



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024
Zephaniah 3.14-18a; 1 Philippians 4.4-7;
Luke 3.10-18

Today in the middle of Advent, the Word of God presents to us the Holy Precursor of Jesus Christ: Saint John the Baptist. God the Father prepared the coming, that is, the Advent, of his Son in our flesh, born of the Virgin Mary, in many ways and in many forms, as the beginning of the Letter to the Hebrews says (1:1). The patriarchs, the prophets and the kings prepared the coming of Jesus.

Let us look at his two genealogies in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. He is the son of Abraham and David. Moses, Isaiah and Jeremiah announced his Advent and described the characteristics of his mystery. But St. John the Baptist, as the liturgy says (Preface of his feast), was able to point him out with his finger, and it was his task - mysteriously! - to Baptize the Lord. He was the last witness before the coming. And he was so with his life, with his death and with his word. His birth is also announced, like that of Jesus, and is prepared, according to the Gospel of Luke (chapters 1 and 2). And his death as a martyr, victim of the weakness of a king and the hatred of a wicked woman, also prepares that of Jesus. For this reason, he received the extraordinary praise of Jesus himself that we read in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke (cf. Mt 11:11; Lk 7:28): "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist." In the face of this, which he could not ignore, he is a model of humility: "I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals" (Lk 3:16), he tells us today. And, according to St. John (3:30): "He must increase; I must decrease."

Let us hear his word today, which exhorts us to share what we have and to respect justice and the dignity of all. Let us thus prepare ourselves to receive the One who comes now to save us, and will come again to "judge the living and the dead".

SUNDAY MASSES:
SATURDAY
5:00 pm - OLC (Pl)
5:00 pm - St. Mary (En)
5:00 pm - St. Patrick (En)

SUNDAY
8:00 am - OLC (En)
10:00 am - OLC (Pl)
10:00 am - St. Mary (It)
10:00 am St. Patrick (En)
12:00 pm - St. Mary (En)
12:00 pm - OLC (Pl)

WEEKDAY MASSES
MONDAY
7:00 pm - St. Mary (En)
TUESDAY
7:00 pm - OLC (Pl)
7:00 pm - St. Patrick (En)

WEDNESDAY
9:00 am - St. Patrick (En)
7:00 pm - St. Mary (It)
THURSDAY
9:00 am - St. Patrick (En)
7:00 pm - OLC (Pl)

FRIDAY
7:00 pm - OLC (Pl)
7:00 pm - St. Mary (It)

SATURDAY
9:00 am - OLC (Pl)
1st Saturday of the month

CONFESSIONS
OL CZESTOCHOWA
Saturday at 4:00 pm
& before weekly Mass
ST. MARY
Saturdays at 4:00 pm
& before weekly Mass

ST. PATRICK
Tuesday at 6:00 pm
Saturday at 4:00 pm

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ADORATION CHAPEL
Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
beside St. Mary Church

ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

December 16 to December 22, 2024	December 23 to December 29, 2024
<p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17 <i>Mary of Perpetual Help</i></p> <p>7:00pm Intention of Fr. Gabriel <i>Novena Mass</i> † Anna Marie VanDyk † Bruno Sinotic † Katherine Blake † Valerie Destin</p>	<p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24: <i>Christmas Eve</i></p> <p>*5:00pm <i>Intention of St. Patrick's Parish Family</i></p> <p>*8:00pm <i>Intention of St. Patrick's Parish Family</i> † Bill & Susan Heemans; Int. of Family</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25: <i>Christmas Day</i></p> <p>*10:00am <i>Intention of St. Patrick's Parish Family</i></p>
<p>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18</p> <p>9:00am † Dec'd members of St. Patrick CWL † Pat O'Leary</p>	<p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26: <i>St. Stephen, Martyr</i></p> <p>9:00am † Katherine Blake † Sylvia Bettridge</p>
<p>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19</p> <p>9:00am † Paula Cianci † Sylvia Bettridge</p>	<p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 <i>The Holy Family</i></p> <p>5:00pm <i>Intentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21 <i>4 Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>5:00 pm <i>Intentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick</i></p>	<p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 <i>The Holy Family</i></p> <p>10:00am <i>Intention of the Jubilee Year</i> <i>"Pilgrims of Hope"</i></p> <p><i>Let's be united spiritually with Pope Francis & Universal Church as we begin the Jubilee!</i></p>
<p>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 <i>4 Sunday of Advent</i></p> <p>10:00 am <i>Intentions of Parishioners of St. Patrick</i></p>	

ANNOUNCEMENTS - ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

ADVENT - WAITING & PREPARATIONS

Today is the 3 Sunday of Advent - "Gaudete Sunday," a day set aside during Advent for rejoicing. Although Christmas is still ten days away, we can begin rejoicing in Jesus' birth now. We can also look forward to Jesus' Second coming, when He will establish a new heaven & new earth (Revelation 21:1)

ADVENT CONFESSION AT ST. PATRICK

You are all invited to our communal preparation and confession before Christmas on Saturday, December 21 at 4:00pm. There will be three confessors available.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024

Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24

5:00pm - Families with children

8:00pm - Solemn Christmas Mass

Christmas Day: Wednesday, December 25

10:00am - Solemn Christmas Mass

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - BISHOP FABBRO

I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas and assure you of my prayers. Let us join together in asking our Heavenly Father: "May the faith you have given us in your Son Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity and kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your kingdom.

This year, our celebration of Christmas will lead us into Jubilee Year 2025. The theme of the Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope." (Bishop Fabbro) Full message on website.

HOLY YEAR JUBILEE 2025

Pope Francis asked all Bishops to mark the beginning of the Holy Year in every Cathedral around the world on the Feast of the Holy Family (**December 29**). Also on that day, united with our Diocese we will have a special celebration at our Family of Parishes. We are invited to be "Pilgrims of Hope", celebrating and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. May God's grace strengthen us to do our part in this time of God's favour.

YOUTH ACTION CENTRE

Thank you to all our parishioners for supporting the Youth Action Centre and brightening the lives of many of London's street youth who otherwise will be forgotten at Christmas. Your thoughtfulness and generosity is greatly appreciated.

2025 CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The sets of 2025 collection envelopes for our parishioners are available for pick up at the back of the church. New parishioners who are not yet registered and are not using the envelopes to support financially our parish are asked to fill out the registration form.

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Christmas is the time of giving - don't forget your own parish at Christmas. The envelopes are in your set and also at the back of the church. We thank you for all your donations you have made this year to support our parish, missions, St. Vincent de Paul & Michaelite Fathers.