



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

February 24th, MMXIX

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Passion of the Lord

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

There are now only ten days left of Ordinary time before we begin the Holy Season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. It would seem as if this is a fine time for some remote preparation for the season we are about to begin. In times gone by the three Sundays before Lent made up a kind of pre-Lenten season and each Sunday had its own special name. Last Sunday was called **Septuagesima Sunday**. *Septuagesima* means the seventieth, as it was the seventieth day before Easter, well not exactly. If you count it was the 65th day before Easter Sunday, but this was the custom! This Sunday is called **Sexagesima Sunday**, the sixtieth day, the next Sunday was **Quinquagesima Sunday**, the fiftieth day and finally Lent was and still is in Latin called **Quadragesima** which is the fortieth day. In times gone by, the vestment color already had turned to purple as of last Sunday! Times are of course different now, but the idea is still a good one! Now is a good time to start getting ourselves ready for Lent, as I say remotely, in the back of your mind so to speak. Because it will be here before you know it! And anything that is worth doing is worth doing right, don't you think? And whenever we undertake something big we make a plan for ourselves. So.....let's start making our plans NOW! When you put these things off to the last minute sometimes other things can overtake us and the day comes and we haven't a clue as to what we really want and need to do.

In the meantime! These last days call for some festivities before we go into the rigors of Lent with its fasting and abstaining and denying ourselves. This time of year is called *Carnivale*. It is a time to really live it up! The name comes from the Latin words *carne*, which means flesh or meat and *vale* which means good-bye! So one of the themes of the Carnivale season is to enjoy great food, with plenty of meat dishes, in preparation for that day, Ash Wednesday and the Friday's of Lent when we must abstain from eating meat. Actually in ancient times many of the earlier Christians did not eat meat for the entirety of the season of Lent! Wow!

The early Christians thought that by not eating meat or any animal products during Lent, they could better resemble Noah and his family aboard the ark. By going without for the forty days of Lent they could help prepare the world for a new creation at the great feast of Easter. So at Carnivale time all meat, butter, cheese and eggs got used up in a final feast before the Lenten fast. This custom of using up the eggs and fat in a household is the origin for our pączki day.

Friday, March 1st – St. David's Day

St. David was born in about the year 500 in a place called Caerfai in Pembrokeshire, Wales. When he grew up he lived a very simple life of prayer as a hermit. He ate only bread, water and vegetables, such as the leeks that grew wild in Wales.

When people learned of David's holiness, they came to him for guidance. Eventually, other young Welshmen joined with David in more than a dozen monasteries he founded in Wales, Dumnonia and Brittany. Like him, they lived a stearn life. According to the Rule of Life written by St. David, the monks pulled plows themselves instead of using oxen. They drank only water and ate only bread with salt and herbs. They hoped that they'd become as prayerful as David. St. David is always portrayed with a white dove on his shoulder. It is said that once while preaching against the heresy of Pelagianism, a dove settled on his shoulder. He was considered such a good teacher that in time he was made a Bishop of Mynyw.

A legend about David says that he assisted his homeland when the Anglo-Saxons invaded Wales. David told each Welsh warrior to wear a leek in his hat so they would know friends from foes. The Welsh won the battle and the leek has been the emblem of Wales ever since.

St. David is the Patron Saint of Wales, of vegetarians and poets. He died in 589, and was canonized by Pope Callixtus II in 1120.

People from Wales have settled all over the world. Because many men had worked as miners in Wales, large colonies of Welsh can be found in the mining areas of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin and Tennessee. The Welsh are noted for their love of song and poetry and for their many beautiful hymn tunes.

It is the custom to wear a leek on St. David's Day. In this country, the daffodil often replaces the leek as the symbol of the saint, still worn with great pride.

March 1st – First Friday of the Month

First Friday during Lent is a very important one and a very busy one! During Lent we focus on our sins. The more we think about those sins the more we realize the damage they do. They hurt others, they hurt ourselves and they hurt the Heart of Christ, in fact they break His Sacred Heart. On the First Friday of every month we are called to think about the Heart of Christ. It is a loving heart and a forgiving heart, but we must ask for that forgiveness. This we do at the special Masses that are said in our church on First Fridays at 6:30 AM, & 8:00 AM. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration after the 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM and then again at 5:00 PM until Benediction will take place at 6:30 PM. Stations of the Cross will be then be prayed at 7 PM. Lent is a time to work on the soul. I cannot think of a better way to do this than to observe First Friday!

