

Strona Proboszcza

The Pastor's Page

August 12th, 2007

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of Our Lady's Assumption

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Parishioners & Friends of Sweetest Heart of Mary,

D happy day! It's FESTIVAL time again! Time for all of us here at Sweetest Heart of Mary to graciously welcome the many guests present for this wonderful event. We all want to extend the greatest hospitality possible, in old Polish tradition, to all who have been kind enough to make the journey from East, West, North and South to our grand old church, so as to celebrate our annual Pierogi Festival. The annual festival is also a time for us to show off the old place at its very best and we have all been working very hard so that is just what you will see and experience!

We are all so very proud of our 114 year old church and our 118 year old parish. We hope your visit here will be an inspirational one and that you will return many times over! Please be sure to see everything while you are here! Walk our grounds. See the new fencing around our recently acquired lot at the corner of Russell and Garfield with a new entrance gate on Garfield Street. Grass will be planted on two parts of this lot and additional paved parking will be added directly behind St. Joseph Hall for more convenient delivery when we use caterers or buy supplies for the kitchen. On the property next to the parking lot five poles were removed by the Edison Company and wires were re-routed making it possible for future expansion of our parking space and festival tents. New signs have been ordered for the extreme corners of our property on Russell Street and Canfield Avenue. At the Hall a new handicapped ramp has been built with a very attractive new entrance to the building. Upstairs in the hall the men's club has completed a fine meeting room by connecting three former nun's cells. At the rectory a plaque with a beautiful pewter eagle has been hung at the pinnacle of the gable on the courtyard side of the house. Inside the house the food pantry has been moved to St. Joseph's Church rectory and expanded and the room left behind transformed into a lovely breakfast room. The basement kitchen of the rectory has been quadrupled in size to provide adequate space for the complete preparation of the festival chicken dinners.

Enjoy the beauty of the many flower beds that surround the entire church and decorate the property we love! Many of this year's flowers were donated by the parishioners and friends of Sweetest Heart of Mary. They have been planted and tenderly cared for by Mr. & Mrs. Norman & Judith Lamberti. As faithful volunteers they come around regularly to tend the flower beds and their labors of love are greatly appreciated!

Explore the entire church in order to see the wonderful details of the artistic decoration that continues to be restored therein. One of the murals on the wall to the right of the high altar has been restored. This painting features the Annunciation. The other painting of the Immaculate Conception will be restored during Lent next year. All the terrazzo and marble floors throughout the church have

been professionally cleaned and polished as well as the marble communion rail. The plaster arches of the main entrance have been artistically wood grained on the inside. Those on the vestibule side will be done next. The beautiful oak hand carved gothic celebrant's chairs in the sanctuary are in the process of being repaired. Two of the three are finished and when the main chair is done they will be placed on a decorative platform so as to protect them. Outside the church the lights above the four entrances have all been replaced after being missing for many years. The entire fence around the church is in the process of being scraped and painted after fifty years of neglect. The windows behind the high altar are also in the process of being scraped, repaired and painted. New storm windows will be put on them to protect them.

Perhaps the most exciting of the many projects we are working on is the old school building. After almost thirty years of total neglect the building now has a new roof. It has been totally gutted on the inside. The back wall where the addition was once connected to it is being tuck pointed. The floor on the first floor is being replaced. Seven new windows have been installed on the upper west side of the building with more on the way! Three glass block windows have been put in the east side basement wall. And a new permanent steel safety door has been installed at the basement entrance, as well as a new wooden back wall with temporary double doors. We all look forward to the day this building will become our new parish hall. It is a very historically significant building in our parish history. It is also a very well built building and its architecture is lovely. We hope you will be as excited about this project as we are and we invite you to step into the building and see what we have done.

Please! Don't forget to sample some of the home made Polish foods we have worked so hard to tempt you with! We have increased our food preparations this year so that hopefully there will be enough for everyone!

The annual festival of a parish is a joyful time of year. In old Poland the festival usually was held on the days leading up to and culminating with the feast day of the patron saint of the parish. It was also a spiritual time in the life of the parish. That is why the patronal feast day of a parish is called *Odpust* which literally translates as indulgence. Parishioners received the indulgence by going to confession and Holy Communion at Mass on the patronal feast of the parish. Then afterward there was music and dancing not to mention plenty of delicious foods to enjoy in a carnival atmosphere on the church grounds. Our festival will be even more uplifting and joyful this year by beginning with a Polka Mass that features music by the popular and talented "Pan Franek & Zosia." We were so lucky to get this well known group for our Polka Mass and dancing music in the tent on Saturday night! Again I must express my sincere thankfulness to the benefactor and friend of Sweetest Heart of Mary who covered this expense completely!

We are not quite certain of the actual feast day of the Most Sweet Heart of Mary but August certainly is an appropriate time for our festival as we are just about to celebrate Mary's glorious Assumption into heaven. It is my sincere hope as pastor of Sweetest Heart of Mary Parish that somehow our festival and the days surrounding it will be a spiritually beneficial time for all. For those who have worked so hard as they lovingly offer their acts of service to God so as to build up His Church on earth, and for those who attended as they give thanks also to God for the blessings of fellowship with friends and the many other blessings we are privileged to receive regularly from God.

On the grounds of the festival this year, our visitors and guests will find an information booth. Please stop by to find information about what's going on in our parish and our cluster partners, St. Josaphat and St. Joseph Churches. These two historic church communities are also growing and improving as our cluster grows stronger and prepares itself for a bright future!

In this booth you will find brochures on the activities of the various organizations in our parish. The brochures include contact numbers if you are a newer member of the parish and would like to get more involved. You can also leave your name and telephone number with the volunteers in this booth and you will be contacted by the leaders of the various organizations. This booth also has the very complete booklets of sponsors of our festival and personal ads of well-wishers. Please pick up one of these booklets and patronize the businesses therein that support our festival.

Thanks so much for spending the day with us!
Bóg Zapłać!