

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

ST. ISIDORE R. C. CHURCH

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REV. KRZYSZTOF DRYBKA, OSPPE, PASTOR
REV. MIKOLAJ "NICHOLAS" SOCHA, OSPPE, ASSOC.
DEACON MICHAEL A. BONOCORE

REINA BONOCORE, OFFICE
DIANNE MASSIELLO, SPIRITUAL
AND SOCIAL MINISTRIES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

SECOND & FOURTH
SUNDAYS
1:15 PM ENG
2:15 POLISH

Please arrange the date of baptism through the Rectory office after the birth of your child.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Please call the Rectory for an appointment at least six months prior to the desired date.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS
4:00 to 4:45 PM
and
THURSDAYS BEFORE
FIRST FRIDAYS
4:00 to 5:00 PM

Other times by appointment.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

WEEKDAYS

7:00 AM

SATURDAYS

8:00 AM

SATURDAY

EVENINGS

VIGIL MASS 5:00 PM

SUNDAYS

8:00 & 9:15 AM

10:30 AM (Polish)

12:00 Noon

RECTORY HOURS

WEEKDAYS

9 AM to 12 Noon

& 1 PM to 4 PM

EUCCHARISTIC

ADORATION

W/ BENEDICTION

Tuesdays

12:00 to 1 PM

MILLIONS

OF MONICAS

Tuesdays 1 to 2 PM

PL PRAYER GROUP

W/ ADORATION

2ND THURSDAYS

7 PM

Our Mission Statement

*Lord, God, all creation is yours, and you call us to serve you by caring for the gifts that surround us. May the example of St. Isidore urge us to share our food with the hungry and to work for the salvation of mankind. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.
Saint Isidore, Pray for Us.*

ST. JOHN PAUL II REGIONAL SCHOOL

631-727-1650

sjp2regional.org

Mrs. Abby Swiatkowski, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

631-727-2114

stisidorefaithformation@gmail.com

Mrs. Adrienne Dillingham

MUSIC MINISTRY

631-727-2114

John Dautzenberg, Anne Dean,
Eileen Benthall, Margaret Kane

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2023

5:00 pm + Jacob, Mary and Stanley Zielinski & Family
+ Joseph and Tessie Karpinski
+ Eugene M. Breheny / + Stanley Sydlowski
+ Andy Kohn / + Peter Kruszon

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 24, 2023

8:00 am + Anne, Michael and Frank Bugdin
9:15 am + Kathy McGrath
10:30 am + Mariusz and Tadeusz Borowski
PL + Jadwiga Suchta / + Zofia Czaplak
The People of the Parish, Living and Deceased
+ Jean Stasiukiewicz / Health for Anna Jastrzebska
12 Noon + Frank Dusek

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm Intentions of the Stepnoski Families
+ Doug Stelling / + Edna & Alex Sydlowski, Sr.
+ Jack and Dolores Naglieri
Intentions of the Massiello and Mader Families
10:00 pm + Jerzy, Irene, Margaret, and Zbigniew
PL Aleksandrowicz and Family
+ Jan Harasimowicz i rodzine
+ Leokadia Czech / + Jadwiga Zawadzka
+ Edward Gorski i dusze w czysccu cierpiace
+ Anna i Stefan Krupa / + Ryszard Pietkun & Fam.
12:00 am + Lucyna and Edmund Wojciechowski

CHRISTMAS DAY, MON., DECEMBER 25, 2023

8:00 am + Konstanty and Mary Kruk
9:15 am + Doug Stelling
10:30 am + Stanley, Wanda and Walter Szumczyk
PL The People of the Parish, Living and Deceased
+ Brie Redmond
12 Noon + Jack and Dolores Naglieri

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023

7:00 am + Franciszka Smokowska / + Patrick Rus

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

7:00 am + Chester (A) and Louise Lejay
Birthday Blessings for Dan Mazzeo

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

7:00 am + Raphael Georges Durandisse
Healing for Teresa and Seamus McCormack

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2023

7:00 am + Joan Casagrande Coltrane
In Thanksgiving for Fr. Kris and Fr. Nicholas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2023

8:00 am + Jadwiga Kawa
5:00 pm + Ed Bilski / + John B. & Helen Zilnicki
The People of the Parish, Living and Deceased
+ Andrea Weber and Danielowich Family

HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

8:00 am + Frank Columbus (A)
9:15 am Intentions of Massiello and Mader Families
10:30 am + Aldona Krol, Stanislaw & Bronislawa Stepniewicz
PL + Marianna Swiderek / + Wieslaw Luniewski
+ Tadeusz Chichy / + Helena, Antoni i Jozef Cieliczka
12 Noon + Christine Zambryski

IN LOVING MEMORY

Missalettes

John B. and Helen Zilnicki

Bread and Wine and Sanctuary Lamp

Joseph Sr., Joseph Jr. and Jill Czulada
and Marie Dunleavy

THE WEEK AHEAD

Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 24-25, 2023

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Eve: 5 PM, 10 PM (PL), Midnight
Day: 8 AM, 9:15, 10:30 (PL), 12 Noon

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

Adoration 12 to 1 PM
Millions of Monicas 1 to 2 PM

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27,
29/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29/Acts
13:16-17, 22-25/ Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/
Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-
18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,
16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wed.: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thurs.: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21
or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Dorothy Simmons

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Corinne Clark * Madeline Galka * Stanislaw Andrychowski * Grazyna Pawlak * Carol McKay * Gillen Family * Christina Donovan * Blythe Fickenwirth * Dan Massiello * Gilbert Lebron, Sr. * Irene Monahan * Richard, Joseph and Gerard Kane * Pat Rambo * Jody Breitfeller * Benjamin Gonzalez * Dominique Tirado * Diana Perniciaro * Sammy * Brodie * Bob Rozanski * Dolline Welch * Joe and William Hiskey * Sue Brooks * Cathleen Mickaliger * Joseph Stepnoski * James Kenna * Douglas Clark * Stasia Grabowski * Eleanor Nystrom * Margaret McCarthy * Jan Suchta * Justin * Mike Smithwick * Dakota Harmon * Courtney Altman * Gale Durney * Cole Faller * Claire Latour * Halikias Family * Liana Forstein * Rosemary & Daniel Ambrosini * Thomas Ryall * Anne Marie Donlon * Dorothy Sousa * Joan Kielkowski * Anthony Naglieri * Thomas McEnany * Mary Khulman * Denise Babinski * Michael Alperti * Roseanne Murphy * Barbara Kozlowski * James West * Elizabeth Farruggia * Kelly Wine * Mary Van Duesen * Thomas DeGirolamo * William Berenger * Daria Quarlena * Eileen Borchart * Sheila Nolan * Tom Wisniewski III * Jean Reyes Carroll * Jeffrey Clark * James, George and Barbara Jaeger * Ernest and Alex Aponte * Helen Long * Michael Miglionico * Ralph Conforti * The Barauskus Family * Hope & Brittany Williams * John Marion * Emilia Andrychowski * Augie & Georgianna Lucente * Johanna Benthall * Michelle Giaccone * Gloria Keller * Diana Metzger * Howard Seifert * Ed Kennedy * Kit Z. * Dolores Contino * Agnes Brown * Connie Giordano * Krzysztof Olszowski * Anders Ryden * Kevin C. Cook * Anita Costi * Doriane Bay * David Vallone * Brittany Schacor * Karen and Kim Finocchiaro * Eleanor Koller * Grace Mary Schulteis * Victor Sechyshyn * George Angle * Marta Andreotta * Melissa Alexandra * Christian Vidal * Suzanne Thompson * Anna Greife * Helen Condzella * Anthony Mannino * Marcella Frisen * The Huntley Family * Theresa Puglia * Brian Darmody * Leigh Anne Brown * Dan Modjeska * Judy Zakorski * Marie Miley * Marcjanna Stolarzewicz * John Shuot * Patrick Murphy * Brian Crowley * Louise Pampinello * Jim DeRosa * Barbara Fenn

Please keep all those serving in the military and their families in your thoughts and prayers especially:

1st Lt. Nicholas Santorelli, Nicholas Pelosi, Christopher Drowns, Jeffrey Heppner, James Fleming, Brendan Fitzgerald, Thomas V. D'Auria, Mateusz Marzec, Andre DeRosa and Garrett Bracht



The Little Way for Every Day

Thoughts from Thérèse of Lisieux



Dec. 24: "My way is a way of trust and love. I do not understand souls who are afraid of such a tender Friend."

Dec. 25: "O, how I wish to love Jesus, to love Him passionately, to give Him a thousand tokens of love, while I am still able."

Dec. 26: "The little Jesus demands only a sweet caress from you. Give Him your love."

