

# COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/08 (II Sunday of Advent) Holy Mass at 10am. [Catechism class](#) for children. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass. *Mass Intention: For + ANDREW C. LASEK.*
- 12/13 (Friday) [Christmas POLISH FOOD SALE and RAFFLE](#) in the Church hall from 4pm to 6.30pm. Food raffle with great prizes!
- 12/15 (III Sunday of Advent) Holy Mass at 10am. [Catechism class](#) for children. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass. *Mass Intention: For + BARBARA STEPIEN.*
- 12/22 (IV Sunday of Advent) Holy Mass at 10am. [Catechism class](#) for children. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass. *Mass Intention: For ++ JAN & KAROLINA STEPIEN.*
- 12/24 (Christmas Vigil) Solemn Holy Mass at 6pm. [Mulled Wine, cheese & crackers](#) follow the Mass. *No Mass Intention so far!*

- THANK YOU to everyone who made yesterday's Christmas Dinner and Bingo a wonderful event that brought so many people together. **Special thanks to Beata for her amazing cooking!**
- **FREE FOOD PANTRY** in the Church Hall.

## CHURCH NEWS

- **Advent Community Project:** a collective effort to replace the eight windows in the church hall. Thank you for all your donations!
- Upcoming birthdays & anniversaries: TADEUSZ PILCH (12/11). Happy anniversary! Happy birthday!

*If you have any information for the „Church News Column”, please inform Fr. Adam by email or phone no later than Friday afternoon.*

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PASTOR - Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczywski

December 8, 2024

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

## SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### MASS INTENTION - 10am

For + ANDREW C. LASEK (req. by Janina)

### INTROIT

C: Lord, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before Me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord Whom you seek,

**R: And the messenger of the covenant Whom you desire, yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.**

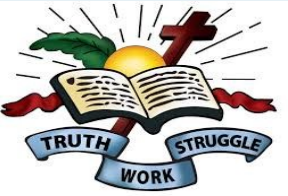
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**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 Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are

BAR 5:1-9

remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God’s command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

GOSPEL

LK 3:1-6

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

*Glory be to You, Lord.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS 126

*"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."*

READING 2

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

Brothers and sisters:  
I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,  
because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.  
I am confident of this,  
that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.  
God is my witness,  
how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11

And this is my prayer:  
that your love may increase ever more and more  
in knowledge and every kind of perception,  
to discern what is of value,  
so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,  
filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ  
for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The key character in today’s Gospel is John the Baptist. St. Luke gives historical credence to John by describing the civil and religious authorities at the time of John the Baptist (circa 28 A.D. ± 2). John is seen as a prophet, called by GOD to announce the message of the coming (adventus) of the Messiah. His message comes with a call to repentance and a sign of wanting to have one’s sins forgiven, so that they would be ready for the arrival (adventus) of the Messiah.

The anticipated coming of the Lord Jesus should be a time of joy, mixed with a sense of repentance and a desire to live a reformed life. This is true for us who await for Jesus’ final return. For us who seek to be faithful (full of faith), it should be time of joyful expectation. It is also to be a time when we look and see if we have anything in our lives which needs to be straightened out.

The imagery of a road being prepared is used both by Baruch in the First Reading and Luke in the Gospel as John the Baptist quotes verses from Isaiah 40: 3-5. Having been in the Holy Land, I realize that even to this day, the highways are twisty, curvy roads, up and around and down hills. I was even privileged to walk on some of the footpaths that date back centuries, as far back as biblical times. They were narrow trails that traversed many miles to cover a distance which was only a few miles by the way the crow flies. The picture portrayed in the readings is that the winding, hilly roads would be widened and straightened so that those who traveled the way would be able to travel easily and quickly. There is also the image that instead of leaving as bound captives on foot, they would be brought back with GOD, being carried on thrones (or chariots with