



Epiphany of the Lord

Baptisms



The following children will receive the Sacrament of Baptism:

- Jan Lech son of Anna & Sebastian
- Victoria Madison Kania daughter of Julia & Paul
- Olivier Valle son of Dominika & Sebastian

We welcome those children and congratulate their parents and godparents.

TRADITIONAL DOOR INSCRIPTION CEREMONY OF THE SOLEMNITY OF EPIPHANY

Gold and frankincense was blessed on the Feast of the Epiphany in the 15th/16th centuries.

Blessing of chalk was first introduced in the 18th century. This beautiful tradition is carried out in many countries, as well as Poland.

The Blessed Chalk is used to inscribe the first letters of the names of the Magi and the current year (K+M+B 2019) on the front door of Catholic homes.

Following Mass, a small piece of blessed chalk may be taken home and the following is said with family and friends gathered at the front door:

K+M+B 2019

Leader: And the Word was made Flesh. All: And dwelt among us. Leader: May Christ dwell in our midst. All: Amen.

Christmas carols may be sung to conclude the ceremony.

WHAT IS NEW IN OUR PARISH?

There are 14,672 families officially registered with our parish.

In the year 2018 we welcomed 162 new members into our parish community through Baptism, 161 children received their First Holy Communion, 96 were confirmed, 39 marriages were blessed and 112 members passed from this life to eternal life.

Our community is quite extensive, therefore let us 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.

"They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising" – towards the place of the child who had been born king of the Jews. When the star stopped, the wise men were "overwhelmed with joy." They entered the house and saw "the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." We have heard this story many times. This would be the time, when our children were young, that we would bring out the tiny camels and the wise men and place them in our Nativity crèche. It would be the last act of our Christmas story. In a few days the small figures and other decorations still up from this joyous season would be carefully put away for another year. Astronomers debate whether the star marked the arrival of a comet, a super nova or possibly a rare celestial conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn. Theologians note that only Matthew records the story, and some suggest it is a pious fiction designed to integrate older writings into the birth narrative of Jesus. Questions abound but the essential messages remain. For Paul, it is the mystery now "made known to humankind." Isaiah urges rejoicing: "Arise, shine for your light has come." The Epiphany reveals that Christ now had come among us all.

Michael Dougherty Whitehorse, YT

First reading: Isaiah 60.1-6
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.
Second Reading: Ephesians 3.2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2.1-12

Rose # 8 will lead the rosary this week.

COFFEE AND DONUTS will be served today by the Knights of Columbus.

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH & EXCHANGE OF MYSTERIES for the English Groups will take place today – on Sunday, January 6th following the Mass at 9:30am, after which the Rosary Group shares the Christmas Wafer (OPLATEK), in the parish hall at 10:30am. All are welcome!

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Jerusalem and Bethlehem are two places in the Holy Land which are very important for Christians. It is precisely there that Polish sisters, "Elzbiatanki", have an orphanage for children who have been traumatized by on-going unrest in the most conflict ridden area of the world - the birthplace of Christ. The Home of Peace in Jerusalem, and, recently in Bethlehem, is presently a true home and shelter for 46 children between the ages of 3 and 18, mostly Christian.

Today in our parish we welcome Sister Marcina Adamów, superior, as well as Sister Małgorzata Kobierska from the orphanage on the Mount of Olives. Your donations offered in the baskets at the church entrances will be designated exclusively for the upkeep of the orphanage on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord Sunday, January 6th

The term "epiphany" means to 'show' or 'to make known' or even 'to reveal.' In Western churches, it remembers the coming of the wise men bringing gifts to visit the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King. In some Central and South American countries influenced by Catholic tradition, Three Kings' Day, or the night before, is the time for opening Christmas presents. In some eastern churches, Epiphany or the Theophany commemorates Jesus' baptism, with the visit of the Magi linked to Christmas. In some churches the day is celebrated as Christmas, with Epiphany occurring on January 19th.

As with most aspects of the Christian liturgical calendar, Epiphany has theological significance as a teaching tool in the church. The Wise Men or Magi who brought gifts to the infant Jesus were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as "King" and so were the first to "show" or "reveal" Jesus to a wider world as the incarnate Christ.

This act of worship by the Magi, which corresponded to Simeon's blessing that this child Jesus would be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Luke 2:32), was one of the first indications that Jesus came for all people, of all nations, of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to only a few. The day is now observed as a time of focusing on the mission of the church in reaching others by "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It is also a time of focusing on Christian brotherhood and fellowship, especially in healing the divisions of prejudice and bigotry that we all too often create between God's children.

From the Pulpit

The Canadian bishops remind us that euthanasia is incompatible with the Sacraments!

Parliamentary legalization does not change the moral law in any way - remind the Canadian bishops - in connection with the law passed in Canada, allowing for euthanasia. They emphasize that this practice still remains a "grave sin against the dignity of human life" and cannot be reconciled with the sacrament of the anointing of the sick or the often-related to it, Sacrament of Confession.

Absolution can only be obtained in the case of conversion and ones changing of the decision about the so-called "assisted suicide". Thus, if one deliberately decides to choose euthanasia, they cannot receive absolution or the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, because they consciously continue to live in conscious grave sin.

