



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

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TODAY. SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

10:00 am – Parish Committee to meet.

Prior to Holy Mass, the lighting of the third candle of Advent, the “Candle of Joy**” will be lit.**

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,

Before Thine altar, Father

Thou knowest best our yearning hearts.

This supplication answer.

Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,

Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

Under Thy cross we stand prepared,

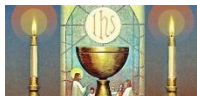
To serve Thee with devotion.

Be it with sweat of blood or tears,

Or humble resignation.

For we Thy people are, O Lord,

Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.



ENTRANCE HYMN

(Malachi 3:1-2)

**V. 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.**

OPENING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

**C. Let us Pray: Heavenly Father, You sent Your
servant, John the Baptist, to be the herald of
Your kingdom and the forerunner of Your Son.
Grant that we may be prepared for the day when
the glory of the Lord will be revealed to all
people. We ask this through the same Jesus
Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF
ZEPHANIAH THE PROPHET**

(Zephaniah 3:14-18)

**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: 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.**

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

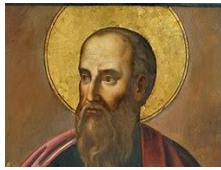
R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Zephaniah 3:19-20)

**V. I will save the lame and assemble the outcasts;
I will give them praise and renown in all the
earth, when I bring about the restoration.**

**R. At that time, I will bring you home, and at that
time I will gather you; for I will give you
renown and praise, among all the peoples of the
earth, when I bring about your restoration
before your very eyes, says the Lord.**



A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE PHILLIPIANS

(Philippians 4:4-7)

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.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

(Matthew 6:33)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be given you besides.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

(Luke 3:10-18)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

R. Glory be to You, O 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.

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



**PROFESSION OF FAITH
THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the father.

Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.

He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.

For our sake, He was crucified
under Pontius Pilate

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 The Lord and Giver of Life
 Who proceeds from the father,
 With the father and the son
 He is worshipped and glorified.
 He has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
 and Apostolic Church
 I acknowledge one baptism
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 I look for the resurrection of the dead
 And the + life of the world to come.
 Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE
 (Luke 6:31)

V. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O God, our Father, as we await the coming of Your Son, receive these gifts we offer. Teach us to use them for Your glory in service to all. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE
 (Isaiah 12:6)

V. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

CLOSING PRAYER

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray: Almighty God, through this Holy Eucharist give us the grace to properly prepare for the celebration of the birth of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Open our eyes that we may see His presence: open our ears that we may hear His call; open our hearts that we may rejoice in Him. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



JESUS' TESTIMONY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

“When the messengers of John [the Baptist] had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John.” **Luke 7:24**

On this Third Sunday of Advent, we again read of John the Baptist. In Scripture, it is believed that that John was six months older than his cousin, Jesus, through the relationship of Elizabeth, the mother of John and Mary, the mother of our Lord. We read in Holy Scripture that God chose John to announce the coming of His anointed One.

Jesus refers to John as the prophet Elijah in Matthew 17:13. John was a great teacher, well known, and who had many disciples. His message was simple: “Prepare the Way of the Lord.”

John the Evangelist describes him in the beginning of his Gospel account as a “witness to bear witness to the Light that all might believe.”

It is believed that some of the Apostles of Jesus may have been disciples of John, but John writes in his Gospel account of John the Baptizer in John 3:30: “He [Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease.” John points out the distinction of their two ministries as recorded in Matthew 3:11: “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

But what does Jesus have to say in testimony about John? We read in Luke 7:24:

“When the messengers of John had left, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John. “What did you go out to the desert to see—a reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine garments. Those who dress luxuriously and live sumptuously are found in royal palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom scripture says: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, he will prepare your way before you.’ I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John.”

Today, amid a selfish world of greed, pettiness, arrogance, and division, we find a simple and humble man, John, who lived a simple life, but yet had a most important mission and message from God. as His spokesman. John message, for all of us at this time, is to “Prepare the Way of the Lord.”

As we light the Third Candle of Advent, the “**Candle of Joy**,” we call to mind that God was to answer the longings of His people, yesterday as well as today, by sending His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into the world and most importantly into the hearts of individuals.

As baptized members and members of the “Body of Christ,” we are all reminded, as we begin a new Liturgical Year, that this season of Advent, is one of where the words of “preparation” by John [the Baptizer] becomes real for those who would seek redemption and salvation.



