

# COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

**12/21** (Saturday) **ALL DAY ADORATION & RETREAT** (with **Healing Prayer Service**) Consider joining the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in silence for 1 hour between 9am and 3pm & the Advent retreat from 10am to 1pm. The list for the adoration is on the small table in the back of the church - feel free to put your name in an empty slot.

## ADVENT RETREAT at St. John's in Manchester, CT DEC 21, 2019

**10.00 - Healing Prayer Service**  
(after the Gospel reading Fr. Henry's preaching)  
**11.30 - Final Blessing in the Church**  
2nd preaching of Fr. Henry in the church hall  
**12.00-12.30 - Lunch time! (pizza)**

Retreat donation = \$10 per person

- THANK YOU **Maureen O. Johnson & Nancy McHugh** for your presence and work yesterday at the CHRISTMAS PIEROGI SALE.
- **"POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2019"** CD with additional booklet is available in the back of the church. You can listen to the Polish carols and follow the text in the booklet along with English translation. All donations will be dedicated to developing the music service at St. John's.
- Today's **THREE MINUTE LITURGICAL CATECHISM** about: "The Liturgy of the Word"
- We would like to remind you about the possibility to **offer a Holy Mass in your own, particular intention!** Take one of the envelopes from the back of the Church, write down your intention and return it to Fr. Adam. Please, consider this opportunity especially during the month of December as we prepare ourselves for Christmas celebrations.

# SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042  
Official website: [www.saintjohnspncc.com](http://www.saintjohnspncc.com)  
Facebook: **John the Baptist, Manchester CT**  
Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

ADMINISTRATOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 15, 2019

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

*For + WILLIAM KRAWSKI SR. (req. by the family)*

### INTROIT

C: Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

**R: The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.**

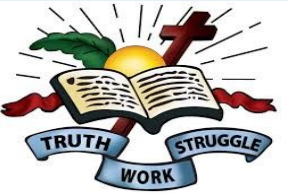
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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



## HOLY MASS

. 10.00 am



## 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.

READING 1

A reading from the Book of the Prophet  
Isaiah.

The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.  
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak,  
say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not!  
Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;

IS 35:1-6A, 10

with divine recompense  
he comes to save you.  
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,  
the ears of the deaf be cleared;  
then will the lame leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute will sing.  
Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy;  
they will meet with joy and gladness,  
sorrow and mourning will flee.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**  
*Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
*„Lord, come and save us.“*

PS 146

READING 2

JAS 5:7-10

A reading from the Letter of St. Ja-  
mes.

Be patient, brothers and sisters,  
until the coming of the Lord.  
See how the farmer waits for the precious  
fruit of the earth,  
being patient with it  
until it receives the early and the late rains.  
You too must be patient.  
Make your hearts firm,  
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.  
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, abo-  
ut one another,  
that you may not be judged.

Behold, the Judge is standing before the  
gates.  
Take as an example of hardship and patien-  
ce, brothers and sisters,  
the prophets who spoke in the name of the  
Lord.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**  
*Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

MT 11:2-11

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disci-  
ples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we lo-  
ok for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and  
see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear,  
the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus  
began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to  
see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dres-  
sed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why  
did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is  
the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of  
you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of  
women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the  
kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.** *Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today’s Gospel centers on one of the key figures of the first half of Advent – John  
the Baptist. The imprisoned herald sends some of his followers to Jesus. John has  
them ask the question, “Are you the One Who is to come or should we look for  
another?” Some scripture scholars believe this reveals John’s uncertainty about his  
own mission of preparing for the Messiah. I take a slightly different approach. I be-  
lieve John sent his disciples to Jesus with the question so that Jesus could reassure  
them that He truly was the One for Whom John prepared the way. It was John’s  
way of dismissing his followers and sending them to start following Jesus. John’s  
role of being a precursor was over. He knew his job was over and that Jesus was  
bringing about the coming of the Reign of God.