

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/29 (Today) Holy Mass at 10am. Special collection at the door today for the Seminary.
- 01/05 (Sunday) Solemnity of the Holy Family. Holy Mass at 10am during which we will bless the incense, charcoal, chalk and water.

- The list for the **Epiphany Home Blessings (January 6-10, 2020)** is already available in the back of the church. Feel free to choose your day and the hour for the pastoral visit of the priest and home blessing.
- Today's **THREE MINUTE LITURGICAL CATECHISM** about: "The Home Blessing"
- 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 Christmas & Epiphany season.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ADMINISTRATOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczyewski

December 29, 2019

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

HUMBLE SHEPHERDS - Solemnity

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For IRENE OBZUT (req. by the family)

INTROIT

C: For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.

R: Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, Lord.

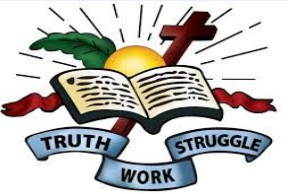
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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

IS 62:11-12

A reading from the Book of the Prophet
Isaiah.

See, the LORD proclaims
to the ends of the earth:
say to daughter Zion,
your savior comes!
Here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
They shall be called the holy people,
the redeemed of the LORD,
and you shall be called "Frequented,"
a city that is not forsaken.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 97

„A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.”

READING 2

TI 3:4-7

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul
to Titus.

Beloved:
When the kindness and generous love
of God our savior appeared,
not because of any righteous deeds we had
done
but because of his mercy,
He saved us through the bath of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he richly poured out on us
through Jesus Christ our savior,
so that we might be justified by his grace
and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

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

GOSPEL

LK 2:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory be to You, Lord.

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Christmas season is a time for recognizing firsts. As we browse through the scriptures, we encounter those who did things for the first time. It is, however, a little difficult to decide who did what first. Did John the Baptist proclaim Jesus first? Not really. The Shepherds we honor today did that. They heard about Jesus and told of Him first. They made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child. Was John the Baptist the first to be killed because of his proclamation of the truth? On December 26th, the Church honors St. Stephen, called the proto-martyr – the first martyr for the faith. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. But on December 28th the Church honors the Holy Innocents, the children and infants killed by Herod after the Magi’s visit. Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region. They were first. People have an affinity for firsts. We like winners – and these martyrs and evangelists were indeed the first winners. But do we realize that we are all winners? Like the Humble Shepherds, Jesus’ birth heralds the fact that we have been made winners, and are in first place.