

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 14, 2018 – **Second Sunday of Ordinary Time**

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

Monday, January 15, 2018 – **Weekday**

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 – **Weekday**

Wednesday, January 17, 2018 – **Weekday**

Thursday, January 18, 2018 – **Weekday**

Friday, January 19, 2018 – **Weekday**

Saturday, January 20, 2018 – **Weekday**

Sunday, January 21, 2018 – **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

FAITH SHARING

In the city of Werden, Germany, there stands a Catholic Church with a lamb carved out of stone and placed on its roof. It was said that when the Church was being built, a stone-carving mason fell from a high scaffold. His co-workers rushed down, expecting to find him dead. But to their surprise and joy, he was alive and only slightly injured. How did he survive? A flock of sheep was passing beneath the tower at that time, and he landed on top of a lamb. The lamb broke his fall and was crushed to death, but the man was saved. To commemorate that miraculous escape, he carved a lamb in stone and placed it on the tower, in gratitude for the lamb that saved his life. Today we are here at this Liturgy to remember and salute another Lamb who died a cruel death to save mankind. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the "*Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.*"



PARISH FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Our Parish is facing serious financial problems. There are few "right now" projects to be completed and paid. I spoke with Bishop Bernard Nowicki on behalf of St. Valentine's Parish. Also Julie Brown had phone conversation with our Bishop. Diocese cannot support us at this moment. However Bishop approved the loan from Credit Union Spójnia in Scranton for \$30-35K. In the future it is possible some subsidy granted with the help of the Diocese.

There is no income to our parish right now. Our registered parishioners don't contribute the way they supposed to. According to our Constitution to be a member of our Church individuals (adults) are obliged to contribute dues to their parish, diocese and General Church. Those who choose not to make their offerings as yearly dues and weekly Sunday collection are not in good standing and are losing their rights to vote, to discuss parish issues at the meetings, to be a delegate to synod, to be buried at our parish cemetery and to be called Polish National Catholic Church members.

Through at least last 7 years General Church and Central Diocese didn't receive any dues from St. Valentine's. This fact is putting us into very uncomfortable position. If we did not contribute, so neither the Diocese nor Prime Bishop is obliged to help us.

DUES

Each individual member of our Church is obliged to contribute the following dues:

since 2014:

\$100.00 to the National Church (it goes to Prime Bishop's office)

\$25.00 to the Central Diocese

\$100.00 to the St. Valentine's Parish

\$225.00 Total /per each member yearly. This is only 62 cents per day.

So far only few parishioners pay their dues. Some pay one amount for the whole family instead for the each member, excluding the minors under 18 and college students.

Mentality has not changed for years in our parish and many parishioners pay \$85.00 per family saying that nobody told them to pay more. The first letter from Prime Bishop's Office has been sent to all parishes in 2014 and re-sent each year after. We cannot say now that we didn't know about it.

Also we are obliged to contribute to the Parish through **regular Sunday collection**. We can do it in person or via mail, weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly.

Moreover **6% Levy** (from all Sunday and Holy Day collections and Parish Dues, excepting the \$100.00 of the General Funds Dues) must be submitted to the National Church via the Diocesan Treasurers. 6% Levy are to be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer quarterly.

A number of Special Collections through the whole year are to be taken in every parish for many purposes (the Mission Fund, Seminary Fund, Music Scholarship Fund, National Church Center, Clergy Pension Fund, Youth Fund, Spojnia, Outreach to Poland).

ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH RESCUE OR CLOSING?

At this moment we have to sit together and discuss the future of this Parish. Are we still parishioners or just a group of followers, cafeteria Catholics, exclusive club members? Why did I say that? The Sunday Mass attendance dropped drastically last few years. We lost many of our members. Some of them our Lord called to himself, some moved out from this area, some others got older and are homebound or in nursing homes.

Are we able to help, to rescue St. Valentine's or will we wait for its agony?

We will see what has be done in the future, what is the next step, and what the final step could be – closing of our parish?

Let us remember our fathers who 100 years ago sacrificed a lot to establish our

parish, to build our church, to struggle with the hatred of other denominations. We still have some possibilities to work together making pierogies, organizing dinners, parish festival, flea market etc. Please open your minds, your hearts and your wallets. All ideas and suggestions are needed ASAP.

PARISH FLEA MARKET

Please look for some unwanted items in your garage, attic, basement and other storage rooms. There are many things you don't need any more but for somebody



else it can be a treasure. Please donate your unwanted items to us and let St. Valentine's Parish make some money on it. We need your help. Flea market is a great opportunity to help your Parish to survive.

Absolutely we DO NOT ACCEPT any clothing, bedding and shoes.

We want to make the sale twice. Ones in our church hall in May or June. Second time later in

our park with renting the tables for other vendors.

If you have some items to donate but you are unable to bring them to our church hall, please give us a call and we can pick them up. Please call us at (215) 535-4978.

KOLEDA – NEW YEAR HOUSE BLESSING

If you wish your priest to bless your house, please schedule an appointment. He will come to your home at the most convenient time for you. Please call Parish Office at (215) 535-4978.



2018 MASS OFFERINGS ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2018 Mass offerings envelopes. There are located in the back of the church. Please take them also for your relatives and friends who are not coming regularly for Sunday worship.

In case you can't pick them up for some reason we can mail them to you. Please call Parish office.

ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

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2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time
2 Niedziela Zwykła

January 14, 2018