



Sunday Church Bells

of the St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church

127 King Street, Northampton, MA 01060



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www.stvalentinespncc.com

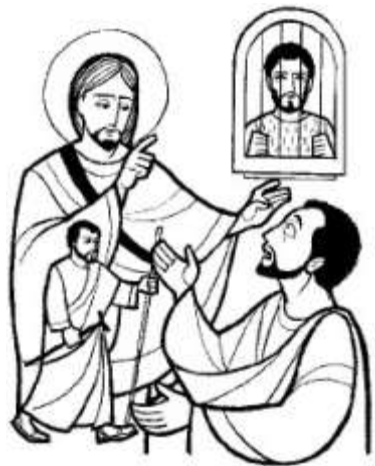
Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2013

Trzecia Niedziela

Adwentu

15 Grudnia 2013



We are living in a time when people are generally more interested in easy answers than in good questions. We are being flooded with simple solutions to the complexities all around us. It is true socially, politically and religiously. It is true, still, with regard to Jesus. Finding the right answers, however, depends on asking the right questions. This is ancient wisdom. What you find is determined to some degree by what you are looking for. When the painful questions come, sometimes they are God's way of preparing us for better answers. An English poet and playwright Robert Browning wrote, "**There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds.**" This simply means that often the honest question is nearer the truth than the easy answer.

John had anticipated a Messiah who would come in a display of righteous indignation and powerful judgment. Jesus' way turned out to be very different from John's expectation. The Messiah's power was to be the power of suffering love. His judgment was to be the judgment of self-giving love. His victory was to be in winning by losing. John could not have seen all this before. He was not asking the right questions. Now, in prison, his new question was nearer the truth than all his old answers.

Don.

III Sunday of Advent A

9:15 a.m. - Sunday Morning Prayer.

9:30 a.m. - Holy Mass - Traditional Rite - Mass Book, page 13.

Mass intention: For all parishioners living and dead.

ENTRANCE HYMN (Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19)

Priest: Awake and sing, you who lie in thy dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth.

All: The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

GRADUAL (Psalm 146:5-7)

Priest: Happy are those whose help is Jacob's God; whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them.

All: Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free.

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

ALLELUIA (Malachi 3:23)

Priest: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Priest: Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

All: Glory be to You, Lord!

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,

“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Priest: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.




Readings for next Sunday

First Reading: *Isaiah 7:10-14*

Second Reading: *Romans 1:1-7*

Gospel: *Matthew 1:18-24*



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Parish Committee Meeting: Monday, December 16 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.
- Polish Classes - every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
- Rorate Holy Mass - every Wednesday of Advent at 7:00 pm
- Saturday, December 21 - Saint Thomas, Apostle - Holy Mass at 7:00 pm
- Sunday, December 22 - Christmas Church Decorating - after Holy Mass.
- Tuesday, December 24 - Midnight - Christmas Eve (Pasterka/Shepherd's Mass) - Holy Mass will begin with a Concert of Carols in Polish and English by the Parish Choir at 11:45 pm
- Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day - Holy Mass at 9:30 am



Oplatki

Christmas Wafers

were blessed and they are available to our parishioners and friends following the liturgy. A free-will offering will be appreciated.



Polskie Koledy

Polish Christmas Carol Sing Along
Sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee



January 5, 2014 - 2 p.m.

at
St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church
127 King Street
Northampton, MA



All friends of Polonia are cordially invited to attend a Polish Christmas Carol Sing Along. The carols will be led by singers from area church choirs. An afternoon of music and fellowship is surely to be enjoyed by all.

Please Join Us!
Refreshments will follow the Sing Along
(in the Parish Hall)



Memory Tree

The ANS Society of the St. Valentine's PNC Church will sponsor the "Memory Tree" project.

Hand made miniature crosses will represent loved ones and friends who have passed away. Suggested donation for each cross is \$ 2.00 for one name, or for one family.

A Holy Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated by Fr. Adam in January 19, 2014, Sunday at 9:30 a.m. At this celebration each name will be read and later inscribed in the Memory Book. The Memory Tree will be displayed in December and January. For the crosses contact ANS Ladies.

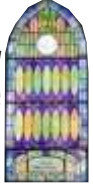


New Storm Windows

Donations are still being accepted to help defray the cost of the storm windows which were recently purchased for the church. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated. Your donation will be acknowledged in our Church bulletin. Please notify us if you do not want to have your named mentioned in the bulletin. The amount received thus far \$325.00.

Special thanks to Wallace Forman, Kryisia and Eugene Newman who sponsored the purchase of storm windows for the south side of the Church in memory of Joan Forman.

Thank you. Bóg zapłać!



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Helen Golec - 71 State Street, Apt. 130, Northampton, MA 01060

Paul Krawczynski - 18 Dickinson Street, Northampton, MA 01060

Shirley Krawczynski - 18 Dickinson Street, Northampton, MA 01060

John Lenkowski - 31 Denise Court, Northampton, MA 01060

Grace Mackiewicz - 9 Chestnut Street, #6, Amherst, MA 01002

Alice Modrzakowski - 130 University Dr. Unit 133, Amherst, MA 01002

Rt. Rev. Stanley Bilinski - 9201 West Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631

Rt. Rev. John Mack - 6298 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

Please say a prayer for peace, comfort and healing for our sick sisters and brothers; send a card to them; if you can, participate in the Holy Mass celebrated in their intention every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. (except holidays when Holy Mass is celebrated at 7:00 p.m. - see bulletins).



PASTORAL CARE AT HOME AND HOSPITAL

If you have a family member or friend at hospital or home unable to take part in Holy Mass and Sacraments, please notify Fr. Adam at 584-0133.



Holy Mass Schedule:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Solemnities & Feasts - see bulletins

Daily - 10:00 a.m.

For Holy Mass intentions contact Fr. Adam after Sunday Holy Mass or anytime by phone (413) 584-0133.