



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

April 15th, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of the Holy Eucharist

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus! Praised be Jesus Christ!

Easter is a time of celebrating new life and renewal. This renewal is not limited only to our spirits but with springtime finally approaching, to the world around us. This year the restoration and renewal of our church building, which began in 2016 as we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the dedication of church, continues in a very noticeable way with the many projects in the church. Let me point some of them out to you.

Very important and noticeable is the removal of the wooden platform and carpet in the sanctuary and the additional lighting near the altar. Next is the relocation of the 1942 baptismal font from the vestibule of the church to its current position in front of Our Lady's altar. The new altar of sacrifice that is movable is also part of the renovation being done. The vestibule has been repainted and reorganized with a very practical new pamphlet rack and additional bulletin board space to announce the many activities that go on in our busy parish. The baptistery once in the vestibule has been transformed into a very lovely adoration chapel that will be officially opened very soon.

In the church proper the balcony has been artistically painted along with all the doorways to the church, and all the brackets for the statues and some of the capitals of the pillars. At present you cannot help but notice that the side pews on the Superior side of the church have been removed. This was necessitated by the very poor and even dangerous condition of the floor on this side of the church. The linoleum had begun to crack and pieces had fallen out. This exposed the wooden floor to water from snowy shoes and mopping. Next the floor began to rot away. A real tripping hazard existed. The original 1916 wooden floor will be covered with a wood laminate.

At the same time faux marble will be repainted on this side of the church and the radiator covers will be repainted and the crumbling plaster around the radiators will be attended to. Above all this, the capitals of the columns on the wall will be painted and regilded, while the benches are conveniently out of the way and the scaffolding can be put up. When this rear section is finished, the front section of the south side will also be done in the same way. This will mean seating in this section will not be available for some time. At the same time painting and regilding will begin on the north side of the church starting in the handicapped section. The floor on this side can also hopefully be done soon. In fact, as you can see for yourself, the floor everywhere in the church is in great need of repair and replacement. All these projects are being funded by either the various societies of the parish, anonymous donors or donations to the restoration fund. Please consider using a green restoration envelope found at all the entrances to the church to be a part of this exciting work going on in our parish church.

Sunday Family Dinners: Tradition returns with Orchard Lake 'Polish Sundays'

From a press release from the Orchard Lake Schools on April 5th

"Polish people speak reverently about "big Sunday family dinners" where extended family of every generation would gather together, break bread, share stories and be a true family in the best sense. Some Hamtramck families (*and Wyandote Families!*) connected multiple tables across their basements or first floors to get everyone together and accommodate the packed dinners.

Nearly 60 percent of Americans say their family has fewer meals together than when they were growing up. One thing the Church, social science research and our gut instincts agree on: more such family meals are better for our bodies, our brains, souls, spirit and our relationships than having everyone going their own way, doing their own thing, staring at phones while retreating into their own separate worlds.

Orchard Lake Chancellor, Canon Mirosław Król, is reuniting family and friends "Polish style" with the return of monthly "Polish Sunday" Masses and meals on the first Sunday of every month. Confessions are heard in both the Polish and English languages in the Shrine Chapel on campus starting at 12:30 PM and continuing until all are heard. At 1:00 o'clock Mass is celebrated in the chapel in the Polish language. The beautiful chapel is home to a first class relic of St. John Paul II and is the official archdiocesan shrine to this beloved saint, who visited the schools during his time as archbishop of Kraków. Afterward the famous Polish dinners are served in the campus dining hall. The meal is buffet style and always features Polish delicacies and includes soup, desserts and beverages for just \$15 for adults and children ages 7 – 13 at \$7, under 7 eat for free."

After dinner if the weather is pleasant families can stroll the beautiful grounds of the campus by the lake. Quite possibly you will meet a seminarian from Poland there studying for service to the American Church at the Polish Seminary of Saint Cyril and Methodius. In the building next to the seminary the Polish Panorama will be presented on these Sunday afternoons. This recently renovated presentation describes the over 1000 year history of the Polish Nation and the Polish people that made the nation great. Canon Król promises that very soon some of the museums and collections on campus will be available to be viewed on Polish Sundays and at other times of the year. A visit to the Lourdes Grotto is a must each time one comes to Orchard Lake. And there are many other monuments on the scenic grounds to be seen.

Our parish has a strong connection with Orchard Lake and the Polish Seminary. Out of the thirteen pastors of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish only the first, Fr. Bernard Żmijewski had no contact with the Orchard Lakes Schools and the Polish Seminary in his education toward the priesthood. Nine pastors graduated from the seminary. The other three graduated from the college at Orchard Lake and then went on to study at St. John's Seminary in Plymouth or one went to Rome. As the first pastor of Our Lady of the Scapular Parish I am also a graduate of the Polish Seminary. Our parish is also one of the last in the nation to have its own Orchard Lake Ladies' Auxiliary.

The missalettes we use for our Sunday Mass in Polish are produced and distributed by the Orchard Lake Schools. Orchard Lake is a center for Polish liturgical studies and disseminates useful information on Polish liturgy, devotions and religious practices to Polish American Parishes throughout the country. The schools have always had a strong tie to the Church in Poland and have been visited by many prominent Polish clergymen starting with Cardinal Karol Wojtyła who later became Pope John Paul II and is now a great saint of the universal Church. Just recently Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, the former secretary of Pope John Paul II and archbishop emeritus of Kraków visited the campus at Orchard Lake. Orchard Lake and Canon Król cordially invites all to visit this important center of Polonia.

For more info call: 248-706-5363