



Parish of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Palmotićevo 31, Zagreb

PARISH BULLETIN 512

Sunday, December 14, 2025.

**3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT IN
YEAR „A“**

SUNDAY OF CHARITY

Gospel: Mt 11, 2-11.

At that time: When John heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent his disciples to ask Him, "Are You the One who is to come, or should we wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

When they had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.' Truly, I tell you, among those born of women, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he!"

Commentary by the Pastor:

This Gospel highlights two significant affirmations. Certainly, the most important is the affirmation of Jesus' messianic mission — His divine work of salvation, His role as a miraculous healer and restorer of life. Equally important is the affirmation of John the Baptist as the true Forerunner, the last prophet of the Old Testament, with his human excellence and certain place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

But what can we draw as an Advent lesson from this passage? Perhaps, through attentive reading or listening, we may have overlooked what stands out at the beginning! That is, that John the Baptist is imprisoned, subjected to isolation, torment, and, most painfully, to a life without freedom. He who once roamed freely across desert dunes, occasionally stopping on mountains or by rivers, eating what he pleased, and communicating with multitudes, is now alone, isolated, and discouraged. And in this state, he is not focused on his fate or his grim earthly future, but remains driven by his mission of preparing the way and his duty to confirm the truth of the Messiah. He is still concerned with Jesus' works.

In a situation where a person would naturally feel defeated and detached, John rises above his circumstances. He cares for the other, his spirit of waiting does not abandon him, and the weight of his calling pushes him to remain active.

By such behavior and attitude, John is the best example of the "Advent person," who, despite life's hardships and the fast pace of life, remains focused on God who is coming and desires to be present in his life. Let us pray for this grace during the remaining part of Advent, and if this grace truly comes to us, we will understand what it means to be greater in the Kingdom of Heaven, even than John the Baptist himself.

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	WORKING WEEK
14. 12. 2025.	15. - 20. 12.

08.00: ŠESTAK	06.00: SKELIN / ŠESTAK
09.30: BALATINAC	07.00: PETRIČEVIĆ
11.00: BILIĆ	08.00: VLAH
12.15: PETRIČEVIĆ	09.00: BALATINAC
17.00: VLAH	12.00: BIJELIĆ
19.00: NAGY	19.00: KENŽEVIĆ

CONFESSION

SUNDAY	WORKING WEEK
<u>14. 12. 2024.</u>	<u>15. - 18. 12.</u>

07:30 - 13:00	05:45 - 09:30
16:30 - 18:00	11:00 - 12:30
18:30 - 20:00	18:30 - 20:00

19.12. & 20. 12.
***from 5:30 to 13.00 &
from 14:30 to 20.00.***

NOTICES

Monday, 15.	Feast Day or: Blessed Marija Jula and the Sisters – The Drina Martyrs
Wednesday, 17.	The privileged days of Advent preparation for Christmas begin
SUNDAY, 21.	4th Sunday of Advent in Year 'A'

CARITAS: Today is "Caritas Sunday," so we are collecting your monetary donations for the Caritas of the Archdiocese of Zagreb in a special box. We are also collecting food, groceries, and money for the poor in our parish for Christmas, and donations can be made until Monday, December 22, in the sacristy or parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

CHILDREN – TO THE BASILICA: After yesterday's Advent workshop, the children, along with their parents, guided by Marijela and our artist Dunja, created many festive Christmas gifts, the proceeds of which are dedicated to the restoration of the Basilica. Buy, support them, and support our restoration!

PARISH FAMILY COMMUNITY: On Thursday, December 18, the second meeting of the Parish Family Community will take place in the hall of Blessed Ivan Merz at 8:00 PM. We invite those who attended the first meeting, as well as new married couples, to join us so they can bring more of Christ into their marriage and family life..

ALL-DAY CONFESSION: On Friday, December 19, our all-day confession will begin, from 5:30 AM to 8:00 PM (except for a lunch break from 1:00 to 2:30 PM), although we are already hearing confessions for 7 hours daily. Come on time so that you can confess peacefully and properly, and welcome Christmas with a pure heart.

ADAY OF FR. GABRIĆ: On Saturday, December 20, it is the Day of the Servant of God, Fr. Ante Gabrić, a Jesuit, missionary, and candidate for the altar. Let us pray for his beatification.

BLESSING OF FAMILIES IN THE PARISH: We are now entering the third week of the blessing of families and homes. Along with our thanks for the previous visits, we encourage those whose doorbells are not working or who do not have a name on their door to at least place a notice that day so that it is easier for us to find them. We remind you of the parish schedule for next week, **with the note that Kneza Višeslava Street had to be moved to Monday:**

MONDAY, 15. 12.	DRAŠKOVIĆEVA I KNEZA VIŠESLAVA
TUESDAY, 16. 12.	KNEZA BORNE I KNEZA MISLAVA
WEDNESDAY, 17. 12.	KRALJA DRŽISLAVA I KRIŽANIĆEVA
THURSDAY, 18. 12.	F. RAČKOGA, KNEZA MUTIMIRA, ŠVEAROVA I TRG HR. VELIKANA
FRIDAY, 19. 12.	ERDEODYJEVA

BLESSING OUTSIDE THE PARISH: We will also visit our parishioners outside the parish, if you contact us and arrange a suitable time.

“LESS IS MORE ” – LAY COLUMN No. 462 -by: *Antonija Blažina*

Welcoming Christmas with Patience

Tr The third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of Joy, always reminds us of the beauty of waiting. Amid the darkness of short December days and the rush of everyday life, the liturgy invites us to pause and rejoice in something that has not yet arrived. This is precisely the essence of this Sunday: patience. The prophet Isaiah today presents us with the image of deserts that will bloom. This is not an instantaneous change; dry land does not become a garden with a single downpour. God acts, but in a rhythm that is often not what we would wish. In the second reading, James encourages us: "Be patient... strengthen your hearts." Waiting shapes trust and opens the heart to God's plan. In the Gospel, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus does not give a theoretical answer but points to the fruits: the blind see, the lame walk, the Gospel is preached to the poor. In other words, patience should not be passive waiting but an alertness that recognizes the signs of God's presence.

How can we practice patience? In the small everyday things: in a queue, in a crowd, in our relationships. Let us look at a child learning to walk slowly: first they rise unsteadily, fall, and get up again, but each new step strengthens their muscles and, even more importantly, their patience and trust. Patience is also practiced through daily effort and attention to others, and it becomes easier only when we live it day by day. Every time we feel impatient, we can pause and ask ourselves what God wants to show us in this very moment of waiting. If we succeed even occasionally, Advent becomes a time in which our hearts slowly learn to rejoice before we experience fulfillment. This Sunday gently reminds us that in the anticipation of Christmas, every moment of waiting can become an opportunity for joy. Let us pause for a moment, take a deep breath, and notice the small signs of God's presence around us: in a smile, a friendly gesture, or the silence of prayer. If we open our hearts to these seemingly small miraculous moments, our Advent will not only be a preparation but also a daily joy that gradually prepares the way for Christmas.