



# Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – DECEMBER 3, 2017

## 1st Sunday of Advent

### I Niedziela Adwentu

December 3, 2017

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

First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17,19 – 64:2-7

Psalm: Ps. 80:2-3,15-16,18-19

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Intention: 9:30am and 11:30am for all parishioners.

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

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

- Matins at 9:20am. Blessing and Lighting of the Advent Wreath, Oplatek, Altar Linens, Holy Mass at 9:30am (Traditional Rite). Exposition and Benediction.
- Coffee Hour/First Communion/Confirmation classes.
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Traditional Rite).

## 2nd Sunday of Advent

### II Niedziela Adwentu

December 10, 2017

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

First reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Psalm: Ps. 85:9-14

**Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Intention: 9:30am and 11:30am for All Souls remembrances.

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

Lector: 9:30am Joe Kaczynski, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am. Advent Wreath Lighting. Holy Mass at 9:30am (Traditional Rite).
- Breakfast/First Communion/Confirmation classes.
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Traditional Rite).

***You called and cried out loud and shattered my deafness. You were radiant and resplendent, you put to flight my blindness. You were fragrant, and I drew in my breath and now pant after you. I tasted you, and I feel but hunger and thirst for you. You touched me, and I am set on fire to attain the peace which is yours. – St. Augustine.***

**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 518-453-2258.

## Contact



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## Upcoming...

- **December 3: 1st Sunday of Advent.**  
Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.
- **December 6: Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra. Fr. Jim's 3rd Anniversary of Ordination.**
- **December 8: Solemnity – Conception of the B.V.M.**
- **December 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent.**  
Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.  
Breakfast.
- **December 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent.**  
Holy Mass with Penitential Service at 10:30am followed by Youth Presentation and Vigil Dinner.  
Greening of the church follows.
- **December 18: Holy Mass for Healing with Anointing at 6:15pm.**
- **December 21: Feast – St. Thomas.**
- **December 24: 4th Sunday of Advent.**  
Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Vigil of the Nativity with Holy Mass at 4pm
- **December 25: Solemnity of the Nativity.** Holy Mass at Midnight and 10am.
- **December 26: Feast – St. Stephen, Proto- Martyr.**

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.

Sadness for longing.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

I heard ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel’ for the first time this past week. People of faith singing out with such longing, such desire. It made me sad.

There are a lot of things that can make us sad at this time of year.

In part, it is melancholy – a sober thoughtfulness as we prepare. Maybe we think of Christmases past, people no longer with us, some regret, distance from those we love, separation, an unresolved conflict we wish had never happened. We think about those things with longing – a wish things were different.

Perhaps we are sad as we bang our heads against the wall trying to get ready. Shopping, buying, spending – will they be happy and satisfied? Did I measure up? Decorating, dragging out the dusty trees and ornaments. Looking at it all, and

comparing to the neighbors – are we good enough this year? The lights that didn’t go on quite straight. Not being Martha Stewart in the kitchen. Remembering at the end of it all we just have to put it all away. Then all the crowds and the traffic. We think about those things with longing that it would be different – a wish things could be simple once again.

Listen to the words from the Prophet Isaiah: *Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants.* The people of Israel were crying out. They had lost their way, they lost sight of God. They wanted His promises, His consolation. They wanted His presence, the coming of Emmanuel. They knew they were missing out. Things weren’t the way they were meant to be. They were sad, melancholy.

The key to Advent is to connect to the reason for the underlying sadness in our lives. We do many things to fill our lives, including what we do to fill the Christmas season ahead, but none of that is really able to help us deal with the melancholy or longing within us. None of it can silence what is calling us.

So how do we find what will fill us, what will bring us the fullness of joy and contentment? We start by finding some common ground with what Israel was going through, to put ourselves in their place. If we take the time to

reflect on their longing, their melancholy, their sadness – we begin to connect with the gift God was getting ready to give them. He definitely heard their plaintive cries – and sent His Son to them, the Messiah, Emmanuel. If we spend this Advent season in prayer, scriptural reading, and reflection, listening for the voice of the Spirit, we will find Him pointing us to Jesus. Then we will find our hearts and minds really calling out for the fullness of what will satisfy.

