

**REFLECTION FOR THE DAY**

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday—Rejoice Sunday. The pink candle on our Advent wreath, signifying joy, burns bright as we fill this sacred space in joyful song because our God draws near.

Both the first reading and the Gospel provides us with the reason for our rejoicing—God is coming to save us. When Jesus comes, as he said in the Gospel, *the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.* These acts are miraculous not only in their physical healing, but in their ability to be a healing balm in our deepest need.

So consider this year to give gifts that really speak to the deepest needs of those whom you care about. Offer the gifts of hope, love, joy or peace in the form of a visit, a call or a helping hand. And let this Advent season be a time of dedication and attentiveness. As Saint Paul reminds us, *make your hearts firm, for the coming the Lord is at hand.*

**The Nativity of the Lord**

Our mighty God humbled himself in becoming fully human for the sake of our salvation. He does so by being born of the Virgin Mary in a manger in Bethlehem. Being fully human means that he experiences everything we do, with the exception of committing sin. As a child, Jesus is dependent upon his family for food, care and nurturing. We know from sacred Scripture that in his humanity, Jesus wrestles with human emotion, including anger and temptation. Choosing to break into humanity in this manner, through the Incarnation, is a tremendous act of love. What trust in humanity God seems to demonstrate by taking the form of an infant! In doing so, God elevates the dignity and the role of the family.

We live in time that is technologically driven. Deadlines dictate our schedule, and cultural complexity seems to challenge us to the very limits of our moral consciousness. Our experiences are vastly different from those of previous generations, but our needs are the same. We need promise. We need hope. We need salvation. We need family.

With the birth of Jesus, came the fulfillment of our deepest longing: for God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son—our promise, our hope, our salvation.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at 6:00 pm.** Please join us.

Our **deepest sympathy** to family and friends of **Raymond Drystek**. May his soul rest in peace.

**Men and women volunteers** will be needed to decorate the church for Christmas on **Sat., Dec 18th** beginning at **9:30 am**.

**Pentential service** before Christmas will be held on **Sun, Dec 19th at 3:00 pm**.

**Church Sweeping** will take place on **Mon, Dec 20 after 10:00 am Mass**. Volunteers appreciated.

**2022 Envelopes** are available for **pick up at the back of the church, near elevator**. If you would like to receive a set, call parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

The **Rosary Society** is donating **one religious calendar per family**, available at the back of the church. Any **additional calendars are \$5.00 each**. Please place money in envelope marked calendar and drop off in collection basket. **Thank you to the Rosary Society**.

If your child is ready for Sacraments of **First Communion and/or Confirmation** next year, please complete a registration form located at the back of the church. **Registration is due by Jan 9, 2022**.

Just a **reminder** that your income tax receipts will be issued near the end of January and **all monies need to be in the office by Dec 26th to be shown on the 2021 year**. Any monies received after this date will be shown on your 2022 tax receipt.

**Parish Website** - Diana Shulist has been our main contact/intermediary between the parish and external webhosting services and will be ceasing her services. Thank you Diana, for your many years of service.

The parish will have to subscribe to a new hosting service. She is recommending Canadian WebHosting, which has been in business for quite awhile and are reputable. To move parish site, one need only to contact them and they will migrate for free. Diana can help change the DNS numbers with godaddy or one can request to move the domain registration to Canadian Webhosting along with the website.

Any parishioner willing to become Parish website developer/maintenance person? If interested, please send an email to [stmaryswilno@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswilno@gmail.com)

## PARISH COLLECTIONS

Please use [stmaryswilno@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryswilno@gmail.com) when you are making an etransfer from your bank account. It will be directly deposited and the church will be notified. There is a section to make a note, **please indicate if donation is regular**

**Sunday collection, building fund or In Memory Of (with name).** Also, if you are not a parishioner, **please provide mailing address there.** All donations will be recorded as usual, designated as per request, and will appear on the year end tax receipt.

### Ministry Assignment

	<b>Sat, Dec 11—5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sun, Dec 12—11:00 am</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	Steve Platt	Catherine Bloskie / Andrzej Wielgosz	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mon, Dec 13th to Sun, Dec 26th—Virginia Platt & helpers (2 weeks)		
	<b>Sat, Dec 18— 5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sun, Dec 19—11:00 am</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	Edwin Echavarry	Catherine Bloskie / Andrzej Suska	
	<b>Fri, Dec 24—7:00 pm (English)</b>	<b>Midnight Mass (Polish/English)</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	Ana & Tobias Sullivan	Len Gignac / Ryszard Prusakiewicz	
	<b>Sat, Dec 25—11:00 am</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY (Polish/English)</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	Catherine Bloskie / Andrzej Wielgosz		
	<b>Sun, Dec 26—11:00 am</b>	<b>(Polish/English)</b>	
<b>Lector</b>	Len Gignac / Andrzej Suska		
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Mon, Dec 27th to Sun, Jan 9—Drenda Lapenskie & helpers (2 weeks)		
	<b>Fri, Dec 31— 5:00 pm (English)</b>	<b>Sat, Jan 1-11:00 am</b>	<b>Sun, Jan 2-11:00 am</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Rita Coulas	Steve Platt	Len Gignac & Ryszard Prusakiewicz

