



# Stronica Proboszcza

## The Pastor's Page

March 17<sup>th</sup>, MMXIX  
Second Sunday of Lent  
*Month of Saint Joseph*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

**W**e have all now completed the first week and a half of the holy season of Lent. If you are keeping a count, 10 of the 40 days of Lent are gone. It is important to continuously evaluate ourselves during this special time of year. Have I been to Mass on any of these weekdays of Lent when there was no moral obligation but only the opportunity to show God my love and thankfulness for the gift of His Son and the Sacrament of the Eucharist? Have I gone to the Stations of the Cross at church or meditated and prayed over the suffering and death of Christ and what it means for me? Have I showed special kindness, compassion and patience to the people I live and work with as a sign of my sorrow for sin? Have I made some contribution from my own material blessings to help the poor among us? Have I volunteered my time or work in my community or parish to help with special projects going on? What am I planning to do for the other 30 days of Lent? Am I already planning for the Holy Days of Easter and how I will arrange my social life **around** my church attendance and not vice versa? These are important questions that should fill our minds this day if we are really serious about making this the best Lent ever.

As a very important part of your Lenten program I want to remind you that our annual solemn Forty Hours Devotion will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup>, March 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. This is an intense time of prayer in a parish during which we thank God for the precious gift of the Holy Eucharist, which is the center of our lives as Christians because it is Christ HIMSELF! You need to take part in these observances! You need to plan to take part in them NOW! Use your Lenten Schedule to find the dates and mark your calendar. Christ was able to give us the great gift of the Holy Eucharist because of His Sacred Passion. It was on the cross when His words at the last supper were truly fulfilled, "This is my body... this is my blood, given for you so that sins may be forgiven." We are expecting guests for our Forty Hours. It will be a joyful time in our parish. The closing ceremony will be followed by a "Polish" banquet in our hall. **Maryann Rogowski** is cooking again! Tickets are \$12 and are available now for purchase. Seating is limited.

*If someone says something unkind about me,  
I must live so that no one will believe it.*

## Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day

To my dear brothers and sisters of the many ethnic backgrounds that compose our parish of Our Lady of the Scapular: the day is finally upon us! There is no mistaking it! The Irish brethren in our communities and even our families and parish are standing tall with pride this day as they honor the patron of the Emerald Isle – St. Patrick! I do hope they are well-informed enough to realize however that their patron is not Irish at all. Not even a “wee drop” of Irish blood coursed through his saintly veins! SURPRISE! Patrick was born in Britain not Ireland of Welsh and Italian parents! When he was 16, his father's farm in Britain was attacked and the raiders carried Patrick off with his father's servants to be slaves in Ireland. He spent the next six years tending sheep, and in his loneliness and isolation began to pray. When he was finally able to escape, he returned to Britain and there became a monk. He began studying to become a missionary and to return to Ireland. In 433 he became a bishop and did finally return to Ireland, traveling throughout the country preaching in Gaelic, the language of the people that he had learned as a slave. When St. Patrick died in 461 most of Ireland had been baptized and had become Christian. Ireland became a strong Christian country deeply rooted in the Catholic Faith, sending missionaries out to the whole world and preserving Christianity in Europe after it had been invaded by pagans.

Irish people the world over celebrate St. Patrick's Day by wearing green. The custom in Ireland is for all Catholics to attend Mass on this Solemn Holy Day. Our American observances of the Irish feast are filled with fun but could also benefit from participation in Mass and prayer. In Detroit the center of Irish observance of St. Patrick's Day is in Corktown at Most Holy Trinity Church. The Irish immigration to the city of Detroit and environs began in the 1830's. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic Church to have devotions and services in the English language in the Catholic history of Detroit. It was founded in 1834 to serve Irish immigrants arriving in Detroit primarily from County Cork in Ireland.

Here in Wyandotte the first Catholic parish was founded in 1857. It was named St. Charles Borromeo and its first pastor was Rev. Charles DePreiter. Before this, Catholics living in Wyandotte worshipped in Ecorse. On October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1883 that first Catholic parish was renamed St. Patrick as a new church building was dedicated. In 1885 the first Catholic school was opened at St. Patrick's and was staffed by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary from Monroe. As we all know, times do change and so on July 1<sup>st</sup> of 2013 St. Patrick and St. Joseph Parishes were merged to form the new parish of St. Vincent Palotti. Still the church building itself retains the name St. Patrick and on their feast day we wish all the best to those who worship there.

### The Shamrock – National Flower of Ireland

The mysteries of the faith are difficult to teach. Legend has it that St. Patrick used a shamrock to help explain the Trinity to the king's two daughters. Its three leaflets on one stem represent the three Persons in one God. Some say the occasion was his sermon to Laoghaire, chief of the Irish clans who had come to seize the saint for daring to ignite the Easter fire on the Hill of Slane.

