

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



We see Advent as a time of joyful preparation. It is a season of decorating, baking, cleaning, shopping and waiting.

Years ago, Advent was not seen with such enthusiasm. It was a serious time. Not quite as penitential as Lent, Advent was a time for confession and spiritual reflection. Christmas decorations did not go up early. The Christmas Tree was decorated on Christmas Eve. The Christmas season and celebration did not begin until Midnight Mass and continued until the Presentation of Jesus on February 2.

The pink candle, a sign that is Gaudete Sunday, lets us know that the time of preparation is almost over. We can allow a little bit of celebration on this Sunday to give us the patience we need to last a little while longer. The question for us is whether or not we even need this particular Sunday. Do we need a break from our serious preparations, or do we need a break from all the celebrating we have already been doing?

Are we already so tired that we cut out our spiritual preparations for Christmas? Do we take time for the anticipation of the season or are we busy with "other things"? Do we listen to music that reflects the birth of our Savior or just secular "holiday music"? Have our decorations been up so long that we can't wait to take them down? Has Christmas shopping ceased being fun and become a chore? Does the pink candle make any sense in our preparation for Christmas? Do we reflect on this past year?

Advent means waiting for the coming of Jesus into our lives, recognizing His presence among us and being ready for His return at the end of time.

For the rest of Advent, we might want to become a little more observant. We might ask if the pink candle makes sense, and if it does not, find a way to give it meaning.

## Holiday Masses and Penance Services



### Advent Penance Services

Monday, December 15  
6:15 PM for **Faith Formation Students/Families**

Wednesday, December 17  
12:45 PM at St. Thomas the Apostle  
7:00 PM at St. Mary, Wayne

### 4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 20 at 4:00 PM  
Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

### Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM and 10:00 PM  
Christmas Prelude of Music at 9:30 PM

### Christmas Day Mass

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

### Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses

Saturday, December 27 at 4:00 PM  
Sunday, December 28 at 9:00 AM and 11 AM

### Mary, Mother of God Masses

December 31 at 4:00 PM  
January 1 at 10:00 AM

### Epiphany Masses

January 3 at 4:00 PM  
January 4 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Behold,  
I am sending  
my messenger  
ahead of you;  
he will prepare  
your way  
before you.  
Matthew 11:10

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

31530 Beechwood Garden City MI 48135  
(734) 427-1533 [Thomastheapostle.org](http://Thomastheapostle.org)

SCAN  
TO DONATE





## This N That by Deacon Skip

When I was growing up, this was the worst time of the year. It was as if time has stood still, as if the hands of all the clocks had been glued down. Christmas would not get here. Now, I've reached the age when time flies. It would not surprise me now if I woke three days from now and it was the 4th of July.

For a moment I had a bright idea of what to buy for Christmas for one of my grandsons. I thought that a plastic model might be perfect. Kids don't talk about building models these days. When I went to the hobby shop, I found out why, the smallest models of aircraft and cars started at \$25; bigger models like battleships and aircraft carriers ran around \$125. This is a far cry when I could save my grass cutting money and buy a model for myself.

I exercised some initiative the Friday after Thanksgiving and put up my outside Christmas lights and decorated my front windows. I have the tree to go. As of the time I am writing it's too soon. I'll wait a week and go for a walk after dark to check the other decorations in the co-op and the nearby subdivision.

Don't forget SVDP; don't forget the food pantry.

### Ministriꝝ Cntr/SVdP (734) 425-9771



The pantry needs help with our ongoing service to the community. We are most in need of cans of fruit, grape or strawberry jelly, cans mixed vegetables, carrots, soup, beef stew, chili, pancake mix, syrup, dish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

If you would like to receive items from the pantry, please call (734) 425-9771.

## Scripture Readings for the Week of December 14, 2025

### Sunday, December 14, 2025

#### Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;  
Mt 11:2-11

### Monday, December 15, 2025

Num 24: 2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab; 6 and 7bc,  
8-9; Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and  
23; Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Gen 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17;  
Mt 1:1-17

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

### Friday, December 19, 2025

Jdg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17;  
Lk 1:5-25


### Saturday, December 20, 2025

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7;  
Mt 1:18-24



The Seaway Chorale and Orchestra under the  
direction of Anthony Lai presents

# Christmas Stories

Free and  
Open to All  
No registration  
required.

