

AUGUST 28, 2016
Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Thomas Becket



MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am & 12:30pm
7:30am & 10:45am Polish
Holy Days: 9:00am English
6:30pm Bilingual & 8:00pm Polish
Weekdays: 9:00am Mass: Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
Friday—7:00pm Mass in Polish

PARISH PHONE NUMBER

(847) 827-9220

PARISH E-MAIL:

stthomasbecket@stbtmp.org

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Chris Kulig
ckulig@stbtmp.org

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. John Roller

Deacon Couple: Tony and Doreen Jannotta: (847) 690-9970
jannotta@comcast.net

Administrative Assistant:
Krystyna Maciorowski
kmaciorowski@stbtmp.org

Parish Secretary / Bulletin Editor:
Liz Mika: emika@stbtmp.org
Business Director: Patrick Reynolds:
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Religious Education & Formation:
Renata Sosin: (847) 296-9051
rsosin@stbtmp.org

Music Director: Paula Kowalkowski
pkowalkowski@stbtmp.org
(847) 298-5450

Associate Director of Music:
Kraig Zeronik: (847) 298-5450
kzeronik@stbtmp.org

Maintenance: Mariusz Klimek

“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him.” - Lk 14:8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



This week, most of our children went back, more or less joyfully, to school. In only three weeks, we will start our religious education classes! Summer vacation is definitely gone! Some of our kids have started in a new school and they have some kind of expectations towards the new location. Each one of us, an adult or a child, has the deep need to be appreciated and feel important. However in today's readings we hear a lot about humility. Jesus observed how the guests behaved at a dinner at the Pharisee and noted that some of them were trying to take first place at the table. Jesus gives them clues about what they should do in such situation. Many Bible scholars refer those clues to our attitude towards God. Proud man puts himself first, he is full of himself and does not need God, and everything has to evolve around him regardless of the cost (like embarrassment of going to the lowest place) or the suffering of others. "*For the affliction of the proud there is no cure*", says the Book of Sirach (3:27). Some say that our pride dies 15 minutes after our natural death. On the other hand, a humble man knows that everything is a gift from God and he is grateful for all, he puts God first and discovers his own greatness in God. Humble man is able to share with others because as God gives him freely, he shares with others without expecting a payment. Modern culture seems to promote the attitude of a proud man more than that of a humble man. Jesus, as usual, provokes us to answer the question about our personal attitude.

W tym tygodniu, większość naszych dzieci wróciła, mniej lub bardziej radośnie, do szkoły. W ciągu zaledwie trzech tygodni, zaczniemy nasze lekcje religii! Wakacje zdecydowanie już minęły!
Niektóre z naszych dzieci rozpoczęły naukę w nowej szkole mając jakieś oczekiwania co do nowego miejsca. Każdy z nas, dorosły jak i dziecko, ma głęboką potrzebę bycia docenianym i ważnym. Niemniej jednak dzisiejsze czytania dużo mówią o pokorze. Jezus obserwuje w jaki sposób zachowują się goście na obiedzie u faryzeusza i zauważa, że niektórzy z nich pchali się by zająć pierwsze miejsce przy stole. Jezus po chwili daje im wskazówki na temat tego, co powinni zrobić w takiej sytuacji. Wielu komentatorów Pisma Świętego odnosi te wskazówki do naszej postawy wobec Pana Boga. Człowiek pyszny stawia siebie na pierwszym miejscu, sam sobie wystarcza i nie potrzebuje Boga i wszystko musi się kręcić wokół niego bez względu na koszty własne (jak ponizenie gdy musi się przesiąść na ostatnie miejsce) lub cierpienia innych.
„Na chorobę pysałka nie ma lekarstwa”, słyszmy w Księdze Syracha (3:28). Niektórzy mówią, że nasza duma umiera 15 minut po naszej naturalnej śmierci. Z drugiej strony, człowiek skromny, wie, że wszystko co ma jest darem od Boga i jest wdzięczny za to, stawia Boga na pierwszym miejscu i odkrywa swoją wielkość w Bogu. Pokorny człowiek jest w stanie podzielić się z innymi, bo jak Bóg daje mu za darmo, tak on dzieli się z innymi, nie oczekując zapłaty. Współczesny świat promuje dzisiaj raczej postawę pysznego człowieka a nie skromnego. Jezus, jak zwykle, prowokuje nas do znalezienia odpowiedzi na pytanie jaka jest moja postawa.

