

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 50 (3577) December 15th, 2024
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C



This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance.

Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel

message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. (loyolapress.com)

"Lord Jesus, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your gospel and to point others to the light of Christ." (dailyscripture.net) †R.R.

***Sing and shout for joy,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.***

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

- | | | |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| 9 a.m. | †Bronius, sr. and Bronius, jr. Stoncius | (O.Stoncius) |
| 11 a.m. | for living and deceased parishioners | |
| | for peace in the world | |
| | †Vaclovas Anskis | (Stanevicius family) |
| | †Leopoldas and Ramute Gumuliauskas | (daughter) |
| | †Albina and Antanas Laurinaitis | (daughter) |
| | †Ksaveras and Agota RataVICIUS | (family) |
| | †Dr.Elvyra Katelis | (R.A.Nakrosius) |
| | †Valentina Kuliesius | (R.J.Kuliesius) |
| | †Janina PrakaPavicius and Aldona Zimonaitis | (family) |
| | for Vaikutis' and Antanaitis' deceased family members (Daiva) | |
| | for Krasauskas' and Tamkevicius' deceased family members (O.Krasauskas) | |
| | request grace of health for Garsva family | (D.A.Garsva) |
| | in thanksgiving - in celebration of J.G. Neimana's 50 years of married life (J.G.Neimanas) | |

2024

December 24

9:45 p.m. -

Christmas music

10 p.m. -

Christmas Eve Mass

December 25

Christmas Day

9 a.m. Mass (in EN)

11 a.m. Mass (in LT)

2025 January 1st

NEW YEAR

9 a.m. Mass (in EN)

11 a.m. Mass (in LT)

**Office hours during
the Holidays**

December 24

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

December 25-26

CLOSED

December 31

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

January 1, 2025

CLOSED

Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - Zibute Janeliunas and Ted Chornomaz

11 AM - children

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (December 16): 7 p.m. request grace of health for Elena, Terese and Valentina (friend);

TUESDAY (December 17): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Irena and Henrikas Matusaitis (R.J.Balaisis);

WEDNESDAY (December 18): 7 p.m. special intention (NN); †Edvardas Peciulis (R.J.Balaisis);

THURSDAY (December 19): 7 p.m. †Eugenijus Cuplinskas (family); †Antanas, Onute and Kazimieras Baltrunas (RU); †Eugenija Lesevicius (10th anniv.) (Zita and Ruta); †Helen Uogintas (J.Cuplinskas); †Nijole and Vytautas Tamulaitis (V.A.Dailyde); request grace of health for Gitana (Garsva family);

FRIDAY (December 20): 7 p.m. †Viktoras Grazulis (Buozis family);

SATURDAY (December 21): 9 a.m. †Antanas Ceponis (V.Zaleckaite); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Bronius Tamosiunas, Vytautas Simonavicius and Vaclovas Albertas Butvilas (B.Tamosiunas);

SUNDAY (December 22): 9 a.m. †Albinas and Petras Styra & Francoise and Louis Pogorski (family); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; for Dirmantas', Nevulis' and Groen in't Woud deceased family members (family); †Alfonsas Stanevicius (Stanevicius family); †Fr.Eugenijus Jurgutis, ofm and Fr.Pijus Sarpnickas, ofm (Stanevicius family); †Viktoras Jankauskas (R.J.Kuliesius); †Raimundas Sungaila (V.White); †Kazimieras Kalinauskas (Prakapas family); for Garsva and Silinis' deceased family members (Garsva family); in thanksgiving - for living and deceased friends (GJ); request grace of health for parish priests and deacon (GJ).

"Capital Fund" - \$ 496,428

**A.Morkunas, A.Maciulis, A.Pleinys, R.Shames,
E.S.Stoncius - \$ 1,000**

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday (12.08) & "Vilnius Manor" Collections -

44 envelopes - \$ 1,960

No envelopes - \$ 127.35

Direct deposit - \$ 1,600

In memoriam of Irena Vibrys, I.Ross donated to the parish \$ 220

THANK you for your generosity...



