

Rejoice

focus

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 13, 2015

3rd Sunday of Advent III Niedziela Adwentu

December 13, 2015

Rite: Pew Missal, page 15, Canon, page 28.

First reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Canticle: Isaiah 12:2-6

R. **To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Intention: 11:30am – for all parishioners

Celebrant: 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 11:30am Derek Westcott

- Matins and Lighting of the Advent Wreath at 11:20am and Holy Mass at 11:30am (Traditional Rite)
- Parish Vigil Pot Luck Meatless Dinner after Holy Mass

4th Sunday of Advent IV Niedziela Adwentu

December 20, 2015

Rite: Pew Missal, page 15, Canon, page 28.

First reading: Micah 5:1-4

Psalms: 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

R. **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Intention: 9:30 – for all parishioners

Celebrant: 9:30am and 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 9:30am Marilyn Hietala, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins and Lighting of the Advent Wreath at 9:20am and Holy Mass at 9:30am (Traditional Rite)
- Coffee Hour, SOCL, Greening of the Church
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Contemporary Rite, pg. 63/Canon, pg. 77)
- Free Lunch on Sunday

And all flesh did see the salvation of God, even of the Father: for He sent the Son to be our Savior. And in these words by "flesh," man generally is to be understood, that is, the whole human race. For thus all flesh shall see the salvation of God: no longer Israel only, but all flesh. For the gentleness of the Savior and Lord of all is not limited, nor did He save one nation merely, but rather embraced within His net the whole world, and has illuminated all who were in darkness. And this is what was celebrated by the Psalmist's lyre, "All the nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord." While at the same time the remnant of the Israelites is saved, as the great Moses also long ago declared, saying, "Rejoice ye nations with His people." – St. Cyril of Alexandria

Sick Calls and Hospital Visits – Please know that hospitals will not advise parishes when an individual is admitted. Confidentiality regulations prevent them from doing so. If someone is admitted please let Father Jim know so he might visit, pray with, anoint, and bring Jesus' healing presence to them. Call Fr. Jim at 518-522-0944. You may also call Fr. Mark Gnidzinski at 518- 437-1889.

Contact

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Upcoming...

- **December 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent, Holy Mass 11:30am only. Youth Presentation and Parish Vigil Dinner follows.**
- **December 14: Holy Mass for Healing, 6:15pm.**
- **December 20: 4th Sunday of Advent, Advent Penitential Service and Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Free Lunch, Greening of the Church.**
- **December 24: Vigil of the Nativity, Children's Christmas Vigil Holy Mass at 4pm.**
- **December 25: Nativity of the Lord. Solemn Procession to the Manger, High Holy Mass at Midnight and 10am.**
- **December 26: Feast – St. Stephen, Protomartyr**
- **December 27: Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds/Feast of St. John, Apostle & Evangelist. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am with wine blessing.**
- **January 1: Solemnity of the Circumcision. Holy Mass at 9:30am**

We invite all who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to partake. It is our practice to distribute the Holy Eucharist by intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, never in the hand.

Rejoice, and share rejoicing!

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.

Today we read a message of hope and rejoicing from the Prophet Zephaniah.

This message is found near the end of the third chapter of this very short book of prophecy. More than two-thirds of Zephaniah's prophesy deals with judgment and can be considered, more than any other prophecy, as one of devastation, death, and Divine judgment. The Day of Judgment is pictured as a time of darkness, anguish, distress, destruction, plunder, and threat to all life, human and animal alike.

Israel had turned from God to false

gods, fake gods of wood and stone. Israel's leadership was unjust and abusive. Zephaniah's prophecy occurred just before the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.

Today's world is much like Zephaniah's. Political leadership in our country and throughout the world is unjust and abusive. Most of the people in our country and across the world have turned from God or have turned to false gods who promise that through some set of works and deeds a person might be saved. Our world is filled with terror. In the not to distant future we will likely know someone, who knows someone, who knows someone affected by terrorism. We are only a few degrees of separation away.

Here we sit amidst all this turmoil and tendency to fear. We ourselves fear for our families, children, grandchildren, friends, and coworkers. In less than two weeks we will gather with them to celebrate Christ's coming among us. Today we are

reminded to rejoice! To rejoice!!!

If we, like ancient Israel, only lived for today, like politicians and believers in false gods, then we have reason to fear. We, rather, live forever. We have been delivered, not by works and deeds, but by faith in the One who has saved us. As Zephaniah foretold: *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. Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior.* We need not be afraid for even if terror comes to our door, we have already been delivered to eternal joy.

