



Holy Family Parish Polish National Catholic Church



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4th Sunday of Advent December 22nd, 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:

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Angela Mayfield, Parish Custodian 412.860.3498



OPENING HYMN

Send Forth O Heavens – PNCC #16 (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 each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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Advent is a time to bind up the broken hearted.

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For past wrongs that prevent us from moving forward:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any bitterness that scratches our soul:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For relationships left in decay and neglect:

Come, Lord, and make all things new.

For any action that has wounded us or by which we have wounded others:

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 four candles. The **first candle** is the light of hope for those in times of waiting. The **second candle** is the light of hope for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The **third candle** is the light of hope for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The **fourth candle** is the light of hope for those who carry the wounds of life. Today we acknowledge our pain and the pain we have caused others. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

ENTRANCE HYMN (Micah 5:1)

C. But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah,
**R. From you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel;
Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times.**

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

MI 5:1-4A

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

Thus says the LORD: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the LORD, in the majestic name of the LORD, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace. The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

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

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us.

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

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,

and protect what your right hand has planted
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

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

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

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

SECOND READING

HEB 10:5-10

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,

behold, I come to do your will, O God." First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, :Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

LK 1:38

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.

GOSPEL

LK 1:39-45

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." The Gospel of the Lord.

CLOSING HYMN

Hail O Blessed Mary – PNCC #19 (verses 1, 2 & 3)

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

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and

the openness to do God's will. These Scriptures suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect, loving obedience to His will, with cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

In the first reading, the prophet Micah assures the Jews that God is faithful to His promises and that from the unimportant village of Bethlehem He will send to them the long-expected ruler.

The second reading, taken from the Letter to the Hebrews, reminds us to be thankful for Jesus Christ's Self-offering, the perfect sacrifice of loving obedience that liberated us from sin.

In the Gospel, Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. We see here how sensitive Mary

was to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. Discipleship consists in listening to God's word and then carrying it out, and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.



LIFE MESSAGE

We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the Spirit of Christ, through Whom Christ is reborn in us and thus enables us to share His love with all whom we encounter. We do so by offering each of them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness and compassionate, caring love. Let us take the time to visit others during this Christmas season, especially the sick and shut-ins, to bring some inspiration into their lives, and hopefully to bring them closer to God.

We need to recognize the Real Presence of the *Emmanuel* (God is with us) in the Holy Eucharist, in the Bible, in the Sacraments, and in the praying community. The hill country of Judea is right here in our surroundings. Let us convey Jesus to people around us by our acts of love, kindness and forgiveness.

USHERS FOR SUNDAY COLLECTION AND HOLY COMMUNION

12/22/2024	Bill Griffiths	Rich DeLong
12/29/2024	Don Newcamp	George Jobs
1/5/2025	Joe Parknavy	Shawn Davis
1/12/2025	Lenny Guy	Joe Lawrence
1/19/2025	Frank Pociask	Stan Tadajski
1/26/2025	Bill Griffiths	Rich DeLong
2/2/2025	Don Newcamp	George Jobs
2/9/2025	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.

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. Last chance to order them!



POINSETTIAS DONATION

Donate poinsettia in memory of your beloved ones. The envelopes with the order form you can find in the Narthex. Last chance today!

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.

OUR CHURCH LOOKS FABULOUS FOR CHRISTMAS

Thank you all parishioners helping in decortng last week and yesterday!



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

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 – Holy Family/Epiphany of the Lord**

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

Monday, January 6, 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

Merry Christmas

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

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

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Johanna Pardoe – requested by Alexa Foster

Monday, December 23, 2024 – Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 – Vigil of Christmas

10:00 PM – Shepherd Mass (Pasterka)

For All Parishioners

Wednesday, December 25, 2024 – Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

10:00 PM – Holy Mass

For All Parishioners

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

10:00 PM – Holy Mass

OPEN

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

10:00 PM – Holy Mass with the blessing of wine (BYO Bottle for blessing)

† John, Mary, Ken, Tom, Bonnie Zaucha, Nick Fioravanti – requested by Toni Fioravanti

Saturday, December 28, 2024 – Memorial – Holy Innocents

Sunday, December 29, 2024 – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

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

For All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

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

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

1/6/24 Mo 10:00 AM Solemnity – Epiphany of our Lord

OPEN

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

