

4th Sunday of Easter



FR. PASTOR'S REFLECTION

For many people, May is the most beautiful month of the year. In the Church, it is a month dedicated to Mary. Especially in Poland and among Polish immigrants, we gather in churches in the evenings to sing the Loreto Litany.

In Poland, the first May Devotion is known to have taken place in the mid-nineteenth century. However, its origin is much earlier than is commonly believed. The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary – also known as the Loreto Litany – was composed during the Middle Ages. The place of honor it now holds in the life of the Church is due to its faithful use at the shrine of the Holy House at Loreto. It was approved by Sixtus V in 1587, and all other Marian litanies were suppressed, at least for public use. Its titles and invocations set before us Mary's exalted privileges, her holiness of life, her amiability and power, her motherly spirit and queenly majesty. There are 49 invocations in total; 50 in its Polish version, as it includes "Queen of Poland", a title added after the Second World War.

Month of Mary – May Devotions



The month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Join us as we pray the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto Litany) from **Monday to Friday** at 6:30 p.m., on **Saturday** after the 8 a.m. Mass, and on **Sunday** after the 11 a.m. Mass.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The 4th Sunday of Easter is known as the Good Shepherd Sunday, and today we celebrate the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations. On this day, we ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Good Shepherd Sunday begins the Week of Prayer for Vocations; this year's theme is *The Great Mystery of Faith*.

First Thursday of the month, May 7th
Prayer for vocations at 6:30 p.m.

As Psalm 23 never fails to remind me of funerals, I am somewhat drawn to viewing each of today's readings through that lens – living while suffering and living while dying, both with the hope Jesus' resurrection gives.

Our life lived in an ongoing embrace of God's will for us is also preparation for death. It brings peace and comfort to know Jesus' death and resurrection have made a way for us to be united with our Father – like our living, so our dying in the Lord will also be noticed by those around us.

In the first reading Peter says, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." How? Follow the Lord who has not only shown you the way but is the Way. In the second reading Peter calls Jesus "the shepherd and guardian of your souls." We follow the Lord, who has shown us the way to endure suffering.

We live in an upside-down time. The thief who comes to steal and destroy is active among us. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. These words are also meant for those in Christ who are dying. Today, may we rest in his eucharistic presence and pray for those walking through the valley of the shadow of death. May they lack for nothing and find peace in the hope Jesus' resurrection promises.

Johanne Brownrigg
Orleans, ON

First Reading: Acts 2.14a, 36b-41

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2.20b-25

Gospel: John 10.1-10

Today's **Second Collection** is for ShareLife. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Poland

On May 3rd, the Catholic Church in Poland celebrates the solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Poland. This day is closely tied to a number of important events in the history of Poland: the defense of Jasna Góra against the Swedes in 1655, the ascension to the throne by Jan Kazimierz and his subsequent entrusting of the kingdom to the protection of the Virgin Mary, and also the adoption of the Constitution of May 3, 1791. The solemnity was established at the request of the Polish bishops after Poland regained its independence at the end of World War I. It highlights the country's great faith in God's protection that Poles have experienced and continue to experience through Mary's intercession. The worship of Mary as the Queen of Poland is very old. An example of it is *Bogurodzica*, the oldest Polish religious song. It played the role of the country's national anthem for many centuries.

During the Swedish invasion, on April 1st, 1656, at a Holy Mass in the Cathedral in Lviv conducted by the papal legate Pietro Vidoni, King John II Casimir in a grandiose and elaborate ceremony entrusted his countries to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom he announced The Queen of the Polish Crown. He vowed to spread the cult of Mary and asked the pope for permission to celebrate her feast day. He also swore to protect the Kingdom's folk from any impositions and unjust bondage.

Group Intentions

Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

On Wednesdays we continue our Group Intention Mass and the Devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. **Intentions can be submitted by phone during regular office hours.** The faithful can participate in Mass through our parish TV. Mass offering can be placed in the offertory box found inside the entrance to the parish office.

Praying at Home Spiritual Communion

Since we are still not allowed to open our churches and celebrate Mass with the faithful, we encourage you to pray at home. The optimal solution would be to watch Mass live on TV or the Internet and receive Holy Communion spiritually. Spiritual communion consists of awakening in your heart an ardent desire to unite with Jesus; the grace received this way is the same as when we receive the Eucharist in the church.

