

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/24
- (Fourth Sunday of Advent) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass in the Church hall.
- (Christmas Eve) **Solemn Shepherds' Mass** at 6pm. After the Mass we will enjoy some mulled wine with snacks. Holy Mass intention: FOR + JAN & KAROLINA STEPIEN.
- 12/25
- (Christmas Day) **Solemn Holy Mass** at 10am. Holy Mass intention: FOR THE FAMILIES OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski



December 24, 2023

BEHOLD
PARISH BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

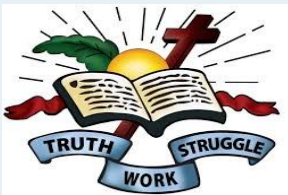
For + BARBARA STEPIEN (req. by Joseph)

INTROIT

C: Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is 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.

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 tonight), 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.