

Baptism of the Lord



FR. PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Today the Catholic Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. This officially ends the season of Christmas, although in the Polish tradition carols are sung until February 2nd. Today's liturgical celebration is an opportunity for us to remember our baptism by which we were included in the community of the Church and became God's children.

Baptism is generally granted for the forgiveness of sins. In the case of Jesus who, as God, was without sin, it is an act of presenting Christ as the Son of God. The Father's voice is heard from heaven: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:17). This solemn moment also marks the beginning of Jesus' teaching mission. Christ was 30 years old then, which – according the Jews – was an age of maturity.

Coffee and Donuts are being served by the Knights of Columbus.

Holy Rosary is being led by Rose #3.

Our faith embraces the tension of the hypostatic union – the fully divine and fully human nature of Jesus. The Baptism of the Lord is a profound instance of the revelation of the humanity of Jesus and his desire to draw close to us.

John the Baptist baptized people "for repentance (Mt 3.11). If Jesus is God, why would he need to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins? One possible answer is that Jesus was baptized in order to identify totally with us. He is the only member of the human race that does not need forgiveness; however, in order to identify with us, he humbled himself to undergo baptism. He even identified with the *effects* of sin that we experience: suffering and death. I draw great comfort and hope from this episode in Matthew's Gospel; Jesus is present in every experience of my life, even in my need for redemption and forgiveness. His act of humility has increased my intimacy with him.

Each time we gather for Mass, we bless ourselves with water from the baptismal font, calling to mind our baptism and Christ's. Let this week's Eucharist be an opportunity to give thanks that we have a Saviour who understands our humanity and the effect that sin has on it, even as God the Father calls him "my Son, the Beloved."

Rose Derksen; Edmonton, AB

First Reading: Isaiah 42.1-4, 6-7
Responsorial Psalm:
The Lord will bless his people with peace.
Second Reading: Acts 10.34-38
Gospel: Matthew 3.13-17

The Sacrament of Marriage

Please join us in praying for

Daria Chojecka,
daughter of Beata and Jerzy
&
Damian Krajewski,
son of Bogumila and Jozef

who are preparing for Holy Matrimony.

Marriage Preparation Course

will run on 7 consecutive Mondays from **February 10th to March 23rd**. Cost: \$100. Couples may sign up by calling the parish office.

Confirmation for Adults

Adults wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will need to attend four classes on **February 21st and 28th**, and **March 13th and 20th at 8 p.m.** in Sr. Faustina Room (New Catechetical Centre). Please bring a copy of your Baptism Certificate to the first session. Adults will be confirmed on **Holy Saturday, April 11th, 2020 at 8 p.m.** Call the parish office to register.

First Communion & Confirmation

Mandatory catechesis for all parents of First Communion children is next **Sunday, January 19th at 4 p.m.** in the church (Polish) and in Bro. Anthony Room (English).

*** NEW DATE ***

Mandatory catechesis for all parents of Confirmation candidates is on **Sunday, February 2nd at 4 p.m.** in the church (Polish) and in Bro. Anthony Room (English).

Offertory Envelopes for 2020

When using offertory envelopes, please remember to include your full name and complete address on the very first envelope for the year 2020. Thank you.

100th Birthday of St. John Paul II
On **May 18th, 2020**, we will celebrate the **100th anniversary** of the birth of **Saint John Paul II.**



Our parish will mark the beginning of the celebrations with a solemn Mass on **February 2nd at 11 a.m.** The celebrant and homilist will be Fr. Alfred Grzempa OMI, Provincial of Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Closing celebrations will take place on the weekend of **May 30th and 31st, 2020.**

The Parish Council has prepared two events to mark John Paul II's 100th birthday. On **February 2nd and 9th**, our parish will host an exhibition entitled Eucharistic Miracles, which will show all Eucharistic miracles in the history of the Church. Another is the peregrination of the *Triptych of John Paul II*. Following in the footsteps of this Great Saint, we wish to entrust ourselves, our families, our parish, the Church and the entire world to the protection of the Mother of God.