A Christmas Concert hosted by the  
St. Bonaventure Secular Fraternity  
and the Capuchin friars

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 AT 2:30 P.M.**



## Nankin Family of Parishes



### Mass Schedule

**St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy (734) 425-4421**  
8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

**St. Mary, Wayne (734) 721-8745**  
34530 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

**St. Richard (734) 729-2240**  
35851 Cherry Hill Road, Westland

**St. Thomas the Apostle (734) 427-1533**  
31530 Beechwood Street, Garden City

<b>Monday</b>	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland (followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
<b>Wednesday</b>	12:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 am	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland
<b>Friday</b>	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
<b>Saturday</b>	4:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	4:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	5:30 pm	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
<b>Sunday</b>	8:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	10:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
	11:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	11:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	2:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne (SPANISH)

#### Confessions (also by appointment)

<b>Tuesday</b>		St. Richard, Westland (after 9 am Mass)
<b>Saturday</b>	3:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	3:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	6:30 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland

#### Perpetual Help Devotion

Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass

#### Eucharistic Adoration (one hour)

First Friday of Each Month after 9:00 AM Mass



Please bring your own jingles bells to mass during the Christmas season to use during the Christmas Gloria.

## St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

### Mission Statement

We, as St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish, recognize that we are the Body of Christ. Our purpose is to honor God and grow as one in Jesus Christ. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we strive to serve others through Christian Service, Prayer and Worship, Education and Evangelization. We keep within our hearts and minds the statement of faith and conviction of our patron St. Thomas the Apostle, **"My Lord and my God."**

# Romans

*The Gospel of Salvation*

Coming in January to Nankin Family of Parishes:  
The study of St. Paul's letter to the Romans (more information to follow).

#### *St. Paul's Letter to Romans: The Gospel of Salvation*

Paul's letter to the Romans has been a focal point for reflection, conversion, and controversy from the very beginning. "Romans: The Gospel of Salvation" is a new eight-week Bible study we are offering to help you understand the challenging passages on faith, the works of the law, and justification. It provides an authentic, Catholic, comprehensive, and straightforward way to grasp this complex epistle.

Participants will meet weekly to watch an engaging video presentation by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, followed by group discussion and fellowship.

For more information, please contact Paul Zdzienkowski at 586-666-4029 or by email at [pastoralassociate@stmarywayne.org](mailto:pastoralassociate@stmarywayne.org).  
We hope you can join us!

Please scan the QR code to register.



WEST SIDE DETROIT POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO HOST NINETEENTH ANNUAL OPŁATEK (CHRISTMAS PROGRAM)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026 NOON – 3:30 P.M.  
ST. COLETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH ACTIVITIES CENTER  
(FAR BACK END OF PARKING LOT)  
17600 NEWBURGH ROAD  
LIVONIA, MI 48152

Doors open 11:30 a.m.; awards at noon. Sharing of opłatek (Polish Christmas wafers) and catered lunch by Veronica's (pierogi, kiełbasa/kapusta, bread & butter, Christmas cookies and desserts, coffee, tea, and water).

Attendees MUST R.S.V.P. at Eventbrite by no later than December 30: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-side-detroit-polish-american-historical-society-19th-annual-oplatek-tickets-1975698511432>

All are welcome! Merry Christmas! Wesołych Świąt!

For further information, please visit <https://www.detroitpolonia.org>; call or e-mail Ms. Laurie A. Gomulka and leave message for return call at 1/855-POLONIA (765-6642) or [Lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org](mailto:Lgomulka@detroitpolonia.org). WSDPAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit historical society.

Worship Schedule		December 20 & 21, 2025	
MINISTERS	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 9:00 AM	SUN 11:00 AM
CELEBRANT	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI
ALTAR SERVERS	JERRY KOWALCZYK	JOHN GALDES	ADAEZE ENWERE CHIAMAKA ENWERE
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	KATHY ANDRUS CANDY HENRY FRANK TOFIL VIKKI WOROSZ	DAN LOBB TEDDY LUTHER GLORY MCGAHAN JOAN PALMER	DENISE BIELSKI EVIE BURGESS JOHN SANREGRET JOE SMITH
LECTORS	CORDELIA CHUKWUDI	GAIL NABOZNY	VICTORIA APOLZAN
SACRISTAN	CAROL STEC	ANN MYLES	LAURIE EICHSTEDT
MASS INTENTIONS	+ JOSPEH OLKOWSKI + MARK (THAD) SMITH + ELIZABETH TRAVERS + BARBARA STEMPNIAK + THOMAS STEMPNIAK + ALL POOR SUFFERING SOULS IN PURGATORY	ALBERTO CORDOVA HERRERA	+ ROBERT DAVIS + GREG DAVIS & LITTLE ALEX + JOANN KATHAN

*Offertory collection is reported quarterly.*

Thank you for your support and may God bless you!