**Parish Children's Joyful Sunday - TODAY,
December 15th, during the 11 a.m. Holy Mass,
children will decorate the Christmas tree
with angels they have made.**

With the spirit of the **Christmas season** upon us, let us look into our hearts with kindness and gratitude and help our friends living at "Labdara" nursing home feel the virtues of Advent.

We invite all parishioners to make one or more heartfelt Christmas greeting cards. Your cards will bring them hope, love, joy and a sense of peace and closeness.

We welcome everyone to the parish cafeteria TODAY and December 15th, after 9 am & 11 am Mass, where you will have an opportunity to make a few greeting cards. All materials will be provided. More info: Vida - vidag@primus.ca

We thank you for your continued support and outstanding generosity.



As we prepare for the upcoming Christmas season, let us remember our brothers and sisters in need in Lithuania. On Advent Sundays, donations are being collected to support soup kitchens for the hungry in Lithuania. A wonderful idea is to contribute to this cause alongside giving Christmas gifts to your loved ones.

Part of this year's collection will also go towards the preparation of a dinner for the "Out of the Cold" program at All Saints Kingsway church.

We are also collecting new gloves and new socks. Donations and gifts will be accepted in the church vestibule on Advent Sundays: December 15 and 22.

THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity.



Plotkeles/Kaledaiciai will be available in the Parish Office, Monday-Friday,

from 9 am till 4 pm., also on Sundays after Mass.

It is a Lithuanian tradition that when we are seated at the Kucios table, we share this symbol of the living bread - Jesus Christ as He comes into the world.

News for the Little Ones

To keep things fun and engaging, we invite our youngest parishioners, the children, to enjoy some art activities during Holy Mass. Parents, you will find colouring materials prepared in the church vestibule.

Feel free to use them!

Our parish "Labdara" committee CONTINUES The **FOOD DRIVE** in aid of the needy in Toronto and INVITES **ALL** to participate.

NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.



IN MEMORIAM: IRENA VIBRYS

Irena Vibrys, our dear Irute, is no longer with us in wintery Toronto. She used to say to me and my sister: "I'm your stepmother," and even signed her letters and holiday greetings as "Stepmother." She was too modest to say, "I'm your mother," although she often acted, spoke, and felt like a mother—not only toward us but also in her interactions with parishioners and through her various efforts for the parish and Lithuania.

We met exactly 30 years ago when I first arrived in Toronto. I remember us transporting used furniture to College Street that her former workplace had donated to charity. Irena wondered if it might come in handy for the parish, and of course, it did. I received a massive desk at that time, on which I wrote hundreds of sermons over the next two and a half years. Irena didn't know I was a Franciscan friar preparing for the priesthood. She made some witty comment about my long hair and earring, to which I quipped back that Canada was a free country. That's how our friendship began.

Six months later, as I prepared for my ordination, she went above and beyond to help. The white priestly garment, the alb, which I still wear at Mass after all these years, was chosen and gifted by Irena. I think it will last me for the rest of my life.

We spent many warm and memorable evenings on the balcony of her home on Quebec Avenue, often with her best friend and neighbour, Grazina Balciunas. The two were very alike. Thankfully, Father Augustinas was a tolerant man and never said a word about my late-night outings. Irena loved to host, give, and bring joy. She enjoyed company, always cheerful and helpful. You'd never guess that she had endured so much hardship, worked tirelessly, and faced painful family problems. She constantly sought ways to do good for others.

I recall how she even went to Kenya, found a struggling family, and provided for them. She led Toronto's Catholic Women's group for many years. After every Sunday Mass, she and other women would sit with their homemade baked goods, collecting cent by cent to send support to Lithuania. If you praised her, she'd respond with a joke, without a trace of self-importance or pride.

