



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.saintjohnspncc.com)

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

Rectory phone: 860-643-5906

**ADMINISTRATOR** - Rev. Adam Piekarczywski

December 9, 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

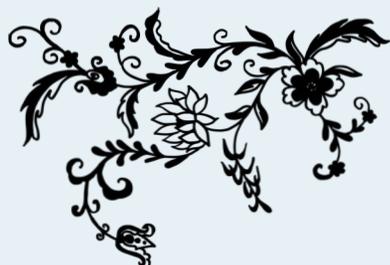
**If you would like to have a Mass said for a particular intention, you must stop by the Parish Office or the sacristy in the Church before/after Sunday mass. Masses can be said for a deceased person or as a special intention for the living. You may reserve a Sunday of your choice, and your intention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

## Second Sunday of Advent

### TODAY'S MASS INTENTION 9 am

For eternal rest of  
BARBARA GUSTAFSON  
12-25-40 - 12-13-13  
(req. by Aunt Georgie  
LaFranchise)



### 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

#### INTROIT

C: Lo, I am sending My messenger to prepare the way before  
Me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord  
Whom you seek,

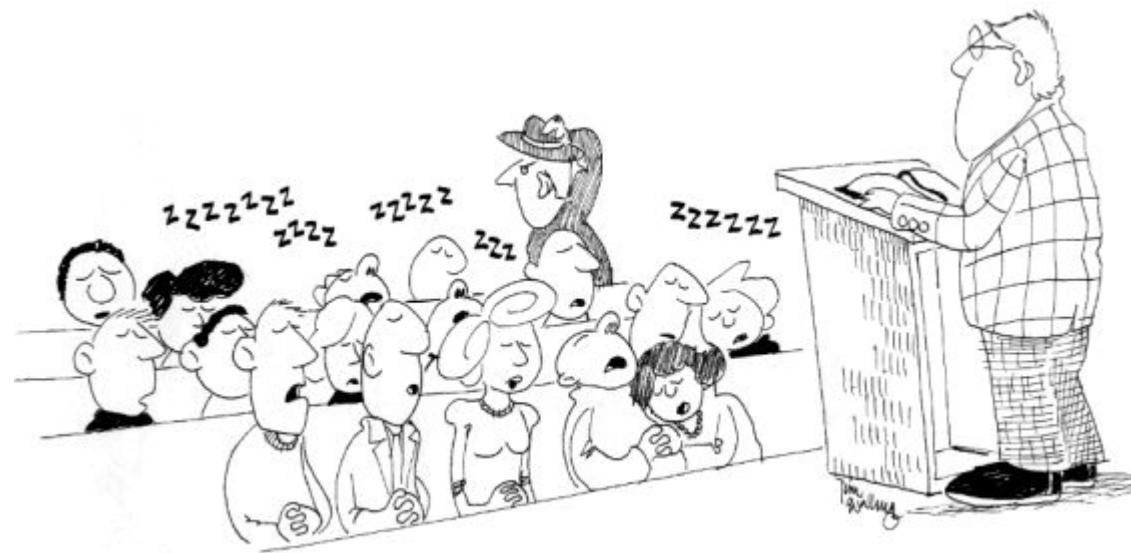
**R: And the messenger of the covenant Whom you desi-  
re, yes, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.**

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

- 12/9 **Big THANK YOU** to all those who joined our yesterday's Pierogi workshop! We have prepared many trays of Pierogies for our PIEROGI SALE which we'll hold on Dec 15 (10am—2pm)! Thank you very much! God bless you!
- 12/9 **CHRISTMAS WAFERS** and **CHRISTMAS HAY** available in the church vestibule (at the entrance door). Thank you for the donations you make!
- 12/15 (Saturday) **CHRISTMAS BASKET TEACUP AUCTION & PIEROGI SALE.** Please, keep bringing some items for our Christmas baskets - consider only NEW or BARELY USED goods. During this coming week you can bring your items to the rectory any time you wish... Thank you for your generosity! (Take a look at the list of items proposed by Mrs. Bednarz)
- 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"! Put your name in one of the available slots on the list which is in the back of the church.



*Pastor Doug could usually tell when he began to lose his flock.*

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

The readings for the Second Week of Advent offer both encouragement and challenge during this brief but important season of the liturgical year. Recall from last week that the purpose of this season is reflection on and preparation for the two “comings” of Christ — His coming as a baby on the great feast of Christmas, and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time.

Until He comes again, we must remain faithful to Him as true disciples and good stewards of all the gifts He has given us. While it can be tempting to give in to the materialism and calls for self-indulgence that surround us, (ironically more than ever at this time of year), this reading calls us back to the spiritual reality that this life is passing and that we are made for eternal life with God. We are called to prepare for eternal life by the way that we use our time, our talents and our treasure now.

The Gospel reading from Luke shows us how personal and detailed is God’s love for humanity as He prepared the way for Christ’s coming among us. We are told the precise time, place and person, John the Baptist, He appointed to announce the arrival of our Savior. Through John, we are told how to celebrate to the fullest this first “coming” on the feast of Christmas and how to prepare for the second coming — through repentance.

This Advent let’s turn away from any bad habits or sin that may have crept in to our lives and turn our hearts and minds back to Christ. This is what the christian way of life is all about —moving ever closer in relationship with Christ and imitation of Him, ready to celebrate His birth, with eyes fixed on eternal life with Him.

## READING 1

### A reading from the book of the Prophet Baruch.

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God’s worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by

## BAR 5:1-9

God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God’s command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

## PS 126

*„The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.”*

## READING 2

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

Brothers and sisters:  
I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and

## PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11

more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

*Thanks be to God.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

**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.