Please remember St. Thomas the Apostle when writing your will.

### ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE?

If you have been looking for a new parish we would appreciate you considering St. Thomas the Apostle as your parish. Stop by the Parish Center and fill out a registration form or download one from our website [www.thomastheapostle.org](http://www.thomastheapostle.org).

You can stop by the office, or put it in the collection basket at Mass. Young adults over 18 should be registered on their own registration form.

### Bulletin Editor

**[Sandy.Mulcahy@thomastheapostle.org](mailto:Sandy.Mulcahy@thomastheapostle.org)**

Bulletin article deadline is Monday before the issue date by 8:00 a.m. During holidays, articles must be submitted two Mondays before issue. All articles and submissions are subject to approval and editing.



### Weekday Masses

December 15-19, 2025

### Tuesday, December 16

9:00 am

JIM LANDRUM

### Wednesday, December 17

12:00 PM

+ JOHN & SOPHIE CHONACKI

### Friday, December 19

9:00 am

PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE



### Sanctuary Candle

FOR THE WEEK OF  
DEC 14-20, 2025

+ *Richard Strasser*

## Please Pray For...

Alaska, Shirley  
Batherson, Barbara  
Baumgardner, Patty  
Berger, Ron  
Beuer, Donna  
Block, Karen  
Boyak, Carolyn  
Bringold, Bonnie  
Burgess, Evie  
Burke, Larry  
Burris, Nikita and Family  
Calley, Julie  
Canini, Ricky  
Carpenter, Mike  
Cepko Family  
Chichila, Pam

Chop, Nancy Grabel  
Cielma, Genevieve  
Cislo, Dan  
Cole, Jean  
Cole, Regina  
D'Angelo, Rebecca  
Dacus, Shirley  
Daugherty, Kenny  
Decaminada, Mona  
DeGrande, Colleen  
Dempsey, Sgt Joseph  
Dempsey, Michele  
Dewey, Thomas  
Dial, Philip  
Durkin Jr., Gerald Lee  
Duval, Chuck  
Dzendzel, Mary Ann  
Eichstedt, Laurie

Eves, Debbie  
Feiler, Alex Horne  
Fichtner, Leanne  
Filak, Julianna  
Fornasiero, Joseph  
Gentilia, Judy  
Gozowsky, David  
Hagen, Jenifer  
Harte, John  
Hubbard, Carl  
Kapanke, Dolores  
Kathan, Joann  
Kathan, Thomas  
LeVair, Lorraine  
LeVair, Sherry  
Lobb, Cindy  
Lobb, Jeri  
Lowe, Jonathan

Malish, Rosemary  
Murawski, Veronica  
O'Connell, Evan  
Oliverio, Jr., Robert  
Pastula, Shirley  
Prosser, Cindy  
Romanek, Virginia (Pat)  
Ruby, Nancy  
Sanak, Francene  
Sanregret, John  
Smith, Mary  
Smitt, Deb  
Smith, Patricia  
Soine, Dianna  
Stites, Keith  
Sutherland, Eleanor  
Swiercz, Bobbie  
Tennent, Joan

Tsaprazis, Pete  
Turcotte, Joshua  
Walker, Ian  
Whitfield, James  
Wielechowski, Kenneth  
Wildauer, Mark  
Zarzycki, Stanley

Prayer list requests can be made only with the knowledge and permission of the person being added. To add, keep a person on the prayer list, or to remove a name, please call the parish office.

## Pray for the First Saturday Memorial Association from July 2025-June 30, 2026

Deceased Members of Ajlouny & Blaty Families  
Living & Deceased Members of Barnes & Digregio Families  
Deceased & live members of the Batherson Family  
In Memory of Bruce Birmingham  
Loving Memory of Aunt Loretta Brandt  
Deceased and Live Members of Butka & Wojtkowiak families  
In Loving Memory of Walter & Mary Burdis  
Loving Memory of Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess  
Loving Memory of Coach Dave Cain  
Deceased Members of Cielma and Niwa Families  
In Loving Memory of Tommy Cockrum  
Deceased Members of the Darnell Family  
Living & Deceased Members of Dooley & Firestone Families  
Living & Deceased Members of Duncan & Williams Families  
Living & Deceased Members of Gizowski & Sovel Families  
Loving Memory of Gorny and Kushnir Families  
In Memory of Donald Grant  
Loving Memory of Jessie & Chester Gugala  
In Loving Memory of Bob and Ann Hoelscher  
In Loving Memory of Robert S. Hoffman  
In Loving Memory of Eugene Josphe Hynek  
My Wife Joanne Who I Love and Miss Very Much  
Kapanke-Omilian Family  
Deceased Members of the Kattula Family  
Living & Deceased Members of Keiller & Marciniak Families

