

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 51 (3578) December 22nd, 2024

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - C



On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

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"Lord Jesus, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more earnestly. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joy of heaven, and my love for You as my All." dailyscripture.net †R.R.

God of hosts, bring us back: let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

- 9 a.m. †Albinas and Petras Styra & Francoise and Louis Pogorski (family)
11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners
for peace in the world
for Dirmantas', Nevulis' and Groen in't Woud deceased family members (family)
†Alfonas 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)

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 - Gintas Pabedinskas
11 AM - Laima Underys
organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (December 23): 7 p.m. †Genovaitė Zabieliauskas ("Kretinga"); †Saulius Macijauskas (J.J.Macijauskas); †Terese and Leonidas Galinis (J.J.Macijauskas);

TUESDAY (December 24): for living and deceased Parishioners, for the members of the Friars' Minor Order of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Province; and for all Lithuanians in the diaspora;

WEDNESDAY (December 25 Christmas): 9 a.m. †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas; 11 a.m. for Judvytis', Dackus' and Vydmantas' living and deceased family members (GJ); †Marija and Bronius Matusėvicius, Matusėvicius' and Petrulis deceased family members (family); †Ieva and Vincas Jonuska (Jonuska family); †Elena and Jurgis Krakauskas (Jonuska family); †Danute and Antanas Damasius (daughter and granddaughter); for living and deceased family members (Daiva);

THURSDAY (December 26): 7 p.m. †Jonas and Ona Inciura (R.Inciura); †Onute and Stasys Kirsinas (R.J.Balaisis); †Kastytis Dailyde (V.A.Dailyde); †Birute Stanulis (RU); for Vaitkevicius' and Slivinskas' deceased family members (V.Vaitkus);

FRIDAY (December 27): 7 p.m. †Genovaitė Zabieliauskas (Jaglowitz family); †Janina Prapakavicius and Aldona Simonaitis (J.Harris);

SATURDAY (December 28): 9 a.m. †Valentinas and Maria Indris (R.Indris); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Liuda Stulginskis, Sofija Styra, Marcela Spuras and Apalonija Tumpa (B.Tamosiunas);

SUNDAY (December 29): 9 a.m. †Grant Bonner (1st anniv.) (family); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Monsignor Edmundas, Edita and Sofija Putrimas (GJ); †Agne Jagelaviciute (GJ); †Kazimieras Grigaravicius (Irena, Virginija, children); †Jonas (15th anniv.) and Jadze Stanaitis (I.Stanaitis); †Regina Sinkevicius (6th anniv.) (daughter Rimanta and family); †Jonas Jakniunas (G.Adie and family); †Liudas Racickas (family); †Kazimieras and Jone Sapockinas (R.A.Nakrosius); †Vladas and Lile Nakrosius (R.A.Nakrosius).

"Capital Fund" - \$507,228

R.J.Birgiolas, B.Pichler, R.Pleinys, V.White - \$ 800

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday (12.15) & "Vilnius Manor" Collections -

46 envelopes - \$ 2,575

No envelopes - \$ 149.85

Direct deposit - \$ 1,100

For Altar flowers NN donated \$ 1,000

THANK you for your 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.

THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity.

Plotkeles/Kaledaiciai can still be purchased this Sunday in the church vestibule, as well as in the parish office on Monday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The parish Sunday coffee hosts invite you today, for the last time this year, to enjoy coffee and pastries.

The parish cafeteria will be CLOSED on December 29 and January 1, 2025.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!
Wishing you peaceful and delightful holidays...**

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.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS.
EVERY DONATION HELPS WITH MAINTENANCE OF
THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH...**

Information for donating envelopes - please ensure that all the information requested on the donor's envelope is completed: your first and last name and full current address. We also urge parishioners to promptly notify the church office of a change of address in order to ensure the timely delivery of tax receipts at year-end.

PLEASE DON'T wait until the last week of December to transfer, bring or send donations to the Parish.

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

Also, you can donate through banks -

RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

PLEASE NOTE: When writing cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish**, in the **MEMO** write the charitable purpose: Donation to Parish or Mass.

When writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers**, in the **MEMO** write the charitable purpose: Capital Fund, Renovation fund, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda. You may also donate by bequest.

The Pope's Christmas Eve Homily: "I Was Born to Be Close to You"

"Jesus, we look at you lying in the manger. We see you so close, always near us: thank you, Lord. We see you poor, teaching us that true wealth is not in possessions but in people, especially the poor: forgive us if we have not recognized you in them and have not served you. We see you tangible, for your love for us is concrete: help us make our faith tangible and alive. Amen," prayed Pope Francis on Christmas Eve.



