



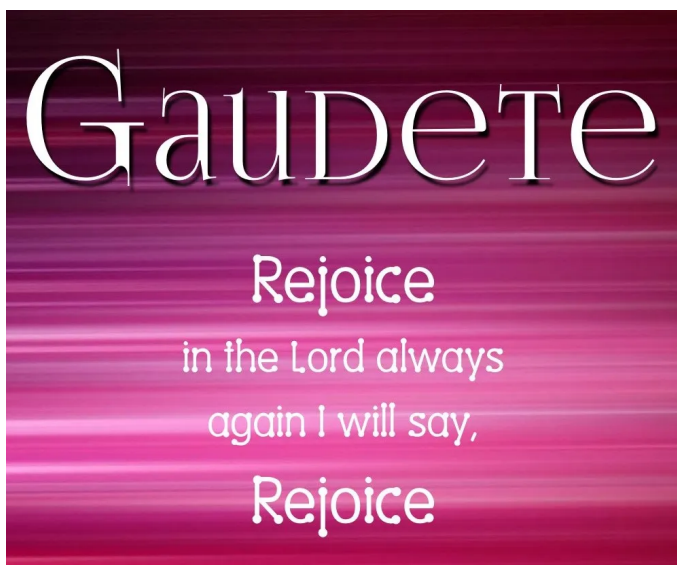
Holy Family Parish Polish National Catholic Church

1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, PA 15132



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3rd Sunday of Advent December 15th, 2024



Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.678.0566.

Bulletin announcements should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication.

Parish Staff:

Fr. Mariusz Mularczyk, Pastor 412.330.8286
Don Newcamp, Committee Vice Chairman 412.708.8615
Carol Davelli, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.2368
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.926.6029
David Kost, Lector and SOCL Coordinator 412.519.7771
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033
Angela Mayfield, Parish Custodian 412.860.3498



OPENING HYMN

O Come Divine Messiah – PNCC #28 (verses 1 & 3)

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our
hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your
Church gath - ered to - day.

The musical score is written on four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The first line is "Christ, be our light! Shine in our", the second line is "hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.", the third line is "Christ, be our light! Shine in your", and the fourth line is "Church gath - ered to - day." The music ends with a double bar line.

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Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **second candle** is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The **third candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

ENTRANCE HYMN (Psalm 85:6-7;90:14)

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.

FIRST READING

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.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

IS 12:2-3, 4, 5-6.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;

among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name.

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,

for great in your midst

is the Holy One of Israel!

R. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

PHIL 4:4-7

A Reading from the Letter of St. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

IS 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

GOSPEL

LK 3:10-18

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CLOSING HYMN

Baptized in Water (tune of *Morning Has Broken*) – Ritual Song #903

Church decorating for Christmas – Saturday, Dec 21, 10:00 AM

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND RELATIVES

Athena Becker, Stephen Pociask, Marian Sleczkowski, Al & Betty Ann Perhas, Ed Babish, Barbara Cook, Paul Koper, Ted Flora, Dave Guillot, Emily Guy, Marcy Raiford, Antoinette Drake, Marianna Pełka, Bronisław Korus, Anna Dryfik, Justin Riddle, Ford Bartle, Jeff McBride, Carol Davelli, Helene Tylor, Richard Tomkovitz, Meredith Straw, Colleen Kortz, Lori Tomko, Charles Koczera, Marlene Koczera, John Razukiewicz, Jane Contrella, Vicki Griffiths, Kiersten Donahoe, Rose Marie Korch, Renata Woś, Roberta Wagner, Lucas Etzel, Kellie Gates, Bishop John Mack, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Nate Lennon, Luca Milbower, Karyn Muse, Joyce Haber, Blair Lloyd, Justice Coddington, Martin Carney, Kathy Guy, Veronica Campbell, Cindy Puchka, Wendy Blotzer, Gail Coddington, Angela Mayfield, Gladys Bacco.

FAITH SHARING

The central theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" Today is called "*Gaudete*" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("*Rejoice in the Lord always*"). Today we light the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath, and the priest is wearing rose-colored vestments, to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior.



In today's first reading, the prophet Zephaniah encourages Jerusalem and Israel to shout out for the joy of their expected deliverance by the Lord. St. Paul echoes this message of joy in the second reading, a letter written from imprisonment: "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice...*" In the Gospel today, John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God's Way by the doing of His will. John challenges people to generosity and a sense of fairness so that others may have reason to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others, and sharing our blessings with others in need.

LIFE MESSAGE

We are called to a change of life. First, we should examine our relationships with others. We need to mend ruptures, ease or relieve frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly, and treat everyone justly. Our domestic and social lives must be put in order. We must abandon our selfish thirst for consumption and, instead, be filled with the expectation of Jesus' coming. We need to remember that we, like John the Baptist, are Christ's precursors. Parents, teachers, and public servants act as Christ's precursors by repenting of their sins, reforming their lives, and bringing Christ into the lives of those entrusted to their care.