Living & Deceased Members of Kwilos & Stecker Families  
Deceased Members of LaMar and Dryja Families  
The Malish and Porembiak Families  
In Loving Memory of Margaret Mirabitor  
In Loving Memory of Reynold Mirabitor Sr.  
In Loving Memory of Audrey Mocadlo  
Loving Memory of Jerry Moynahan  
Living & Deceased Members of Mroz & Rutkowski Families  
Angel Dr. Dominic J. Noonan  
In Loving Memory of Ben and Phyllis Ornatowski  
Deceased members of Pattock & Stuecken families  
Angel Danny P. Pepera  
My loving wife of 66 years, Mary J. Pepera  
For the Prouty Family  
Living & Deceased Members of Rand & Vasquez Families  
In loving memory of Frances J. Read  
In Memory of Richard and Eleanore Reed  
Memory of Kathy Rodgers  
In Loving Memory of Edward and Helen Romanowski  
In Loving Memory of Mark Roy  
In Loving Memory of Thomas and Barbara Stempniak  
Deceased Members of the Sturm & Preba Families  
Deceased Members of the Szuba & Balawajder Families  
Martin A. Tofil  
In Loving Memory of Edwin L. Wendrick

## Pray for those Serving in the Military

Ainsworth, Sgt. Raymond  
Angelovic, Adrian  
Angelovic, George  
Artinger, Stephanie  
Baumgardner, AJ  
Becker, Justin  
Bregand, David  
Brozek, Timothy  
Burris, Peter  
Campbell, Mary  
Canfield, Chaz  
Chokr, Jamel  
Cinka, Jonathan  
Coatsworth, Michael  
Comment, Scott

DiCicco, Bill  
Dwyer, Tyler  
Ellsworth, Justin  
Fisher, Bob  
Gentilia, Anthony  
Hunter, Cassidy  
Julien, Nick  
Kapelanski, Isaac  
Kashou, Christopher  
Laichalk, Robert  
Logan, Jonathon  
Logan, Sean Patrick  
Logan, Jeff  
Lowe, Jonathan  
Masarak, Luke

McCarville, William E.  
McGahan, Wade  
McGaw, Douglas  
Meadows, Erin  
Moody, Samantha  
Murray, Daniel  
Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Truong  
Ohannesian, Brandon  
Pastula, Michael Thomas  
Porcaro, Jeff  
Preba, Danny  
Rosa, Brian J.  
Rosa, Douglas J.  
Rousseau, Philip  
Sheko, Destiny

Smith, David  
Smith, Sgt. Leven  
Smitt, David  
Spiczka, Cathy  
Spiczka, Greg  
Sparrow, Justin  
Spohr, Raymond  
Squires, Zachary  
Szerszen, Michael  
Waldo, Michael  
Waldon, Nathan  
Webb, Brian  
Wiertella, Jonathan  
Witt, Christopher





Missy Taylor

Director of Faith Formation / Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

## FAITH FORMATION

Our seventh graders did a great job with their roles in Mass on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. I think you'll agree they took their roles seriously and proclaimed the Word with great enthusiasm, while leading the Prayers of the Faithful with great care. With several new faces in this group, they were very brave in taking on this very special role and participating in Mass.



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A great big thank you to all the high schoolers and young adults who spent a cold Saturday morning making our youngest friends happy! Lots of smiles on their faces as they met their favorite characters at Garden City's Santaland Parade!!



## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!!

Thanks again to an ALWAYS generous parish family, our Wreath and Greens Fundraiser brought in over \$700 for youth programs! This will help with our dinners at Family Gatherings, fun gifts for our children at Christmas, additional materials for Faith Formation projects, and the ability for our middle school children to participate in certain service projects and social events without a cost to them. Speaking of our young people, what great support we had from them as they helped load the wreaths into our parishioners vehicles. It will ALWAYS amaze me how excited these kids are to work for granola bars and juice boxes; but more importantly, to see the smiles on the faces of those they help! May God bless you all for your generosity and for ALWAYS supporting our young people!



*thank you*



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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