Renata Sosin





On Monday, September 5, 2016 we will celebrate Labor Day
with a special Mass at 9am. All Are Welcome.
Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2016

*W poniedziałek, 5-go września o godz. 9 rano
odbędzie się uroczysta Msza Św. w jęz. angielskim z okazji
Dnia Pracy. Biuro parafialne w tym dniu będzie nieczynne.*

Senior News

On Monday, September 12th the Senior Group is going to the Jelly Belly Center in Pleasant Prairie, WI. We will meet in the church

parking lot at 9am and carpool to Wisconsin. After the tour we will visit the gift shop and then drive to the Cracker Barrel restaurant for lunch. The tour is free and you will pay for your lunch. All are welcome.

Please call Lorry at: 847/824-2476 if you would like to join the fun.



RE Registration for 2016/2017 School Year

Classes are filling fast, so be sure to register as soon as possible. To register, please pick up a registration packet at the rectory or Religious Education office. You can also register online at: www.stemilyreled.org. If you have any questions, please call Renata Sosin at: 847-296-9051 or email at: rsosin@stbmp.org.

Rejestracja na Religie w roku szkolnym 2016/2017

Klasy na rok szkolny 2016/17 szybko się wypełniają. Formy do rejestracji są w biurze parafialnym i w biurze religii. Można również dokonać rejestracji elektronicznie: www.stemilyreled.org. Jeśli mają Państwo jakieś pytania proszę o kontakt: Renata Sosin pod numerem 847-296-9051 lub email rsosin@stbmp.org.

Confirmation Classes for High School Students

In the middle of September 2016, we will start Confirmation Classes for high school students from our parish that did not receive this Sacrament yet. Registration forms are in our parish office. If you are interested, please contact Renata Sosin at 847-296-9051 or email: rsosin@stbmp.org.

Religia dla licealistów potrzebujących Bierzmowania

W połowie września 2016 rozpoczęmy klasy religii dla licealistów z naszej parafii, którzy nie otrzymali jeszcze Sakramentu Bierzmowania. Formy do rejestracji są w naszym biurze parafialnym.

Zainteresowanych prosimy o kontakt z Renatą Sosin pod numerem 847-296-9051 lub e-mail: rsosin@sthmn.org

MINISTRY FAIR

PREZENTACJA GRUP DZIAŁAJĄCYCH W NASZEJ PARAFII

Jako ochrzczeni chrześcijanie, jesteśmy powołani aby być Ciałem Chrystusa na ziemi.

W swoim liście do Rzymian Św. Paweł mówi:

„Mamy zaś według udzielonej nam łaski różne dary:

bądź dar proroctwa - do stosowania zgodnie z wiarą; bądź to urząd diakona - dla wykonywania czynności diakońskich; bądź urząd nauczyciela - dla wypełniania czynności nauczycielskich;

Kto zajmuje się rozdawaniem, niech to czyni ze szczodrością;

kto jest przełożonym, niech działa z gorliwością;

kto pełni uczynki miłosierdzia, niech to czyni ochoczo.”

Jakimi darami odbarzył Bóg Ciebie? Czy jesteś przyjazną i gościnną osobą? Czy swobonie czytasz na głos? Czy masz serce dla chorych, somotnych, osieroconych? Czy cieszą cię dobre uczynki według innych? Czy śpiewasz lub grasz na instrumencie?

Poświęć trochę czasu w najbliższych tygodniach aby modlitewnie rozpatrzeć jak Bóg może wzywać Ciebie do większego zaangażowania się w naszej parafii poprzez podzielenie się danymi Tobie talentami i czasem. W weekend 10 i 11-go września odbędzie się prezentacja grup parafialnych działających w naszej parafii. Nadaj większy sens swojemu życiu czyniąc dobrze bliźniemu. Przyjdź—zobacz—dołącz do jednej z grup wsparcia. Poniżej lista grup, które będą obecne:

Liturgia: Szafarze Komunii Św., Lektorzy, Zachristianie, Marszałkowie, Ministranci, Chór

Edukacja: Katecheci religii (dzieci od 1 – 8 klasy), SPRED (katecheci dla młodzieży specjalnej troski), RCIA (Wtajemniczenie Chrześcijańskie dla Dorosłych)

Usługa: Żywność dla Sąsiada, Grupa Żałobnego Wsparcia, Grupa Wsparcia Osób Chorych i Starszych

Życie parafialne: Seniorzy, Klub Kobiet, Klub Mężczyzn

Formacja Katolickiej Świadomości Społecznej: praca aby zakończyć przemoc w rodzinie i

przemoc z użyciem broni palnej, dyskryminacje, rasizm, bezrobocie, problemy imigracji i więcej.