## **DIOCESAN NEWS**

The Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council, founded by CCCB in 1998, proposes that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (**Dec 12**) be a **National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples**. All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity.

**Synodal Journey in the Diocese 2021-2022:** All the diocesan Churches of the world have now entered into a great process called “synod”. Pope Francis officially launched this process on Sat and Sun 9 and 10 Oct, 2021 in St Peter’s Basilica in Rome. He invites all the faithful, men and women, religious men and women, and clergy to embark on a vast consultation movement that will reach its climax in two years. We hope that we will thus be able to better discern the missionary paths for our Church of today and tomorrow. May our synodal process be imbued with the life-giving anointing of the Holy Spirit and truly respond to the desires and expectations of the divine Heart of Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ our Redeemer, + Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R.

More information can be found on the diocese website: <https://pembrokedioocese.com/synod/>

The questions for our synodal process are as follows: To become an evangelizing Church that reaches out to the disaffected Catholics, to the poor, and to those who do not know Christ...

1. How can we, the faithful and our Christian communities, be more open to evangelization? (*Mission*)
2. How can we, the faithful and our Christian communities, better respond to the universal call to holiness through a greater love for God and for one another? (*Communion*)
3. How can the priests, deacons, religious and all the faithful be mobilized to evangelize? (*Participation*)
4. What are your dreams, hopes and vision for the future of the Diocese of Pembroke?
5. How can we continue this consultation and dialogue after the Synod?

In seeking answers to these questions, we are invited to let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit through prayer and the meditation on the word of God. **The questionnaire will be available online in early Jan 2022. Responses must be submitted online by Apr 30, 2022.**

## WORSHIPS SAFE COVID GUIDELINES

For sacramental celebrations, in Step 3, as of July 16th, there is no capacity limit for places of worship. However, **physical distancing of 2 metres (6 ft) is still required** between parishioners attending Mass who are not from the same household, therefore our capacity remains at **125 people**.

At the same time, we have to keep in place all the former restrictions, **we sanitize our hands, we sign in after coming into the church, follow one way traffic in the church building, singing with a mask on and receive Holy Communion with our hands.** Bishop Desrochers is reminding us once again, that the Renfrew County District Health Unit is asking us to **wear the mask throughout the whole celebration**, not just at certain times. Further, if the Health Unit continue to receive complaints of a similar nature they may follow-up in person with on-site visits and enforcement action may occur, if necessary

Similar to other sacramental celebrations, there are no capacity restrictions for funerals as long as 2 metres (6 ft) of physical distancing can be maintained between attendees who are not from the same household.

Masses will be still transmitted through the radio station **88.3 FM**.

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES—December 13th to December 18th

**Monday, December 13—St. Lucy**  
10:00 am (Polish) Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)

**Tuesday, December 14—No Mass—St. John of the Cross**

**Wednesday, December 15—St. Christiana**  
10:00 am (Polish/English) +Ambrose Recoskie (Debbie Coulas)  
+Bennie Stamplecoskie (John & Ursula Jeffrey)  
+Andrew Blank (Andrew & Marlene Shulist)

**Thursday, December 16—No Mass—St. Adelaide**

**Friday, December 17—St. Lazarus, St. Olympias**  
6:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00 pm +Edward Lorbetskie (Joe Lorbetskie)  
+Alfie & Jean Stamplecoskie (Stamplecoskie Family)  
+Annie Brotton (Mary E. Luckasavitch)

**Saturday, December 18—St. Gatian**  
5:00 pm For all of our Parishioners

*In your prayers remember:*



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

**SCHEDULE OF MASSES—December 19th to January 2**

**Sunday, December 19—4th Sunday of Advent—*Bl. Urban V***

**11:00 am (Polish/English) Dziekczynna w 45. roczn. slubu Bozeny i Andrzeja Wielgoszow**

**Monday, December 20—*Sts. Abraham, Isaac & Jacob***

**10:00 am (Polish) +Mary Ann Etmanskie (Michael & Catherine Bloskie & Family)**

**Tuesday, December 21—No Mass—*St. Peter Canisius***

**Wednesday, December 22—*Bl. Gratian***

**7:00 pm (Polish/English) +Leonard Kuiack (Ken & RoseMary Stamplecoskie)  
+All my deceased friends (Monique Perry)  
+Christopher Kuiack (Knights of Columbus #16003)**