Pope Francis called on people to focus on praying for peace worldwide, so that tensions, conflicts, and constant unrest give way to the well-being of all nations, and that the innocent, unprotected from violence, may find safety.

"Today, a Savior is born to us, Jesus Christ. Let us pause before the Child of God and allow our hearts to be moved. Do not be afraid, we need this. Let our hearts be warmed by the Lord's tenderness, for we need the gentle touch of God. He does not wound but brings peace and strength. God is peace; let Him help us build it every day in our lives, families, communities, and the world. Let God's goodness touch our hearts. To you, brothers and sisters, I wish a beautiful, good, and holy Christmas. This is a joyful day for everyone: for those who suffer and for those who dedicate themselves to serving the poor," said Pope Francis.

According to him, Christmas is God's gift, and God, in giving Christmas, knows it is a gift that everyone can receive, even those who do not believe. Christmas is a celebration for all. (From the Vatican News Archive)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I greet you all as we begin this wonderful Christmas season!

This is a special time of year as we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, into the world. Each of us looks forward to the holidays with our own experiences. Maybe you have noticed how quickly your children or grandchildren have grown over the year. Perhaps the year has brought personal anniversaries or other significant moments. Sadly, some of you may have lost someone you loved dearly. There were also important events for Lithuania as a whole – the election of representatives to the country's government as well as the celebration of the centenary Song Festival during the summer. Now we approach a new and important year for the Church – the Jubilee Year 2025.

The central message of Jesus' birth is that God "so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). Christmas invites us to let this love of God into our lives. Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem twenty centuries ago, He wants to be with us here and now, to open God's infinite horizons to us and to bring joy, peace and hope into our daily lives. Christ's Good News, His love and mercy enrich the life of our nation, with its history, culture and traditions.

Christmas teaches us to be attentive and sensitive. As we look at the small, helpless Baby in the manger, we realize that so much of what occurs in the world does not make the headlines. Jesus was literally born in a cave in Bethlehem, because those around them didn't 'see' the pregnant Mother even as now poor families with children are often overlooked. So let us be considerate of one another, especially of those who are sick, feel lonely, raise children with poor means to support them. Because they are open to new life, families create the world of the future. May they receive every encouragement and support.

Let us not be indifferent to world events. We can't change or influence everything, but we are always able to get involved, to commit ourselves in ways that are available to us: by volunteering, by being part of the community, by helping those in need – whether it's a neighbour, or the people of a country ravaged by war and deprivation. In doing so, we will not only contribute to the wellbeing of the world, but also grow spiritually and enrich our own lives. Much can be done, even with small steps.

A new year, the Jubilee Year 2025, is about to begin. It is a reminder to us that our time and our lives are a gift from God. The theme of the New Year is hope, which is so needed in the world, in Lithuania and in the life of every human being. In announcing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis said that "the coming Jubilee will be a Holy Year, marked by an enduring hope in God. May it help us to rediscover the necessary trust in the Church, in society, in interpersonal and international relations, in the dignity of every human being and in respect for creation. May the witness of our faith be the leaven of true hope in the world."

It will be meaningful that next year on March 2nd, the Day of Prayer for Lithuanians in the World will coincide with the national pilgrimage of the Jubilee Year in Rome from February 28 to March 4th. On that day, Lithuanians arriving in the Eternal City will enter through the Holy Door and pray in the Basilica of St. Paul outside the city walls. I invite everyone who is able, to participate in this pilgrimage.

I wish you all a beautiful and meaningful celebration of the Nativity of Christ and a joyful, peaceful and hopeful New Year.

Yours in prayer, Archbishop Lionginas Virbalas, S.J., Delegate of the Lithuanian Bishops' Conference for the Pastoral Care of Lithuanians Abroad



"Now it happened that when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.'" (Lk 2:15)

Let us, during Christmas time, on the Holy Night, while guarding our families, parish, our homes and homeland, hasten again and again, to discover the twinkling hope of Everlasting Life in the Divine Child. And in His tenderness, may we again experience the strength of faith in the Redeeming Lord's outpouring of Mercy for us, His outstretched hands, ever offering the gift of Redeemed Life, the love shown to one's neighbour...

Our pastor, Brother Fr. Jonas Sileika, and all the Franciscan Fathers wishing you a very Merry Christmas and the Lord's abundant grace in the New Year!

The Parish is not responsible for the content of the ads

THANK YOU for donations.

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

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Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



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Season's Greetings

Wishing you a festive and safe holiday season 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

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Phone.: (416) 533 0621

Web: www.prisikelimas.ca

Email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca

Church of the Resurrection

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