

Reflection for Today

The readings today encourage rejoicing. It's a theme we can especially appreciate during this season of the year. Few of us wouldn't mind having more joy in our lives. The trouble is where to find it on a consistent basis.

There is one place. When we observe and study joy-filled people, one common characteristic stands out. It isn't money, power, "success," prestige, or having everything one's heart desires that is the reason for their contentment and joy, but the simple fact that they like themselves. Happy people have a solid sense of self-esteem which is founded on authentic self-knowledge and self-acceptance. As one man describes it: "I know what I am, and I know what I ain't."

This is much the case with John the Baptist in today's gospel. For all the notice and attention he attracts, we witness a man free of pretensions. When the Pharisees question him about himself he puts on no show of importance and claims no status or privilege. He denies he is Elijah or the Messiah or even a prophet. He defines himself simply as a "voice crying in the desert." It fits. He knows what he is and what he isn't.

Would that we were so lucky. Confusion is one of the marks of our generation. Society is brimming over with people with "identity" problems. Multitudes are trying to "find" themselves and are seriously confused about who they are and ambiguous about their purpose in life.

You might take advantage of this Advent season, therefore, by getting to know yourself better and becoming pleased to be yourself. All pretensions aside, who is the real. Be pleased to be yourself. Even admitting "I'm confused" is a step in the right direction. No pretensions. The real you, as you are: the heart of contentment and joy.

Schedule of Masses

Monday, December 14—St. John of the Cross

10:00 am (Polish) Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)

Tuesday, December 15—No Mass—St. Christiana

Wednesday, December 16—St. Adelaide

7:00 pm (Polish/English) God's blessing for Gabriel

Sullivan (Sullivan Family)

Thursday, December 17—No Mass—

St. Lazarus, St. Olympias

Friday, December 18—St. Gatian

6:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 pm +Deceased members of Shulist Family

(Linda Shulist)

Saturday, December 19—Bl. Urban V

5:00 pm +Mark Golka (Kot Family)

Sunday, December 20—Sts. Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

11:00 am (Polish/English) For all of our Parishioners



Thought for this Week

Like Mary who shared her joy with Elizabeth, today each of us is asked to be a person of joy and we are asked to share that our joy with others. There are many people, some of whom we may even know, who have little reason to be joyful at this time of the year. As Mary did with Elizabeth, may we follow her example and share our joy with all those meet during these last few days and weeks of Advent. May we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

(Michael Moore OMI)



Parishioners are invited to join us for **Adoration on Fridays** beginning at **6:00 pm**.

If you are a **new subscriber** to **Living With Christ**, your subscription will begin **February** and will run until February 2022.

Men and women volunteers will be needed to decorate the church for Christmas on **Sat., Dec 19th** beginning at **9:30 am**.

The parish **Knights of Columbus** would like to **thank members of our parish and others** for supporting this year's fundraising efforts. Firstly, the Knights of Columbus tickets which draw took place Oct 30th. Winners of prizes which tickets were sold by our council were John Jeffrey and Janice Tiedje. Additionally, our Berry Campaign was the most successfully ever thanks to your participation. All fundraising efforts support our parish and community programs.

Confessions are available **a half hour before each Mass**. Please check local parish bulletins online for their schedule.

Schedule of Upcoming Masses:

Dec 24th	7 pm (English)
Midnight Mass	(Polish/English)
Dec 25th	9 am (English) 11 am (Polish)
Dec 27th	9 am (English) 11 am (Polish)
New Year's Eve	5 pm (English)
New Year's Day	11 am (English/Polish)

REMINDER: 2021 Parishioner Envelopes are available for pick up at the back of the church, near elevator. **If you would like to pick up at parish office, or if you wish to receive a set, please contact the parish office by email or phone.** You would be able to pick them up at the office on **Thurs morning only**. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Fraudulent email scams in the Diocese of Pembroke: Please be aware that email scams have been reported using the names of priests in order to solicit gift cards for fake emergency situations. Two such cases in the diocese are known in the past 24 hours alone. In both situations fake email addresses were created and the name of the respective pastors used.

A FM transmitter had been installed to broadcast all of our scheduled parish Masses. Please use 88.3 MHz FM on your radio dial to tune in.

The **Diocesan Marriage preparation courses** coming up, Spring of 2021, will be delivered ONLINE only. This includes the **Renfrew Course** – Feb. 27 and March 6 and the **Pembroke Course** – April 17th and May 1. All couples who register will be notified. Delivery style will be re-evaluated for Fall 2021. Another option for an online Marriage Preparation program that may offer more suitable dates for a couple is Catholic Engaged Encounter English Canada East. They can be contacted at www.cееeast.org.

Recently, we have received from our new bishop, some further clarification regarding the implementations of safety protocols in our churches during the COVID-19. His Excellency says: “Obviously, **wearing a mask is essential when entering and leaving**. Once you arrive at your place with physical distancing, you can lower your mask to breathe more easily”. His Excellency also reminds us that “out of charity for others, **people are required to receive Communion in the hand** during this pandemic period. In the rare and exceptional cases where receiving Communion in the hand poses a serious problem of conscience, you may **accommodate people by giving on the tongue, but only after everyone else has received Communion in the hand**”. Always keep the right **social distancing of 6 feet from any person that does not belong to our household, sanitize hands upon entry** and regularly whenever possible. Health authorities now strongly recommend to keep a **record of attendance** for services offered in places of worship. Stay safe yourself and let the others feel safe as well.

In your prayers remember:



- * Our sick and hospitalized
- * Our elderly parishioners.
- * All those at the manor, lodge and homebound.
- * Our deceased family & friends.