



Holy Family Parish National Catholic Church

1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, PA 15132



Office 412.678.0566; Auditorium 412.664.7009
www.hfpncc.org info@hfpncc.org pastor@hfpncc.org
Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church

4 Sunday of Advent December 24, 2023



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. Office Hours: by appointment.

Bulletin announcements should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication.

Parish Staff:

Fr. Mariusz Mularczyk, Pastor 412.330.8286
Ted Gibala, Committee Chairman 724.765.4269
Carol Davelli, Chopin Choir Director 412.678.2368
Wendy Blotzer, Organist, Bell Choir 412.926.6029
David Kost, Lector Coordinator 412.519.7771
Tom Popovic, Cemetery Coordinator 724.243.3033
Parish Custodian 724.765.4269



OPENING HYMN

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

ENTRANCE HYMN (Luke 1:28,42; Judith 15:9b)

C. Hail favored one! The Lord is with you. Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

R. You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel!
You are the splendid boast of our people.

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.

Reading 1

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!"

Nathan answered the king, "Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you." But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: "Go, tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?' "It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever;
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.

For you have said, "My kindness is established forever";
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,

I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations.”
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,
my God, the Rock, my savior.’
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm.”
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Reading 2

ROM 16:25-27

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 1:26-38

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God."

Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND RELATIVES

Hudson Tutko, Athena Becker, Stephen Pociask, Marian Sleczkowski, Al & Betty Ann Perhas, Ed Babish, Barbara Cook, Darren Geyer, Paul Koper, Ted Flora, Dave Guillot, Emily Guy, Marcy Raiford, Johanna Pardoe, Allan Soltez, Antoinette Drake, Marianna Pełka, Bronisław Korus, Ewa Nowak, Justin Riddle, Ford Bartle, Rosalie Clark, Lucille Davelli, Joan Kotulsky, Karyn Muse.

Please keep us informed that we might minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital or nursing home. Father Mariusz will visit them with the Holy Communion.

CLOSING HYMN

O Come O Come Emmanuel – PNCC #320

FAITH SHARING

Today's readings focus on the circumstances leading up to the first coming of Jesus, the event which sets the pattern for his coming to us now and at the end of time.

The first reading surprises us by telling of God's promise to David that he would have a long line of royal descendants culminating in a final King, Jesus Christ.

The second reading surprises us with Paul's explanation of the unveiling of God's plan for human salvation through Jesus.

In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel

surprises Mary with seven announcements. 1) Even as a virgin betrothed to Joseph, she will become a mother. 2) She will become a mother through *"the Holy Spirit [Who] will come upon you, and the Power of the Most High will overshadow you."* 3) The angel continues, "Therefore, the Child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God." 4) She is to *"name the child Jesus,"* which means Savior. 5) God will make Him a King and, as a descendant in the line of David, 6) *"He will rule over the House of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end."* 7) As a Divine sign, Elizabeth, Mary's aged barren cousin is six months pregnant, *"for,"* says Gabriel, *"nothing shall be impossible with God!"*

The Gospel narrative also surprises us by reminding us that God's promise is best fulfilled not in buildings, or even in great kings like Solomon, but rather in humble souls like Mary who trusted in God's promise.



LIFE MESSAGE

The Good News in today's Scripture message is not only that God is making provision for the salvation of His people, but also that He has a plan for each individual person. In many cases, our work for God seems rather ordinary, but each ordinary task which we carry out fits into God's plan in ways that we cannot yet understand. God desires not only the skill of our hands and talents but the love of our hearts.

WHAT IS THE ADVENT SEASON?

Advent Season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to re-member, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is. There are many different traditions associated with the four weeks of Advent.

The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.



ADVENT WREATH

The most significant tradition of the Advent season is the Advent Wreath. The wreath and candles are full of symbolism tied to the Christmas season. So what does the Advent Wreath symbolize? The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life we find in Christ.

Even the individual evergreens that make up the wreath have their own meanings that can be adapted to our faith. The laurel signifies victory over persecution and suffering. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality and the cedar signifies strength and healing. The pine cones that decorate the wreath symbolize life and resurrection. The wreath as a whole is meant to remind us of both the immortality of our souls and God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ.



