



Our Saviour Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

2300 Princeton Pike; Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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January 8, 2023

Epiphany / Humble Shepherds / Baptism of the Lord

FAITH SHARING

God shows His love for sinful man by sharing His love with us in the form of Jesus in Bethlehem. Jesus, in turn, saves us by His suffering, death and Resurrection.

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 62:11-12

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah shows the Jews their God as a saving God Who will extend His redemption to His holy city.

Titus 3:4-7

In the second reading, St. Paul tells Titus that God saves us through His Son Jesus, not because we have deserved it by our good deeds, but because of His mercy. Jesus continues His saving mission by allowing us to be reborn by water and the Holy Spirit, thus enabling us to become God's children and heirs of everlasting life.

Luke 2:15-20

Describing the response of the shepherds to the angelic message, today's Gospel invites us to offer ourselves as a gift to Jesus, our Lord and Savior and to bear witness to Him through our lives, by sharing love with others.

Responsorial Psalm

**R. A light will shine on us this day;
The Lord is born for us.**



ENTRANCE HYMN (Wisdom 18:14-15a; Psalm 93:2)_

V. For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful Word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into the doomed land.

R. Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, Lord.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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

Gospel

Lk 2:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke.

R. Glory be to You, Lord.

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



Today's Hymns

Processional Hymn

057 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

144 Come, Thou Creator

Offertory Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Communion Hymn

Angels We Have Heard On High

Recessional Hymn

For the Beauty of the Earth

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 8

Solemnity – Humble Shepherds

12:00 Noon – Holy Mass

Sunday, January 15

2 Ordinary Sunday

12:00 Noon – Holy Mass

Sunday, January 22

3 Ordinary Sunday

12:00 Noon – Holy Mass

PASTOR'S ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

2330 Margaret St.
Philadelphia, PA 19137
215-535-4978

Scan this code
to watch
the Mass online



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Let us pray for all of the sick and homebound members of our Parish, especially: Howard Friedman, Michael and Patricia Havrilla, Gerry Brunson, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Gregg Smith, Clint Koch, Duane Schulte, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Stephanie Besterici, David Potts, Andrew Chernesky, Joan Piechota, John Smith, Ernie Hoffman, Peggy Harris, Ina Reese, Tom Goff, Donald Gavenda, Michelle Freer, Kay Stampone, Jan Cherneski, Ewelina Mendelewski-Filyushchenko, Richard Golazewski, Jane Aldorshoff, Elizabeth McAlanis, Dolores McGlone, Marianna Pelka

Please keep us informed that we might minister to those who are ill at home, in the hospital or nursing home.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

HELP NEEDED NEXT SUNDAY

Please help us to remove the Christmas decorations next Sunday after Mass.

IT IS TIME TO PAY CHURCH DUES

Please consider in your yearly home budget to pay the Church's dues which we are obliged to pay yearly as the members of the Polish National Catholic Church.

\$100 for the General Church (this portion goes to Prime Bishop's Office in Scranton)

\$25 for the Central Diocese (this is sent to Diocese Office in Scranton)

Any extra amount stays in our parish account.

Only members with dues paid up to date have the right to vote and decide about the parish, to serve as officers of the Parish Committee, in the diocesan and PNCC committees, commissions and organizations, to be elected as delegates to the General, Diocese, or Special Synods, and to be buried at the PNCC cemetery with the special discounts.

Please make the check payable to Our Saviour PNCC.

If you are unable to pay your Church dues at once, you can pay it in half-year, quarterly or monthly installments. Please let us know which form of payment is more suitable to you and mark it in the memo of your check.

Your weekly Sunday offerings or other offerings mailed to us occasionally are not considered as the Church dues.

THE SOLEMNITY OF BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

This year the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord on Monday, because Christmas was on Sunday. In this case right after the Epiphany (Jan 6) on the next Sunday we have the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds Sunday, and the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the following Monday.

This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to sanctify the children of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called *Theophany* because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.