

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 50 (3367) December 13th, 2020

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B



The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel,

Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand. (loyolapress.com)

"Lord Jesus, make me a herald of your word of truth and grace. Help me to be a faithful witness of the joy of the Gospel and to point others to you as John did through his testimony." (dailyscripture.net) †R.R.

2020 CALENDAR

December 20

4 pm - 5 pm

*"Kretinga Camp
Advent Gathering -
Christmas Concert"*
(via the Zoom app -
details to be
announced later)

December 25

Christmas

My soul rejoices in my God.

SUNDAY'S MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR :

9 a.m.	†Bronius, sr. and Bronius, jr. Stoncius	(O.Stoncius)
11 a.m.	For living and deceased parishioners	
	†Vaclovas Anskis	(Stanevicius family)
	†Mindaugas Gabrys (5 th anniv.)	(family)
	special intention	(NN)
	†Aleksas Kersis (10 th anniv.)	(daughter)
	for Rusinas' deceased family members	(R.M.Rusinas)
	†Steponas Ignatavicius	(B.Tamosiunas)
	†Robina Dixon	(D.D.Danaitis-Stacey)
	†Brone Vilkus	(I.Matus)
	†Aloyzas Pazera (2 nd anniv.)	(family)

THIS WEEK'S HOLY MASSES

MONDAY (December 14): 7 p.m. †Elena Firavicius (relatives);

TUESDAY (December 15): 7 p.m. living and deceased benefactors; †Edvardas Peciulis (Prakapas family); special intention (RB);

WEDNESDAY (December 16): 7 p.m. in thanksgiving (JMC); †Ana Kisiel (V.Zaleckaite);

THURSDAY (December 17): 7 p.m. †Donatas Vaiciekauskas (wife); †Kestutis Sukys (G.Slabosevicius); †Edvardas Peciulis (R.J.Kuliesis); in thanksgiving (LU);

FRIDAY (December 18): 7 p.m. †Romualdas Tumpa (L.Tumpa); †Mary Anne Kuslikis (D.D.Danaitis-Stacey);

SATURDAY (December 19): 9 a.m. †Eugenijus Cuplinskas (family); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Jonas and Irena Zurinskas and deceased family members (E.Shishkus);

SUNDAY (December 20): 9 a.m. for Dirmantas', Nevulis' and Groen in't Woud deceased family members (family); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Alfonsas Stanevicius (Stanevicius family); in thanksgiving - for †Fr. E.Jurgutis, ofm and †Fr. P.Sarnickas, ofm (Stanevicius family); for Judvytis', Dackus' and Vydmantas' living and deceased family members (GJ); special intention - SG (IM); for Giendrienis' and Laurinavicius' deceased family members (L.D.Laurinavicius); †Marija and Pranas Laurinaitis (A.Laurinaitis); †Albina (24th anniv.) and Petras (10th anniv.) Styra (family); †Louis Pogorski (family); †Viktoras Jankauskas (J.R.Kuliesius).

Capital Fund - \$ 311,549

THANK YOU...

*"For it is in giving that we receive".
Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

**Collections, beginning week of
December 6th - 10th**

13 envelopes - \$ 2,260

Direct deposit - \$ 2,210

eTransit - \$ 350

*In memory of Mary Anne Kuslikis friends
donated to the parish \$ 2,080*

THANK you for your generosity



Dear parishioners,

Recognizing the health and safety measures announced by the Province of Ontario on November 20, 2020, aimed at controlling the spread of COVID 19 in the region, Thomas Cardinal Collins has directed parishes in Toronto to implement some new restrictions. We are sharing them here, along with the impact on our parish:

- By Monday, November 23, 2020, parishes must restrict attendance inside the church to 10 people, including priests hearing confessions or a staff member/volunteer required to monitor capacity restrictions. Due to these measures, public Masses must be temporarily cancelled. The Franciscan Fathers will celebrate private Mass daily for the intentions of parishioners and for those suffering from Covid-19.
- While maintaining the maximum capacity of 10 people, our church will be open for private prayer weekdays between 5PM and 7PM, and Sundays 8AM to 10AM.
- For the faithful to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, please call 416-533-0621 and make an appointment.
- Weddings, funerals and baptisms (without Mass) are restricted to 10 persons, including those who are involved in ministry (priest, cantor, etc.).
- Parishioners are encouraged to view online/livestream/televised Masses. A full list is available at www.archtoronto.org and Cardinal Collins will continue to celebrate the live-streamed Mass each day from St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica at 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass (in Lithuanian), from our parish, will continue to be available via YouTube.
- No meetings should take place in parish halls or other church spaces at this time.