We have reason to rejoice. More than that, we have reason to share our joy with the world. We must offer a share of our rejoicing to all people of good will. Those who follow false idols will be saved by our gift of joyful faith and perhaps even a politician or two might reject evil and also rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Psalm 5:11

MONDAY: 1 John 4:18

TUESDAY: Romans 5:3-4

WEDNESDAY: Romans 10:13

THURSDAY: 1 Thessalonians 5:16

FRIDAY: Joel 2:23

SATURDAY: Luke 10:20

Pray

Lord Jesus, grant that I may have no fear in heart or mind. Fill my heart and mind with the rejoicing that comes from knowledge of You.

A Time of Anticipation & Longing

Advent, two weeks down, two more to go. Please make a special effort to engage in deeper prayer, fasting, and through works of charity during this Holy Season. Be sure to attend our Penitential Service before Holy Mass of December 20th. We light our Advent Wreath each Sunday before Holy Mass. Our Advent Season will also be busy with our Community Vigil today and preparing the church for Christmas next Sunday. Join in to share this time of anticipation within the family of faith so that when Jesus arrives you will stand with His faithful. Also, Christmas Wafers/Oplátky are available.

Vigil Dinner

Today we join together after Holy Mass for our Parish Vigil Dinner. As our forefathers did on the night before Christmas – the Vigil – we celebrate by sharing in: prayer, our Christmas Wafers/Oplátky, good wishes, and a meatless meal. It is right that we celebrate together on this Sunday, which has the dual theme of anticipation and rejoicing. Our hearts overflow with the urgent expectation of our Savior's return in glory. How can we not rejoice? Thank you to all who prepared dishes to share and to Combo's for the great fish fry. We are certainly prepared today to welcome with rejoicing the unexpected visitor who may be our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Food Collection

As we do each November and December, we are taking up a food collection to help those in our local community. Please bring in bags of canned and dry foods and/or personal care items and leave them by the Mary altar. Your generosity shows forth your thankfulness for God's many blessings and your sacrifice during the upcoming penitential and preparatory season of Advent.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

We have sent out tickets for next February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle. Prizes total \$1,220. Each entry gives one multiple chances to win. Every time someone wins, their ticket is placed 'back in the bucket.' Daily prizes are \$40 and the Valentine's Day prize is \$100. Thank you for supporting this effort which pays for our summer youth programs – Kurs and CONVO.

Bible Study

The last Wednesday of each month we will hold an Ecumenical Bible Study at 7:30pm. Please stop by and join in to support this new ministry. Please plan to join us on Wednesday, December 30th.

Holy Mass Intentions

Reminder... you can ask Father Jim to offer Holy Mass for any intention. Just see Fr. Jim and let him know what you want.

FREE LUNCH on Sunday

Our next free lunch is December 20th. Please be sure to continue to invite friends, family, and everyone you know to partake every month. There is no cost or charge for this meal. This service opens our home to all in need of a little company, a warm meal, and the love of Christ. Our free lunch on Sunday program is on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Of note...

Praying for...

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice and George Houser, Angela Kaminski, Stanley Radzynski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Bonnie Nelson, Mariea Chase, Nickole Mook, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Węglinski, Janet Spurck, Robert Dominy, Wayne Balnis, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Frances Myslinski, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Sczepakowski, Derek Westcott, Dolores Konicki, Nellie Kucharski, Pastor Tom Kendall, Irene Borowski, Joshua Moraski, Sue White, Sue & Roger White, Chris Tatlock, Mildred Lewis, Debbie Esposito, Ceil & Eddie Gibbons, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Lucas Taylor, Joanne Bauer, Shirley Greene, Diana and Georgette Hannoush, Madison Sheridan, Resaan, Kathleen, Dan, William, Jeremy, Alison, Reginald, Eddie Stover, Karen & Jacob, Sean and Jessie Wilcox, Snyder Family, Amber Tatlock, Kathleen Hietala, Vicky Stover, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Dennis, Donnie Wright.

- All in need of God's healing grace.
- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Pattric Jones
- All those in Public Service, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.
- All Active And Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- All who have asked for our prayers.

We continue in prayer and intercession for one of the parishes or ministries in the Polish Catholic Church. This week we remember the people of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M. Parish, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland and its clergy.

Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

Coffee Hour: Coffee hour is held every week after 9:30am Holy Mass. Thank you to all who assist with this ministry of hospitality. All are welcome to join with us each week. If you can, please help out.

Parish Organizations: Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? The YMSofR - Men's Society of the Resurrection Branch 56, ANS - Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Father Jim.

--- Please think of inviting a friend to Holy Name of Jesus ---