Electronic Devices in the Church

The use of electronic devices (such as e-book readers, smartphones or tablets) during Mass is inappropriate and strictly prohibited. Holy Eucharist is a communal celebration and the use of such devices shut us off from that community and is distracting to others. However, electronic devices may be used outside of Mass (inside the church or Chapel of Perpetual Adoration) if they aid our private prayer, e.g. reading of the Holy Scriptures, litanies, meditations, etc. It is inappropriate to publicly point out to others that they use electronic devices for their personal prayer.

Upcoming Events

Radio Maryja Banquet will be held today, **January 12th** at the John Paul II Polish Cultural Centre. Mass will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. and banquet will begin at 4 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Oplatek will take place on **Saturday, January 18th at 6 p.m.** in the church hall. For tickets call Andrzej at (905) 272-4745.

Radosc-Joy Christmas Concert will take place on **Sunday, January 26th at 4 p.m.** in the parish hall. The event includes caroling, a nativity play, and a performance by Sokoły. Tickets at \$15 (adults) and \$10 (seniors and children) are available from members of Radość-Joy.

Golec Orkiestra will be in concert on **January 31st at 8 p.m.** at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga. The repertoire includes old and new hits as well as Christmas songs and carols. Tickets are available online at www.livingartscentre.ca or by calling (905) 306-6000.

Friends of the Polish Scouts (Wigry and Wieliczka Tribes) are hosting a Carnival Dance on Saturday, February 1st at 7 p.m. at JPPII Polish Cultural Centre. Come for a delicious dinner, a hot buffet, dessert, lots of prizes, and dance. Music provided by IMPULS Band. Tickets at \$50 are available from Magda at (416) 270-6665.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje *Gold Rose Apostolate* is organizing a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, a place of spiritual rescue for everyone. There you will experience miracles, changes, conversions and healings. There, through Mary's intercession, you can pray for others. Pilgrimage dates: **April 26 – May 6, 2020.** For more information call Marzena: (647) 284-1631.

Online Giving Now Available

Please note that you are now able to submit Sunday offerings through on-line payments. To use this method, visit www.kolbe.ca, click on *support* in the top right-hand corner and then *donate*. You will be transferred to the Archdiocese of Toronto website where you will choose your church and fill out a form. You can make a one-time donation or choose a weekly option. Parishioners using this form of parish support will receive a tax certificate directly from the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, January 13th

8⁰⁰ No Mass

19⁰⁰ No Mass

TUESDAY, January 14th

8⁰⁰ No Mass

19⁰⁰ No Mass

WEDNESDAY, January 15th

8⁰⁰ No Mass

19⁰⁰ No Mass

THURSDAY, January 16th

8⁰⁰ No Mass

19⁰⁰ No Mass

FRIDAY, January 17th Saint Anthony

8⁰⁰ No Mass

19⁰⁰ No Mass

SATURDAY, January 18th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Apolonia Trzeciakowska – daughters with families

17⁰⁰ ✠ Florence Motyka – Melody Choir of St. Casimir's Parish

19⁰⁰ ✠ Stanislaw Siemiginowski – son with family

SUNDAY, January 19th

8⁰⁰ ✠ Mieczyslaw & Genowefa Lewicki – son

9³⁰ ✠ Henry Chuchla (16th anniv.) – wife with children

11⁰⁰ ○ For parishioners and benefactors

13⁰⁰ ○ In thanksgiving on Monika's 22nd birthday

14³⁰ ✠ Franciszek Ćwik – family

19⁰⁰ ○ For the protection of Mother Mary for the children and grandchildren of the Tarkowski family

2019 Parish Statistics

In the year **2019** we welcomed **171** new members into our parish community through the sacrament of Baptism, **127** children received their First Holy Communion, **123** were confirmed, **39** marriages were blessed and **135** members passed from this to eternal life. Our community is quite large. Please remember to take care of one another, raise our children and youth with kindness and concern for others, let us respect each other and above all, let us grow and develop spiritually within our families and our community.