

# COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/10 (Today) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass in the Church hall.
- 12/16 (Saturday) **Polish Food Sale** 10am-12pm.
- Free Lunch** 11am-12.30pm.
- Christmas Italian Dinner** at 4.30pm. If you plan to attend, please, put your name on the list (the back of the Church).
- 12/17 (Third Sunday of Advent) **Holy Mass** at 10am. **Polish Breakfast** (fellowship hour) follows the Mass in the Church hall. Holy Mass intention: FOR + JANE KONOPACKI.
- ADVENT COLLECTION.** As the season of Advent begins, we are once again presented with the opportunity to share our blessings and embody the spirit of giving. Just like last year, our special Advent collection will be dedicated to supporting Fanaperana, the young boy from Madagascar our parish has adopted in 2022. Your contributions will provide Fanaperana with a full year of education, essential school supplies, and daily meals. Thank you so much for your generosity!

## FOOD RAFFLE

**Dec 16, 2023**

*Prizes - Polish Food Sales' gift cards:*

**1st—\$150**

**2nd—\$100**

**3rd—\$50**

*Raffle Drawing at noon Dec 16, 2023 in the church hall and online on our Facebook page.*

*You can buy tickets in the church hall after every Sunday Mass in Advent. Ask Diane or Linda S. for details!*

*Tickets:*

**1 ticket - \$2**

**5 tickets - \$5**

**15 tickets - \$10**

**50 tickets—\$20**

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 10, 2023

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

*For + ROMEO POTVIN (req. by Joann)*

INTROIT

C: A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

**R: He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.**

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.

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 85

„Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.”

READING 2

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since

2 PT 3:8-14

everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

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

GOSPEL

MK 1:1-8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.  
A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”  
John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

John the Baptist is known as the herald who prepares the way for the Lord, the Christ. His message of repentance is a fitting one for both comings of Jesus. Although he did not announce Jesus’ birth (since they were only 6 months apart in age), he did prepare people for the coming of Jesus in His public ministry. His proclamation of the people’s need for conversation (metanoia) and admission of sinfulness have been appropriate to prepare people over the ages for Jesus’ Second Coming.

The readings today turn my thinking to preparing the way for the Lord Jesus. I see that in a personal as well as a communal sense. The best way to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus (both in readying ourselves to celebrate Jesus’ First Coming as well as anticipating His Final Coming) is to make the way straight and smooth in our hearts. The readings speak about the need to repent of our sinfulness and turn more fully to GOD. The Church has a history of making Advent a penitential season (although not quite as strict as Lent). The Church uses purple (or a bluish shade of it) as a sign of repentance. The hymn of glory (the Gloria) is not said nor sung during this season. Many churches hold communal penance services.