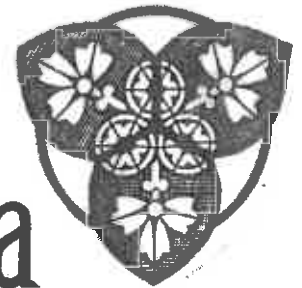


# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

*Month of the Our Lady*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

***Praise the Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity; Holy God, Mighty God, God Immortal, be adored! Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee; While in essence only One, Undivided God we acclaim Thee! God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!***

These familiar verses and refrains from our hymnody express the Church's humble attempt to explain in song one of the great truths and at the same time great mysteries of our faith – *The Most Holy Trinity*.

Throughout the Easter Season we have been celebrating the work of the Holy Trinity. Perhaps that is why the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity today on this first Lord's Day (*Sunday*) after Eastertide. It helps to remind us of what we celebrate every Lord's Day: The Risen Christ sends the Holy Spirit to be God's presence in us and in all God's creation.

As Christians we are called to begin and end whatever we say or do, *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*. Most people's understanding of this mysterious dogma of the Church is usually not much more developed than the First Communion Catechism they learned. That lesson, #3 in my copy, went something like this: *Is there only one God? Yes, there is only one God. There cannot be more than one God. There never will be more than one God.*

*How many Persons are there in God? In God there are three Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. \* NOTE: (I have a very old copy of the text.)* The lesson continues: **The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is God. But they are all ONE God. The Father is the First Person. The Son is the Second Person. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is the Third Person. There are THREE Persons in ONE God.**

*What do we call the three Persons in one God? We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is God. All THREE Persons are One God. We call them the Blessed Trinity. We PICTURE God the Father as a kind Father. But He is really a Spirit. We cannot see a spirit. It is easy to PICTURE God the Son because He really became man. We PICTURE God the Holy Ghost/Spirit as a dove. But He too is really a Spirit. We call Him the Holy Spirit. All three Persons are equal. How do we know that there are three persons in one God? We know that there are three Persons in one God because we have God's word for it. The Father sent His Son to us on earth. The Son told us what the Blessed Trinity is like. The Blessed Trinity is God's family. But it is a family which is all one God. In this family all is love. They never fight. They always agree. They are always happy. The lesson concludes with this advice: *Say this prayer often: O God, make my family holy.**

Perhaps when we read or re-read this catechism lesson now it brings a smile to our face and even a chuckle, but what more really can be said about the Holy Trinity? It certainly is a mystery like other mysteries in our faith, the Holy Eucharist, the virgin birth and the resurrection. When we say something is a mystery this does not mean we can not know anything at all about it. Rather this means we can never understand it fully in

this life. We can however grow in our understanding of the mysteries of our faith. This is done by meditating on the mystery. Our simple catechism lesson is a help to this meditation. It tells us that the Holy Trinity is a family. God lives in a community of persons. So do you and I, because God created more than just one human being! God's plan is for us to live in communities also. Our communities should be like God's. In this family all is love. They (the Holy Trinity) never fight. They always agree. They are always happy. O would that our Human communities could imitate more perfectly the community of the Most Holy Trinity. Then we like God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit could always be happy too!

**C**ONGRATULATIONS! To our new parish pastoral council members and alternates: Mr. John Kruso and Ms. Meredith Fortener have been chosen for a three year term from 2018 to 2021. They are members at large for the moment but in the future they might be elected to the office of chairperson, vice-chairperson or secretary. Ms. Kasia Dziuba was selected as an alternate in case one of our council members needs to resign. At our first council meeting in September the members will elect members to the positions of chairperson and vice-chairperson and will agree on who is to serve as council secretary.

I want to express my sincere thanks to our out going members who have served faithfully, Mr. Dale Zamecki and Mrs. Donna Milton. Also my sincere thanks to those who were nominated but who were not selected for service at this time, namely: Greg Kowalsky, Mike Genaw, Mary Nasarzewski, Suzanne Figurski, Ted Wienclaw, and Rob Toboy, Installation of the parish council members for this session will take place at a Sunday Mass in September.

