

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 7, 2018 – **Solemnity – Baptism of our Lord**

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

Monday, January 8, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

Thursday, January 11, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

Friday, January 12, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

Saturday, January 13, 2018 – **Octave of the Epiphany**

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

- **9:30 AM Holy Mass**

FAITH SHARING

The Greek word Epiphany (*επιφάνεια*), means *appearance* or *manifestation*. First, the angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds. In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi, while in the Eastern Church, the feast is the commemoration of the baptism of Christ where the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana he revealed his Divinity by transforming water into wine. These multiple revelations are all suggested by the Feast of the Epiphany.

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 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.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE BLESSING

If you wish your priest to come and 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.



MASS INTENTION REQUEST FORM

Mass for _____

Date Requested _____ Time _____

Requested by _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ - _____ - _____ Amount \$ _____

Please mail this form and Mass stipend to: St. Valentine's PNCC, 2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137 or call parish office at (215) 535-4978.

ST. VALENTINE'S PARISH

Polish National Catholic Church

2330 Margaret St, Philadelphia, PA 19137, (215) 535-4978

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**Epiphany of our Lord
Objawienie Pańskie**

**Baptism of our Lord
Chrzest Pański**

January 6-7, 2018