

ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH

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Pastor: *Fr. Janusz Blazejak OMI*

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Sr. Weronika Maronska MChR

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.

For Polish Masses, see Mass Intention schedule.

THE PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Today, we are experiencing the last day of Advent and Christmas Eve. The word *Christmas Eve* means vigil. It has been the custom in the Church that on the day before an important event there was fasting and an atmosphere of concentration and prayer. Also in our times, on Christmas Eve, according to tradition, fasting and abstinence should be observed. You should not eat meat, cold cuts and absolutely avoid alcohol. In general, it should be remembered that the Christmas Eve supper should be of an extremely religious nature. It is a time of reconciliation, peace and waiting for Joy and Good News. When preparing Christmas Eve, we place a crèche with Baby Jesus in the central place in the apartment. On the table, in the main place, there is a wafer brought and an open book of the Gospel. The supper should begin with prayer - you can read a fragment of Holy Scripture describing the birth of Lord Jesus. Then comes the ceremonial moment of sharing the wafer and making wishes. After breaking the wafer, it is time to take a seat at the table. Tradition dictates that there should be one free place setting during the supper, symbolizing the family's memory of those who are no longer among the living and expressing readiness to welcome someone abandoned. The supper ends with a prayer, followed by the distribution of gifts and the singing of carols together. As we celebrate Christmas Eve, let us remember that Christ sits at the table with us, centuries ago as the Child of God laid on hay in a shed in Bethlehem.

THE LAST DAYS OF ADVENT

On the last day of Advent, we wish all parishioners peace, serenity and truly Christian waiting for the Savior. Despite the amount of work, let us find time to pray and go to church. Let us see other people around us. Let us look up to see the star of Bethlehem, which heralds Great Joy.

MIDNIGHT MASS

We will start the joyful celebration of Christmas in our parish with Midnight Mass in English at 10 p.m. and Midnight Mass in Polish at midnight. We will then once again experience the

joy that the Angel announced to the shepherds that the Savior was born.

CHRISTMASS 2023

"Today a Savior is born for us." This Good News brings joy to people of all times. May these holidays for all Dear Parishioners and Guests be full of God's blessing and love that God's Son brings with him. We wish all parishioners and guests that this great joy will be ours. Let it be based on a deep faith that God is with us, let this faith strengthen the hope that thanks to His power we can overcome all our difficulties, troubles, worries, anxieties and fears. Let the fruit of this faith be love that conquers everything, overcomes all resentments, prejudices, reluctance and opens up to every person. We would like to thank everyone who made this holiday season truly festive. Have Merry and Blessed Holidays.

ST. STEPHEN FEAST

On Tuesday, December 26, there is the second day of our celebration and the feast of St. Stephen. We cordially invite everyone to pray. Holy Masses in Polish will be celebrated at 9:30 am, 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

RENOVATION FUND

Next Sunday, December 31, the second collection will be collected for the Renovation Fund. The envelopes are in the early offering envelopes and at the back of the church. We thank everyone for the donation.

THANKS AND GRATITUDE...

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the creation of Christmas decorations in our church. We thank everyone who brought beautiful flowers to the manger of Lord Jesus. May the Lord, who has been prepared such a nice place in our temple, fill all those who work with joy and peace.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph. She is a role model for us and for our families. On this day, let us warmly embrace all the families of our parish. Let us also ask God that in our difficult times, with so many threats and deliberate attacks, our families will become a true domestic Church. Let individual families, creating a large parish family, develop in an atmosphere of mutual love, joy and peace.

POLISH SCHOOL & CATECHESIS

We kindly inform you that the Polish School of St. Casimir and catechesis has a Christmas break until January 6, 2024 inclusive. On Saturday, January 13, 2024, students return to regular classes.

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2024 may be picked up at the back of the church; they are arranged in alphabetical order.

Parishioners using envelopes for their donations are eligible to receive a tax receipt at the end of the year. The tax receipt will be sent in February 2024.