*The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the Pastor. It is the coordinating and unifying structure of the Parish communion. The Parish Pastoral Council is the means of achieving the full participation of the whole Parish in its mission by giving all a voice in supporting, guiding and directing the various aspects of Parish life. It gathers together the visions, hopes and needs of the communion, reflects upon them until a consensus is reached, and translates this consensus into Parish planning through the establishment of goals and objectives. The Council sees that these goals and objectives are implemented by the Parish Commissions and committees and are evaluated annually. – From the Archdiocesan Handbook for Parish councils*

## ***Next Sunday Corpus Christi/Boże Ciało!***

The Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi is a very important one in the liturgical and faith life of the Catholic Church. When it was instituted way back in the Middle Ages, times were MUCH different! The Church took advantage of the beauty and warm weather of springtime to have outdoor devotions to the Blessed Sacrament. In those days people looked forward to and built their whole lives around Church high feasts and festivals. Most people never traveled too far from home and it was an agricultural society for the most part. After the spring planting folks just sat back and waited for the harvest. Well, times are different! Who would have ever thought that one day Corpus Christi would have to compete with weddings, baptisms, first communions, graduations and summer vacations!

In many churches the priests have just given up and no longer try to celebrate Corpus Christi the way it was meant to be celebrated. The result can often be a diminished Eucharistic faith and piety among the congregation. We are working as hard as we can to make sure this DOES NOT happen at Our Lady of the Scapular! And so next Sunday a special Mass has been planned at 12:00 noon that will include the solemn outdoor Eucharistic procession (weather permitting) to an outdoor altar where benediction will take place.

I'm sure everyone can come up with a multitude of reasons to avoid going to that Mass. Some will say it will be too long. Others will say it is not completely in my language so I won't understand every word. Some will say I have something else planned or that's not MY Mass to go to. The time doesn't suit my plans for the weekend. The list of excuses can go on and on. Friends, if you don't have time once a year to honor our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes Himself available to us at all times in the Blessed Sacrament, well.....I just don't know what to say. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be".....The Holy Eucharist is our greatest treasure. It is our Savior! If He is not your greatest treasure where will your heart be next Sunday at 12:00 noon?

## **Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day**

In 1868, a national day was held to remember the dead of the Civil War and to pray for reconciliation. The idea had come from Southern women who visited battlefields in late spring to decorate the graves. Some people still call Memorial Day by its original name, "Decoration Day."

Memorial Day now honors all United States citizens who died in war. Every city and town has its war dead. Often they are remembered with a parade to a cemetery or war memorial. With bouquets strewn over the waters, coastal cities honor those who died at sea.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is the site of a Civil War battle where many thousands died. On Memorial Day schoolchildren in that town will decorate the tombs of soldiers who could not be identified after their deaths. A service will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C.

In recent years Congress has proclaimed this as a day when the nation should strive for peace. As we honor those who have died, we look forward to the day when we will be willing to settle our disagreements without war.

As Christians, we also pray today for all the innocent victims of war. Across the world, millions of people are homeless because their countries are ravaged by fighting. Those people are called refugees. Many of them are orphaned children. Some are hungry. All are suffering.

A day of sorrow and mourning is hard to keep. We probably would rather celebrate the beginning of summer. But Memorial Day can bring with it much needed sorrow and forgiveness and peacemaking. Enjoy this national holiday with family and friends but keep in mind the dear price that has been paid for the gift of freedom. Jesus has said there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another. Remember also that, peace on earth and good will to men, was the message God's angels proclaimed on the night of Christ's birth!

## **Mass in Mount Carmel Cemetery**

### **Mass in the Catholic Cemetery of Wyandotte Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day – 10:00 o'clock AM**

Once again Mass will be offered in the Mount Carmel Cemetery on Memorial Day at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on! The location for the Mass (weather permitting) is in front of the Calvary Scene. After Mass as you tidy the graves of your beloved deceased, I will be only too happy to bless graves and say a short prayer for your dead with you. This will be a beautiful, quiet and peaceful setting. Come and honor the dead in the best way possible.

