



PARISH ORGANISATION

ADMINISTRATOR (PASTOR)

- Rev. Adam Piekarczywski - fr.adam@mail.com

PARISH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - Joseph Bednarz

SECRETARY - Harriett Zawistowski

TREASURER - Georgianna LaFranchise

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - Edwin Koski

PARISH COMMITTEE

meets normally every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

PASTOR EMERITUS

- Rev. Henry Smolinski - henrysmoct@juno.com

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS: must be arranged in person

MARRIAGES: 6 months prior arrangement

CONFESSIONS: by appointment

SICK VISITS: by appointment

FUNERALS: family should contact Fr. Adam as soon as possible

If you have a family member or a friend in the hospital or sick at home wishing a pastoral visit, notify Fr. Adam as soon as possible to schedule a visit.



SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

23 Golway Street, Manchester, CT 06042

Official website: www.saintjohnspncc.com

Facebook: [John the Baptist, Manchester CT](https://www.facebook.com/JohntheBaptistManchesterCT)

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

ADMINISTRATOR - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 16, 2018

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY!

Saint John the Baptist Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church has been an integral part of Manchester community for almost 90 years meeting the religious needs first for the Polish immigrants, and later for all residents of the Connecticut State.

Consider joining us for Sunday Worship! For more than two thousand years, the Sunday Eucharist has been at the very heart of the life of the Christian Church. There is no substitute for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass! Everything we are and everything we do flows into and out of this act of Divine Worship.

In addition, Catholics know that they must continually nourish their spiritual lives apart from Sunday Eucharist. Daily prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments, devotions, bible study, ongoing Christian formation and an active life of charity are the building blocks of what it means to be a CHRISTIAN-CATHOLIC. You will find all of these activities in our parish and we encourage your participation.

If you have questions or suggestions about the parish, you may contact us. Please feel free to stop by the Parish Office or to speak to one of the priests or lay members after Sunday Mass.

You are very welcome to our community!

*Fr. Adam Piekarczywski
Administrator*



HOLY MASS

. 9.00 am

- in English (po angielsku)

. 11.00 am

- in Polish (po polsku)

MASS INTENTIONS

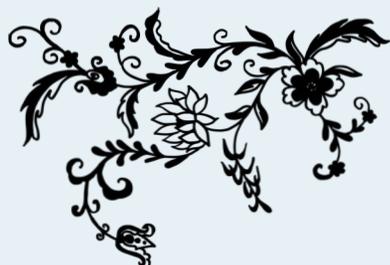
If you would like to have a Mass said for a particular intention, you must stop by the Parish Office or the sacristy in the Church before/after Sunday mass. Masses can be said for a deceased person or as a special intention for the living. You may reserve a Sunday of your choice, and your intention will be published in the parish bulletin.

We encourage you to offer a Mass on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special personal (family) need.

Third Sunday of Advent (GAUDETE)

TODAY'S MASS INTENTION 9 am

For eternal rest of
JANE KONOPACKI
(req. by Diane Makles)



TODAY'S MASS INTENTION 11 am

Za naszą parafię, by
okres Adwentu był cza-
sem duchowego odro-
dzenia.

Contemporary Mass: Mass Book p.63

ENTRANCE HYMN - O COME EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, o Israel

NO GLORIA is recited!

INTROIT

C: 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.

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

12/16 We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to all who contributed with their time, money, talents and prayers to the CHRISTMAS BASKET TEACUP AUCTION & PIEROGI SALE which took place yesterday in our church hall. It was a very successful event and great opportunity to invite new people to the Church! Thank you very much: **Joseph & Maria Bednarz, Maureen Johnson, Georgie LaFranchise, Nancy McHugh, Magda Piekarzewska & Diane Makles!** God bless you!

12/16 We'd like to appreciate the work of **Magda Piekarzewska** who prepared the nativity scene in our church this year. Thank you very much for your time and talents!

12/22 (Saturday) ALL DAY ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament. This is our community commitment proposed as a spiritual preparation for Christmas. Feel free to choose your hour of "being with the Lord"! The list is still in the back of the church waiting for your NAME! You can choose a second slot for an hour already taken by somebody else...

9-10	Joseph Bednarz	Fr. Adam Piekarzewski
10-11	Maria Bednarz	
11-12	Jacqueline Girouard	
12-1	Fr. Henry Smolinski	
1-2	Fr. Mike Aparo	
2-3	Magda Piekarzewska	
3-4	The Dziura's family	

12/24 (Monday) Vigil of the Nativity. The Holy Eucharist (**Shepherds' Mass**) will be celebrated at **10 pm**. If you'd like to participate and yet you cannot drive after dark, we have some volunteers who can drive you to the church and then back home (please, contact Joe Bednarz). Right after the Mass we'll share the Opłatek in the church hall followed by the mulled wine with crackers&cheese.

I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for “rejoice”) this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior’s birth and ultimately for His Second Coming.

Our First Reading, from Zephaniah, certainly gives us cause to rejoice. “Fear not... be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior.” Even more cause for joy, this Savior delights in us — “He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in His love, He will sing joyfully because of you.” How can we not be moved by a God who pursues us, who comes to us as Savior, and who actually sings for joy over us!

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to live make our lives a “Christmas gift” to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist’s message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same.” He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God’s gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ’s extravagant love. Let’s avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let’s look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him. When we get this “gift” right, all the other gifts and to-do’s on our Christmas list will fall into their proper place.

READING 1

ZEP 3:14-18A

A reading from the book of the Prophet Zephaniah.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

IS 12

*„Shout aloud and sing for joy:
great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

READING 2

PHIL 4:4-7

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT - SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me! / x2
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
 Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

OFFERTORY SONG - ON JORDAN'S BANK

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 Announces that the Lord is nigh;
 Come, then, and hearken, for he brings
 Glad tidings from the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
 Make straight the way for God within;
 Prepare we in our hearts a home,
 Where such a mighty guest may come.

3. For Thou art our salvation, Lord,
 Our refuge, and our great reward.
 Without Thy grace our souls must fade
 And wither like a flower decayed.
4. Stretch forth Thine hand, to heal our sore,
 And make us rise and fall no more;
 Once more upon Thy people shine,
 And fill the world with love divine.

COMMUNION SONG - I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

I am the bread of life.
 He who comes to me shall not hunger;
 he who believes in me shall not thirst.
 No one can come to me
 unless the Father draw him.

The bread that I will give
 is my flesh for the life of the world,
 and he who eats of this bread,
 he shall live for ever,
 he shall live for ever.

Ref: And I will raise him up,
 and I will raise him up,
 and I will raise him up on the last day.



FINAL HYMN - FROM HEAV'N A VOICE

1. From heav'n a voice comes down to earth;
 A star foretells the Savior's birth.
 It shines through darkness sin and grief,
 And brings to mankind's soul relief.
2. From Jesse's stem a flower springs,
 Which to the world salvation brings.
 God sent to us His Son, our Lord,
 Before the ages long adored.

3. Our fathers heard the tale of old;
 The prophet's words had long foretold
 That God would come so man might be
 Rescued from death eternally.