

## COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/19** (Today) **Holy Mass at 10am.** Reading of the Catechism at the end of the Mass. Coffee hour after the Mass in the church hall.
- 12/20** (Monday) **Decorating the church for Christmas at 11am. Volunteers needed!**
- 12/24** (Friday) **Vigil of the Nativity.** Holy Mass at 8pm. *Holy Mass intention: For + KRYSTYNA SZCZUREK.* Traditional Oplatek and mulled wine after the Mass in the church hall.
- 12/25** (Saturday) **Nativity of our Lord.** Holy Mass at 10am. *Holy Mass intention: For the families of our Parish.*
- 12/26** (Sunday) **Holy Mass at 10am.** Special blessing of wine in honor of St. John the Apostle. Everyone will receive a small bottle of the blessed wine.
- 01/09** (Sunday) **Holy Mass at 10am.** **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** will be held after the Mass in the Church Hall. At the meeting: Pastoral report of Fr. Adam, Report of the Parish Committee & election of the Parish Committee for 2022. **All Parishioners are strongly encouraged to participate in this very important meeting.** *In case of bad weather, the meeting will be postponed to the following Sunday, Jan 16.*
- 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](http://www.saintjohnspncc.org)

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

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarzewski

December 19, 2021

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For + JANE KONOPACKI (req. by Diane)

#### 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 ancient times.**

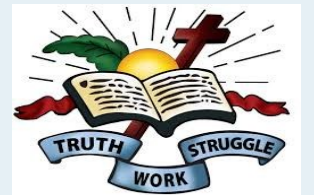
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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



### HOLY MASS

. 10 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 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.

MI 5:1-4A

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.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 80

*"Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved."*

READING 2

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

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

HEB 10:5-10

GOSPEL

LK 1:39-45

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

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."

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

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). The readings 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 Abba, and complete service to others.