**Thursday, December 23—No Mass—*St. John of Kanty***

**Friday, December 24—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—*St. Adele***

**7:00 pm (English) For all of our Parishioners**

**12:00 Midnight Mass (Polish/English) Thanksgiving Mass**

**Saturday, December 25—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD-Christmas Day**

**11:00 am (Polish/English) Asking God's blessing for all of our employees, volunteers and benefactors.**

**Sunday, December 26—THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH—**

*St. Stephen, First Martyr*

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

**Monday, December 27—*St. John***

**10:00 am (Polish) +Catherine Recoskie (Ed & Carol Chippior)**

**Tuesday, December 28—No Mass—*Holy Innocents***

**Wednesday, December 29—No Mass—*St. Thomas Becket***

**Thursday, December 30—*St. Anysia***

**7:00 pm (Polish/English) +Ben Kutchkoskie (Arthur & Lillian Shulist)  
In thanksgiving of graces received & St. Therese (Bernie)  
+Walter & Teresa Zilney (Robert Zilney)**

**Friday, December 31—*St. Sylvester I***

**5:00 pm (English) +Nicholas Stamplecoskie (Marie, Wayne, Brittany & Meredith Scott)  
+Ron Coulas (Josephine & Mike Kosnaskie)  
+Ammon McCaffrey (Knights of Columbus #16003)**

**Saturday, January 1—THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

**11:00 am (Polish/English) God's Blessing for all of our families & parishioners in 2022**

**Sunday, January 2—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**11:00 am (Polish/English) +Zofia Kaczynska (D & M Magdziak)**

Drodzy Parafianie,

Drogami adwentowych dni – jakże krótkimi zresztą – zdążamy ku Cichej, Świętej Nocy Bożego Narodzenia. Da nam ona sposobność pochylenia się z wiarą i przeżycia wspaniałej prawdy o Bogu, „który dla nas i dla naszego zbawienia stał się człowiekiem”. Ze wzruszeniem i wdzięcznością staniemy znowu przed szopką, aby wraz z Maryją spotkać oczekiwanego przez narody Odkupiciela człowieka.

Dowiadujemy się z kart Pisma Świętego, że Aniołowie śpiewali tej Nocy: „Chwała Bogu na wysokościach, a na ziemi pokój ludziom Jego upodobania” oraz, że mówili o tym wydarzeniu jako o „radości wielkiej”. W tej radości uczestniczy Kościół napełniony światłem narodzonego Zbawiciela. Ta radość ma się stawać udziałem każdego z nas. Oto Syn Boży stał się człowiekiem, by człowiek – by każdy z nas – mógł się wrodzić w inny, Boży świat, w którym nie ma miejsca na głód, cierpienie, przemijanie i zagładę.

Użyj nam Twoich oczu, Maryjo, abyśmy wnikaliby w te tajemnice przychodzące ku nam wraz z grudniowym Świętem. Ucz nas rozpoznawać oblicze Boga Wcielonego w bliźnich co obok nas zdążają. Wspomóż nas, abyśmy byli autentycznymi świadkami Jego przesłania pokoju i miłości. Niech dzisiejszy świat zamroczony materializmem praktycznym i lewacką ideologią oraz naznaczony wciąż rosnącą nieufnością i przemocą w Dzieciątku, które trzymasz w ramionach odnalazł swą Drogę i Prawdę i Życie.

Na czas świętowania wspaniałej Tajemnicy Wcielenia pragnę życzyć Wam Wszystkim, by Bóg, który, „przychodzi do swoich”, napełniał dobrem, pokojem i radością wasze serca, niech też błogosławi nowym dniom, w które wejdziemy wraz z Nowym Rokiem. – Szczęść Boże.

Dear Parishioners,

As we look upon the Prince of Peace wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, and surrounded by the infinite love of Mary and Joseph, we hear the words of the angel: “I proclaim to you good news of great joy, for today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.” May this joyful news, announced that night in Bethlehem, resonate in our families, give relief to the suffering, comfort the sad, pour hope into our hearts of those who doubt, and give strength and courage to overcome all the anxiety caused by covid-19.

May the Blessed Child, cuddled in the arms of Mary, bless each and everyone of us, our parish family, and our entire community. May we always follow God’s paths in the coming New Year 2022. I wish everyone experiences the closeness of meeting Jesus, our Master and Friend, who is constantly waiting for us with his love.

**God bless you all!**

**Fr. Roman Majek, OMI**

