



**HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH  
National Catholic Church**

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**TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

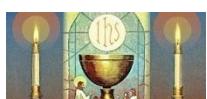
**9:00 am – Holy Mass in the Traditional rite of the PNCC.**

**The Lighting of the Second Candle of the Advent Wreath – **The Candle of Peace.****

**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**

**(John 1:6-8)**

V. 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.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**C. The Lord be with you.**

**R. And also with you.**

**C. Let us pray: Almighty Father, send Your Son once again to judge the secrets of the human heart. May we, who in holy fear await His coming as judge, joyfully regard Him as our Savior. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.**



**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**

**(Isaiah 11:1-10)**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots, a bud shall blossom. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him: A spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and His delight shall be the fear of the LORD. Not by appearance shall He judge, nor by hearsay shall He decide, but He shall judge the poor with justice and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips, He shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around His waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

C. The Word of the Lord.

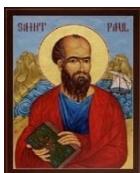
R. Thanks be to God.

### **GRADUAL**

(Jeremiah 23:5-6)

V. Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; As king He shall reign and govern wisely, He shall do what is just and right in the land.

R. In His days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they shall give Him: "The Lord is justice."



### **A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE ROMANS (Romans 15:4-9)**

Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name.

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

### **ALLELUIA VERSE**

(Sirach 2:18)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord and not into the hands of men, for equal to His majesty is the mercy that he shows.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



### **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW**

(Matthew 3:1-12)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 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. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

C. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **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.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead  
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.

### **OFFERATORY VERSE**

(Psalm 116:4)

V. Then I called on the name of the Lord, "O Lord,  
save my life."

### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the hope, joy,  
and peace You have given us, and implore You to  
accept this oblation we now offer. We ask this in the  
name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for  
ever and ever.

R. Amen.



### **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. Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

### **COMMUNION VERSE**

(Isaiah 41:13)

V. For I am the Lord, your God, Who grasp your right hand; It is I Who say to you, "Fear not, I will help you."

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

C. The Lord be with you.  
R. And also with you.  
C. Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You chose John the Baptist to call us to repentance and to announce the nearness of the kingdom. May we, whom Your Son has gathered around His table, praise and glorify You and proclaim Your name before all the world. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

R. Amen.



### **REFLECTIONS ON**

### **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **THE CANDLE OF PEACE**

**The second candle in Advent**, has been called the "**Candle of "Peace,"**" as well as the "**Candle of Preparation.**"

The season of **Advent or "Adventus"** began as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century in Spain and Gaul (France).

In the early Church, the **Second Sunday of Advent**, was also designated as the “**Sunday of Preparation.**”

This preparation was not only to mark the celebration of the “coming” of the Lord at Christmas but was also to be a time where individuals would prepare to be baptized as new Christian converts on the Feast of the **Epiphany of our Lord** (January 6<sup>th</sup>). The emphasis was to remember not only the celebration of God’s incarnation of the “**Word made flesh,**” but was also to remember the visit of the Magi, and John baptizing Jesus, in the Jordan River, circa 30 AD.

During Advent, individuals would through prayer and fasting, prepare themselves to receive the birth of the Lord. In the beginning years, there was little connection, between the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and it was not until the Middle Ages that Advent and Christmas would be linked together.

On this **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**, we meet the great teacher and prophet John, the Baptizer. He was called upon by God to “**prepare the way of the Lord.**” But John did not call the repentant in a gentle manner but was more like a “drill sergeant” in a marine barracks, greeting the new recruits on their first day. John was honest, seeking to fulfill his ministry to God, through the miracle of his own birth and as well as his time in the desert, in austerity, and he did not mess around with people who he baptized, in the River Jordan

Years ago, I saw a beautiful production of the “**The Miracle of Christmas**” at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. In this performance, the importance of the birth of the Son of God is preceded by the story of the Angel Gabriel coming to Zechariah to tell him that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son and that he would name John. The archangel Gabriel would play an important part in the Christmas story, for he not only visited Zechariah but also Mary, the Blessed Mother of our Lord and Joseph, her espoused husband.

Common tradition holds that since Mary and Elizabeth were related, then Jesus and John must have been cousins. But who exactly was John the Baptist?

The emergence of John the Baptist was like the voice of God breaking a silence that lasted for over 400 years. The last time a prophet spoke in the Old Testament was Malachi. He conveyed to his listeners a message from God: “Now I am sending my messenger—he will prepare the way before me; And the lord whom you seek will come suddenly to his temple; The messenger of the covenant whom you desire—see, he is coming! says the LORD of hosts”. And so, John was born. Not only did John the Baptist have something to say, but it was the way he delivered it. He was primed and ready. He had spent years in the wilderness, living as a hermit, living off the land and striving to understand what he was called upon to do. From his birth, as we read in the Gospel of Saint Luke, he was another miracle of God. John was to possess no wealth, but his message was to be priceless. John was to be a great prophet in the Christian tradition, chosen by God to be the processor of the Light, “who was to enlightens every man who comes into the world”. If we look at the person of John the Baptist, it can be truly being said that:

1. John fearlessly defined his position. If John saw ordinary people living a godless life, he told them about it. If the orthodox religious leaders, the Pharisees and the Sadducees were corrupt, he told them about it. John even went as far as to denounce publicly King Herod, who had taken his brother’s wife and were living in sin. John didn’t care if he offended people. He simply told the truth and brought to light the darkness of man’s sins.

