



PARISH ORGANISATION

ADMINISTRATOR (PASTOR)

- Rev. Adam Piekarczywski - fr.adam@mail.com

PARISH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Joseph Bednarz

SECRETARY - Harriett Zawistowski

TREASURER - Georgianna LaFranchise

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Edwin Koski

PARISH COMMITTEE

meets normally every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

PASTOR EMERITUS

- Rev. Henry Smolinski - henrysmoct@juno.com

SACRAMENTS

- BAPTISMS:** must be arranged in person
- MARRIAGES:** 6 months prior arrangement
- CONFESSIONS:** by appointment
- SICK VISITS:** by appointment
- FUNERALS:** family should contact Fr. Adam as soon as possible

If you have a family member or a friend in the hospital or sick at home wishing a pastoral visit, notify Fr. Adam as soon as possible to schedule a visit.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042

Official website: www.saintjohnspncc.com

Facebook: [John the Baptist, Manchester CT](https://www.facebook.com/JohntheBaptistManchesterCT)

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

ADMINISTRATOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 23, 2018

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Saint John the Baptist Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church has been an integral part of Manchester community for almost 90 years meeting the religious needs first for the Polish immigrants, and later for all residents of the Connecticut State.

Consider joining us for Sunday Worship! For more than two thousand years, the Sunday Eucharist has been at the very heart of the life of the Christian Church. There is no substitute for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! Everything we are and everything we do flows into and out of this act of Divine Worship.

In addition, Catholics know that they must continually nourish their spiritual lives apart from Sunday Eucharist. Daily prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments, devotions, bible study, ongoing Christian formation and an active life of charity are the building blocks of what it means to be a CHRISTIAN-CATHOLIC. You will find all of these activities in our parish and we encourage your participation.

If you have questions or suggestions about the parish, you may contact us. Please feel free to stop by the Parish Office or to speak to one of the priests or lay members after Sunday Mass.

You are very welcome to our community!

Fr. Adam Piekarczywski
Administrator



HOLY MASS

. 9.00 am

- in English (po angielsku)

. 11.00 am

- in Polish (po polsku)

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said for a particular intention, you must stop by the Parish Office or the sacristy in the Church before/after Sunday mass. Masses can be said for a deceased person or as a special intention for the living. You may reserve a Sunday of your choice, and your intention will be published in the parish bulletin.

We encourage you to offer a Mass on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special personal (family) need.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S MASS INTENTION 9 am

In memory of the
OPALACH, KIRO,
VALLERA, SIMPSON,
COOPE,
GRISEL & JOHNSON
families
(req. by Maureen O.
Johnson)



TODAY'S MASS INTENTION 11 am

Za rodzinę
PIEKARZEWSKICH
(req. by the Dziura's fa-
mily)

Contemporary Mass: Mass Book p.63

ENTRANCE HYMN - O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel

NO GLORIA is recited!

INTROIT

C: But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the
clans of Judah,

**R: From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be
ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from an-
cient times.**

C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit,

**R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

12/24 (Monday) Vigil of the Nativity. The Holy Eucharist (Shepherds' Mass) will be celebrated **at 10 pm**. If you'd like to participate and yet you cannot drive after dark, we have some volunteers who can drive you to the church and then back home (please, contact Joe Bednarz). Right after the Mass we'll share the Optatek in the church hall followed by the mulled wine with crackers&cheese.

12/25 (Tuesday) Solemnity - Nativity of our Lord. The Holy Mass will be celebrated **at 3 pm**.

12/29 (Saturday) Solemnity - Holy Family. HEALING PRAYER SERVICE at 3 pm. This is a powerful church service of bringing God's healing power into the lives of those who are suffering from illness, physical disabilities, grief, fear, and mental or spiritual health issues. If you suffer physically or spiritually come to experience the healing power of Jesus! **INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!**

12/30 (Sunday) Solemnity - Humble Shepherds. The second collection will be held for the Seminary of our Church in Scranton, PA.



"Welcome to our church—even though
you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel account takes place immediately after Mary has given her "Fiat" – "Let it be done to me according to GOD's will." She begins her pregnancy not by focusing on her privileged position as the mother of the Messiah, but by humbly traveling a three day journey to go and assist her aging relative, Elizabeth, in her last three months of pregnancy. When the two women meet, Elizabeth is made aware of the "blessedness" of her younger relative and also aware that Mary is pregnant with One Who is her Lord. Even Elizabeth's child in utero (John the Baptist) leaps for joy at the presence of His Lord within Mary.

The readings chosen for today help us to focus on the imminent celebration of the birth of Jesus (Christmas). They emphasize the human origins of Son of GOD. They also speak about the response that should be ours from celebrating the birth of Jesus. Our focus should not be on singing Christmas songs, bright lights, nor on putting presents under the tree. Our focus must be on the One Who was born to bring us salvation by His life, ministry, death, and resurrection and on the means by which He did that – total obedience to the will of His Father, and complete service to others.

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of Christmas holiday season, yet we must realize that the human Baby born from Mary in the stable in Bethlehem came in obedience and service as the divine Savior. It is important that we celebrate His earthly coming, but we need to keep it in perspective with His suffering and death, and the gift of redemption we receive from Him. The importance of Christmas is that Jesus is truly human and truly divine. In being both GOD and a human, Jesus is able to unite us humans with the GODhead.

READING 1

MI 5:1-4A

A reading from the book of the Prophet Micah.

Thus says the LORD:
You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel;
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient times.
Therefore the Lord will give them up, until
the time
when she who is to give birth has borne,
and the rest of his kindred shall return
to the children of Israel.

He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock
by the strength of the LORD,
in the majestic name of the LORD, his God;
and they shall remain, for now his greatness
shall reach to the ends of the earth;
he shall be peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 80

„Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.”

READING 2

HEB 10:5-10

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters:
When Christ came into the world, he said:
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
in holocausts and sin offerings you took no
delight.
Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.'"

you neither desired nor delighted in."
These are offered according to the law.
Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your
will." He takes away the first to establish the
second. By this "will," we have been conse-
crated through the offering of the body of
Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings,
holocausts and sin offerings,

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT - SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me! / x2
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

OFFERTORY SONG - ON JORDAN'S BANK

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty guest may come.
3. For Thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge, and our great reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flower decayed.

4. Stretch forth Thine hand, to heal our sore,
And make us rise and fall no more;
Once more upon Thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine.

COMMUNION SONG - AMAZING GRACE

1. Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see.

3. The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
2. T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear
And Grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!



FINAL HYMN - FROM HEAV'N A VOICE

1. From heav'n a voice comes down to earth;
A star foretells the Savior's birth.
It shines through darkness sin and grief,
And brings to mankind's soul relief.

2. From Jesse's stem a flower springs,
Which to the world salvation brings.
God sent to us His Son, our Lord,
Before the ages long adored.
3. Our fathers heard the tale of old;
The prophet's words had long foretold
That God would come so man might be
Rescued from death eternally.