

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 8, 2019 – **2nd Sunday of Advent / Conception of the BVM**

9:30 AM Holy Mass

Healing Mass offered for all our Parishioners and Friends, especially for all the sick and the elders of our Parish, with special blessing for all Children and Families.

11:00 AM The Annual Parish Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 9, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Thursday, December 12, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

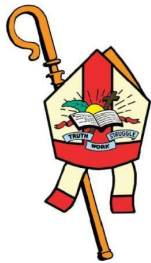
Friday, December 13, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Saturday, December 14, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Sunday, December 15, 2019 – **3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM Holy Mass

**Prime Bishop, welcome back
to St. Valentine's Parish!
Thank you for coming to us!**



BLESSING OF CHILDREN BY PRIME BISHOP ANTHONY MIKOVSKY AND HEALING MASS FOR THE SICK WITH THE SPECIAL BLESSING AT ST. VALENTINE'S ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

We are so grateful and happy that the Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky, the Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church is with us today. Thank you, Prime Bishop, for your prayers and blessings.

FAITH SHARING

On the one hand, salvation is God's doing, and we cannot earn His blessings. We are saved by His grace. On the other hand, we must cooperate with God's grace because God cannot force his bounty upon us. That is why John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our essential part by leading lives of repentance, conversion, and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We start this process by spiritually preparing for the annual celebration of Christmas, the Lord's first coming, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity.

Advent urges us to give evidence that we mean to reform our lives so and be ready to meet and accept the promised Messiah. This season challenges us to repentance, conversion and renewal, to act with justice and charity, letting our lives reflect the transformation that will occur when the Messiah enters our lives.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS – OPLATEK

The Oplatek will be blessed today and available. If you are interested in obtaining them for your Christmas Dinner celebration, please see Izabela. This is a beautiful tradition to maintain at your Christmas table.



PARISH OFFICE SUPPLIES AND CHURCH HALL SUPPLIES



We are still in need of the envelopes, post stamps, paper and toner. Also our church hall is in need of paper towels, toilet paper, napkins and coffee. Your donations are very appreciated. Thank you in advance for your generosity and big thanks to those who helped already.

CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

This year we will be decorating our church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 22**, right after Mass. Most of the decorations will be prepared, we need your help in hanging them on the walls, pews and setting the manger.



ADVENT WREATH CANDLE IN YOUR SPECIAL INTENTION OR IN MEMORY OF...

If you like to make an offering for the candle in this year Advent Wreath and light this candle in memory of someone who passed away or in some other special intention, please let me know. The cost of one candle is \$4.00

ST. NICHOLAS VS. SANTA

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara in Asia Minor. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OR JUST CONCEPTION?

The Immaculate Conception is a dogma based mainly on Christian tradition and theological reasoning. It was defined in 1854 by Pope Pius IX as a dogma of Faith. Definition: From the first moment of her conception, Mary was preserved immune from original sin by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race. This means that original sanctity,

innocence and justice were conferred upon her, and that she was exempted from all the evil effects of original sin, excluding sorrow, pain, disease and death which are temporal penalties given to Adam.

Because our Church, after breaking down with Rome, was in conflict with the Roman Catholic Church, therefore of course did not officially accept the new defined dogma. Our people, Bp. Francis Hodur and all delegates to Rome, after being treated such poor way in Vatican, just couldn't say any good word about pope and about his teaching.

However it does not mean that we do not believe it. This Dogma is based on Tradition and the Bible. Early Christians started celebrating the feast of the Conception of Our Lady by the end of the 7th century. It is reasonable that God kept the mother of His Son free from all sins from the first moment of her origin. The All-Holy God cannot be born from a woman who was a slave of the devil, even for a moment in her life.



In 1492, Columbus discovered America. He sailed in a ship called *Santa Maria de Conceptio* (St. Mary of the Conception). He named the first Island he landed *San Salvador*, in honor of our Savior. Columbus named the second island *Conceptio* in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception.

2019 PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER

Traditionally we are having our Parish Christmas Dinner and Oplatek. All Parishioners, Families, Friends and Supporters are invited after Mass to our Church Hall. Big thanks to all who cooked and prepared this meal for us today.



SANTA AT ST. VALENTINE'S

Santa promised to be here with us after Mass in the Church Hall. He has something for you! Don't rush home after Mass, stay with us.

CHURCH HALL DECORATING

Big thanks to Izabela and Joyce for beautifully prepared and decorated Hall for our celebration today. Thank you Iza for cleaning the church as well.

CHRISTMAS LETTER

Hopefully you have received this year Christmas letter. Please respond to it. Christmas donations are very important to our Parish. Thank you for your generosity.



ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978

www.stvalentinespncc.org, stvalentinespncc@gmail.com

Sunday Mass: 9:30 AM (English)



2nd Sunday of Advent

Solemnity – Conception of the BVM

2 Niedziela Adwentu

Uroczystość Niepokalanego Poczęcia NMP

December 8, 2019