Your Parish

If your parish church is actually the dwelling place of Jesus Christ, Who is there to help you; if it possesses the altar, on which Christ renews every morning the sacrifice of His body and blood for you; if it is the place where you were baptized, confirmed, received your first holy communion, where your souls have been repeatedly washed from sin, where you were or hope to be married, where the remains of your loved ones were blessed before burial, where alone you will long be remembered in prayer and Mass after you are gone – I say, if your parish church is all this to you, surely it has a greater claim on your time, your gratitude and your support than any other person or institution in the world. Think about it!

From time to time, when I have a few spare moments, (*which is really quite rare*), I like to read through our extensive collection of old time bulletins so as to get an even greater insight about the history of our wonderful parish. Our parish has always been very active with many societies, organizations and clubs. In times gone the parish church and the parish school were the center of most Catholics lives. Over the years the pastors have always tried to challenge parishioners to be active in parish life and to welcome new comers into the fold. And so...there appeared in the February 1952 *Skaplerzowo* the following "Catholic Questionnaire." It is somewhat dated to the era and yet...I think it could still be very accurate in helping a parishioner in the year 2019 at Our Lady of the Scapular evaluate themselves. And so here it is with minor notations to make it more relevant to our times. Take it and rate yourself.

#1. Do I know the names of the priests here?

#2. Did I ever talk with them personally?

#3. Does the priest know me by name or looks?

#4. Do I know at least 50 other parishioners?

#5. Do I know off-hand the schedule and time of Masses?

#6. Where I can find the rectory phone number?

#7. Do I boost the parish by word or deed?

#8. Is my name on the Parish records?

#9. Is my correct address on parish files?

#10. Do I have and use parish envelopes weekly?

#11. Do I give my dime, seat offering, weekly?

How about offerings today for heat, special collections or CSA?

#12. Do I give a \$1.00 at least once a month?

Please adjust this for modern times! \$10 a week is only \$40 a month!

#13. Did I give all my salvage to the church?

We still can use your used items to sell at the re-sale shop

#14. Was I to at least 10 Bingos last year?

How about the many fund raisers necessary to keep our parish going?

#15. Did I offer my services to the parish?

We always need volunteers to get involved especially during Mass

#16. Did I help out in any raffle last year?

The Festival is the ULTIMATE raffle!

#17. Do I save and read every "Skaplerzowo"?

Reading the Bulletin is one of the most important things you should do every week!

The Sacramental “Bare Facts”

Last week I presented you with some of the financial facts of the last year. This week I would like to add to my report with the statistics of the sacramental activity in our parish for the last year. In the year 2018 eleven babies were baptized at Our Lady of the Scapular. In the year 2017 the total number of babies baptized for the parish of Our Lady of the Scapular was sixteen.

In the year 2018, three adults were received into the Catholic faith in the parish. In the year 2017 two were received. This year there is a prospective of one candidate.

In the year 2018 eleven children received their First Holy Communion in the parish. There is a prospective of six candidates this year.

In the year 2018 six young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year there is a prospective of four candidates.

In the year 2018 thirty funerals were conducted at Our Lady of the Scapular. In the year 2017 thirty-nine funerals were conducted in the parish.

Finally, in the year 2018 nine weddings were conducted at Our Lady of the Scapular. In 2016 five weddings were conducted in the parish. Six weddings are scheduled thus far for the year 2019.

At present there are 766 registered households in the parish. We are constantly attempting to keep an accurate number of parishioners who are attending the parish. Each year, like in every parish, there seem to be a number of people on the roster who no longer attend the parish, who may have moved away or died. These names will need to be removed from our rolls in order to have an accurate picture of the parish to be used in planning the future. New registrations do come in little by little. These will take the place of some who are gone but of course we are constantly searching for and inviting new parishioners to join us!

The person next to you

At every Mass we extend a greeting of peace to those around us. Like any routine action, this greeting can become meaningless unless we spend some time for reflection on its significance. Here are some thoughts about the person you greet.

The person next to you...

- is the greatest miracle and the greatest mystery you will ever meet.
- is a testament of the Word made flesh.

The person next to you....

- is an inexhaustible reservoir of possibility, with possibilities which have only been partially touched off.

The person next to you....

- is a unique universe of experience, fears and hopes, smiles and frowns, laughter and tears, all struggling to find expression

The person next to you....

- is searching to become something outstanding.
- has a story and a song, and desires to be known and to know

The person next to you....

- counts for something and lives for something
- labors for something and waits for something

The person next to you....

- has problems and fears
- is often undecided and disorganized, and painfully close to chaos,
- but endowed with great toughness in the face of adversity,
- and is able to survive the most unbelievable difficulties and persecutions.

The person next to you....