

# CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 51 (3525) December 17th, 2023

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT - B



2023

**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)

**2024 January 1st**

**NEW YEAR**

9 a.m. Mass (in EN)

11 a.m. Mass (in LT)



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](http://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](http://dailyscripture.net)) †R.R.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

## SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m.	†Albina and Petras Styra	(family)
11 a.m.	for living and deceased parishioners	
	for peace in the world	
	†Ona and Vytautas Judvytis and for living and deceased friends	(GJ)
	†Sofija and Juozas Oleka	(O.Oleka)
	†Vaclovas Anskis	(Stanevicius family)
	special intention	(NN)
	for Dirmantas', Nevulis' and Groen in't Woud deceased family members	(family)
	†Albina and Antanas Laurinaitis	(daughter)
	†Viktoras Jankauskas	(R.J.Kuliesius)
	request grace of health for Emilija Navickiene	(V.M.Navickas)
	†Egle Sirtautaite	(V.M.Navickas)
	†Elena and Romualdas Mankelevicius	(daughter)
	†Jonas Buksaitis	(family)

**Office hours  
during the  
Holidays**

**December 22**

**OPEN**

**9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**December 25-26**

**CLOSED**

**December 29**

**OPEN**

**9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**January 1, 2024**

**CLOSED**

### Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - Zibute Janeliunas and Ted Chornomaz

11 AM - children, Aleksia, Lina and Lile Vadauskas

organist - Ilona Beres

### The week's Holy Masses

**MONDAY** (December 18): 7 p.m. †Edita Putrimas (Prakapas family); †Vaclovas and Zita Girnius (G.Senkus);

**TUESDAY** (December 19): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Eugenijus Cuplinskas and Daiva Damaseviciute (Cuplinskas family);

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

**THURSDAY** (December 21): 7 p.m. †Antanas Ceponis (V.Zaleckaite); †Antanas Neverauskas (Neverauskas); †Terese Tuse Zeleskis (Jaglowitz family);

**FRIDAY** (December 22): 7 p.m. asking for the intercession of St. Anthony (Erinija and Elena); †Jae Yeon Cheon (L.Young);

**SATURDAY** (December 23): 9 a.m. †Albina and Antanas Laurinaitis (R.Buksaitis); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Zidoras Antanaitis and deceased family members (E.Shishkus);

**SUNDAY** (December 24): 9 a.m. for Brough, Cerniauskas' & Pranckevicius' deceased family members (S.Brough & D.Pranaitis); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas ("Kretinga"); †Jonas Stanaitis (14th anniv.) (I.Stanaitis); †Kazimieras Kalinauskas (Prakapas family); †Elenas and Jurgis Krakauskas (Januska family); †Ieva and Vincas Jonuska (Januska family); †Raimundas Sungaila (1st anniv.) (wife); request blessings of the Lord for grandchildren (NN);

**(December 24 - Christmas Eve):** 10 p.m. 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.

## Capital Fund - \$ 366,710

In memory of Marija Gudelis the family donated \$2,000

G.Laurinaitis, R.Rygelis, R.A.Sileika - \$ 2,750

## THANK YOU...

**"For it is in giving that we receive".**

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Sunday (12.10) and "Vilnius Manor" Collections -**

50 envelopes - \$ 2,495

No envelopes - \$ 155

Direct deposit - \$ 1,540

**THANK you for your generosity...**

**We invite you today to stop by our cafeteria for Lithuanian food: cepelinas, kugelis and soup. Also enjoy coffee and sweets after 9 am and 11 am Mass. We invite everyone to attend!**

*"Volunge" choir sincerely thanks*

*RCU for \$2,000 and "Talka" for \$2,000*

*for their donations for the Annual Christmas concert.*

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** will be accepted in the church vestibule.



### Plotkeles/Kaledaiciai

are 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.

