



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

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TODAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

Lighting of the third candle of the Advent
Wreath – The “Candle of Joy.”

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”

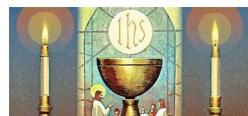
To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father

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

(Isaiah 26:19, 29:19)

**V. Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For
your dew is a dew of light and the land of
shades gives birth.**

- R. The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.**
- 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. Eternal Father, we joyfully approach the celebration of Your Son’s birth. May He bring us pardon and freedom from the burden of our sins. 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

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

(Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10)

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing. Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

C. The Word of the Lord.

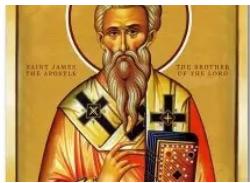
R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Jeremiah 23:5-6)

- C. Happy are those whose help is Jacob’s God; whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that in them.**
- R. Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the**

oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free



**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES
(James 5:7-10)**

Be patient, brothers, and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

(Malachi 3:23)

C. Alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

V. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW
(Matthew 11:2-11)**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

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

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at Me." As they were going off, 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 clothing. Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet. Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you. Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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

(John 1:6-7)

V. A man named John was sent by God. He came for testimony to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, prepare our hearts to receive Your Son, the gift of life and peace, Who will become present in this Sacred Offering. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.



THE 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 (Psalm 146:8-9)

The Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord protects the stranger sustains the orphan and the widow but thwarts the way of the wicked.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Lord our God, we thank You for the coming of Your Son in this Holy Eucharist. Open our eyes to the needs of the sick and the poor, for unless we see Him in our brothers and sisters, we will never recognize His final coming. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R. Amen.



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The “CANDLE OF JOY”

There seems to be a difference of opinion to what the theme of the Third Sunday of Advent should be. I have read that there are some who say that this Sunday’s theme is one of “Love” while most others consider the theme for this Sunday as one 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 hope and the joy that filled the world at the birth of Jesus, or Yeshūa, 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 Isaiah described the immense 'joy' he had deep within himself as he foretold the incredible grace from God that awaits the world with the coming of the Messiah.

"Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee."

Such was the 'joy' that the other Israelites felt, experiencing the fulfillment of God's promise of mercy and salvation through the Incarnation of the Savior.

In our present time, Christians experience 'joy', not only as we celebrate the holiday of Christmas every year, but also celebrate the birth of Christ within. But we also hear in the season of Advent of the Second coming of Jesus Christ known in Christology as the "Parousia."

The culmination of this Sunday is found in today's Gospel. John has been imprisoned and sends two of his disciples to ask Jesus straight away: ""Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus tells them to "tell John what they have seen and heard: 'the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.

This powerful declaration is in tune to Luke 4:18-19, when Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah 61: 1:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

We further read in Luke 4:20-21: "And He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Such was and is the "joy" that God fulfilled His promise to deliver His chosen, by sending forth His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. As it is proclaimed by Isaiah in 9:2:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."



NEXT SUNDAY – DECEMBER 21, 2025

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - LOVE

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist

The lighting of the 4th Candle of Advent, the "Candle of Love" will take place prior to Holy Mass. A separate page for this is found in today's bulletin.

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 Soltsiak, 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 are 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.



OPLATEK – CHRISTMAS WAFER

Oplatek, 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 offered 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 in this notable cause and through the generosity of our parishioners, we have strived as well as others. to make this Christmas 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 the holiday season at \$12.00 per dozen. Please see Fr. Koerber or a member of the Parish Committee for purchase.



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 20th 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 as 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.

- 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.

OUR PARISH CALENDAR



CHRISTMAS BULLETIN 2025 - 2026

The Christmas Bulletin from our Parish will be sent out this week to our parishioners and friends, informing them of the dates and times of our

religious services as well as thoughts and prayers for this special season.



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, we read 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 the complex world of greed, pettiness, and arrogance, we see a simple and humble man, John, having a most important message that speaks to our world: "Prepare the Way of the Lord." As we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy, we call to mind that God answered by sending His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ into the world.