

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr.51 (3473) December 18th, 2022

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT - A



Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: "... The virgin shall be with child ... and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God. (loyolapress.com) †R.R.

Let the Lord enter. He is the king of glory.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m. †Albina (26th anniv.) and Petras (12th anniv.) Styra (family)

11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners

for peace in Ukraine and the world

†Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (KLLM)

†Fr. Eugenijus Jurgutis, ofm and Fr.Pijus Sarpnickas, ofm (Stanevicius family)

†Janina and Juozas Sarunas (Ruta G.)

†Elyte and Romualdas Mankelevicius (daughter)

†Levute and Vldas Pevcevicus (A.Jurcevicus)

†Viktoras Jankauskas (R.J.Kuliesius)

†Milda (1st anniv.) and Rimas Trumpickas (L.Dauginis)

†Kazimieras Pajaujįs (Senda family)

†Julius Nevulis (O.Dirmantas)

request grace of health and Lord's blessings for sister Stella (sister Irena)



2022

December 24

9:30 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)

2023 January 1st

NEW YEAR

9 a.m. Mass (in EN)

11 a.m. Mass (in LT)

**Office hours during
the Holidays**

December 23

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

December 26-27

CLOSED

December 30

OPEN

9 a.m. - 12 noon

January 2, 2023

CLOSED

Cantors of the Masses:
9 AM - *Gintas Pabedinskas*
11 AM - *Children*
organist - *Ilona Beres*

HOLY MASSES December 19th - 25th

MONDAY (December 19): 7 p.m. †Eugenijus Cuplinskas (family);

TUESDAY (December 20): 7 p.m. living and deceased benefactors;

WEDNESDAY (December 21): 7 p.m. †Antanas Ceponis (V.Zaleckaite); †Viktoras Grazulis (K.Buozis);

THURSDAY (December 22): 7 p.m. †Kazimieras Kalinauskas (Prakapas family);

FRIDAY: (December 23): 7 p.m. †Edita Putrimas (V.White);

SATURDAY (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.

SUNDAY (December 25 - Christmas): 9 a.m. for Brough, Cernauskas' & Pranckevicius' deceased family members (S.Brough & D.Pranaitis); 11 a.m. living and deceased parishioners; †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (St.George parish, Rochester, NY); request Lord's blessings for family and friends (GJ); †Alfonsas Stanevicius (5th anniv.) (Stanevicius family); †Kazimieras Grigaravicius (granddaughters and families); †Elena and Jurgis Krakauskas (Jonuska family); †Juozas and Ona Gataveckas (D.Berius); †Marija and Bronius Matusевичius and deceased family members (family); †Marius Lelenas (Victoria); for Vanagas' and Kazlauskas' deceased family members (A.S.Vanagas).

Capital Fund - \$ 331,570

R.R.Smolskis, R.Inciura, R.R. - \$ 1,050

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Collections of December 11th

41 envelopes - \$ 1,695

No envelopes - \$ 115.25

Direct deposit - \$ 1,445

Donations for parish renovations:

Dr.B.Dr.C.Jonys - \$4,000; J.Neimanas - \$1,500;

D.Sablinskas - \$ 1,000

In memory of Alfonsas Juozapavicius' 10th death anniversary, the family donated \$ 1,000 to the parish

THANK you for your generosity



Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated on Thursday evenings during Advent. We look forward to your attending the encounter with Jesus Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

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.

LAST SUNDAY before Christmas, please remember our

less fortunate brothers and sisters in Lithuania.

Beginning today, and throughout Advent, **donations to support soup kitchens in Lithuania** will be accepted in the church vestibule.

In the true Christmas spirit, why not consider making a donation instead of buying gifts?



TODAY, December 18th, after 9 am and 11 am Mass ateitininkai are inviting all to enjoy coffee and cookies.

Sincere thanks for your donations in support of Ukraine. Last week our shipment of thermal socks and underwear reached a unit of volunteer defenders in the Nikolaev region of Ukraine. One of the unit's 21 members is the son of one of our parishioners, and the bulk of the goods in the shipment were donated by Tundra Lee (Ehlers) and her military colleagues in the Canadian Armed Forces.



