



St. Mary's Church – Parafia Matki Boskiej Częstochowskiej

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD —January 3, (Styczen), 2021

#1

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

Another year of our lives comes to an end. For better or worse. Yes, it was difficult time for our world, for the economy, for families and social life and for our churches as well. They say the pandemic we are experiencing right now is the greatest challenge for our world since the World War II. We all suffer to certain extent. Our normal activities had to be suspended. People start to be afraid of each other. And nobody knows what the future brings. We can be quite sure that the challenges we are experiencing right now will well continue into the next year. In other words, we need to be strong and patient to face the challenges ahead of us.

With this letter I'd like to offer my heartfelt gratitude for journeying together through those rough times. For all forms of help and cooperation I've personally experienced. For your courage and coming to the church, for getting involved in our ministries. Thank you so much!

Special thanks for your generous financial support. As every parish, we depend entirely on the generosity of our parishioners. At the present moment, I can say that we are very close to the amount we had collected last year. We also have kept our spending under control, that means we were able to save whenever it was possible on our day-to-day operations.

Now, I'd like to give you more details regarding our liturgical celebrations. First of all, we will have all our celebrations according to our former regular schedule, with some changes due to new regulations. That means, we can celebrate our weekday masses (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) with only 10 people present in the church. We ask our Parishioners to register (special forms on the pulpit by the side entrance). Please give priority to those who ordered the mass intention.

For the weekend (Saturday and Sunday), we can have in our church only those who assist with the celebration of the mass (lectors, organist, cantor, altar server) with all the others staying in their cars and participating in our liturgies through the radio station (FM 88.3). The expression "Closed" we use in our bulletin means closed for general attendance. When the mass is ended, we invite those who were participating through the radio to come to the church and receive Holy Communion. Please use the elevator doors (elevator is in service) to enter, keep social distancing, sanitize and keep mask on and at any moment the number of people present in church cannot exceed the number of 10. After receiving communion, please exit by side door, near the confessional. On Sunday's, the church is open for private prayer throughout the day (10:00 am to 5:00 pm), again with no more than 9 people inside.

Dear Parishioner, thanks once again for your understanding and cooperation. The restrictions that are in place could be lasting for quite a long time. So, patience is a virtue and an act of charity toward our brothers and sisters. Wishing you all, absolutely Happy New Year, God's blessings, protection of the Guardian Angels and of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Queen of Poland.

Fr. Roman Majek, OMI



Other Announcements

We invite our parishioners to help to prepare our church for the Ordinary Time on Sat, Jan 9th beginning at 9:30 am.

Fr. Roman will be visiting the sick and housebound parishioners on Fri, Jan 8th. For new visits, please phone our parish office.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays at 6:00 pm, with those registered for the evening Mass.

On Jan 10th, Fr. Roman will start his small group Oblate Retreat and Oblate meetings, so the church will be closed until Jan 15th. In case of emergency, please contact Fr. Pawel at St. Hedwig's at 613-756-2243.

We also welcome Fr. Jacek Cydzik, who will be helping us, beginning Jan 16th, for a week.



Schedule of Masses

Please use **88.3 MHz FM** on your **radio** dial to listen to scheduled Masses.

Thursday, December 31—*St. Sylvester I*

5:00 pm +Mary C. Luckasavitch (Andrew & Marlene Shulist)

Friday, January 1—*The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

11:00 am God's Blessing for all of our parishioners in 2021

Saturday, January 2—*St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors*

5:00 pm For all of our parishioners

Sunday, January 3—*The Epiphany of the Lord*

11:00 am +Terry Hoffman (David & Jackie Burchat)

Monday, January 4 –

10:00 am (9 people allowed) (Polish/English) +Gertrude Blank (Ronnie & Darlene Stamplecoskie)

Tuesday, January 5 – No Mass

Wednesday, January 6 –

7:00 pm (9 people allowed) +Adolph Burchat (Pat Burchat & Connie Pecarski and Family)

Thursday, January 7 – No Mass – *St. Andre Bessette*

Friday, January 8 – *St. Raymond of Penyafort*

7:00 pm (9 people allowed) +Nia (Daughter Wendy)

Saturday, January 9

5:00 pm For all of our parishioners

Sunday, January 10 – *Baptism of the Lord*

11:00 am +Piotr Pasioneck (Corki z Rodzinami)

Monday, January 11 to Friday, January 15 – No Masses

Saturday, January 16 –

5:00 pm +Shaun Lapenskie (Evelyn Dombroskie)

Sunday, January 17 – *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

11:00 am For all of our parishioners

Monday, January 18

10:00 am (9 people allowed) Souls in Purgatory (Parishioner)

Tuesday, January 19 – No Mass

Wednesday, January 20 – *St. Fabian, St. Sebastian*

7:00 pm (9 people allowed) +Peter Murack (Greg, Rita & Laura Shulist)

Thursday, January 21 – No Mass – *St. Agnes*

Friday, January 22 – *St. Vincent*

7:00 pm (9 people allowed) +Bernadette Ostroskie (Ernie & Bernadette Dudack)

Saturday, January 23 –

5:00 pm For all of our parishioners

Sunday, January 24 – *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

11:00 am +Alfie Stamplecoskie (Dennis & Josephine Etmanskie)



Excerpts from Bishop Desrochers Letter dated December 22, 2020

Ontario government to reduce our liturgies to a maximum of 10 people (including the priest) for the next 28 days, starting December 26, 2020, once again forces us to limit drastically the number of our faithful who will be able to receive the Holy Eucharist or other sacraments.

Last July, I sent you a letter in which I invited you to observe as faithfully as possible the directives of our governmental and health authorities. I would like to thank you sincerely for all the efforts and sacrifices you have made since then in each of our parishes, which have helped to prevent and considerably reduce the spread of the virus. Virtually no other organization or business frequented by the general public offers so many ways to prevent the spread of the virus : systematic decontamination of the premises after each religious service; use of hand sanitizers; wearing a mask when entering, leaving and receiving Communion in the hand only, except for a few rare exceptions; physical demarcation of the places where one can sit in order to maintain the social distance of 2 meters; elimination of all songbooks or even holy water to avoid possible contamination; volunteers or employees trained to educate and guide the faithful who enter the premises; courteous invitation to sign the register of participants in each of our liturgical celebrations; elimination of choirs and songs where the risk of contagion is greater; training and education often renewed to get used to the new ways of proceeding; elimination of the traditional way of giving the sign of peace; and so on.

Now, the RCDHU is asking us to wear the mask throughout the whole celebration, not just at certain times.

Let us not forget that all the other elements present in my previous letter are still in force. I am thinking here in particular of the question of Communion on the tongue. During the time of the pandemic, I recommend that those who prefer to receive Communion on the tongue refrain from doing so until further notice. For those who have serious problems of conscience with the reception of Communion in the hand, I invite you to proceed as I have already indicated: wait until all those who receive Communion in the hand have received it first, and present yourself at the end of the line only. If your pastor is in the habit of distributing Communion in the pews, let those who wish to receive Communion on the tongue be the last to receive it. And I add that if the pastor who is circulating in the pews realizes that he has accidentally touched the tongue or lips of the communicant, despite all his usual precautions, let him go immediately to purify his hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before continuing his service. Public health has asked that hands be purified after each person receiving Communion on the tongue.

Our patience, charity, peace and trust in God in the midst of trials will become signs of God's presence and love for those we encounter and whom we must evangelize by our words and deeds, by our prayers and by the comfort we can provide for them.