**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.

*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 are inviting all parishioners to make one or more heartfelt greeting cards at home or in the parish TODAY after 9am and 11am Mass in the parish café. Your greeting cards will bring them hope, love, joy and peace as well as a feeling of close connection to our community. All materials will be provided.*

*In addition, we will be collecting donations of new jigsaw puzzles (24, 50, 100...up to 300 pieces) for our friends at Labdara. Puzzles provide many exceptional benefits including exercise for the mind and help with socialization.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vida Dirmantaitė-Groen in 't Woud; [vidag@primus.ca](mailto:vidag@primus.ca)*

*We thank you for your continued support and outstanding generosity.*

The Resurrection Parish "Labdara" committee is pleased to announce that our fall Rummage Sale was a success, not only financially but in bringing people together for this worthwhile event!

All other items were donated to - Ukrainian Community, Dr. Simone "Food For Children", Bible Mission, Salvation Army prisoners(books).

We are sincerely grateful to all who contributed their time and effort before, during and after the rummage sale.

We THANK our Franciscan fathers, Pastor Jonas, Rev. Fr. Augustinas for their continued support and encouragement, Fr. Raimundas who worked tirelessly all week and Gitana for her ongoing support!

Income is allocated for the following: \$ 15,000 to the Resurrection Parish; for St. John Church in Anapolis, Franciscan Charity Projects in Lithuania, Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program, Good Shepherd, Haven On The Queensway, Covenant House.

During the sale, the Labdara committee members in charge were: Raminta Nakrosius, Dalia Rocca, Ramune Stravinskas.

### **AČIŪ to ALL!**

**Volunteer list:** G.Adie, K.A.Ambrozaitis, D.Armstrong, A.M.Aschenbrenner, D.Babeckas, A.Balaisis, V.Baliunas, D.Baronaitis, B.Batraks, A.Batten, I.Beres, V.B.Bireta, E.R.Birgiola, R.Breen, K.Briand, A.Bubulis, G.Budrys, Fr.R.Bukauskas, OFM, A.Butrimas, N.Campbell, A.Cepas, V.Cernauskas, L.R.Chomyc, A.Ciaucionas, D.Colgan, K.Dambaras-Janowicz, J.Danaitis, D.Danaitis, A.DeFina, B.B.Degutis, R.Dickinson, D.Didzbalis, G.S.DiMaria, R.Downey, R.Duda, J.Gabrys, L.Gabrys, V.Gacionis, M.Gaizutis, K.Gataveckas, R.Girdauskas, R.Girdauskas, M.O.Glodkovas, M.V.Groen in't Woud, T.Groen in't Woud, L.R.Grybas, D.Gudelis, I.Gutauskas, A.Hall, G.Hardt, M.Heinz, M.Hurst, R.Jaglowitz, G.Jaseliunas, G.Judvytyte, I.Juodis, V.Juozaitis, D.Juozapavicius, V.Juzukonis, A.L.Kaminskas, R.Karasijus, A.Karka, D.Kausilas, V.Kausilas, B.Kazlauskas, G.Kobelskis, R.A.Krasauskas, J.Krisciunas, R.Kuliesius, R.Kulnys-Douglas, R.Kumpa, B.Kuncevicius, J.Kuras, G.Laurinaitis, L.Laurinavicius, L.LeBlanc, R.Legere, A.Levisauskas, N.Lewington, A.Liaukus, J.Macijauskas, M.Mora, R.Masionis, G.Matukas, G.Misetich, A.Nakrosius, A.Z.Nausedas, D.Nauseda, M.V.Navickas, G.J.Neimanas, O.Neimanas, I.A.G.A.Oliveira, R.Paskauskas, C.Petrauskas, I.Petrauskas, R.Pilipavicius, I.Pivoriute, J.Planciuniene, A.Pleinyis, I.Poskus, B.Prakapas, D.Pranaitis, V.V.Prasauskas, R.D.Puteris, V.Puzeris, D.Radziunas, I.Radziunas, D.Ratavicius, A.Rimkus, G.Rocca, J.Ruslys, N.Ruslys, R.Rygelis, S.Rygelis, T.Rygelis, R.Saplys, N.Senda, A.Sergautis, J.Serianni, R.Siauciulis, R.Siauciunas, Fr.J.Sileika, OFM, R.Sileika, S.Sileika, R.Simanavicius, D.Simanavicius, L.Simanavicius, A.N.Simanavicius, V.Smailys, I.Stanaitis, V.Stanevicius, A.D.O.Stanevicius-Mills, R.Stanulis, L.Stanulis-Duz, A.R.Stauskas, R.Steer, D.Steponaitis, H.Steponaitis, O.Stoncius, V.Stoncius, R.Stravinskas, M.Sungaila, D.Sysak, I.Tarvydas, R.V.Tirilis, Y.Tomasic, J.Totoraitis, L.Underis, R.Urnieziene, R.Vaisvila, D.Valaitis, A.G.Valavicius, L.Valker, D.Vaskevicius, M.Vebeliunas, V.Vingelis, N.Vytas, J.Ycas, F.I.Zilinskas, L.V.Zubrickas.