Serdecznie zapraszamy do sali parafialnej na poczęstunek po wszystkich Mszach Św. w weekend 10-11-go września jak również na szansę zapoznania się z nami i zaczerpania więcej informacji.

Do zobaczenia—Komitet Prezentacji



MINISTRY FAIR

As baptized Christians, we are called to be the body of Christ here on earth.

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul says:

*Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them:
if prophecy, in proportion to the faith;
if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching;
if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity;
if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

What are some of the gifts you have been given by God? Are you a welcoming person?

Can you read well aloud? Do you have a heart for the sick; the homebound; the bereaved?

Have you enjoyed doing acts of service? Do you sing or play an instrument well?

Take time in the next few weeks to discern how God may be calling you to become more involved at St. Thomas Becket parish by using your talents and giving of your time. Jesus said: *DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME*". Give your life a deeper sense by serving others. Come, see and join us. We will be hosting a Ministry Fair in the parish hall on the weekend of September 10 and 11 after all the Masses. There will be five main tables with various ministries at each.

Take a look at the ministries below:

Worship/Prayer: Eucharistic Ministers, Music

Ministry, Sacristans, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Servers and Spiritual Life Committee

Education: RCIA, SPRED and Catechists

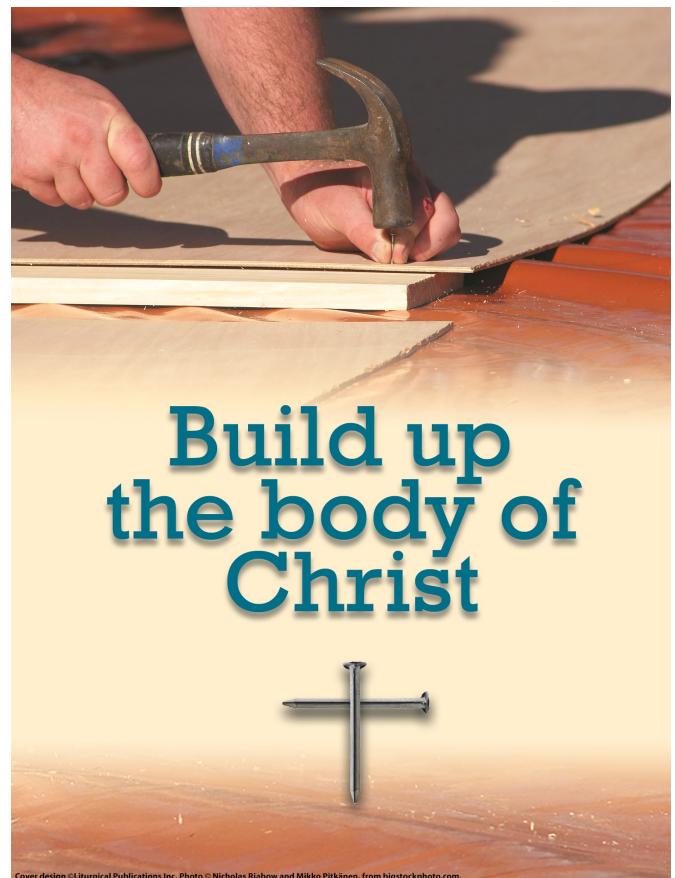
Service: Ministry of Care, Food Pantry, Bereavement Ministry, Prayer Network and Hospitality

Parish Life: Seniors, Men's Club, Women's Guild

Social Justice/Advocacy: Working together to end domestic and gun violence, discrimination, racism, unemployment, immigration problems and more.

It is also a Hospitality weekend after all Masses – so please stop by for something to eat and drink and be sure to talk to representatives of the ministries at our Ministry Fair! Looking forward to seeing you!

