

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 22, 2019 – **4th Sunday of Advent**

For the sick.

9:30 AM Holy Mass

10:30 AM Church decorating for Christmas

Monday, December 23, 2019 – **Advent Weekday**

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 – **Christmas Eve**

10:00 PM Shepherds' Mass "Pasterka"

For all St. Valentine's Parishioners and Friends.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 – **Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord**

9:30 AM Holy Mass

For all our beloved deceased.

Thursday, December 26, 2019 – **Feast – St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

Friday, December 27, 2019 – **Feast – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Saturday, December 28, 2019 – **Within the Octave of the Nativity, Holy Innocents**

Sunday, December 29, 2019 – **Solemnity – Humble Shepherds**

9:30 AM Holy Mass

FAITH SHARING

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: "*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel*" (Is 7:14). Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, who will be born as a descendant of David.

In the second reading, Paul asserts that Jesus was a descendant of David and thus the Messiah: "*from David according to the flesh*" (Rom 1:3). Paul explains that



the only begotten Son of God, become Incarnate as Jesus, was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead. Then Paul provides a sweeping summary of God's mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ.

Today's Gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. For Jesus to fulfill the Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah, Joseph had to, and freely did, accept Jesus as his son, making Jesus a legal descendant of David because Joseph was a descendant of David. Therefore, Matthew makes it clear that Jesus was not the biological child of Joseph. But because Joseph was the

husband of Mary at the time Jesus was born, Jesus was legally the son of Joseph and thus a descendant of David.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS – OPLATEK

The Oplatek is available for sale. 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.



CHURCH DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

Today, right after Mass, all are asked to stay and help in our church decorating. Most of the decorations are prepared, we need your help in hanging them on the walls, pews and setting the manger.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION

Christmas Flowers Envelopes for donations for flowers to adorn the Christmas altars are on the table in the back of our church. This is a beautiful way show your love in honor of family, friends or loved ones.

MY MISTAKE IN 2019 CHRISTMAS LETTER

During stuffing this year Christmas letter to our parishioners we totally forgot to include the envelope for your Christmas donation which goes to St. Valentine's Parish. I sincerely regret for it. The printed envelopes are located on the table in the back of the church. Please take one and respond to your parish needs. Christmas donation is very important to us.

SUNDAY COLLECTION ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

The 2020 Sunday collection envelopes are available already. Please take yours and if you can deliver the envelopes to your relatives or friends please do so.

WHAT IS A RORATE MASS?

The Rorate Mass is a beautiful tradition worth preserving for future generations. The season of Advent falls each year in the dark month of December and it is a month when we see the general theme of the liturgical season being echoed in nature. Darkness has crept over the world, and is increasing each day. Yet, there is hope for soon the days will begin to lengthen and the sun will conquer the night. The earth reveals that there is a light in this dark place and that Light reigns victorious.

The Church makes this truth more visible with an ancient tradition (often forgotten) called the "Rorate" Mass. This votive Mass during Advent in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary receives its name from the first words of the opening chant in Latin, *Rorate caeli*, or in English "Shower, O heavens."

What is peculiar to this celebration of the Eucharist is that it is traditionally celebrated in the dark, only illuminated by candlelight and typically just before dawn. The symbolism of this Mass abounds and is a supreme expression of the Advent season.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Please plan to be with us Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as we celebrate the birth of Our Savior. If you are uncomfortable driving after dark or need any other assistance, please let us know and we will arrange a ride for you to the church and back home.

HOLY MASSES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

- 10:00 PM The Traditional Shepherds' Mass – *Pasterka*

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 – Nativity of our Lord

- 9:30 AM Christmas Mass

New Year

Sunday, December 29, 2019 – Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 – Solemnity – Circumcision of our Lord

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass

Sunday, January 5, 2020 – Solemnity – Holy Family & Epiphany of the Lord

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass with the blessing of families, and the blessing of incense, charcoal & chalk

Sunday, January 12, 2020 – Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass

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)



4th Sunday of Advent

4 Niedziela Adwentu

December 22, 2019