COVID-19 and Our Parish Sacraments:

- **Eucharist** – we are back to our regular Mass schedule, except for the weekend evening Masses. Those intentions will be celebrated at a different time; appropriate individuals will be informed of the change by phone.
- **Reconciliation** – none at this time, except in the event of a serious illness.
- **First Holy Communion** – postponed until further notice.
- **Confirmation** – postponed until further notice.
- **Baptism** – may take place in the presence of the child, the child's parents, and Godparents.
- **Marriage** – may take place in the presence of the couple and their two witnesses, provided the couple is able to obtain a valid marriage licence.

Other:

- **Funeral** prayers and interment take place at the cemetery. Maximum 10 people may attend. Funeral Mass can take place on or around the day of the funeral, with family and friends participating in it through our parish TV. Alternately, family may wish to wait with the funeral Mass and interment until the end of the pandemic.
- The **parish office** is closed but you may call during regular office hours.

Resources for Children

Homilies for children (in Polish), **Children's Liturgy** (in English), and **Virtual Lessons** for children preparing for their First Holy Communion are available on our parish YouTube channel. Go to kolbe.ca → YouTube Channel → Playlists → Religion Class for Kids.

All homework should be submitted to communionkolbe@gmail.com



MyParish App – our parish now has a mobile application. Install myParish App on your phone, select St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Mississauga, and stay up to date on all current events taking place at our parish. Important! In your phone settings remember to *Allow Notifications* in order to receive most up-to-date information, e.g. when public Mass will be celebrated again.

Thank You



We are very grateful to our parishioners who regularly bring their Sunday collection and deposit it into a secure box found by entrance to the parish office. Just over half of our parishioners feel responsible for their parish and regularly bring their Sunday collection. The parish must function despite the crisis and continue to pay expenses on regular basis. Sunday collection can be placed in a secure box found by the parish office door. Donations can also be made online at www.kolbe.ca by clicking on *Donate Now* and choosing *St. Maximilian Kolbe Church* from the list of parishes. Some 200 families prefer this form of Sunday offerings.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. May God Bless you.



"ShareLife is the way the rubber hits the road. This is how we validate the legitimacy and integrity of our Christian life: not by the words we speak, but by the love we share, in practical ways. That's what we do with ShareLife." — Cardinal Thomas Collins

Today is ShareLife Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

If you are an elderly person and can't or shouldn't leave the house, call the parish office and our parish youth will do your grocery shopping for you.

Please continue to check our parish website and Facebook page for the latest information concerning our parish.
www.kolbe.ca

Market Day

On Thursdays in the afternoon and on Sundays, a Polish family runs a fruit and vegetable stand at the John Paul II Center. They are located outdoor and there are no lineups. During this difficult time, it is worth supporting Polish businesses.

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, May 4th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Maria & Michal Swiatek – children
- 19⁰⁰ ✚ John Gajan (4th anniv.) – neighbours
- For God's continued protection for family in Poland and in Canada – Lewczuk family

TUESDAY, May 5th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Krystyna & Stanislaw Nowak – daughter with family
- For members of Kolbe Seniors Club
- 19⁰⁰ ✚ Deceased members of the Slawski & Fijalkowski families – son with family

WEDNESDAY, May 6th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Michal Serwin – son with family
- Thanksgiving for the gift of life and for Mother Mary's protection for Tina on her birthday – grandparents
- 19⁰⁰ *Group Intentions*

THURSDAY, May 7th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Anna & Franciszek Rak – family
- 19⁰⁰ ○ For God's blessing for priests and religious – Gold Rose Apostolate
- Thanksgiving for the gift of life on dad Marian's 80th birthday and for God's blessings for daughters Julianna and Maria

FRIDAY, May 8th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Jozefa Sielicka and deceased members of the Czarnota family
- ✚ Stanislaw & Stefan Gumula – daughter Maria Piszczek
- Thanksgiving for the birth of Michal in North Bay – grandmother Maria Piszczek
- 19⁰⁰ ✚ Jozef and Stanislaw Golec – Golec and Mis families
- ✚ Eugeniusz Hul (5th anniv.) – sister with family

SATURDAY, 9th

- 8⁰⁰ ○ For the gifts of the Holy Spirit and God's blessing for Jolanta and Hamlet – parents
- ✚ Dariusz Pariaszewski (1st anniv.) – wife, son, and mother

SUNDAY, May 10th

- 8⁰⁰ ✚ Anna, Tomasz, Stanislaw Cebula – Stefania Cebula
- 9³⁰ ○ In thanksgiving for Veronika on her birthday – parents
- 11⁰⁰ ○ Special intention for Fr. Antoni Mendrela OMI on the 55th anniversary of his ordination
- 12⁰⁰ *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 13⁰⁰ ✚ Stanislaw Baran and deceased members of the Baran family – wife
- 14³⁰ ✚ Malgorzata Motyka – husband with children