***Jest to cnota nad cnotami, trzymać język za zębami!***

***It is a virtue above all virtues, to keep one's tongue behind one's teeth***

## St. Patrick's Purgatory

There is a cave with this name in Ireland on an islet in Lough Derg, County Donegal. In the Middle Ages there was a church and a man-made cavern on the island, and it became a great place of pilgrimage. Behind this island's notoriety was an English Cistercian monk, Henry of Saltrey, who wrote of the adventures and punishments of one Owen, or Sir Owen, a knight of King Stephan's court, who descended into "purgatory" on an Irish island.

This popularized the thousand-year-old legend of St. Patrick's Purgatory. God granted him the ability to see and show to others the punishment of sinners, thereby bolstering his teachings with a little demonstration. St. Patrick would take sinners to this purgatory-on-earth to see the pain and suffering of the souls in purgatory, and thus warn of the evils of sin and the dangers of procrastinating about repentance and reparation. This was a three-day retreat, complete with fasting, sleeping on the ground, and sacramental reconciliation.

## Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Universal Church,

An even greater feast than that of St. Patrick on Sunday, is that of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the guardian of Jesus on Tuesday. The Gospel of Matthew shows Joseph to be a faith-filled man listening and heeding several times the message of an angel made known to him in a dream. We know that he was an artisan by trade and that he was of the royal lineage of King David.

Since he is never mentioned as being around when Jesus began his adult ministry, most believe that Joseph had already died by that time and he is thus considered the patron of a happy death.

Whatever the details of his life, scripture relates that he was a just man. Devotion to St. Joseph has been traced back as far as the 4<sup>th</sup> century in the Eastern Church where devotion was largely fueled by a work called *the History of Joseph the Carpenter*. It seems to have taken longer to catch on in the West, where the earliest reference to a feast in honor of St. Joseph is in the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

Devotion to St. Joseph has flourished since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, largely due to the influence of St. Theresa of Avila. She could be called St. Joseph's personal saint, with references to her diligence in spreading his devotion. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph Patron of the universal Church. The command of Pharaoh in Genesis to the people of Egypt referring to the earlier patriarch, *Ite ad Ioseph* (Latin for *Go to Joseph*), is often applied to him.

There are currently three universal feasts in honor of St. Joseph. His principal feast is March 19<sup>th</sup>. The feast of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1<sup>st</sup>. The feast of the Holy Family during the octave of Christmas is also a feast of the saint. Some places also commemorate the Betrothal of the Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. An old Italian custom calls for the blessing of small loaves of bread in honor of St. Joseph on his feast day. This bread is enjoyed by all who partake of it but is especially shared with the poor as an act of devotion to humble St. Joseph who lived a poor life himself. The Church of St. Joseph here in Wyandotte was founded in 1870 to serve the German immigration to our town. Best wishes to all members of St. Vincent Palotti parish who worship there!

**Mass will be offered on St. Joseph's Day, Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

**Please consider attending and honor this great Saint, the Foster Father of Our Lord Jesus**

## Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – The Vernal or Spring Equinox

On two days of the year, one at the beginning of spring and one at the beginning of fall, day and night are each exactly twelve hours long. That's what the word "equinox" means. The word "vernal" means "spring." This day marks the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. From then until the autumnal equinox, days will be longer than nights. The most important date of the Christian year, the date of Easter, is determined by the vernal equinox. For most Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox. That can fall any time between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. This year that day will be April 21<sup>st</sup>. The vernal equinox occurs during Lent. In fact the word "Lent" is related to the word "lengthen" because during Lent the days lengthen and the nights get shorter. The word Lent also is an old word for springtime.

*Kłaniamy Ci się Panie Jezu Chryste i błogosławimy Tobie  
Żeś przez krzyż i mękę swoją świat odkupić raczył.*

### The Stations of the Cross – Droga Krzyżowa

Stations of the Cross, whether conducted publicly or undertaken individually, are a strongly recommended Lenten devotion. The Stations focus our attention more sharply on the Passion and Death of Christ. They are a very ancient and beautiful act of piety, the origins of which go back to the custom of making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A pilgrimage was a long and arduous journey for a religious purpose. Pilgrims to the Holy Land would stand in reverence and meditative reflection at the locations which according to tradition, were made holy by such incidents in Our Lord's suffering as His falls, His meeting with Veronica and His own Blessed Mother, etc. "Station" comes from the Latin word "sto" meaning "I stand." It is a place where people stand. Since it was not feasible for large numbers of people to leave their homes for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, however ardently they may have wished to do so, the next best thing was done – the pilgrimage was brought to the people. This took the form of the fourteen Stations of the Cross as we now use them. Please consider coming to the Stations of the Cross in our church every Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM. This devotion will conclude with the distribution of Holy Communion.

*We Adore Thee O Christ and we praise Thee.  
Because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world!*

*Przypatrz się duszo, jak cię Bóg miłuje, Jako dla ciebie, sobie nie folguje,  
Przecież Go bardziej, niż katowska dręczy, złość twoja męczy.*

*O my soul, how much God loves you. See how He does not even spare Himself, but  
it is your malice that pains Him even more than the executioner's torture.*

*Gorzkie Zale part II*