

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 21, 2018 – 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass

Monday, January 22, 2018 – Weekday

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 – Weekday

Wednesday, January 24, 2018 – Weekday

Thursday, January 25, 2018 – Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Friday, January 26, 2018 – Weekday

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – Weekday

Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Septuagesima)

- 9:30 AM Holy Mass

PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING Today, Sunday, Jan 21, 2018, after Mass

FAITH SHARING

We need to appreciate our call to become Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick. We are called individually to a way of life or vocation: – a religious commitment (priest, deacon, marriage partner or single person), plus a particular occupation rising from our talents (medicine, law, teaching, healing, writing, art, music, building and carpentry, home-making, child-rearing). Our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be.

Our call, of course, begins with our Baptism and the other Sacraments of Initiation. It is strengthened through the years with the Eucharist and Reconciliation, healed and consoled by Anointing and, for those so called, made manifest in the sacraments of Matrimony or Holy Orders. The amazing truth is that God is relentless in calling us back to Himself even when we stray away from Him. Let us be thankful to God for His Divine grace of calling us to be members of the Church. Let us remember that it is our vocation in life as Christians to transmit Christ's Light through our living, radiating Jesus' unconditional love, mercy, forgiveness and humble service to all in our society.

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, Spójnia, 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 been 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.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY BRUNCH

On Sunday, February 11, 2018 we are inviting after Mass everyone to attend St. Valentine's Day brunch in parish hall. Tickets (\$10 a platter donation) will be available at the door. St. Valentine, Patron Saint of our Parish is a patron of lovers. Do you love your parish? If yes, please come for St. Valentine's Day brunch to support your faith community. Don't come alone. Please bring your friends with you. Your presence is very important to your parish. Your Presence is your donation to your parish. Thank you!

CEMETERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please Remove all Christmas ornaments/decorations from cemetery by February 11, 2018. Thank you.

BRING YOUR OLD PALM

Do you still have your palm from last year Palm Sunday? Please bring it and place it in the back of our church. We burn the palms of last year's Palm Sunday and will be using the ashes on this year Ash Wednesday.

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.

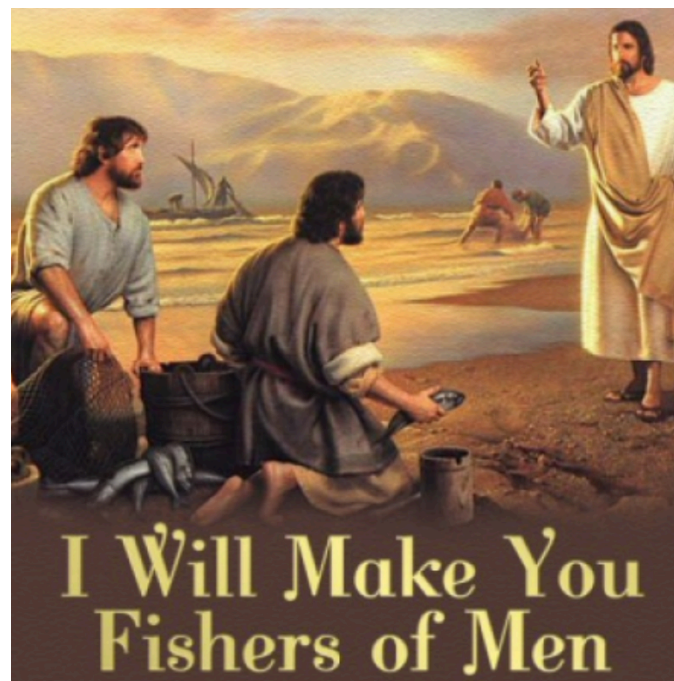


ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

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3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
3 Niedziela Zwykła

January 21, 2018