



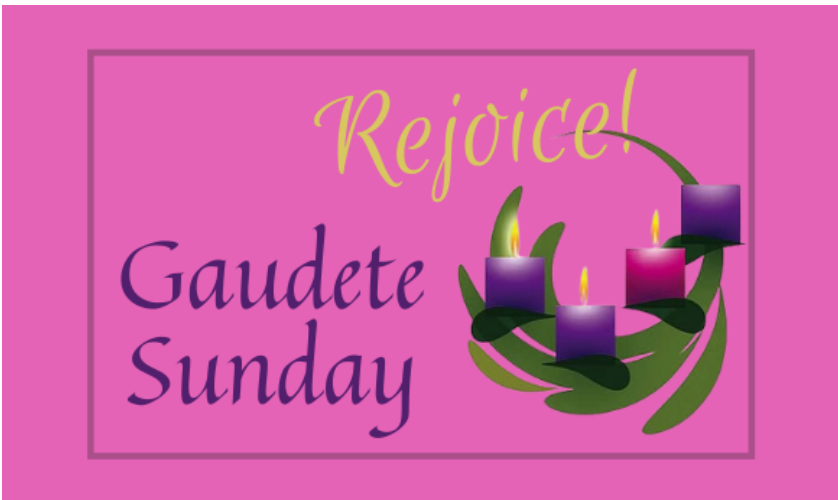
Holy Family Parish National Catholic Church

1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport, PA 15132



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Facebook: Holy Family National Catholic Church

3 Sunday of Advent December 17, 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

God Eternal Living Father (verses 1 and 2) – PNCC #14

ENTRANCE HYMN (Philippians 4:4-5; Psalm 119:151,162)

C. Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near.

R. You are near, O Lord; by Your edict give me life. I rejoice at Your promise, as one who has found rich spoil.

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

IS 61:1-2A, 10-11

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul; for he has clothed me with a robe of salvation and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, like a bride bedecked with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

LK 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Reading 2

1 THES 5:16-24

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil. May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

Alleluia

IS 61:1 (CITED IN LK 4:18)

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

Gospel

JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?"

And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord, 'as Isaiah the prophet said.*" Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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.

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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence – PNCC #26

FAITH SHARING

The third Sunday of Advent is called “*Gaudete Sunday*” because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: “*Gaudete in Domino semper*” – “*Rejoice in the Lord always.*” To remind ourselves that we are preparing



for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest may wear rose vestments.

The common theme of the day’s Scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

The Prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the Jewish exiles returning from Babylon to rejoice because their God, Yahweh, is their strong Guide, Provider and Protector.

St. Paul, in the second reading, advises the Thessalonian Christians to “*rejoice always*” by leading blameless, holy and thankful lives guided by the Holy Spirit, because Christ’s second coming is near, and he is faithful in his promise to reward them.

Today’s Gospel tells us that John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus as the Light of the world. The Baptizer wants all the Jews to rejoice because the long-expected Messiah, as the light of the world, will remove the darkness of sin from the world.

LIFE MESSAGE

Our mission, as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of his Church, is to reflect Christ’s Light to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect Christ’s sharing love and his unconditional forgiveness through our lives. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this

Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating Christ’s Light only by repenting of our sins, asking God’s

The word "Rejoice" is written in a large, colorful, brush-stroke font. The letters are filled with a gradient of colors including blue, green, yellow, orange, and red. A thick, multi-colored brushstroke underline is positioned beneath the word.

pardon every day, and by renewing our lives through our daily prayers, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending the Eucharistic celebration, and by performing the works of mercy.

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

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, December 21, 7:00PM

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.

CHRISTMAS LETTER

Christmas letter was mailed to all Parishioners. The Masses on Christmas Eve (Pasterka) and Christmas Day will be offered for our Deceased Relatives and Parishioners. A special form for those Masses will be mailed to you as well and it will be attached to each week bulletin during Advent.

POINSETTIAS DONATION

Donate poinsettia in memory of your beloved ones.
The form is in the Vestibule.



✠ 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.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 17, 2023 – 3 Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM – Holy Mass

† Richard Contrella – requested by Adamek, Muse & Foster Family

† Arthur Eagan – requested by Kathy Trumpe

Monday, December 18, 2023 – Advent Weekday

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 – Advent Weekday

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – Advent Weekday

Thursday, December 21, 2023 – Feast – St. Thomas, Apostle

Friday, December 22, 2023 – Advent Weekday

Saturday, December 23, 2023 – Advent Weekday

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

12/25/23 Mo 10:00 AM Solemnity – Christmas

For All Parishioners and our Departed Relatives

12/26/23 Tu 10:00 AM Feast – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr

† Bonnie Zaucha – requested by Carol Davelli

12/27/23 We 10:00 AM Feast – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

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

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

12/30/23 St 10:00 AM Solemnity – Holy Family

For All Parishioners of the Holy Family Parish

12/31/23 Su 10:00 AM Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

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

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

OPEN

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

OPEN

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

OPEN

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

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

OPEN

1/28/24 Su 10:00 AM 4 Ordinary Sunday

OPEN



MASS INTENTION REQUEST FORM

Mass for _____

Date requested _____

Requested by _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ **Mass stipend \$** _____

*Please mail this form and the Mass stipend to:
Rev. Mariusz Mularczyk, 1921 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport, PA 15132*

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