The Roman philosopher Diogenes one time said: “The Truth is like a bright light to sore eyes” and that “he who never offended anyone, never did anyone good.” The time of politeness was gone, and a time of rebuke had come, and John called it as he saw it and he didn’t “beat around the bush.”

2. John called upon people to be righteous. His message was not merely negative denunciations; it was a positive call to all to live the moral principles of God. He not only denounced men for what they did; he summoned them to do the things that was

right. He not only condemned men for what they were; he challenged them to be what they could be. He was a voice calling men to a higher standard. He not only denounced evil and wrong but also set before man the good.

As the theologian William Barclay put it: "There are times when the Church was too pre-occupied to tell man what not to do and too little occupied in setting before man the Christian ideal. Christianity calls upon each of us to raise our own personal mark.

3. John lived beyond himself. John not only was a light to illuminate evil, a voice to rebuke sin, but he was also a signpost, a neon light pointing to God. It was not that he himself wanted others to see; he only wished to prepare others for the one who was to come after him. It was the Jewish belief that Elijah would return before the Messiah came, and that he would be the herald of the coming of the king. In last book of the Old Testament, the book of Malachi 4:5, we read: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." John, who wore a garment of camel hair and had a leather belt around his waist was the exact raiment that the prophet Elijah wore as in the book of Kings.

It could be said that John the Baptist represents the innate nature in each of us that looks to do good. It is that moral principle within each of us which that brings to light that which prevents us from being righteous "unto the Lord". It is that which draws men to live a moral and upright life, but who still lacks the spiritual comprehension of our oneness with God. John baptized with water, a purifying agent that is used in all religions.

John used water to baptize man unto repentance and the forgiveness of sins. "I baptize with water, but there is one among you, who you do not know. He is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit and with fire".

When one is truly baptized in the Holy Spirit they are sealed and set aside as God's chosen.



## **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

**"And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." - Luke 2:9**

May we pray for the health and healing for all those, who we remember in our prayer:

George and Janet Sadowski, Wayne Shaw, Linda Puchalski, Vincent Stankiewicz, Richard Foster, Carolyn Rapalye, Karen Herzig, Paula Winn, Stefanik Gadecki, Marge Sanderson, Brandon Poe, baby James, Liam & Evelyn Spatcher, Jennie Harrington, Eric Rose, Lori Lukomski, C.J. Panell, Mick Szumski, Tosia, Toka and Larry Bara Jr., Laurie Lis, Bp. Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Todd Odell, David Moskin, Laurie Lis, Renata Wos, Jan Clark, Zoe Kinnunen, as well as all our own personal intentions:

**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. Deliver them, according to Your will, from all their present sicknesses and illnessness, 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, and are One God. Amen.



## **OPŁATEK – CHRISTMAS WAFER**

Opłatek, or the traditional Polish Christmas wafer, is now available and may be found in the vestibule of our Church.



## **ADOPT-A-FAMILY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY**

At our most recent Parish Committee meeting that was held this past last Saturday, we received a report from Peg Kostiuk and Alice Maiewski who have been in contact with Libby Kolasinski, who heads up the Adopt-A-Family of Franklin County, I want to thank Peg and Alice for their help.

This year, we are helping two families and a wish list has been created. For more information, please see Peg Kostiuk of Alice Maiewski.

Our Parish has been involved every year and the generosity of our parishioners have made the Christmas holidays special for so many in our communities.



### **OUR ANNUAL SOCK DRIVE**

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to Josh and Mary Tudryns who have headed up our Annual Sock Drive. So far, through their efforts, over 2,040 pairs of socks have been collected. This does not include the donations in our vestibule or other donations.

### **PIEROGI FOR SALE**

We currently have cabbage as well as Potato & Cheese pierogi available for \$12.00 per dozen.



### **OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

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

#### **Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”**

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

Our next grocery “give-a-way” date will be this **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 am until supplies last.

We also wish to thank all those who have donated to our food ministry. Donations of items needed as well monetary gifts will be greatly appreciated.

#### **We are still in need of the following:**

- Cereals and instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and Cranberry juices.
- Powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.

- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children’s snack packs

**Please note:** Also, through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect “full sized” containers of **personal care items and cleaning items** to aid others in need. All items collected, will be donated to the various survival centers in our area. Items needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers).
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers,



### **ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION** **WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER**

In the month of December, our Eastern Diocese has called upon all its members and others to offer prayer at 12:00 noon each Wednesday:

**Into Your hands, O God,** we commend ourselves and all who are dear to us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit and strengthen us for the work You have given us to do. May we complete that work with glad hearts. As we serve and walk before You, help us to live in holiness and righteousness all our days. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Our Father,** Who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.