The same applies to catholic funerals of people who made the choice of euthanasia. Although the Church allows Christian burials of those who committed suicide, this is due to the fact that the motives and circumstances of those who chose to end their own life are not known to us. However, in the case of euthanasia, it is a conscious choice that is known earlier. The refusal of the last ministry - the bishops explain - serves to show that the choice of such an individual is contrary to the Christian faith. Therefore, a person who asks for euthanasia will not be able to have a Catholic funeral.



January 22 – January 27, 2019

The theme for the 34th World Youth Day, 2019 is, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38).

The verse comes from Luke's Gospel account of the birth of Jesus being foretold, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary announcing that she would conceive and bear a son that she would call 'Jesus'. Despite the initial confusion ("How can this be, since I have no husband?"), Mary gave her firm assent and trust to God by saying "May it be done to me according to your word."

Christmas Time

We would like to thank all leaders of the living rosary that have already provided lists with their members for verification. However, there are a few Roses who have not done so yet, so please pass the lists to Fr. Blazejak or Jan Prymicz or Wiesława Koczwara as soon as possible. Leaders of the Roses 35, 47, 62, and 65 are asked to update the information.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING - on Tuesday, January 8th following Holy Mass at 7:00pm and the exchange of the Mysteries of the Living Rosary. After Mass, a meeting will be held in the Knights of Columbus Room at the John Paul II Cultural Centre.

PRAYER EVENING WITH THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Adoremus Prayer Group invites on Friday, January 11th at 8:00pm in the church for a prayer evening with the Blessed Sacrament. We praise and worship God in joyful songs, listen to a formation talk on selected themes in spirituality, do a guided meditation on the Gospel, pray for healing and receive individually a blessing with the Blessed Sacrament.

RADIO MARYJA OPLATEK will be held on Sunday, January 13th 2019. 2:30pm Mass at St. Maximilian Kobe and 4:00pm-banquet at Polish Culture Centre. Tickets \$65.00 can be obtained through: Joanna Szydłowska 905 819-1040 or Joanna Strzezek 905 845-3553 or Health from Nature Store at 416 532-9805 or Something Special Store at 905 629-2347 or John Paul II Culture Centre at 905 306-9900

GROUP MASS INTENTIONS

Please, note that there will be no Group Mass intentions on Wednesday, January 16th.

OBLATE RETREAT - From January 14th – 18th The Oblates will be away on their annual Retreat. We sincerely ask the faithful for their prayers on behalf of our Oblates so that God may bless them during this time of retreat and renewal. May they be renewed in Spirit so they may renew us the people of God. There will be no morning or evening Masses for the entire week including Wednesday evening Group Intention Mass due to the absence of priest in our parish.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE - The next course will be held from February 25th – April 8 2019. Classes will be held on Monday from 8:00pm to 10:00pm, for a total of 7 classes. Sign up – parish office. Cost \$100.00

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE FOR SECOND UNIONS – couples should attend a specialized marriage preparation offered by the Catholic Family Services. Information/registrations call: 416 921-1163

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St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish 40th Anniversary

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of our parish. The parish anniversary is an opportunity to express our gratefulness to God and to people for 40 years of the existence of our community. Throughout the whole year we will be thanking God for the gift of our parish, this living community which worships God and sustains the faith of our forefathers. Soon our Parish Council will be working on specific plans concerning the anniversary celebrations and events, and we will share this information with you very shortly.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, January 7th
Saint Andre Bessette

8:00 ☩ all deceased from Olszanski family - family
19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Marcin Guzda on his birthday - parents
☩ Emilia Serwin - son & family

TUESDAY, January 8th

8:00 ☩ Czesław Zebrowski (anniv.) – son Ryszard & family
19:00 ☩ Kazimierz Tomaszewski – wife Maria
Special intention for God's blessings for Wiktor Wroblewski - family

WEDNESDAY, January 9th

8:00 ☩ Jan Karwel - family
Special intention for God's blessings for grandchildren Dariusz & Victoria & Olivia – grandparents

19:00 Group Intentions

THURSDAY, January 10th

8:00 ☩ Janina Dobosz - husband
19:00 ☩ Edward Chrzaszcz – brother Ryszard & family
☩ Stanisław Kruszewski – daughter & her husband

FRIDAY, January 11th

8:00 ☩ Jan Kosnik (14th anniv.) - family
☩ Anna Milkowska (16th anniv.) – sister & family
19:00 Special intention for God's blessings for children & their families – parents
☩ Maria & Stanisław Platek – children

SATURDAY, January 12th

8:00 ☩ Anna & Sztga Ozga – daughters & their families
17:00 Special intention for God's blessings for Teresa & Eugeniusz Misiewicz on their 50th wedding anniversary - children
☩ Helena Belz & Barbara Jagodowska (1st anniv.) – family & friends

SUNDAY, January 13th

8:00 ☩ Zbigniew (34th anniv.) & Wiesława (35th anniv.) Piszczek – son & family
☩ Teresa Rosińska (3rd anniv.)

11:00 FOR PARISHIONERS AND BENEFACTORS
13:00 ☩ Aniela & Jozef Podczerwinski & all deceased from Antolak family
14:30 In intention of Radio Maryja & TV Trwam
19:00 Special intention for God's blessings and for health for Władysława & Stanisław