



Stronica Proboszcza

The Pastor's Page

March 15th, MMXX

Third Sunday of Lent

Month of Saint Joseph

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

A Special Time of Grace in our Parish!

Next weekend we observe our annual Forty Hours Devotion.

These three days have the potential to be a time of great grace for our parish, that is, if parishioners take advantage of them. Jesus our Eucharistic Lord will be exposed in the monstrance on the main altar of our church, practically speaking for three days. The purpose of this devotion is to give believers an opportunity to come to the church and quietly pray to our Lord who is present here in our tabernacle day and night ALWAYS! It is a time to contemplate the gift of the Holy Eucharist. This was a costly gift for our dear Lord to give because it required the sacrifice of His life on the altar of the cross. Do you realize that that same sacrifice happens over and over on the altar of our church every time the Mass is offered? Your own salvation is being accomplished right before your very eyes each time you are present at Mass. This is why you should take an active role in the liturgy and make the responses and sing the hymns. You should try to focus on what is happening at the altar and not let yourself be distracted by other business of infinitely lesser importance that waits for you after Mass. How should we adore Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist? We should look at the host devoutly and ask the Lord to strengthen our faith that He is truly present as He said He would be. We should remember the gift He has given us in His Passion, Crucifixion Death and Resurrection and thank Him for this. We should beg Him to share the power of the Holy Spirit with us so we can live in a way pleasing to God our Father. Please don't pass up this wonderful opportunity to grow in your Catholic Faith!

Stations of the Cross every Friday of Lent!

At 7 PM Come and walk this sorrowful road with Our Lord and Our Lady

And receive Holy Communion for the good of your immortal soul!


Schedule for the Forty Hours Devotions

Friday, March 20th – 8:00 AM Mass followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in church all afternoon. Confessions will be heard at 6:00 PM. At 6:30 PM Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place. 7:00 Stations of the Cross will be prayed with distribution of Holy Communion.

Saturday, March 21st – 8:00 AM Mass followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in church all afternoon. Confessions will be heard at 3:00PM. At 4:00 PM Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place, followed by the regular 4:30 PM Mass.

Sunday, March 22nd – 12:00 noon Tridentine Mass in Latin – *Fourth Sunday of Lent*, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in church. Confessions will be heard at 2:00 PM, 3:00 PM Gorzkie Zale. **4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies of the Forty Hours Devotion**

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.

e have all now completed the first two and a half weeks of the holy season of Lent. If you are keeping a count, 18 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 Holy 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 22 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.

Tuesday, March 17th - 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 1st 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 7th, 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 1st 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.

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.

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

Thursday, March 19th, 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 4th 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 8th century.

Devotion to St. Joseph has flourished since the 16th 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 19th. The feast of St. Joseph the Worker is May 1st. 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 23rd. 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, Thursday, March 19th at 7PM.

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

Thursday, March 19th to Friday, March 20th – 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 22nd and April 25th. This year that day will be April 12th. 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.

Every Friday of Lent is a day of Abstinence.

Everyone over 14 years of age must abstain from eating meat.

Why not come to our Fish Fry and support your parish and save yourself the trouble of cooking?

In the parish hall from 3PM until 7PM