

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 12/15** (III Sunday of Advent) Holy Mass at 10am. [Catechism class](#) for children. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass. **FOOD SALE** if you missed our Friday Christmas Sale! Stock your freezer for Christmas!
- 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** (Tuesday—Christmas Vigil) Solemn Holy Mass at 6pm. [Mulled Wine, cheese & crackers](#) follow the Mass. *Mass Intention: For ++ JOYCE SULZINSKI & MICHAEL CARROLL.*
- 12/25** (Wednesday—Christmas Day) Solemn Holy Mass at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) with [delicious poppy seed rolls](#) follows the Mass. *Mass Intention: For all St. John's Church families.*
- 12/29** (Solemnity of Humble Shepherds) Solemn Holy Mass at 10am. [Catechism class](#) for children. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) follows the Mass. *Mass Intention: For + SOFRONIO (RON) BABULA.*

- **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! So far we have collected \$905.
- Upcoming birthdays & anniversaries: DOMINIC LAVIGNE (12/18). 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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Facebook: [John the Baptist, Manchester CT](#)

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PASTOR - Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczyewski

December 15, 2024

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MASS INTENTION - 10am

For + BARBARA STEPIEN (req. by Joe Stepien)

INTROIT

C: Will You be angry with us forever, drag out Your anger for all generations? Please give us life again, that Your people may rejoice in You.

R: Fill us at daybreak with Your love, that all our days we may sing for joy.

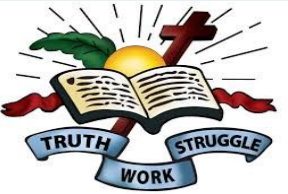
C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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
Zephaniah.

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!
Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The LORD has removed the judgment
against you
he has turned away your enemies;
the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your
midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear.
On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:

ZEP 3:14-18A

Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
he will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

IS 12

*"Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. "*

READING 2

PHIL 4:4-7

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

Brothers and sisters:
Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: rejoice!
Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near.
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all
understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ
Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

LK 3:10-18

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

Glory be to You, Lord.

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.” Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel, John the Baptist announces that soon One Who is mightier than himself is coming and the people must be ready. Those who take to heart John’s message repeat a key question, “What should we do?” John gives some practical advice on how different people can live in a way which manifests their metanoia (repentance, conversion of heart, turning toward GOD, waiting for the Advent of the Chosen One).

As I reflect on the readings of this Gaudete (“Rejoice”) Sunday, I realize there are reasons for rejoicing. The church sometimes manifest this joy by using pink or rose instead of the bluish purple (the color of the rest of Advent). There is a sense of joy at the nearness of the Lord Jesus. This is not just because Christmas is thirteen days from this Sunday and we are closer to this joyous celebration of the Coming of the Lord Jesus in His birth in Bethlehem. This rejoicing should flow from the awareness of the Lord Jesus’ coming to us repeatedly and always.