USHERS FOR SUNDAY COLLECTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

12/15/2024 Frank Pociask, Stan Tadajski
12/22/2024 Bill Griffiths, Rich DeLong
12/29/2024 Don Newcamp, George Jobs
1/5/2025 Joe Parknavy, Shawn Davis



SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday Offering envelopes are available in the vestibule. Please take yours and help us to deliver them to your relatives and others who live in your neighborhood.



OPLATKI - CHRISTMAS WAFERS

Oplatki are available. Your free will offerings for Oplatki will support our choir and music in our church.

CONCERT WORTH SEEING AND LISTENING

Come and enjoy a Holiday concert at St. John's Cathedral Center in Munhall (210 Greentree Rd, Munhall, PA 15120). The East Winds Symphonic Band will be performing today, **Dec 15th at 3:30 PM**. Admission is **FREE** and refreshments will be provided. See the flyer in the Narthex for details.

CENTER FOR VICTIMS

Center for Victims is in need of gently used winter coats for the residents of the shelter. Needed are sizes toddler to adult. Donations would be greatly appreciated. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex of the Church. If you have any questions, please contact **Janice Griffiths** at **412-477-7061**.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH ILLUMINATING

Our church will be illuminated for Shepherd Mass and Christmas day Mass, indoor and outdoor, with candles in decorative moisture-proof bags, dedicated to any intention that you want to introduce to Baby Jesus; it can be your "thank you" candle, it can be your prayer request candle for living or deceased. Any intention is OK: birthday, anniversary or your expression of love, firendship or if you miss someone who is no longer at Christmas table with you. Neither names nor written intention needed. Only how many candles you wish to order and your donation. Checks payable to "Holy Family PNCC" with memo "CANDLES". Suggested donation for each candle: \$4.00 (just to cover the cost). Limit 200 bags. First come, first served.



PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, December 19, at 7:00 PM



POINSETTIAS DONATION

Donate poinsettia in memory of your beloved ones.
The envelopes with the order form you can find in the Narthex.
As of today, only 20 poinsettias were dedicated.

CHRISTMAS HOME BLESSINGS ✠ C ✠ M ✠ B ✠

Contact Father Mariusz (cell 412-330-8286, office 412-678-0566) or email pastor@hfpncc.org if you would like your home blessed during the 2024/25 Christmas Season where time and date arrangements can be made.



2024/25 CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 Vigil of the Nativity

- 10:00 PM Festival of Polish/Slovak/English Christmas Carols presented by the Frederic Chopin Choir & Annunciation Bell Choir followed by the Lighting of the Christmas Candle and the Mass of the Shepherds. This Mass is offered for All Living and Departed Parishioners.

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord

- 10:00 AM Solemn Christmas Day Holy Mass

For All Living and Departed Parishioners.

Thursday, December 26, 2024 Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass

Friday, December 27, 2024 Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass with the Blessing & Distribution of Wine

Saturday, December 28, 2024 Solemnity – Holy Family

10:00 AM Holy Mass with the Blessing of Families

Sunday, December 29, 2024 Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Thursday, January 2, 2025 Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass

Saturday, January 5, 2025 Solemnity – Epiphany of the Lord

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass with the blessing of incense, charcoal & chalk

Sunday, January 12, 2025 Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord

- 10:00 AM Holy Mass with the renewal of our baptismal promises and the Installation of the 2025 Parish Committee

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent (GAUDETE)

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Edmund & Laura Adamek – requested by Karyn & Alexa

† Joseph & Marion Sanetsky – requested by Sharon & David Kish

† Josephine Tarli, Angelo Tarli – requested by Diane, Archie, Bob and Cindy

Monday, December 16, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 17, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Thursday, December 19, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Friday, December 20, 2024 – Feast – St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 21, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Sunday, December 22, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Johanna Pardoe – requested by Alexa Foster

12/24/24 Tu 10:00 PM Shepherd Mass (Pasterka)

For All Parishioners

12/25/24 We 10:00 AM Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

For All Parishioners

12/26/24 Th 10:00 AM Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

OPEN

12/27/24 Fr 10:00 AM Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Mass with the blessing of wine (BYO Bottle for blessing)

12/28/24 St 10:00 AM Solemnity – Holy Family

For All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

12/29/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

OPEN

1/1/25 We 10:00 AM Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

OPEN

1/2/24 Th 10:00 AM Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus

OPEN

1/5/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord

† Josephine Tarli, Angelo Tarli – requested by Diane, Archie, Bob and Cindy

1/12/25 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

OPEN

1/19/24 Su 10:00 AM 2 Ordinary Sunday

OPEN

1/26/24 Su 10:00 AM 3 Ordinary Sunday

† Mildred & Phillip Kotulsky – requested by Barbara Kostovny

2/2/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Presentation of our Lord

OPEN