Dec. 27: "O what a mystery; my feeble love can enthrall You, my Lord."

Dec. 28: "O King of the Elect, my place in heaven is among the Holy Innocents. Like them, O Jesus, I will kiss your sweet face."

Dec. 29: "At this moment, when I am soon to appear before the good God, I realize more and more that one thing alone is necessary—to work only for Him and to do nothing purely for self or for creatures."

Dec. 30: "I do not count on my own merits, since I have none, but I trust in Him who is virtue and sanctity itself."



St. John Paul II Regional School
Serving Grades PreK3 through Grade 8

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28th
11 am to 1 pm
515 Marcy Ave., Riverhead

For more info, call 631-727-1650
Or visit us at sjp2regional.org

The Christmas Season

A Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord (Luke 2:11)

The **Christmas Season**, also known as *Christmastide*, extends far longer than just the day of Christmas. Although Christmas Day has become the primary celebration of the Incarnation, the twelve plus day celebration includes other aspects of God's divinity becoming united to our humanity in Jesus.

In the early church, the main celebration of this season was the Epiphany (from the Greek for *manifestation* or *showing*) and the focus was on God's revelation of the divine nature in Jesus.

Although Christmas gradually becomes the primary liturgical focus of Epiphany, the whole Christmas season reminds us that our concern is not just on Jesus the baby in the manger. By including the feasts of the martyr Stephen, the massacred Holy Innocents, the Epiphany and Jesus' baptism, we realize that Christ's incarnation always includes not only acceptance but also rejection and persecution. The main observances of Christmastide are:

CHRISTMAS DAY

The feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and the main celebration of the Incarnation.

HOLY FAMILY

The feast celebrating Jesus, Mary and Joseph as the model for Christian families.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

This celebration venerates Mary as the mother of Jesus, the one who was truly God and truly human.

EPIPHANY

The feast of the manifestation of Christ to the world, in particular to the Gentiles.

BAPTISM OF JESUS

This feast marks the end of Christmastide and celebrates the revelation of Jesus' divinity to the Jewish people.

Christmas and the Incarnation

"The Word was made flesh and lived among us," John's Gospel tells us. This sums up the meaning of the term *Incarnation*: the eternal word, the second person of the Trinity, took on human nature in the person of Jesus Christ. According to the Church councils of Nicea (AD 325) and Chalcedon (AD 651), Jesus was both fully human and fully divine.

Holy Family

The general breakdown of family relationships at the end of the 19th century prompted Pope Leo XIII and others to promote the observance of the *Holy Family* feast with the hope that it might instill in Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model for all Christian families.

Mary, Mother of God

Mary was decreed to be the Mother of God by the Council of Ephesus in AD 431. This title asserts the divinity of Christ as well as his humanity: he was born of woman, yet was the Son of God. The Solemnity of *Mary, Mother of God* commemorates this divine motherhood by not only honoring Mary, who was chosen among all women throughout history to bear God incarnate, but also honors Christ, who is fully God and fully human.

Epiphany

From the Greek word meaning *manifestation*, Epiphany refers to the manifestation of the Incarnation to human beings. Mary and then Joseph were first to receive the revelation of Jesus' divinity. The traditional Epiphany text of the three Magi who brought gifts to Jesus is understood to signify the revelation of Jesus' divinity to the Gentiles. The baptism of Jesus as well as the wedding feast of Cana are also Epiphany stories in which the divinity of Christ was revealed, in the first case to the Jews and in the second to the disciples themselves.

The Baptism of the Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, which then commemorated the coming of the Magi, the baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Over time, however, the celebration of Jesus' baptism came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany and was set on a moveable date following Epiphany that also marks the end of the Christmas season in the liturgical calendar.

The Child We Wait For (The Catholic Thing)

Advent is a time of preparation for the Christ Child at Christmas. But in an age of endless appetites and distractions, it's worth reflecting on who exactly that Child is.

I visited Poland as a young editor in 1989, a decade after Karol Wojtyla's first visit to his homeland as Pope John Paul II, and just months before the Soviet-backed regime collapsed. I still remember how bleak it seemed. Many of Warsaw's buildings stood on foundations two or three feet higher than the street. The reason was simple. The retreating Germans had literally leveled most of the city in 1944 as an act of pure malice. The devastation they left was massive. It was so costly to clear away in the war's aftermath that new structures in Warsaw were simply built on top of the rubble.