SAMBS MEETINGS AND MISSION COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Jan 14, 2024; Feb 11, 2024; Mar 10, 2024; Apr 7, 2024; May 12, 2024

OPLATKI (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) AVAILABLE

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

SUNDAY OFFERINGS COLLECTION DURING MASSES

Beginning the Christmas Eve Shepherd Mass (Pasterka), tonight at 10:00 PM we go back to pre-pandemic custom of collecting our Sunday offerings by the ushers during Mass at the offertory time. Four or two ushers will collect our offerings to the baskets and bring the collection to the Altar. In case there are no ushers present, other parishioners can also do it. Ladies are more than welcome to do it as well.

Since the first century, when the first Christians gathered in the underground catacombs to celebrate the Mass, collection basket always symbolized our appreciation and gratitude to God for His graces. The Holy Mass was called the Eucharist which in Greek means “giving thanks”.



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.

BULLETIN BY EMAIL

If you wish to receive our weekly bulletin by email, please simply send an empty email with the title BULLETIN to pastor@hfpncc.org.

✠ *C* ✠ *M* ✠ *B* ✠

EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS

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 Epiphany Season where time and date arrangements can be made.

WALL CALENDARS AVAILABLE

Please take home our newly issued wall calendar. They are available in the Narthex. Thank you **Jaycox-Jaworski Funeral Home** and **Willig Funeral Home** for sponsoring them.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 4 Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Kenneth Kost – requested by David & Sandy Kost

10:00 PM – Shepherd Mass (Pasterka)

For All Parishioners and our Departed Relatives

Monday, December 25, 2023 – Solemnity – Nativity of the Lord

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

For All Parishioners and our Departed Relatives

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 – Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Bonnie Zaucha – requested by Carol Davelli

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 – Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

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

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

Thursday, December 28, 2023 – Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle

Friday, December 29, 2023 – Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 30, 2023 – Advent Weekday

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

For All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

Sunday, December 31, 2023 – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

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

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

† Raymond Kostovny – requested by Dolores Zoretich

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

For God's blessing for the Pastor and his Family – requested by the anonymous Parishioner

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

† Kenneth Kost – requested by Rev. Bruce & Marian Sleczkowski

1/7/24 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

† Josephine Dorazio – requested by Rose Marie Korch

1/14/24 Su 10:00 AM 2 Ordinary Sunday

† Bonnie Zaucha – requested by Ted & Janis Gibala

† Warren Albeck – requested by Henrietta Albeck

1/21/24 Su 10:00 AM 3 Ordinary Sunday

† Laura Adamek – requested by Alexa Foster & Karyn Muse

1/28/24 Su 10:00 AM Septuagesima Sunday

OPEN

2/2/24 Fr 10:00 AM Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord

OPEN

2/4/24 Su 10:00 AM Sexagesima Sunday

OPEN

2/11/24 Su 10:00 AM Quinquagesima Sunday

OPEN

2023/24 CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24, 2023 **4th Sunday of Advent / Vigil of the Nativity**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass
- **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 Parishioners and Departed Parishioners and Relatives.

Monday, December 25, 2023 **Christmas Day – Nativity of the Lord**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass

For All Parishioners and our Departed Relatives

Tuesday, December 26, 2023 **Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 **Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist**

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

Saturday, December 30, 2023 **Solemnity – Holy Family (our Parish Feast Day)**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass with the Blessing of Families

Mass offered for All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

Sunday, December 31, 2023 **Solemnity – Humble Shepherds**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, short thanksgiving devotion for the Old Year and Benediction

Monday, January 1, 2024 **Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass

Tuesday, January 2, 2024 **Solemnity – Holy Name of Jesus**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass

Saturday, January 6, 2024 **Solemnity – Epiphany of the Lord**

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

Sunday, January 7, 2024 **Solemnity – Baptism of the Lord**

- **10:00 AM** Holy Mass with the renewal of our baptismal promises and the Installation of the 2024 Parish Committee



JOIN US FOR
CHRISTMAS
MASS!