

Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
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Facebook Holy Family National Catholic Church



Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2019

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements, please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678.0566. **Office Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at BSleczkowski@aol.com

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ADVENT 3 MASS LITURGY

OPENING HYMN	Bulletin
Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony	
PENITENTIAL RITE	Page 66
ENTRANCE HYMN	Isaiah 26: 19b; 29: 19
C: Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew of light and the land of shades give birth.	
R: The Lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.	
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.	
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OPENING PRAYER	
LITURGY OF THE WORD	
First Reading	Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10
Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 146
R: The Lord will come and save us.	
Second Reading	James 5: 7-10
Gospel Acclamations.	Isaiah 61: 1
L: Alleluia, Alleluia.	
R: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.	
R: Alleluia, Alleluia.	
Gospel	Matthew 11: 2-11
SACRAMENT OF THE WORD	
LITURGY OF THE FAITHFUL	
NICENE CREED	Page 71
GENERAL INTERCESSION	
R: Lord, Hear our Prayer	
OFFERTORY	Page 73
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING	
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER 5	Page 92
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CLOSING HYMN	Bulletin

Advent Wreath Lighting Ceremony

Third Sunday-Hope for those who are watching!

L: Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

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

L: Grant us vision to behold your glory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

R: 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.

Christ, Be Our Light!

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
BERNADETTE FARRELL

Congregation:

The musical score is written for a congregation and consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered to-day." The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

L: This morning we light 3 candles. The **1st candle** reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The **2nd 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 **3rd candle** awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God as we await our Savior's promised coming.

Light Candles

Closing Prayer: God of eternity, you called faithful people throughout the ages to behold your glory. We acknowledge you call us to the same awareness today. We confess at times our spiritual senses are stifled. Rekindle a new awareness of your everlasting glory. We stand awe of your deeds and ask you to repeat them in our day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”
PNCC Hymnal #25

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is nigh!" it seems to say; "Cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all ill dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiven,

That, when next He comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
With His mercy He may shield us And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit, While eternal ages run!



Closing Hymn: “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”
PNCC Hymnal 26, verses 1, 2, &4

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heav'ny food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!

This Week

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Advent 3

Confession

8:30 A.M.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+**Dorothy Gibala** Int. Ted & Janis Gibala; +**Edmund**

Adamek Int. Brian & Neil Stahurski

SOCL Classes

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Bible Class

6:00 P.M.

Frederic Chopin Choir Rehearsal

7:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 19, 2019

Annunciation Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 P.M.

Parish Council Meeting

7:30 P.M.

Sunday, December 22, 2019

Advent 4

Confession

8:30 A.M.

Advent Wreath Lighting

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

SOCL Classes

10:15 A.M.

Holy Mass

11:00 A.M.

Christmas Poinsettias

Envelopes are available to purchase your Memorial Christmas Poinsettias for the Church. Price still the same as last year, \$12.00.

Thank you to Dee Dee & Art Eagan who underwrote the costs for the repairing of the Altar Mensa saving the parish the expense. Bog Zaplac!

Today's Sunday Ministry

9:00 A.M.

Greeter: M. Sleczkowski

Lectors: Yellow Team

Ushers: L. Guy & J. Bagshaw

11:00 A.M.

A. Fioravanti

B. Zaucha

J. Wagner

Next Sunday Ministries

9:00 A.M.

Greeter: C. Trumpe

Lectors: Red Team

Ushers: R. DeLong & D. Newcamp

11:00 A.M.

A. Fioravanti

B. Zaucha

J. Wagner

Winter Clothes-less Clothes Drive

The United YMSR is conducting clothes drives throughout our national Church asking all parishes to help in this winter clothes drive ending January 20th. Holy Family YMSR Branch 70 is participating. Since our local organizations no longer accept bulk used clothing, it was decided to have a clothes-less clothes drive giving the proceeds to McKeesport charities, the Intersection and Salvation Army where they can use the money for what they need. Located in the back of the Church will be boxes designated for financial donations. All checks are to be made out to the Holy Family YMSR Branch 70.

“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King”

Our Annunciation Bell Choir along with the Bethesda Chancel Choir will be performing today in a special Cantata at 11:00 AM in the Bethesda U.P. Church 314 S Third Avenue, Elizabeth, PA. The community is invited and a Social Hour to follow. The Cantata in under the direction of our own Carol Davelli.

Polish Koledy CD Gwiazda sung by our Polish Bard is now available. Contact Wendy Blotzer. Price \$15.00

Christmas Wafer: Oplatek

A Christmas tradition celebrated in Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia and those of Slavonic heritages throughout the world. The breaking of the Christmas wafer is a custom that began in Poland in the 10th century and is considered the most ancient and beloved of all Slavonic traditions. Composed of pure wheat flour and water, rectangular in shape and very thin; they are identical in composition to the altar bread that becomes the Eucharist at the consecration during Mass. The Oplatek wafers are embossed with Christmas-related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Before partaking of the Christmas Eve meal, the family gathers around the table. The eldest member holds a large wafer and breaks off a piece to begin the ritual. The remaining wafer is passed on to another member while a prayer for loved ones is said. This continues until everyone at the table has a piece of the wafer. Finally, the family members give wishes to each other and consume a piece broken off wafer of a person to whom they were giving their wishes.

The Christmas wafer symbolizes the unity of the family, which many consider to be the main pillar of society. According to beliefs, the bond of unity should exist between family members. The father is seen as the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church, while other family members join him in this eternal procession. The wafer also symbolizes forgiveness and reconciliation.

**CHRISTMAS OPLATEK IS
AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH
NARTHAX**



Third Sunday in Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: 146

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11



KEY VERSE: This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

Matthew 11: 10

READING: The first reading contains a thrilling message of hope for those who may be feeling down. Isaiah says: “Cheer up! Do not be afraid. God himself is coming to save you.” James stresses something that we all find hard, namely patience. He urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord’s final coming. Jesus has tremendous words of praise in our Gospel about His cousin John, who is languishing in Herod’s dungeon. The Gospel continues to show us Jesus at work.

REFLECTION: In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week - Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and James invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord’s Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that “someone is coming”. Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: “Is it you?” For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular - the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary - in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: “I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied.” Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say “We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah - God who comes to save us!”

PRAYING: Lord, teach us during this Advent season to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior. We pray this through Christ our Lord.