### **Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Our mission on earth is to bear Christ to others. The first chapter of the gospel of St. Luke describes a missionary journey. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with St. John the Baptist. Mary has just learned amazing news. Angel Gabriel has told her that she will bear a child by the power of the Holy Spirit. This child will be called the Son of God. The angel has said that Elizabeth also is pregnant. This is wonderful, because Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah are an elderly couple who have wanted a child all their lives.

St. Luke says that, in response to this news, Mary sets out "with haste." Elizabeth and Zechariah live a distance away. Mary chooses to make this journey because she is concerned for her cousin. She also wants to share her joy with someone who will understand. Her own pregnancy is still a secret. Elizabeth greets her cousin with words that will be repeated by generations of Christians at prayer: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." In paintings of the Visit of Mary and Elizabeth, the two women are shown embracing. Elizabeth in her old age and Mary in her youthfulness together hold fast to each other. Mary sings a song that begins with the words "My soul magnifies the Lord...." This song weaves together the words of the prophets to proclaim God's goodness and care for the poor. *Magnificat* is the first word of this song in Latin.

The visit of the cousins is also the first meeting of their unborn children. Elizabeth tells Mary that, at the sound of her voice, "the child within my womb leaped for joy." Luke reminds us of the words of the Bible's Song of Songs, "The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. We celebrated the Annunciation in March. Now it is the end of May. In the Song of Songs we read, "The winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come." Soon John will be born, and spring will have passed over into summer.

### **Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of St. Justin Martyr**

St. Justin was born in Palestine around the beginning of the second century. His pagan parents gave him the best education available. He became a professor of philosophy. In his work, Justin dealt with educated people. Among his friends, Christians were thought of as uncivilized. Other philosophers had studied the new religion and had decided it was ridiculous. Who could believe that God would come to die for love of humankind? There existed at the time all sorts of rumors about Christians. People said that their gatherings were just an excuse to get drunk. But Justin saw some of the Christians martyred. He decided their courage was so great that "it was impossible that they should be living in evil." Finally, when Justin was about thirty years old, someone told him that the only place he would find real truth was in the writings of the Jews and Christians. From then on it became his life's work to explain Christianity to the educated people of this world. To do this better, he opened a school of Christian studies in Rome. There he taught, wrote and debated with other philosophers. Justin wrote letters to explain the new faith to the emperor and other officials. To dispel the rumors about Christian liturgies, he described what really went on. The letters of St. Justin are treasured records of how Christians worshipped in those times. Because of his work, St. Justin was very visible as a Christian. After winning a public debate with an opponent of the faith in Rome in 165, he was put on trial with several of his pupils. St. Justin was convicted of being a traitor and he was beheaded at the order of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. St. Justin is known as an apologist, one who defends in writing the Christian religion against attacks and misunderstandings.

### **The First Friday of June, Month of the Sacred Heart!**

Friday of this week is the First Friday of the month. June is the month of June which is traditionally dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every First Friday has traditionally been dedicated to devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Heart of the Jesus and the Holy Eucharist go hand in hand. Those who observe the First Fridays of each month with the reception of Holy Communion are promised by Christ Himself many graces in this life and in the next. What a wonderful devotion it would be to come to Mass this Friday. Masses are offered at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM and at 7:00 PM in Polish. Have you ever made the nine First Fridays? If not, now is a wonderful time to start. Help us honor the Heart of the Savior who has loved us so much!

### **Restoration Up-date**

Most likely you have noticed the hydraulic lift on our parking lot, and you may even have seen the tuck point work being done on our church. Already the wall under the stained glass windows on the parking lot side of the church is done and is now ready for new glass block windows in the church basement. Now the same work is being done on the outside wall of the north transept. We became aware of the need for this work when the large stained glass window in that wall began to leak water into the church when it rained. When the tuck point work is done, the window will be caulked and all should be fine. The same will be done on the south transept wall of the church. Inside the church the painting and gilding work continues. The artist is almost finished with all the work on the walls of the entire church. Next we will move on to the columns. With all the work being done on the church as of late, don't forget we will soon finish our floor replacement on the south side of the church, our restoration fund cannot cover the price of the work on the ten columns. And so I am looking for ten sponsors to cover the cost of a pillar. Each pillar will require \$1300 to restore. If you would be interested in covering the cost of a pillar please see me or call the parish offices.