

St. Stanislaus Cathedral

The First Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church

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December 28, 2025 ~ Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds

PRELUDE *Prelude in Bb*

J. S. Bach

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.

OPENING HYMN 41 *Bracia Patrzcie Jeno/Brothers, Look to Heaven* (1-Polish, 2, 3- English)

Bracia, patrzcie jeno, jak niebo goreje.

Znać, że coś dziwnego w Betlejem się dzieje.

Rzućmy chaty, warty, stada, niechaj niemi Pan Bog włada,

A my do Betlejem, a my do Betlejem, do Betlejem.

Brothers, look to heaven! See the herald flaming

Over ancient Judah, majesty proclaiming.

Let us leave our flocks here bidding, as we heed the angel's tidings.

Hurry on to Bethl'em, hurry on to Bethl'em, to Bethl'em.

See the wonder, brethren! Here in veiled divinity

Lies in helpless childhood He who framed infinity.

Let us meet this gentle stranger, Who for us lies in a manger.

Hurry on to Bethl'em, hurry on to Bethl'em, to Bethl'em.

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

INTROIT

Wisdom 18:14-15a; Psalm 93:2

C: For when peaceful stillness compassed everything and the night in its swift course was half spent, Your all-powerful word from heaven's royal throne bounded, a fierce warrior, into a doomed land. **R: Your throne stands firm from of old; You are from everlasting, Lord.**
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

O'Connor

GLORIA

Englert

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father, when Your Son came into this world You chose humble shepherds as the first witnesses of His Incarnation. As we honor them, may we continue to proclaim His presence among us. 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

Jeremiah 31:10-14

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together, he guards them as a shepherd his flock. The Lord shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion, they shall come streaming to the Lord's blessings: The grain, the wine, and the oil, the sheep and the oxen; they themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish. Then the virgins shall make merry and dance, and young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console and gladden them after their sorrows. I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and my people shall be filled with my blessings, says the Lord.

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

GRADUAL - *Traditional Mass*

Psalm 45:3, 2a

C: You are the most handsome of men; fair speech has graced your lips. **R: My heart is stirred by a noble theme, as I sing my ode to the king.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM - *Contemporary Mass*

Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12



R. A light will shine on us this day: the Lord is born for us.

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R. A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many isles be glad.
The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory.

R. A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.

Light dawns for the just; and gladness, for the upright of heart.
Be glad in the LORD, you just, and give thanks to his holy name.

R. A light will shine on us this day; the Lord is born for us.

SECOND LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit He lavished on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, that we might be justified by His grace and become heirs, in hope, of eternal life.

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

ALLELUIA

Matthew 24:21

Choir, then all:
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

C: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** C: The Lord is king, robed with majesty; the Lord is robed, girded with might. **R: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us.” They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them.

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

LIVING NATIVITY The Children of St. Stanislaus Cathedral

HYMN *Shepherds, I Can See You*

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Lois Myers Emig

*Shepherds, I can see you on the path leading you to Bethlehem.
Shepherds, I can see you running fast on the way to Bethlehem.
Shepherds, I can see you 'neath the star leading you to Bethlehem.
Shepherds, I can see you from afar on the way to Bethlehem.
The shepherds are coming to Bethlehem this night.
The star is their guide with its brightly shining light.
They eagerly seek Him Whom earth has waited long
And hurry to greet Him, Whom angels praise with song.*

The Cathedral Chorale

HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT 143 *Holy Spirit, Dwell Within Us* (1, 2)

Holy Spirit, dwell within us. Great Creator, come and teach us.
Send Your grace and consolation. Fill the hearts of Your creation.

You were named by God in Heaven: Comforter, the soul's Companion,
Fire of Love, O Living Fountain. Counsel us: our hearts enlighten.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - *Contemporary Mass*

R: Lord hear our prayer.

~ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ~

OFFERTORY VERSE

Give to the Lord the glory due His Name! Bring gifts and enter His courts.

Psalm 96:8

OFFERTORY HYMN 82 *The First Noel* (1, 2 & 6)

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Refrain) Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up, and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with His blood mankind hath bought. *(Refrain)*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Heavenly Father, in Your mercy accept our gifts that we offer. By sharing in this Holy Eucharist may we come to more fully live the love we profess. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

PREFACE

SANCTUS

Mushalko/Harrig

~ CANON ~

THE LORDS PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Elfman

POST-COMMUNION HYMN 60 *Tell Us, Shepherds Fair* (1-3, 5)

Tell us, shepherds fair, what did you see there?
“We saw Jesus in a manger, born this day to be our Savior:
Born the Son of God! Born the Son of God!”

Was His palace grand? Where was His command?
“In this poorly covered lodging, cattle warmed him with their lowing:
This was His abode! This was His abode!”

How was He adorned, Lord of heaven born?
“Not in pearls or purple vested, but in poor white linen dressed:
Lord of suffering, Lord of suffering!”

Is the Child of peace ‘mid the friendly beasts?
“Resting softly, free from danger, in the rough hay of the manger,
Sleeps the little Lord, sleeps the little Lord!”

COMMUNION VERSE

Psalm 9:19

The needy will never be forgotten, nor will the hope of the afflicted ever fade.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and Eternal God, through this Holy Communion may Your steadfast love be with us. Before all others You called the humble shepherds to give praise, honor and glory to Your Son at the stable in Bethlehem. We thank You that the poor, the humble and the forgotten in the world are remembered by You. 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: Let us bless 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 61 *Przybieżeli do Betlejem* (1-Polish 2, 4-English)

Przybieżeli do Betlejem pasterze,
Grając skocznie Dzieciąteczku na lirze.
(Chwała na wysokości, chwała na wysokości, a pokój na ziemi.)

They approached the manger in humility,
Bowling low with willing hearts, O God, to Thee!
(Glory to God on high, glory to God on high! Peace on earth, peace on earth!)

Now we know Him as our Savior, God and Lord,
Dedicating all the love our hearts afford.
(Glory to God on high, glory to God on high! Peace on earth, peace on earth!)

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*

setting, Hugo Gehrke

Wednesday, December 31 – Mass at the Close of the Year

7:00 pm – Holy Mass, *lower chapel*

Thursday, January 1, 2026 – Circumcision of Our Lord

10:00 am – Holy Mass, *lower chapel*

Friday, January 2

8:30 am – Healing Mass

Saturday, January 3

10:00 am – Confirmation class

11:00 am – First Communion class

Noon – 1:00 pm – One Hot Meal

Sunday, January 4 – Solemnity of the Holy Family

8:00 – Holy Mass

9:30 – Holy Mass

11:15 – Holy Mass

Tuesday, January 6 – Epiphany, Three Kings

10:00 am - Holy Mass, Cathedral