

3rd Sunday of Advent



Reflection

It's GAUDATE (REJOICE) Sunday, and most of today's readings shimmer and pulsate with joy. It's the Gospel that, at first blush, seems anti-climactic, as an ascetic John the Baptist preaches sacrifice to those wishing to receive his baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And yet there are three causes of rejoicing here that can also transform our lives.

The first is the stirring of desire for a holy life from such unlike characters as tax collectors, soldiers and, well, ordinary people. The second is their humble, courageous and fearsome question: "What should we do?" They so longed for the forgiveness of their sins that wealth, power and position faded away before the promise of a clean heart. And John's response – his good news – was within their reach: act fairly and honestly. But the greatest cause for rejoicing is the glimpse John gave of the Saviour coming to baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire: a baptism of holiness beyond their comprehension and beyond his own grace.

As we approach the Advent of our Lord into the very marrow of our humanity, wishing away our sins and promising a baptism into his divinity, let us muster the hope and the audacity to ask, "What must I do, to open my heart to this grace today?"

Cheryl Ann Smith; Toronto, ON

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First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-18a

Responsorial Psalm:

Shout aloud and sing for joy: great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4.4-7

Gospel: Luke 3.10-18

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

– PARISH NEWS –

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. In just over a 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.

Advent Retreat for Adults



This weekend in our parish we begin an Advent retreat (in Polish) which 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.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Through the sacrament of baptism, **Aleksander Rafal Wojtyla**, son of Katarzyna and Rafal will be initiated into the Catholic faith and welcomed into our parish community. We congratulate his parents and Godparents.

Second Collection

This weekend's second collection is for the Building Renovation Fund. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Change for Life

This weekend Kolbe ProLife is 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 to promote a culture of life.

– IN PREPARATION – – FOR CHRISTMAS –

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

Advent Retreat for Children

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

Rorate Caeli

Join us for the final *Rorate Caeli* (in Polish) on Saturday, December 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!

Poinsettias for the Manger

Thank you to those who have already donated beautiful poinsettias for the Christmas Manger. If you still wish to contribute, Sister Halina will gladly accept white, pink, or red poinsettias of all sizes, but only until December 19. Plants can be dropped off in the sacristy or in the parish office during work hours. Thank you kindly.

Annual Church Cleaning

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK
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 Saturday, **December 22 at 9 a.m.** Groups who use parish rooms are especially welcome. There's lots to do for everyone!

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.

– COMING UP –

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.

Holiday Office Hours

Monday	December 23	closed
Tuesday	December 24	closed
Wed.	December 25	closed
Thursday	December 26	closed
Friday	December 27	9 a.m. – 5 pm
Saturday	December 28	9 a.m. – 12 noon
Sunday	December 29	closed

Coffee and Donuts Schedule

December 15 – Adoremus
December 22 – Oblate Youth (Jubilee Year)

Available for Purchase

...in the sacristy and in the parish office:

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

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.

Communion Albs

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

Rose #48 leads the rosary this week.

– COMMUNITY NEWS –

Chapel of Perpetual Adoration

You are warmly invited to participate in the perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament taking place in our parish continuously, 24 hours a day. This is a special time for personal prayer and contemplation in the presence of Jesus. Those interested can sign up for a special hour of Adoration by calling Margaret, the chapel coordinator, at (647) 888-7487.

Lost and Found

Lost and found shelf is located in the main hallway of the church, next to the large wooden door.

Movie Screening

Gietrzwałd 1877 – War of the Worlds
This 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).

Book Fair

This Sunday, December 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre

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 the 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.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorie 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 16

8⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for blessings received, requesting further blessing for the Bielawski, Buczkowicz, Koenig, Maciag, Oliver, Rowinski and Shirinian families
✠ Antoni and Celina Motyczynski
◦ For God's continued grace and Mary's protection for Helena on her birthday – family
10⁰⁰ ✠ Stanislaw Greniuk
19⁰⁰ ✠ Deceased from Szaflarski and Ludwik families

TUESDAY December 17

8⁰⁰ ✠ Stanislaw Gawron – daughter and family
✠ Janusz Poreba – wife and family
✠ Deceased from Rakoczy and Skibinski families
10⁰⁰ ✠ Son Krzysztof Kielb
19⁰⁰ ✠ Daniela Kosarga – son Jaroslaw and family

WEDNESDAY December 18

8⁰⁰ ✠ Katarzyna and Jan Pyz
✠ Tadeusz Zaczek – family
◦ In thanksgiving for graces received by Magdalena and Pawel

18⁰⁰ Advent Confession

THURSDAY December 19

8⁰⁰ ✠ Agnieszka and Stanislaw Bilek – son and family
✠ Stanislaw Wiercinski
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Children**
✠ Edward Kulina – brothers

FRIDAY December 20

8⁰⁰ ✠ Bronislawa, Sergiusz, Antoni – daughter and family
✠ Maria, Jozef, Piotr Bialoszewski
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Children**
✠ Jan and Pawel Poleszuk – sister, aunt, family

SATURDAY December 21

8⁰⁰ ✠ Aleksandra Dzielska – Niemiec family
17⁰⁰ ✠ Deceased from Kuzian, Szajna, Grabowski families
19⁰⁰ **Retreat for Children**
✠ Anna Milkowska (21st aniv.) and Stanislaw Demianczuk (15th aniv.)

SUNDAY December 22

8⁰⁰ ◦ For health for Malgorzata, Marek, Dawid, and Victoria Baran
9³⁰ ✠ Leslie, Stanislaw and Piotr Dworak – Mike and Ella
11⁰⁰ ◦ For Parishioners and Benefactors
13⁰⁰ ✠ Kazimiera, Seweryn, Jacek Stadnik
14³⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's blessing and health for Monika, Gabriel, and their children
19⁰⁰ ◦ In thanksgiving for graces received and for God's continued blessing for the Panus family

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