Ministry Fair Committee



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FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH—September 2

PIERWSZY PIĄTEK MIESIĄCA—2 października

5:30-7:00pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoracja Najświętszego Sakramentu

5:30-7pm—Confessions / Spowiedź Św.

7pm—Mass in Polish / Msza Św. w jęz. polskim

Special Mass in Honor of First Responders:

Annual 10:30am Mass at

St. Mary of the Woods Church,
7033 N. Moselle Ave, Chicago,
on Sunday, Sept. 11th, 2016.



All First Responders and family/friends are invited.

All First Responders are encouraged to wear class A uniforms.

Presentation of Colors and National Anthem will begin the celebration.

Special Patron Saint Medallions will be blessed and distributed to First Responders.

12th Annual TRULY PRICELESS GARAGE SALE

True service to humanity begins with respect for each and every human life.

Saturday, **September 17, 2016**, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., **303 N. Hickory Ave.**, Arlington Heights

Donations accepted beginning Monday, September 12, 2016

PRICELESS: “This is what the Lord then said to Moses: ‘Tell the Israelites to take up a collection for Me. From every man you shall accept the contribution that his heart prompts him to give Me.’” (Exodus 25:1-2)

Our goods are not priced. Instead, donations are accepted for organizations performing life-saving work and disaster relief. More than \$22,000 has been donated in our first 11 years.

TRULY PRICELESS: “...to You the helpless can entrust their cause...” (Psalms 10:14)

Proceeds are donated to **Catholic Charities**, the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, the **Women’s Center**, the **Pro Life Action League**, & the **Fr. Michael J. McGivney Center for Hope and Healing**

Those who donate money for the “purchase” of goods select one or more charity(s) for their donation. Every cent goes directly to the charity(s) chosen by the donor.

\$\$ IN GOD WE TRUST \$\$: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth... But store up treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

We share our “treasures” with a generous spirit. The results are in the hands of God as contributions may be well above or below the values of the items “purchased.”

“...whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me.” (Matthew 25:40)

For more details, contact Marybeth or Mike at (847) 392-5506 or email - mschoney@wowway.com

Co-sponsored by the St. James Respect Life Ministry and the St. James Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Music Ministry needs you!

Do you have a talent for singing or playing an instrument?
Do you have a few free hours a week to spend rehearsing?

Then, perhaps you'd like to join the Adult Choir.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings – beginning September 7 – from 7:00 to 8:45 pm in the church. We usually sing two or three Masses a month.

The Children's Choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, August 28th after the 10:45 am Mass in the parish hall.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Paula Kowalkowski at 847-827-9220 and leave a message. Thank you!!



WEDDING BANNS

September 3, 2016

Brian Hook &
Christina Barrera

September 17, 2016

Adam Stortenbecker &
Esperanza Martinez

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!

Spaces for **YOUR** ad are still available in our bulletin. Many parishioners and guests pick up our weekly edition and take advantage of the advertised services. Please consider helping your business and our parish at the same time.

Michelle Aden—our bulletin representative—can be reached directly at: 312-953-0881 or via email: marden@4lpi.com. THANK YOU!

To make our Mass time more prayerful and sacred for all, please try to observe these simple rules.

Abyśmy wszyscy mogli pobożnie i z należytym szacunkiem uczestniczyć we Mszy Św., przypominamy i prosimy serdecznie o przestrzeganie poniżej wskazanych reguł.



Give respect Get respect

**St. Thomas
Becket 500
Parish 2016-17**

Winning Numbers for the Week! Prize money will be mailed to the individual listed on the winning Becket 500 2016-17 ticket next week. Winning numbers are also posted at www.stthomasbecketmp.org

TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PARISH OFFICE.

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Date	Aug 18	Aug 19	Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24
Winning Number	360	354	414	079	293	377	256
Prize Amount	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$25	\$25	\$25



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 28, 2016
MANNA—order forms in bulletin
Monday, August 29, 2016
Tuesday, August 30, 2016
Wednesday, August 31, 2016
Thursday, September 1, 2016
6:30pm TWCI Meeting
Friday, September 2, 2016
First Friday
5:30-7pm Adoration + Confession
7pm Mass (P)
Saturday, September 3, 2016
MANNA—turn in your orders
Sunday, September 4, 2016
2pm Baptism (P)
MANNA—turn in your orders