May the Lord bless your good works.

Labdara - The Parish Committee for Charitable Causes

**LORD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ...  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2024!**



### **Pope Francis: Mission of proclaiming the Gospel involves every Christian**

Concluding his cycle of Wednesday Catecheses

dedicated to the apostolic zeal of the believer, Pope Francis emphasizes that every baptized person is called to witness and announce the Gospel to all peoples. The passion for the proclamation of the Gospel "involves every Christian, from the beginning", Pope Francis reiterated at his weekly General Audience on Wednesday, concluding his cycle of reflections on Christian apostolic zeal.

The Pope began the catechesis by inviting the faithful to reflect on the "Rite of the Ephphatha" performed during the Sacrament of Baptism.

He recalled that this rite comes from Jesus' miraculous healing of deaf and dumb man in Galilee.

Proclaiming God's salvific and liberating presence to all - Pope Francis noted that, as recounted by Mark's Gospel, that miracle was accomplished in territories then predominantly inhabited by pagans, not Jews. This, the Pope said, shows us that Jesus is able to open the ears and the mouths of those who can't hear or speak, where deafness and muteness in the Bible signify metaphorically being closed to God's call.

To be opened to witness the Gospel - Pope Francis then drew attention to another indicative sign in that episode: the decisive word 'ephphatha' Jesus uttered, which in Aramaic means, "Be opened". That word, he explained, is an invitation addressed not only to the deaf and dumb, who could not hear Him, but specifically to His disciples both of that time and of all times.

"We too, who have received the 'ephphatha' of the Spirit in Baptism", said the Pope, "are called to be opened" because "the Gospel message needs you to bear witness to it and proclaim it!"

Witnesses not ideologues of closure - Pope Francis went on to note that this should also make us reflect on our attitude as Christians: "A Christian", he said, "must be open to the Word of God and to serving others. Closed Christians always end up badly, because they are not Christians, they are ideologues, ideologues of closure", he added.

*"A Christian must be open in announcing the Word and in welcoming his brothers and sisters. And for this reason, this 'ephphatha' is an invitation to all of us."*

Let us feel called to be missionaries - Recalling that even at the end of the Gospels, Jesus entrusts us with His missionary desire, Pope Francis, therefore, reiterated his call to the faithful "to feel called, because of our baptism, to witness to and proclaim Jesus" and "ask for the grace to bring about a pastoral and missionary conversion".

"Each one of us," he concluded, "should ask him or herself: 'Do I truly love the Lord to the point of wanting to announce Him? Do I want to become his witness or am I content to be his disciple? Do I take to heart the people I meet, bringing them to Jesus in prayer? Do I want to do something so that the joy of the Gospel, which has transformed my life, might make their lives more beautiful?'"



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](mailto: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](http://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, 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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*Season's Greetings*

Wishing you a festive and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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*We wish you a very  
Happy Holiday season and  
a peaceful New Year!*

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FRIENDS AT RCU CREDIT UNION!

**RCU** CREDIT UNION  
KREDITO UNIJA

**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:**  
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