CHRISTMAS DINNER "OPLATEK"

The Parish Council invites you to the "Oplatek" Christmas dinner on Sunday, January 7 at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the parish office. Children under 12 receive a free ticket. A dinner prepared by our ladies will be served. Stefania Baran is responsible for the event. It will also be a time to sing carols together.

TO THE PASTOR FR. JANUSZ & PARISHIONERS

The sisters, educators and pupils of the Catholic Educational Center "Our Home" in Glos Piastowe express their great gratitude to the Parish Pastor and the entire parish for the financial support received for Christmas gifts for children. We assure you that there will be fruits, sweets and other things there; there is so much money that there will be something else, maybe an ice rink, a trip... We are very pleased that there are such good people who share their big hearts, kindness and money with us. Thanks to this help, our Christmas tree will be much richer in gifts that will bring a lot of joy to our children and teenagers. Thanking you beautifully, we assure you of our prayers. It is our custom to remember our benefactors in prayer. We also send you our best Christmas wishes... With gratitude: Sisters, employees and pupils of "Our Home" in Glos Piastowy, Poland.

MASS INTENSIONS

We inform you about possibility of ordering Mass intentions at the Oblate Missions in the parish office.

We thank you for ordering the Gregorian Masses. Anyone who wants to order Gregorian Mass please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS AT THE OBLATE MISSIONS

For + Maria, Jakub & Janusz Smagala – Peczar family



MASS INTENSIONS AND DEVOTIONS

4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 24

8:00 For + Walenty & Anna Koltas – daughter with family
9:30 For + Bruno Majewski – wife with family
11:00 For parishioners
13:00 For God's blessing & care of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Bogdan Hirniak – wife & son
22:00 For parishioners
24:00 For parishioners

MONDAY, December 25

8:00 For + Anna & Tadeusz Wolny (anniversary) & their parents – daughter & son-in-law
9:30 For + Michal Gracon – wife & children
11:00 For parishioners
13:00 For parents + Wiktoria & Henryk Senkowski, Wlodzimierz Walter Uglik & his wife Helena, brother Leonard Uglik, Krystyna & Ryszard Nosowicz, Lila & Bronislaw Kosiba & Ryszard – Bozena Senkowska
19:00 There is no Mass

TUESDAY, December 26 – St. Stephen, first martyr

9:30 For + Irena & Roman Hajdukiewicz
11:00 In thanksgiving asking for God's blessing for Bozena & Piotr Zambrowicz with daughters on their 35th wedding anniversary – own
19:00 For + Michal Kic, parents Feliks & Wladyslawa, brother Henryk Czarnecki & Antoni Huzar – Kic family

WEDNESDAY, December 27 – St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

8:00 For + Franciszek Karpinski – daughter-in-law
19:00 In thanksgiving asking for God's blessing & care of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Adam on his birthday – wife & daughter

THURSDAY, December 28 – The Holy Innocents, martyrs

8:00 For health & God's blessing for children, grandchildren & great grandchildren - Regina
19:00 In thanksgiving asking for God's blessing for Czeslawa & Kazimierz Kulpa on their 50th wedding anniversary

FRIDAY, December 29

8:00 For + Henryka Albinowski – daughters & grandchildren
19:00 For + Stefania Kiens – Wapp family

SATURDAY, December 30

8:00 For + Genowefa & Mieczyslaw Lewicki – daughter with family
19:00 In thanksgiving asking for God's blessing Malgorzata & Kazimierz on their 40th wedding anniversary

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sunday, December 31

8:00 For health & God's blessing in the Lesiuk, Piatkowski & Panek families - own
9:30 For + Lucja Zabkowska & Anna Mruklik - Boguslawa
11:00 For parishioners
13:00 For health & God's blessing Kinga & Bazyl & grandson Leonard - parents
19:00 For + Jozef Czul (3rd anniversary) - Kamil