The scars this left on Polish culture ran deep. The city's skyline – to the degree it existed – was dominated by two structures. The first was the mausoleum-like Communist Party headquarters. The second was the Palace of Culture and Science, a “gift” from Joseph Stalin. Both were in the brutalist architectural style so widely admired by ideological thugs. The churches, by contrast, were little oases of beauty. They were like flowers in the cracks of a cement world, and they were never empty. They were also islands of sanity, committed to remembering the past quietly but accurately in a climate of political lies.

This was the world of John Paul II. What Poland experienced in the years 1939-89 was the crucifixion of an entire nation. It was carried out by two poisonous systems that differed mainly in the social theories they used to justify their inhumanity. Ideas are abstractions, but they have consequences. And in Poland they did, savagely.

In the case of Karol Wojtyla, the hardships he endured in his own life, and the suffering he saw in so many others, served as a kind of acid bath. It dissolved everything non-essential in his character; everything except a hard core of courage and clarity of thought that allowed him to believe in man because he believed in and trusted God – a God who so loved the world that he'd sent his only Son to redeem it.

He carried all of this with him into the papacy in October 1978. And it gives us the context for his first encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*, or “Redeemer of Man” (1979).

For Wojtyla, the person of Jesus and our relationship with Him always come first. The morality and ethics that flow from that relationship are important. But they come second. Jesus Christ reveals to us the nature and dignity of our humanity. The duties that go with our humanity then follow from that ongoing encounter.

Karol Wojtyla, as John Paul II, would spend his entire papal ministry clarifying and refreshing who the Church is, because of who Jesus Christ is. For Wojtyla, the Church is not a collection of religious abstractions. She's the bride of Jesus Christ, God's Incarnate Word in the world.

God's Word is a person, not merely a book or an idea. He became flesh. He dwelled among us. And He bequeathed to us the Church out of love, as the guide to our real home in heaven. But she remains *His* Church. She belongs to Jesus Christ. The Church belongs to us only in the sense that we first belong to her as her children, not her masters or architects.

The heart of John Paul's encyclical is simply this:

Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible for himself; his life is senseless if love is not revealed to him; if he does not encounter love; if he does not experience it and make it his own; if he does not participate intimately in it. This [is] why Christ the Redeemer “fully reveals man to himself”. . . This is the human dimension of the mystery of the Redemption. In this dimension [of sacrificial love] man finds again the greatness, dignity and value that belong to his humanity. [10]

Redemptor Hominis grounds John Paul II's papacy. Everything in his subsequent body of teaching builds from this text. It's all there, explicitly or implied in seed form: the reality of objective truth; the mutual dependence of faith and reason; the sanctity of life from the unborn child to the infirm and elderly; the nature of human rights and progress; the priority of mercy; the meaning of human freedom; the dignity of work; the need for economic justice; and the centrality of the Eucharist for a life in Christ.

There's a majesty of mind and spirit to the text, a majesty sorely missed today, that moves the reader even decades later. There are many reasons to call St. John Paul “the Great.” *Redemptor Hominis* is surely one of them.

I'll end with one quick observation.

Some of the most arresting thoughts in *Redemptor Hominis* take place in Sections 15 and 16. Wojtyla notes that man's advances in technology are dramatic and rapid. But our maturity in moral and ethical thinking can't keep up. Thus, our enthusiasm for power over nature can lead by subtle steps to our becoming the victims of our own knowledge. Technology has a Mephistopheles effect. It always has unintended consequences.

In the years since *Redemptor Hominis*, the changes we've seen in genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, surveillance tools, weaponry, and a dozen other high-impact technologies have been transformative. We live in a time when transhumanist fantasies and the “eclipse of man,” to quote the Duquesne University scholar Charles Rubin, are becoming issues of urgency. Thus, the key challenges now facing the Church are neither environmental nor matters of ecclesial structure and process; they're *anthropological* – in other words, who and what a human being is.

Next year, 2024, marks the 45th anniversary of *Redemptor Hominis*. This Advent, we need its wisdom more than ever. **Because the Child we wait for is the redeemer of man.**



Merry Christmas!

~ Fr. Kris, Fr. Nicholas, Dcn.
Mike and Staff of St. Isidore
Church

Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on
coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear
despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who
were in dire poverty and suffering great need of
heavenly food might be made rich in Him.

~ St. Clare of Assisi