Oblate World Missions (416) 464-1590

– MASS INTENTIONS –

MONDAY December 2

8⁰⁰ ✠ Andrzej Socha, Jozef Ostrowski, deceased from both families
19⁰⁰ ✠ Maria Wilczak, deceased from Wilczak family – brother
✠ Zygmunt Kucz – son and family

TUESDAY December 3

8⁰⁰ ✠ John Jedrzejek
10⁰⁰ ○ For members of Kolbe Seniors Club
19⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's blessing and gifts of the Holy Spirit for Dawid on his 20th birthday

WEDNESDAY December 4

8⁰⁰ ✠ Barbara Mahon – husband Robert Mahon and family
○ For healing for Dominika Bednarczyk, God's blessing and grace for the family of Juliana and Bozena Bednarczyk
19⁰⁰ ○ Collective Mass Intentions

THURSDAY December 5

8⁰⁰ ✠ Hermina, Jozef, Jacek Kus – daughter and family
○ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's continued blessing for Michal Rabianski
19⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for all Priests and Religious

FRIDAY December 6

8⁰⁰ ✠ Parents Krystyna and Adam, sisters Katarzyna and Malgorzata
10⁰⁰ ✠ Parents Anna and Edmund, Eleonora and Wieslaw Antosiewicz – son and family
19⁰⁰ ✠ Stefania and Dominik Wojciechowski - daughter and family

SATURDAY December 7

8⁰⁰ ○ Members of the Rosary Family and Knights of Mary Immaculate
17⁰⁰ ✠ Maria and Michal Swiatek – children
19⁰⁰ ✠ Lolita and Ryszard Korzycki; Jadwiga and Janusz Maronowski – children and family

SUNDAY December 8

8⁰⁰ ✠ Janina and Jozef Ogorek – daughter and family
9³⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for graces received, for God's blessing for Alexandra Kowalczyk on her birthday and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit when making decisions
11⁰⁰ ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✠ Lucyna Woloszczak (17th anniv.) – children and families
14³⁰ ✠ Elzbieta and Ryszard Zyluk
19⁰⁰ ✠ Deceased from Sawoniuk, Dziuda, Olszak, Gromowski families

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