We join with Cardinal Collins in his expression of hope that we will soon be able to fully and safely resume public worship. And as we enter into this very unique Advent season, we will inform you of additional virtual ways to stay connected through the "Parish News" and www.prisikelimas.ca.

**The Lord leads and cares for ALL of you in this difficult time
and leads you to bright hope...**

Your 2021 Church Collection Envelopes - are available at the back of the church Monday-Friday, from 9 am till 12 pm.

All donations for tax purposes should reach the Parish Office by the **31st of December, 2020. Please don't wait until the last day.**

Donations to the parish should be written to **Resurrection Parish** and in the MEMO, write the charitable purpose: **Donation to Parish, Mass.**

Donations to the Franciscan Fathers should be written to **Franciscan Fathers** and in the MEMO, write the charitable purpose: **Monastery, Parish renovation fund, Capital fund, Sielovada, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.**

Donor envelopes - we ask that everyone donating to the parish, or in support of its causes, by way of donor envelopes, kindly ensures that **all the information requested on the envelope front is submitted correctly, i.e. name, address, etc.**

Thank you in advance!



Plotkeles/Kaledaiciai are available in the Parish Office, Monday-Friday, from 9 am till 12 pm. 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.



Christmas is fast approaching. As we prepare to celebrate, let's remember our less fortunate brothers and sisters in **Lithuania**. Throughout Advent, donations to support soup kitchens in Lithuania may be made by leaving the donation in the parish mailbox, at RCU bank or by e-transfer.

Thank you for your generosity in this difficult time ...

Our parish started a FOOD DRIVE in aid of the needy in Toronto. NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.



5TH ANNUAL FRANCISCAN NATIVITY SCENE COMPETITION

Let's join Franciscan Parishes across Lithuania in the tradition of creating nativity scenes. Families and individuals are invited to build 3D nativities and submit photos to an online gallery. Online voting will determine the favourites in various categories. We invite you to photograph and register your creation at www.prakartele.lt by December 14.

A meaningful, fun and creative activity for this pandemic Advent. Kids (14 and under) may opt to submit drawings instead of 3D models.

Get inspiration for your nativity scene by reading the Gospel according to Luke (Lk 2, 1-21)

Share locally - post your photos to the parish's Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/prisikelimo.parapija>

Or email to musuprakartele@gmail.com to share on the parish website.

A blessed Advent to all!

On December 20th, Lithuanian food will be available for take-out. Pre-ordering is mandatory by email to Grazina Valintiene grazinav2@hotmail.com. If you do not receive confirmation by email, please call 647-869-6164. In your email, please specify the items and quantities you wish to order, as well as the time you will be picking up your order. Prices: 1 cabbage roll - \$5; 1 potato dumpling (cepelinas) - \$5; 1 portion potato casserole (kugelis) - \$12

Pick-up will be outside the kitchen door in the corner of the back parking lot between 10AM and 1PM. PRE-ORDERS ONLY.

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"



With the Apostolic Letter "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from today, 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled **Patris corde** ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

Church grants plenary indulgence for year of St. Joseph - The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A beloved, tender, obedient father - Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience His truth and tenderness," – because "we know that God's truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us" (2).

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his 'fiat' he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to "do the will of the Father." Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption," as St John Paul II said, "and is truly a minister of salvation" (3).

A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge - In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, "Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]" he has "recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary." This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph," on account of its closing words: "My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power."

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

THE PARISH IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
CONTENT OF THE ADS

PLEASE NOTE:

Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the MEMO write the charitable purpose: **Donation to Parish or Mass.**

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



*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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Parish office administrator: Gitana Judvytyte

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