Unlike Israel, we have an advantage. Our hope is a post salvation hope. Yet we still long. Advent connects us to this remaining longing. Our hearts and minds call out for the fullness of what will remove all sadness, melancholy, and longing. Advent connects us to the event that will satisfy – Jesus’ return and entry into the kingdom. Let us be ready. Return, return, Emmanuel!

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:28

Time to Study God’s Word

SUNDAY: Revelation 22:12  
MONDAY: 1 Thessalonians 5:2  
TUESDAY: 1 Thessalonians 4:16  
WEDNESDAY: John 6:50-51  
THURSDAY: Romans 2:6-8  
FRIDAY: Philippians 3:20-21  
SATURDAY: 2 Thessalonians 2:15

Pray  
Lord Jesus, I long for Your return.  
Come, Lord Jesus.

Praying for...

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice Houser, Angela Kaminski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Mariea Chase, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Węglinski, Robert & Stephanie Dominy, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Szczepkowski, Dolores Konicki, Pastor Tom Kendall, Joshua Moraski, Sue & Roger White, Chris Tatlock, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Lucas Taylor, Joanne Bauer, Shirley Greene, Madison Sheridan, Sean and Jessie Wilcox, Snyder Family, Amber Tatlock, Kathleen Hietala, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Donnie Wright, Derek Westcott, Karen Kisch, Joe Emmanuel, Gregory Henderson, Vince Cacamo, Theresa Ordon, Robert Baia, Michelle Zawistowski, Faith, Adam, Allyson Keyser, Richard and Suzette Place, Amanda Carr, Tyler Hoffman, the Hoffman Family, Daniel DiIanne, Warren Tatlock, Susan Jones, Vincenzo DiIanne, Cassandra Wade, Garry Packer, Madison Dunlap, Sandra Tatlock, Crystal Haley, Linda DePaula, Michelle & Eric. 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. Fr. Joseph Kolek
- 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 National Catholic Church. This week we remember and pray for the clergy and people of Parocchia di Gesu Misericordioso, Turin, Italy.

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

Coffee Hour: Please join us for Coffee. Your support and assistance are needed for this ministry of hospitality. Please sign up to take a week.

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.

**Advent Begins**

The season of preparation for Jesus’ return begins today. We transition to the readings for Year B. More importantly, we use this time to transition ourselves by cleansing our hearts and minds through fasting and penitential practices. These practices should include Devotional Reading – get a good Christian book. Listening in Prayer – learn to end talking at God and to listen for His voice. Christian Music – turn off secular Christmas tunes. Give – alms and food for the poor and those in need. Learn – about the Saints of the season including Nicholas, Lucy, Barbara, Bibiana, and Thomas the Apostle. Gain Patience – need the tree up now? Really?!? When Christ returns what will He find in and around us? Let Him find us with hearts prepared and filled with longing for His Kingdom only.

**Join us for Breakfast... and Dinner**

Join us for breakfast next Sunday, December 10th. It will be extra special. The following week, Sunday, December 17th, we will hold our annual Vigil Dinner and youth presentation. There will only be one Holy Mass at 10:30am.

**Food Collection**

We will be collecting dry and canned goods throughout November and December for donation to those in need in our community. Please make a prayerful donation in thankfulness. Please place your donation by the Mary altar in the church. Bless you!

**Spaghetti Dinner – Date Change**

Join us for our 2nd annual spaghetti dinner which has been moved to **Saturday, January 20th** from 4pm till 7pm hosted by Joanne Bauer, her three daughters, and three granddaughters.

**Christmas Pies**

Joanne Bauer and Helen Spencer are selling Christmas pies. All pies are 9 inches. Pies are \$15 each or 2 for \$25. **To order, call 518-377-1806.**

**Valentines Raffle**

Stay tuned for our annual Outrageous Valentines Raffle.

**Youth Commission Raffle**

The PNU is hosting a raffle to benefit its College Stipend Program. Donations for tickets are \$5 each or 3 tickets for \$10. Tickets on the back table.

Of note...

--- Holy Name: Approaching the Kingdom ---