

# MINISTRY OF PRAISE

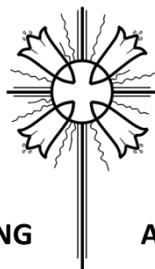
St. Casimir Parish  
December, 2017

Almighty God,  
grant that with the help of St. Casimir's intercession  
we may serve you in holiness and justice.



## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS

- ***That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.*** (December Papal intention)
- That the Church be renewed in holiness during this sacred season of Advent.
- That as we rejoice in the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we, like her, give God thanks and praise.
- That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.
- That God who has begun the good work of drawing our parish community together in faith will continue to perfect it this Advent.
- That God bless Father Bacevice and the Pastoral and Finance Councils in their efforts to secure the future of St. Casimir Parish.
- That all parishioners recognize their responsibility to St. Casimir Parish's future through financial support, commitment to parish activities, sharing ideas, and most importantly prayer.
- That parents will be evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.
- That those who experience any kind of hardship or sorrow during the holidays will experience the tenderness of God's love through the kindness of those around them.
- That those who pray be validated in their belief in its power.



**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**AT ST. CASIMIR PARISH?**

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> **First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, 8:00 – 9:00am in Church
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> **Immaculate Conception**, Holy Day of Obligation
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> **Evening Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** 6:00 – 7:00pm in Church

SAINT FOR DECEMBER

## SAINT JOHN KANTY

Priest  
(1390?-1473 )

DECEMBER 23<sup>rd</sup>



***“Fight all error, but do it with good humor, patience, kindness, and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause.”*** (St. John Kanty)

John Kanty grew up in a rural environment. As an adult he studied at the University in Krakow, Poland. He was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology. John was a serious man, who taught well and quietly exercised very strict discipline on himself. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives. The opposition of his associates led to John’s being sent to do parish work. However, he had not been trained for parish duties and felt the burden of the responsibilities.

Eventually John returned to the university to teach Scripture. The material he taught was not remembered as much as the holiness of his life. Everywhere he was known for his humility and spontaneous generosity. He gave everything to the poor and kept only the clothes he most needed. Four times he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, carrying his luggage on his back.

When John died, people already claimed he was a saint. At the time of John’s canonization Pope Clement XIII wrote: “Saint John of Kanty deserves a high place among the great saints and scholars who practice what they preach and defend the true faith against those who attack it.”

Sources: SAINTS AND FEAST DAYS, Loyola University Press; SAINT OF THE DAY, Leonard Foley, O.F.M., Editor; IN HIS LIKENESS, by Rev. Charles E. Yost, SCI, STL



## THOUGHTS FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### The Coming of Jesus

**#522** The coming of God’s Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over the centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the “First Covenant.” He announces through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

**#524** When the Church celebrates the *liturgy of Advent* each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior’s first coming, the

faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating John the Baptist's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to John's desire: "He must increase, but I must decrease."



## REFLECTION



## JESSE TREES



Jesse Trees are a very old Christmas Tradition and first started in medieval times. They are used to help tell the story of the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story.

The name comes from Jesse who was the Father of the great Jewish King David. One prophecy in the Bible, in the Book of Isaiah 11:1-4, says: ***"A shoot shall sprout and from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted."***

A bud is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a descendant of King David and Christians believe that Jesus is this new bud.

The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows put in Churches that helped illiterate people to learn about the Bible from creation to the Christmas Story. But now Jesse Trees are used as a kind of Advent Calendar. A normal Christmas tree or a banner in the shape of a tree can be used as a Jesse Tree. Each day through Advent (or sometimes just on the four Sundays of Advent) a special decoration or ornament that represents a story from the Bible, is hung on the tree.

Source: [www.whychristmas.com/customs/jesstrees](http://www.whychristmas.com/customs/jesstrees)

### Daily Advent Readings

**Dec. 1** Gen. 1  
**Dec. 2** Gen. 2:4 - 3:24  
**Dec. 3** Gen. 6:9 -9:17  
**Dec. 4** Gen. 12:1-7 & 15:1-6  
**Dec. 5** Gen. 22:1-18  
**Dec. 6** Gen. 28:10-19  
**Dec. 7** Gen. 37 & 50  
**Dec. 8** Ex. 2:1 - 4:20

**Dec. 9** Ex. 12:1-42  
**Dec. 10** Ex. 19:1-20:20  
**Dec. 11** Joshua 6:1-20  
**Dec. 12** Ruth (whole book)  
**Dec. 13** 1 Samuel 16:1-3  
**Dec. 14** 1 Kings 6  
**Dec. 15** 1 Kings 18:16 -39  
**Dec. 16** Isaiah 11:1-11

**Dec. 17** Jonah (whole book)  
**Dec. 18** Matt. 3:13-17  
**Dec. 19** Lk. 1:26-28  
**Dec. 20** Lk. 1:39-56  
**Dec. 21** Lk 1:57-80  
**Dec. 22** Matt. 1:19-25  
**Dec. 23** Lk. 2:8-20  
**Dec. 24** Matt. 2:1-12