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR SEPT 3/4

MASS TIME	PRESIDER	MUSIC/ CANTOR	LECTOR	EUCARISTIC MINISTERS	SACRISTAN
4:30pm	Rev. Chris Kulig		Pete S.	Marlene P. Mira L. Arnold G. Fran G. Ken K.	Phyllis C.
7:30am	Rev.	Adam W.	Anna C.	Anna C. Halina S. Teresa K.	Teresa K.
9:00am	Rev. Chris Kulig		Mary K.	Pat R. Marie V. Edyta W. Gail M. Marie F.	Sandy O.
10:45am	Rev.	Adam W.	Beata K.	Beata K. Jan K. Klaudia K. Halina W.	Jan K.
12:30pm	Rev. Chris Kulig		Kamila K.	John W. Milton B. Terry T.	Linda W.

OLPI

Thank our Advertiser of the WEEK

JOHNNY'S Kitchen & Tap

THANK YOU

SUNDAY OFFERING / KOLEKTA

Each Sunday Budget	\$ 7,700	
August 21	\$ 7,385	Attendance at Liturgies— 1,608
Aug E-Giving	\$ 2,803	
YTD Budget	\$ 58,803	
YTD Actual Collections	\$ 62,983	
# of Envelopes Sent	501	
# of Envelopes Used	242	



Second collection next weekend will be for the Building Fund.
Druga kolekta w下一个周末被分配到修缮教堂建筑。

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 4:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am & 12:30pm
7:30am & 10:45am Polish
Weekdays: 9:00am Mass: Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
Friday—7:00pm Mass in Polish

READINGS OF THE WEEK



Readings for the Week of August 28
Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/
Ps 68:4-7, 10-11/
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14
Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97-102/
Mk 6:17-29
Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-14/
Lk 4:31-37
Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-15,
20-21/Lk 4:38-44
Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1-6/
Lk 5:1-11
Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-6, 27-28,
39-40/Lk 5:33-39
Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-21/
Lk 6:1-5
Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-6,
12-17/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Observances for the Week of August 28, 2016
Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Passion of Saint John the Baptist
Saturday: Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth:
ttharayil@archchicago.org
Thomas Tharayil: 312-534-8267

Catholic Cemeteries:
www:catholiccemeterieschicago.org
708-449-6100

Give Central – On line donation system accessible through our website: www.stthomasbecketmp.org

PARISH PHONE NUMBER

(847) 827-9220

PARISH FAX NUMBER

(847) 827-0370

PARISH E-MAIL:

stthomasbecket@stb.org

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stthomasbecketmp.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/
Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Thursday 8:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday Closed

INFORMACJE PARAFIALNE

Parafia Świętego Tomasza Becketa zaprasza całą wspólnotę polskojęzyczną do wspólnej modlitwy i nabożeństw.

***Msze Św. w jęz. polskim—niedziela:
7:30am i 10:45am piątek: 7:00pm
w jęz. angielskim—sobota: 4:30pm
niedziela: 9:00am i 12:30pm***

Parish Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Thomas Becket, are a community of believers united in Christ, who dedicate ourselves to proclaim the Good News and foster a sense of belonging. As we gather together in prayer and worship, we draw our nourishment from His word and the Bread of His Table. With shared responsibility we go forth to serve and affirm our sisters and brothers. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to build the Kingdom of God within and beyond our parish.

*My, Parafia Świętego Tomasza Becketa, jesteśmy wspólnotą wiernych zjednoczonych w Chrystusie, którzy troszczymy się o Boże dziedzictwo i z oddaniem głosimy Dobra Nowiny. We wspólnym gromadzeniu się i modlitwie, karmimy się Jego Słowem i Chlebem z Jego Stołu.
Z poczuciem wspólnego obowiązku podążamy w służbie naszym braciom i siostrom. Pod przewodnictwem Ducha Świętego dążymy do budowania Królestwa Bożego wewnątrz i poza naszą parafią.*

