

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 and Benefactors.

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

May the LORD bless you and keep you!

May the LORD let his face

shine upon you and be gracious to you!

May the LORD look upon you kindly

and give you peace!

(Book of Numbers 6: 24-26)

***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our Parishioners, Friends and Benefactors!***

FAITH SHARING

The Scripture lessons for today focus on the first Christmas, or the birth of Jesus, which we celebrate today in all its solemnity. We are celebrating the fulfillment of the prophecies about our merciful God who sent His own Son to save a sinful world.

The name Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name *Yehosua*, which means "Yahweh is salvation." Just as the first Joshua (the successor of Moses), saved the Israelites from their enemies, the second Joshua (Jesus) would save them from their sins.

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

Big thanks to all who came to decorate the church for Christmas last Sunday. Izabela, Bill, Leon, Janusz, Susan, Victoria, Tom and Michaela, Patrik and Maria did really good job. May Babe Jesus bless you for it!

Some people are always willing to help, but sadly, there are others who always, whenever there is any event which requires some work for the parish, can find some excuse and not be present. Many come only when the event is ready, or free of charge meal is served. This is NOT FAIR and DISHONEST that you take an advantage on your fellow parishioners. Of course you can say that there is a Christmas time and I suppose to be quiet. But Christmas time is also the time of truth. And I am not afraid to say it today. Our parish can survive only if it is a COMMUNITY.

CHURCH HALL 2ND FOOR REPAIR

Tom and Albert started voluntarily repairing our church hall on the 2nd floor. Due to water damage from the roof earlier, the ceiling collapsed on the staircase, bathroom and hallway. It has to be fixed as soon as possible due to property insurance requirements. We will need volunteering parishioners to clean these areas after the repair is done. That will be only 2hrs of work for 3-6 people. I cleaned by myself with little of Leon's help the boiler room in the basement. That room was packed with all kind of junk and trash collected there for years. Now it looks nice and clean. I can volunteer to paint the walls **if somebody can donate the paint**. If you can do it, please let me know.

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. Thank you for your generosity. Thanks to you our church looks so beautiful now.

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.

THE FIRST LIVE CHRISTMAS CRIB

In 1223, St. Francis of Assisi inaugurated a pious practice that today has become so common that many think that it always existed. This great saint, as he was traversing the rolling hills of central Italy one December to proclaim the Gospel, noticed that few of his countrymen were taking the mysteries of the Faith seriously. Many were not even preparing for Christmas. Of those who were getting ready to celebrate the Lord's birth, they looked at it as an event tied exclusively to the past. The mysteries of the Faith had become sterile. The central persons in the drama had become stale and lifeless, incapable even of stimulating his contemporaries' imaginations — and therefore no longer capable of inspiring them to a greater relationship of mutual love with God in the present. To counteract these tendencies, St. Francis set up the first crèche in recorded history on Christmas Eve, 1223, in the town of Greccio. He brought in live animals — an ox and an ass. He recruited a newborn baby and a set of young parents. Hay and a manger were brought in. There was even the attempt — with hundreds of burning torches — to create the luminescence of a bright star. And Francis could not have been happier with the results. People came from all over to see the living nativity. Through all the sounds, sights and even smells, the multitudes became convinced that Christmas was not just a cute story, but a real event, one that was not just PAST, but something which they were called to enter in the present. Soon living crèches like this spread throughout Italy and into other parts of Europe. The phenomenon soon extended into art, as artists started to paint nativity scenes with all the main characters dressed anachronistically in 13th century garb — to emphasize that Christmas is not just a bygone event, but, more important, one very much in progress, in which every believer is called to “go now to Bethlehem” and “pay Christ homage.”

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)



Solemnity – Nativity of our Lord

Uroczystość Narodzenia Pańskiego

December 25, 2019