

# St. Stanislaus Cathedral

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

529 East Locust St. Scranton, PA 18505

Parish Office 570-961-9231

www.saintstanislauspncc.org

Email: office@saintstanislauspncc.org

The Right Reverend Bernard J. Nowicki, DD, Pastor

bishop@saintstanislauspncc.org

The Reverend Sean Dodd, Assistant Pastor

frdodd@saintstanislauspncc.org

Ms. Rebecca Elfman, Director of Music & Organist

Mrs. Mary Ann Stankowski, Bell Choir Director

---

## December 14, 2025 ~ Third Sunday of Advent

---

PRELUDE *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

setting, Georg Bohm

### Prayer Before Holy Mass (please rise)

*My dear God and loving Father, as I participate in this Holy Mass, may Jesus fill me with His holy grace when I open my heart to Him in sincere prayer. May the sacraments I will receive, the prayers that I will say and the hymns that I will sing bring me closer to Jesus and help me to be more like Him in all that I say and do. May the Holy Communion that I will receive give me strength, so that I may share faith, hope and love with the people I will meet. Amen.*

### THE LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

C: "He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire." (Luke 3:16)

C: Our help is in the name of the Lord. **R: Who made heaven and earth.**

C: Lord hear our prayer. **R: And let our cry come to you.**

C: The Lord be with you. **R: And also with you.**

READER: *In the Third Week of Advent, we are called to respond to the gifts and graces we received in our baptism. We ask, "Does my life today fulfill the expectations and responsibilities of bearing the name of Christian?" What are we doing for the hungry, the oppressed, the sick, the lonely? Do we truly care about the needs of others? Do we accomplish*

*cheerfully all that is expected of us in the work place or the classroom? (Light the two purple and one rose candle)*

C: Almighty and loving God, Your Son has taught us the way to live as Your children. We were blessed in our baptisms with special gifts and graces, and still there are times when we find it hard to be all that we should be. We ask for an increased awareness of the needs of others and for the courage to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Please, God, help us to live in Your grace that all who know us will know You and Your love. **R: Amen.**

### OPENING HYMN 17 *Send the Savior* (1, 2)

Send the Savior from the heavens to the earthly fields below.  
Sinful mankind cried in sorrow from the depths of sin and woe.  
When mankind its God rejected, sin and fear the world infected,  
And heavy guilts, transgressions, closed the gates of salvation.

But the Father had compassion on the people's wretched fate.  
Son of God gave Himself freely, Father's will to consummate.  
O be joyful, tribe of Adam, soon the Savior comes from heaven.  
Make straight the way of the Lord! See the end of tribulation.

CONFITEOR - *Traditional Mass* Page 16 ~ *Contemporary Mass* Page 66

### INTROIT

Isaiah 26:19b; 29:19

C: Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust. For your dew is a dew of light, and the land of shades gives birth. **R: The lowly will ever find joy in the Lord, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.** C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. **R: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE Advent Kyrie (based on *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

## OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Father, we joyfully approach the celebration of Your Son's birth. May He bring us pardon and freedom from the burden of our sins. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

## ~ LITURGY OF THE WORD ~

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee.

*This is the Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.*

### GRADUAL - *Traditional Mass*

Psalm 146:5-7

C: Happy are those whose help is Jacob's God; whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them, **R: Who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM - *Contemporary Mass*

Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

Text © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP. Reprinted under OneLicense A-725360. All rights reserved.

**R. Lord, come and save us.**

### **R. Lord, come and save us.**

The LORD God keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets captives free.

### **R. Lord, come and save us.**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;  
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.  
The LORD loves the just;  
the LORD protects strangers.

### **R. Lord, come and save us.**

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The LORD shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

### **R. Lord, come and save us.**

### SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers and sisters, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

*This is the Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.*

ALLELUIA

Malachi 3:23

W. H. Monk, arr. Elfman

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu ia.

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** C: Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: ‘Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.’

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

*This is the gospel of the Lord.* **R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT *Advent Prayer*

Holy Spirit, make me see all His coming means for me.

Take the gifts of Christ, I pray, show them to my heart today. Amen.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - *Contemporary Mass*

**R: Lord hear our prayer.**

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

OFFERTORY VERSE

John 1:6-7

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

OFFERTORY SOLO *Come Thou and with us dwell*

William Byrd

My faults, O Christ, do I confess and do Thy mercy crave:  
 O come Thou to wash my sins, O come Thou my soul to save:  
 Let then the brightness of Thy birth the clouds of sin expel.  
 Thou art the hope of all the world: come Thou and with us dwell.  
 Then shall my tongue forever sing due praises to thy Name;  
 Thy only wish is that we be still thankful for the same;  
 To Thee, the Father and the Spirit of grace be praise for aye.  
 Sing and rejoice and God above do magnify alway.  
 Sing and rejoice and God above do magnify alway.

Rebecca Elfman, soprano **(8:00)**

Dr. Barbara Nowicki, soprano **(9:30)**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, prepare our hearts to receive Your Son, the gift of life and peace, Who will become present in this Sacred Offering. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Proulx

## CANON ~

THE LORDS PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Elfman

POST-COMMUNION HYMN *O How Shall I Receive You?* (verses as needed)

O how shall I receive You, how welcome You aright,  
Blest hope of ev'ry nation, my comfort and delight?  
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by Your own pure light  
To know whate'er is pleasing and welcome in Your sight.

Love caused Your incarnation; love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led You to embrace,  
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and troubled race.

I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.  
Rejoice then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom.  
There is no depth of darkness too deep for God to plumb.

Unending thanks and praises from my glad heart shall spring,  
And to Your name, the service of all my pow'rs I bring.  
We welcome You, our Savior! Lord Jesus, quickly come,  
Send forth Your light so cheering, and guide us safely home.

COMMUNION VERSE

Psalm 146:8-9

The Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord protects the stranger, sustains the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the way of the wicked.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, our God, we thank You for the coming of Your Son in this Holy Eucharist. Open our eyes to the needs of the sick and the poor, for unless we see Him in our brothers and sisters, we will never recognize His final coming. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING (please kneel)

DISMISSAL

C: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **R: Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer After Holy Mass (please remain kneeling)**

*I am grateful to You, Lord, that I was able to come to church and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. I thank You for receiving Your gracious pardon, Your instruction and teaching through Your Word, and Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion. May Your sacraments continue to strengthen and help me to be faithful to You and Your Church. Help me to face all the challenges of life on my journey to Your heavenly kingdom. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *27 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (1, 3, 4)

Comfort, comfort ye My people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Hark the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked. Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now on earth is shed abroad  
And all flesh shall see the token that His word is never broken.

POSTLUDE *O Savior, Rend The Heavens Wide*

setting, H. Walcha