The Ukrainian volunteers are still very much in need of warm clothing, suitable for military use. The cost to properly outfit one volunteer defender is approximately \$1000 and Tundra and her colleagues are continuing their efforts to supply the necessary gear. Samples of the clothing are on display in the vestibule.

To donate to this noble cause please make cheques payable to Franciscan Fathers, memo-Aid to Ukraine.

On Wednesday Pope Francis encouraged us to celebrate Christmas with the people of Ukraine in our hearts, to celebrate humbly and give what we save to help Ukraine, Today, we have a very concrete opportunity to do so.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2022-12/pope-renews-closeness-to-ukrainians-need-humanitarian-help.html>

In memory of Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas, RCU donated to the parish \$2,500 and to camp "Kretinga" \$2,500.

In memory of Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas "Parama" bank donated \$1,000 to the parish.

In memory of Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas \$8,250 was donated to the parish.

In memory of Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas \$15,985 was donated to camp "Kretinga".

In memory of Edita Putrimas her family donated \$ 1,000.

In memory of Edita Putrimas \$2,540 was donated to the parish.

In memory of Edita Putrimas \$2,625 was donated to camp "Kretinga".

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 cafeteria today after 9am and 11am Mass. Your greeting cards will bring them hope, love, joy and peace as well as a feeling of close connection to our community. 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.

Greeting card and puzzle donations may be dropped off in the collection box that is placed in front of the parish doors or in the parish cafeteria after Sunday masses. Today is the last day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Vida Dirmantaitė-Groen in't Woud; vidag@primus.ca

We thank you for your continued support and outstanding generosity.



ATTENTION -THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR DONATIONS DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME. EVERY DONATION HELPS WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE CHURCH AND THE PARISH...

YOUR 2023 CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES - ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH.

A request regarding donor's envelopes – Please ensure that all the **information** requested on the donor's envelope is **completed**: your first and last name, current address, envelope number (if you are not using a personalized envelope, but a generic one).

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: 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, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda.

Pope at Audience: A good disciple is vigilant

Pope Francis comes to "the final phase of catechesis on discernment" at the weekly General Audience, focusing his reflections on the importance of vigilance.



Over the course of the past few weeks, Pope Francis' weekly catechesis has focused on different aspects of discernment, from prayer, self-knowledge, desire, and the "book of life"; to desolation and consolation, the matter of discernment; and, most recently, the confirmation that accompanies the choices made.

At Wednesday's General Audience, Pope Francis began the "final phase of this journey of catechesis," reflecting on the attitude of vigilance, an attitude essential to ensuring that the work of discernment is not in vain.

There is a genuine risk, the Pope explained, that the Evil One could "ruin everything," leaving us even worse than we were to start with.

"This is why it is indispensable to be vigilant. Therefore, today it seemed appropriate to emphasize this attitude, which we all need for the discernment process to succeed."

The good disciple is vigilant

The Holy Father pointed out that the Lord Himself, in the Gospels, insisted on the fact that "the good disciple is vigilant" and does not slumber, but instead remains "alert and ready to do his duty."

He recalled Jesus admonition, "Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning... blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes." This, the Pope said, "is the frame of mind for the Christians who await the final coming of the Lord; but can also be seen as the normal attitude to have in the conduct of life."

Without vigilance, we risk everything

He warned, "If vigilance is lacking, there is a very high risk that all will be lost." This risk is not primarily psychological, but spiritual, "a real snare of the evil spirit," who waits till we become complacent in order to ensnare us.

Turning to the Gospel passage chosen for Wednesday's audience, Pope Francis noted that in the short parable that was proclaimed, the unclean spirit, having been cast out of the house, returns with seven spirits even worse than himself. "How is it possible for them to enter undisturbed?" the Pope asked. He explained that this came about because the homeowner had become complacent, in love with himself, and "had stopped waiting for the Lord."

"When we trust too much in ourselves and not in God's grace, then the Evil One finds the door open. So, he organizes the expedition and takes possession of that house."

One must remain vigilant

It might seem impossible to fall from a good state to a state even worse than when one started, but it can and does happen, the Pope said. "Everyone can confirm this by thinking back on their own personal history." Pope Francis concluded, "It is not enough to carry out good discernment and to make a good choice. One must remain vigilant."

"Vigilance is a sign of wisdom, it is above all a sign of humility, which is the high road of the Christian life."

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