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, August 28, 2016

7:30am †Leszek Damrat
†Bronisława Sawicka
†Ryszard Jakucewicz

SPECIAL: Halina-urodziny
9:00am †Margaret Mary McCarthy

10:45am †Zbigniew Pacak
†Tomasz Bicz

SPECIAL: Karolina i Kenneth—
rocznica ślubu i Karolina urodziny

SPECIAL: Beata i Andrzej—
21 rocznica ślubu

SPECIAL: Veronica Jędras—
15 urodziny

12:30pm Rev. Frank Wachowski

Monday, August 29, 2016

9:00am For STB Parishioners

Tuesday, August 30, 2016

9:00am †Lillian Hoffman -
1st death anniversary

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

9:00am †Rev. Frank Wachowski—
36th death anniversary

Thursday, September 1, 2016

NO MASS OR SERVICE

Friday, September 2, 2016

9:00am †Thomas Santora—
1st death anniversary
†Joseph Nejman
†Annamma Abraham

Arackarampil—23 death anniversary

7:00pm †Stanisława Ciomek

Saturday, September 3, 2016

2:00pm Wedding:
Christina Barrera & Brian Hook

4:30pm †Earnest Mazzei
†Joseph Cudak

Sunday, September 4, 2016

7:30am †Ludmila i Michał Dlugi
†Romualda Zima

9:00am †Margaret Mary McCarthy

10:45am †Kasia First
†Dorota Ścigalska
†Romualda Zima

12:30pm †Janet Lochhead

SPECIAL: Val & JoAnne Pawlak -
50th wedding anniversary



TO REGISTER IN OUR PARISH, FOR BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Please call the rectory to make arrangements: 847-827-9220.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Friday: 6:15pm-6:45pm, Saturday: 3:30-4:15pm.

First Fridays of the month: 5:30pm-6:45pm and ADORATION: 5:30-6:45pm

REJESTRACJA DO PARAFII, SAKRAMENT CHRZTU I MAŁŻEŃSTWA

Prosimy o kontakt z biurem parafialnym w celu ustalenia daty: 847-827-9220.

PreCana - przygotowanie do Sakramentu Małżeństwa - obowiązkowe. Kurs w języku polskim w naszej parafii odbędzie się w dniach: 21 styczeń, 1 kwiecień i 20 maj 2017r.

SAKRAMENT POKUTY

Piątek: 6:15pm-6:45pm i Sobota: 3:30pm- 4:15pm.

PIERWSZE PIĄTKI MIESIĄCA

Spowiedź i Adoracja Najświętszego Sakramentu: 5:30pm-6:45pm, Msza Św. w jęz. polskim: 7pm

Taste of Polonia

The biggest annual Polish Festival in the United States.

This year marks the 36th year of the Fest.

Where: Copernicus Center
5216 W Lawrence Ave
Chicago IL 60630
(1 block south of Jefferson Park Terminal)

Where: Copernicus Center
5216 W Lawrence Ave
Chicago IL 60630
(1 block south of Jefferson Park Terminal)

Music and entertainment: 35 different bands
4 stages (Classic Rock, Pop, Polka, Classical)
Kid's zone and kid's stage
10 Polish food vendors
35 merchants
Casino
Craft beer tent
Carnival & carnival rides

Attendance: 25-30,000 patrons

Festival's website: <http://topchicago.org>

Times:

Sept. 2 Friday	5 to 10:00 pm
Sept. 3 Saturday	12 to 10:00 pm
Sept. 4 Sunday	12 to 10:00 pm
Sept. 5 Monday	12 to 9:30 pm

Transportation:

Metra & Blue Line Station - 1 block away

Kennedy Expressway (I-90) & Lawrence Avenue

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

CATHOLIC TRADITIONS EXPLAINED

Question:

On August 29 we celebrate the Passion of St. John the Baptist; can you tell me more about his role in relation to Jesus?

Answer:

St. John the Baptist is understood to be the precursor, the one who prepares Jesus' way. A careful reading of the Gospel texts also reveals other aspects of the relationship between John and Jesus. The Gospels have John affirming that he himself was not the Messiah. The Gospels do speak of John's disciples so such insistence shows evidence that some understood John to be the Messiah and began to follow him. The Gospel writers make certain that John clarifies his role to eliminate this possible confusion. In the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), John speaks of the One who is to come after him, against whom he cannot even begin to measure up. In John's Gospel, John directs his disciples specifically to Jesus, the Lamb of God. In all four Gospels, Jesus does not begin his public ministry until John is arrested. All this leads some Scripture scholars to speculate that Jesus possibly began his formation as a disciple of John. Through John's tutoring and guidance, Jesus came to understand his own vocation. Once John is arrested, Jesus picks up where John left off, bringing his own style and message to that of John, developing it into something uniquely his own.