

# COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/20 (Today) Fourth Sunday of Advent. Reading of the Catechism. Coffee Hour after the Mass.
- 12/21 (Monday) Decorating the Church for Christmas at 4pm. Every helping hand is welcome!
- 12/24 (Thursday) Shepherds' Mass at 10pm. Beginning of the Christmas time! After the Mass traditional cup of mulled wine and Christmas wishes!
- 12/25 (Friday) Solemn Christmas Mass at 10am. Mass Intention: For the families of our Parish!
- 12/27 (Sunday) Solemnity of Humble Shepherds. Holy Mass at 10am. No Mass intention so far!
- 01/10 (Sunday) ANNUAL PARISH MEETING after the Mass in the church hall. Chairman's report, Pastoral & Financial reports, Election of the Parish Committee for 2021.

- 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 TODAY.**
- 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

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PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarzewski

December 20, 2020

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS INTENTION - 10am

*For the benefactors of St. John's Parish.*

### INTROIT

C: Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed s the fruit of your womb!

**R: You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel! You are the splendid boast of our people.**

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 Second Book of Samuel.

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!” Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’” “It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you.

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

**The Word of the Lord.** *Thanks be to God.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 89

*"For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."*

READING 2

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

Brothers and sisters:  
To him who can strengthen you,  
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,  
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages  
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,  
according to the command of the eternal God,

made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,  
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

**The Word of the Lord.**  
*Thanks be to God.*

ROM 16:25-27

GOSPEL

LK 1:26-38

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

As we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus (which begins in four days), we hear the beginning of the story of GOD taking on human flesh (incarnation). A messenger (angelos) from GOD appears to a virgin betrothed to a descendant of David. Mary is asked if she will accept GOD’s invitation to give birth to the Messiah, the descendant of David, and the Son of GOD. Mary is, naturally, a bit overwhelmed at this message. As Gabriel, the angel of GOD, explains, the conception will take place through the “overshadowing” of the Holy Spirit. Mary accepts GOD’s invitation by giving her “fiat” – “let it be” – as GOD wills. With that, the Eternal takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

I can never tire reflecting on the mystery of the Incarnation. To me, it is so powerfully wonderful that I get new insights and new feelings of the awesomeness of GOD. GOD has become human in the person of Jesus. Humanity and divinity are linked inseparably. All for the purpose of lifting fallen humanity to the level of sharing in divine life.