



## Reflection

John the Baptist is a perennially challenging and important figure in salvation history. Luke's opening verse situates John's call in a context that includes some of the very men who are threatened by and opposed to both John and Jesus. In this time marked by Roman occupation and socio-economic injustice, the word of God comes to John: a prophet who prepares the way for God's impending intervention in human history.

The renewal that John proclaims has broad-ranging personal and social implications. His baptism of repentance is meant to be an outward sign of *metanoia* or conversion, a radical transformation – grounded in the experience of God's love and forgiveness – that finds expression in commitment to the common good.

As Christians, we naturally associate the new liberation from sin and suffering that John proclaims with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. John's message – his call to repentance in the face of immanent judgment – would have been disturbing back then, but perhaps we need to hear it even more today. His ministry challenges us this Advent season to embrace the radical nature of our baptismal calling to repent and believe in the Good News – to witness to and prepare the way for the renewal of all creation that we associate with Christ's return.

*Nick Olkovich; Vancouver, BC*

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

**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

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

## – PARISH NEWS –

### December 8<sup>th</sup> – The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Celebrated on December 9<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.

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

### Coffee and Donuts Schedule

December 8 – Radosc Joy  
December 15 – Adoremus

This Sunday, coffee and donuts will be served by Radość-Joy. The group will also be fundraising by selling cabbage/mushroom croquettes, crepes, Christmas ornaments from Poland, as well as other decorations. All proceeds will help fund the group's trip to folklore festivals in Greece.

### Saint Nicholas' Visit

This Sunday after the 1 p.m. Mass, St. Nicolas will visit our parish and meet with all children.

### Available for Purchase

...in the parish hall and in the parish office:

- Parish Calendar for 2025 – \$5.00
- Christmas Wafers / Oplátky – \$2.50

### Second Collection December 14/15

Building Renovation Fund  
Thank you for your ongoing support.

## – COMING UP –

### Meetings

**Knights of Columbus**  
Tuesday, December 10 at 7 p.m.  
Mass followed by a meeting  
at John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre

**Grade 8 and 9 Students**  
Tuesdays, 8:20 p.m. in Fr. Bak Room

**Grade 10, 11, and 12 Students**  
Thursdays, 8:20 p.m. in Fr. Bak Room

**College and University Students**  
Fridays, 8:20 p.m. in Bro. Anthony Room

**Secular Franciscans**  
Saturday, December 14, 12 – 2 p.m.  
in Fr. Eugene Room

### Evening of Adoration

On **Thursday, December 12**, Kolbe Pro-Life Group invites parishioners for **Mass**, followed by a **Devotion** to Our Lady of Guadalupe and **Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament in reparation to Lord Jesus for sins against life and its dignity.

### Evening of Praise

Adoremus Prayer Group is hosting an evening of praise on **Friday, December 13**, after the evening Mass. Join us for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection, and prayer.

### Change for Life

Next **Sunday, December 15**, Kolbe ProLife will be collecting "Change for Life" bottles at all entrances to the church. No change is too small. Thank you for supporting mothers who turned away from abortion and for helping promote a culture of life.

### 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.

### 2024 Income Tax Receipts

A reminder that all donations that are to be included on a tax receipt for 2024 must be made by December 31, 2024.

### 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.

## – IN PREPARATION – – FOR CHRISTMAS –

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

### 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 Youth

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

**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 14 and 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.

### Food Drive

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 15 to 22**. The following are in high demand: rice, pasta, coffee, and all kinds of canned goods (meat, soup, vegetables, fruits). No expired food, please!

### 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.

## – 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).

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

- Santa's Visit •  
This Sunday, December 8, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Christmas Book Fair •  
Next Sunday, December 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### 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 Szydłowska (905) 818-1040; John Paul II Centre (905) 306-9900 ext. 22. For details, contact Joanna Strzezek at (905) 845-3553.

### 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 9

8<sup>00</sup> ○ For God's blessing and health for Urszula and her family  
✚ Leokadia Swiercz  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Stanisława and Stanisław Gorgon and deceased from Gorgon and Radkowski families

### TUESDAY December 10

8<sup>00</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for the last year and for God's continued blessing for the Zamarlik family  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Jan Bryła (4<sup>th</sup> anniv.) and deceased from the Bryła, Glen, Pieciorek families – son and family  
○ For God's blessing and health for Janina and Stefan Ochrymowicz

### WEDNESDAY December 11

8<sup>00</sup> ○ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's continued blessing for the Kurek, Solarz, and Menns families – Aldona and family  
✚ Tennie and John Bielawski, Stan Modrowski – family  
19<sup>00</sup> ○ Collective Mass Intentions

### THURSDAY December 12

8<sup>00</sup> ○ For Anna's conversion and God's blessing for family  
19<sup>00</sup> ○ For respect of life from conception to natural death – Kolbe ProLife  
✚ Genowefa Niznik (13<sup>th</sup> anniv.) – daughter and family

### FRIDAY December 13

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Władysława and Józef Szywała, Stanisław Baran  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Lucyna and Czesław Balicki – daughter Barbara  
✚ Alina Kopalka – daughter and family

### SATURDAY December 14

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Teodozja and Bolesław Członka and deceased family members – daughter with husband and daughters  
17<sup>00</sup> ✚ Stanisława and Zygmunt Pracon – son and family  
19<sup>00</sup> ✚ Danuta Bartczak

### SUNDAY December 15

8<sup>00</sup> ✚ Eleonora and Stanisław Matula  
9<sup>30</sup> ○ For God's blessing and Mary's protection for Agata for the entire year  
11<sup>00</sup> ○ For Parishioners and Benefactors  
13<sup>00</sup> ✚ Anna and Józef Osadcow and deceased family members – daughter and family  
14<sup>30</sup> ✚ Stanisław, Franciszka, Mikołaj Wilk  
19<sup>00</sup> **(Homily in English)**  
✚ Marian and Lucyna Grochowski, Barbara Raniewicz

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

**Rose #46 leads the rosary this week.**