When conversations turned to Lithuania and her childhood in the Pakruojis region, she'd recite lines from Vytė Nemunėlis:

*There in the forest, where the fir trees rustle,
Under an old, old pine, Lived a bear, Rudnosis,
And his wife, Rudnosis. They had a little cub, Rudnosis,
just like them. He was still without trousers
And ran around only at home.*

She remembered it word for word! I found it astonishing that a childhood memory could endure so vividly for so many years. From those childhood memories secretly arose many beautiful and important things. Even her faith and dedication to the Church were rooted in her Pakruojis upbringing.

We bid farewell to Irena during Advent, a fitting moment. It's the season of waiting for the Lord, yearning for heaven, and searching for paths toward God's Kingdom. These were deeply meaningful to Irena, even if she rarely spoke of them aloud.

It's a sad day for the Resurrection Parish, for Irena's family, friends, and neighbours. Yet, there is also a profound lightness and peace in the heart because reflecting on Irena's life reveals the essence of Faith, Hope, and Love in everyday life.

Together with Toronto parishioners, I pray for Irena's peace in the presence of the Lord. I thank her for her extraordinary and steadfast friendship and for her Christian witness. It's a joy to remember her among a circle of other saintly women.

Sincerely, Your priest, Julius Sasnauskas OFM



Pope Francis Elevates Archbishop Francis Leo to the College of Cardinals

On December 7, 2024, Pope Francis presided at a Consistory to elevate 21 Catholic bishops to the College of Cardinals. Among them was the Most Rev. Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto.

We pray for the newest members of the College of Cardinals. In a special way, we give thanks for our chief shepherd, the Archbishop of Toronto, Frank Cardinal Leo. May the newest members of the College of Cardinals continue to serve Holy Mother Church and the Holy Father faithfully, and shepherd Christ's flock courageously, helping to strengthen our relationship with Jesus our Saviour. Toronto Archdiocese

This is also great news for Lithuanians: **Archbishop Rolandas Makrickas** was inducted into the College of



Cardinals by Pope Francis in Vatican City on Saturday evening. The Consistory of the College of Cardinals took place in St. Peter's Basilica, during which Pope Francis inducted a total of 21 clergymen into the College. Archbishop R. Makrickas has become the fifth cardinal in Lithuania's history and is a cardinal elector—he will be able to vote in a conclave to elect a pope and could even be elected himself. At 52 years old, R. Makrickas is the fifth youngest cardinal in history.

The title of cardinal has also been granted in the past to Jurgis Radvila, Vincentas Sladkevicius, Audrys Juozas Backis, and Sigitas Tamkevicius SJ.

The newly appointed **Cardinal Rolandas Makrickas**, when asked about his emotions after the public consistory, told Lithuanian journalists that he was experiencing a special moment. "I am living through a unique moment

because the appointments of cardinals and the subsequent celebration, receiving the title from the hands of the Pope, are truly special. It is a spiritual moment—we see how the Church is renewing itself, how changes are happening that should lead to good. Today's liturgy and my thoughts are very hopeful; at the same time, the renewed College of Cardinals can do much for the Church and the world," he said.

bernardinai.lt

The Parish is not responsible for the content of the ads

THANK YOU for donations.

You can donate to the parish and for parish causes through: envelopes; eTransfers (email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca ;

Q: What is the name of the parish?

A: Resurrection; (indicating to whom the donation is addressed) or on the parish site www.prisikelimas.ca/give.

Through banks - RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

PLEASE NOTE: Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the MEMO: Donation to Parish or Mass.

Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the MEMO: Capital Fund, Renovation fund, by bequest, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.



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Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

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Happy Holiday
season and a
peaceful New Year!

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Pastor: Fr. Jonas Sileika, OFM
Associate Pastor/Parish economist:
Fr. Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM
Serving Priest: Fr. Augustinas Simanavicius, OFM
Deacon: Dr. Kazimieras Ambrozaitis
Parish office administrator: Gitana Judvytyte

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