ZEPHANIAH THE PROPHET

**“The great day of the Lord is near.”
Zephaniah 1:14**

Zephaniah the Prophet, is sometimes referred to as the “orator” among the Twelve Minor Prophets of God as found in the Old Testament. His name is translated in Hebrew to “He whom the Lord has hidden or protected.”

Zephaniah was the great-great-grandson of Hezekiah, the famous king of Judah in the days of Isiah the Prophet. Accordingly, he was related to the royalty of the kingdom of Judah. He preached in Jerusalem (1:4, 10-11). He was a contemporary of the Prophet Jerimiah and had much in common with his message.

The title of his book tells us that he prophesied “in the days of Josiah” was written c. 639-608 B.C.

His main message was a condemnation of the people of for their idolatry and corruption, violence and injustice. He did not limit this condemnation to the people of his day, but also on the past sins of the people. He boldly predicts the destruction of Judah, for the evil committed by its occupants.

In his book, there are three distinct stages or phrases associated with Zephaniah, but his one great theme was the “coming day of the Lord.” Zephaniah also pleads with the people for a return to the simplicity of their fathers instead of the luxurious foreign clothing which was worn especially in aristocratic circles.

An outline of the Book of Zephaniah is as follows:

Chapter 1 – Zephaniah prophecies of the coming of the judgement from God, which will affect not only Judah and Jerusalem, but also upon the whole earth.

Chapter 2 – Zephaniah speaks of warnings and the admonitions of the nations. He then follows these warnings with an earnest appeal for Jerusalem to repent.

Chapter 3 – Zephaniah then speaks of the promise of salvation and gives encouragement to those who will repent, especially to the “remnant of Israel,” who will rejoice among all nations, to their redemption by the Lord. He gives insight into the establishment of a Messianic kingdom.

Zephaniah is commemorated with the other minor prophets in the calendar of saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church on July 31st. He is commemorated in the Western or Roman Rite, as well as the Eastern or Orthodox liturgical calendars, and celebrate his feast on December 3.



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
THE “CANDLE OF JOY”**

It should be noted that the Third Week of Advent is known as **“Gaudete Sunday”** which means, “Rejoice!” that is, “Rejoice in the Lord always!” and as such, the traditional theme for this Sunday is one of “Joy.” Gaudete Sunday is celebrated in Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and most mainline Protestant churches.

The third Candle on the Advent wreath has also been called the **“Shepherd’s Candle.”** Its light is a symbol of the joy that filled the world at the birth of Jesus. This ‘joy’ first came upon the shepherds at their night watch in the fields when the Angel of the Lord appeared to them and said:

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great ‘joy’ that will be for all people.” (Luke 2:10).

The Third Advent candle that is lit is rose in color, to remind all Christians of the ‘joyful’ occasion of the Lord’s birth which is truly at the heart of our Advent preparation of prayer and penitence. The other three candles of the Advent wreath are purple in color.

In the First Reading for the day, the words of Prophet Zephaniah described the immense ‘joy’ he had deep within himself as he foretells of the incredible grace from God that awaits the world with the coming of the Messiah.

“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.”

Such was the ‘joy’ that people must have felt, experiencing the fulfillment of God’s promise of mercy and salvation through the Incarnation of the Savior. In our present time, many Christians experience the “spirit of joy,” as they celebrate not only the significance of season of Christmas but most importantly celebrate the “joy” of the birth of Christ within.



**OUR PARISH CALENDAR
December 16th – December 22nd**

8:45 am Liturgy of the Hours
9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

- Mon. 12/16 **Private Prayer & Meditation**
Alf of Vercelli, Bishop
Ado of Vienne, Bishop
Adelaide, Widow
- Tue. 12/17 **Mass of Thnaksgiving**
Lazarus of Bethany, NT
Olympian the Deaconess, Widow
Begga, Abbess and Widow
- Wed. 12/18 **Mass of Healing**
Rufus & Zosimus, Martyrs
Gatian of Tours, Bishop
Winebald, Abbot
- Thurs. 12/19 **Mass to the Holy Martyrs of God**
Nemesius & Companions, Martyrs
Anastasius of Rome, Bishop
Boniface of Tarsus, Martyr
- Fri. 12/20 **Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus**
Ammon, Dc & Companions, Martyrs
Philogonius of Antioch, Bishop
Dominic of Silos, Abbot
- Sat. 12/21 **Feast – Thomas, Apostle**
Thomas, Apostle
Anastasius II og Antioch, Bp. & M.
Juliana of Nicomedia, Virgin & M.



