

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/13** (Today) Third Sunday of Advent. Blessing of Hay at the end of the Mass. COFFEE HOUR in the Church Hall after the Mass.
- 12/16** (Wednesday) Parish Committee meeting at 3.30pm.
- 12/19** (Saturday) ALL DAY ADORATION
- 12/20** (Sunday) Fourth Sunday of Advent. No Mass Intention so far!
- 12/21** (Monday) **Decorating the Church for Christmas at 4pm.** Every helping hand is welcome!

- The list for ALL DAY ADORATION (12/19) is on the table in the back of our church. Feel free to choose “your hour with the Lord”. It’s a very special day for our Parish so we hope no one will be missing!
- Yesterday’s POLISH FOOD SALE was a very successful event thanks to the work and time of our volunteers: Diane and Jacqueline. BIG THANK YOU for your time and hard work!
- Bishop Paul is encouraging every parish of our diocese to have a FOOD DRIVE from now through the end of December. The food collected will be given in a Christmas baskets to some families in need in our area. Non-Perishable Food (and other items) can be delivered to St. John’s Church every day (collection bucket at the rectory door) or on Sundays (collection bucket at Mary’s side altar). Please, join us! **Deadline for the FOOD DRIVE is December 20, 2020.**
- 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. **Have a blessed Sunday!**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042
Official website: www.saintjohnspncc.org
Facebook: John the Baptist, Manchester CT
Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 13, 2020

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE)

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For + JANE KONOPACKI (req. by Diane Makles)

INTROIT

C: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

R: You are near, O Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

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 spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor,
to heal the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,
in my God is the joy of my soul;
for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem,
like a bride bedecked with her jewels.
As the earth brings forth its plants,
and a garden makes its growth spring up,
so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise
spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

"My soul rejoices in my God."

LK 1

READING 2

A reading from the First Letter of St.
Paul to Thessalonians.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ
Jesus.
Do not quench the Spirit.
Do not despise prophetic utterances.
Test everything; retain what is good.
Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly
holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and
body, be preserved blameless for the co-
ming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 THES 5:16-24

GOSPEL

JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory be to You, Lord.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites
to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am
not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I
am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you,
so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"
He said: "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the
Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him,
"Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answer-
ed them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize,
the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happe-
ned in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Gospel today comes from the Gospel according to John. In his prologue to the Gospel,
John the Evangelist speaks about the one who comes as a witness (bearer of testimony, μαρτυρος -
marturos [martyr] in Greek). The purpose of this witness is to point out the Light when the Light
comes. John the Baptist is this witness. In the latter part of today's pericope, John the Baptist ad-
mits that he is not the Messiah (the Christ, the Anointed One, the Light), but has only come to pre-
pare the way for and acknowledge the Messiah when He comes into public view. John tells the
people and the messengers from the Jewish leadership that the Messiah is already in their midst,
but the people have failed to recognize Him.

Two key words that come to my mind after reflecting on the readings are: rejoicing and
discernment. They go hand in hand and are part of a virtuous (as opposed to a vicious) cycle. Re-
joicing comes from humbly being aware of GOD's movement in our lives. This
is Gaudete Sunday. The church has traditionally marked the Third Sunday of Advent as "Rejoice"
Sunday. In some churches the color changes from purple to rose or pink. We can rejoice because
we are turning the bend and heading into the final stretch in our time of preparing for the Lord's
first coming at his birth.