**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

- 9:00 am Holy Mass to be celebrated in the Traditional rite of the PNCC with the lighting of the **“Candle of Love.”**
- 10:00 am Decorating and preparing our church proper for the Christmas season.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, please remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill, and seek the blessings of God for health and healing.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



EASTERN DIOCESAN MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION

During the month of December, at noon, the Eastern Diocesan Commission on Mission and Evangelism calls upon all to offer the following two prayers:

Let us Pray: Almighty God, inspire the people of our country of with a spirit of service. Through Jesus Christ You revealed that the greatest law is love of You and our neighbors. In flame our hearts with the fire of Your holy love for one another, May a sense of duty and a call to service come forth from You and may we lead by example in ministering and caring for our family, relatives, neighbors, and all in need. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4

As Pastor, of Holy Name of Jesus PNCC, I am so proud that our Parish family, here in South Deerfield, has throughout this past year of 2024, supported and became deeply involved in so many of our ministries in helping others: from donating non-perishable food items for our monthly “grocery giveaways,” to donating socks, underwear and warm clothing to not only children, through “Warm the Children” program, but also to our local veterans, both male and female; from the donations for school supplies to local schools as well as the many monetary donations made, which have been used in our various “outreach” ministries.

We continue to ask for assistance and donations, if possible, for non-perishable food items that may be left in our Parish Hall. For all other donation, including “socks and underwear” for veterans and donations for the Northampton Survival Center may be made in the vestibule of our church. A flyer of the needs of personal toiletries, etc. may be found in the vestibule of the church.

For monetary donations, personal checks may be made out to **“Holy Name of Jesus PNCC.”** with the memo **“HNJ Mission Fund.”** May God bless all our endeavors as we strive to help others in need.



SOCKS FOR VETERANS

This past week, I met with John Czyz, who is involved in many programs to aid local veterans in our area, including, the **“Soldier On”** program, which provides clothing, etc. to our local veterans, John was very grateful and happy to receive from our parish over 600 pairs of socks, underwear and other items of clothing, both for men and women. John and I spoke about visiting the local veterans at the Leeds Veterans Hospital this Christmas season. It's date to TBA shortly.



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”
- Matthew 25: 35.**

The next date for providing help for those in need will be held on **Saturday, December 21st from 10 am till noon** or while supplies last.



Collecting plastic tops

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting white or clear plastic tops that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops in this new ministry.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY 2024

A couple of weeks ago I spoke with Libby Kolasinski, who heads up the Adopt-A-Family of Franklin County and asked if we, as a Parish, could help this Christmas with single parents who have children and who are in need.

Libby provided for me, a list of 10 families, that met these criteria, and I placed these profiles in our Parish Hall.

I spoke recently and told Libby that our Parish will adopt all ten (10) families this Christmas. I wish to thank all those who have chosen to adopt a family this Christmas season.

The “spirit” of this season of giving, is manifested when we remember the words of Jesus found in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats as found in Matthew 25:40:

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”



WARM THE CHILDREN

This year, our Parish has decided again to donate to the “Warm the Children” Campaign. This yearly project, which began in 1993 and sponsored by Greenfield Recorder, is to help in providing children of Franklin County and the North Quabbin regions with coats and clothing.

Last year, about 900 children received coats and warm clothing and raised over \$70,000 to cover expenses. All donations are tax-deductible and are placed in an account overseen by the Community Foundation of Western MA. The Greenfield Recorder in cooperation with Target provides gift cards to beneficiaries and are provided by Community Action for each qualifying child, 12 years old or younger.

Vouchers for coats will be given out to children in need for all donations given. Checks may be made out to the **“Holy Name of Jesus PNCC** along with the memo **“Warm the Children”** and given to either Buddy Lafleur or Linda Puchalski who in turn will send a check to the Greenfield Recorder.



OPLATEK – CHRISTMAS WAFER

Oplatek, or the Polish Christmas Wafer, is available and found in the vestibule of our church. “Free will” offerings may be made to cover the cost of this most special Christmas wafer.



PIEROGI ON SALE

We currently have some potato / cheese as well as some cabbage pierogi for sale. Please see Linda Puchalski for purchase. Thank you.

Please note: The Christmas bulletin and schedule for 2024-2025 will be “sent out” shortly to our parishioners and friends Thank you.