

# St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations, English Speaking Roman Catholic Parish



St. Vincent De Paul Charitable Society

Ul. Radna 14, Warsaw

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**CCD: Sunday 10:30**

**Mass: Sunday 11:30**

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**

## ***Lenten Mass:***

**Holy Thursday (7:00 PM)**

**Good Friday (6:00PM)**

**Holy Saturday (8:00 PM)**

## ***From Fr. Wiesław's Desk:***

Dear Friends,

As Easter draws near we all are very happy to see that our parish community grows in faith. One of the symptoms of growth in a life of a parish is baptism and other sacraments. The whole sense of being the Church of Christ consists actually giving birth to new members of Christ's Body. So we baptize children, who are of love between man and woman, and in virtue of parents' faith those children are reborn in the sacramental water to new life. But we also baptize the adults, who came to their faith in ways known to God only. God in fact chooses opportune times when one's faith is awakened. And so this Easter we are happy to welcome among us two catechumens who decided to renounce sin and profess their faith in Jesus. Their baptism will take part on Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil Liturgy which this year is celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> of April. This Holy Liturgy reminds us about our passing from spiritual death to a new spiritual life we have in Jesus Christ. If you are in Warsaw, please join us for the celebration of those great days of Holy Thursday (7:00 PM), Good Friday (6:00PM) and Holy Saturday (8:00 PM).



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In this pre Easter season we also live out our own conversion and our own passage from spiritual death to a new life. This does not happen in such a spectacular realm as Sacrament of Baptism but in a silence of Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession as we call it. This is the Sacrament that allows us to be reconciled with God, other people and ourselves. In Confession we experience an unconditional love of God. It isn't easy, and I must say that I myself find it hard. Being honest I can't say that I go to this Sacrament willingly every time. Yet, at the same time I realize it does me good. It allows me to look closer at my life, and to make a balance of my spiritual assets and credits. It allows me to see every time a new face of God, a new image of his love. For God who is proclaimed by Jesus, allows us to make a new beginning which may happen at any time. When we fail, he is there to lift us up and to straighten our paths. He does not condemn us, as we condemn ourselves. He does not accuse us but he takes us by the hand saying: Let us celebrate, for this son and daughter of mine is alive again.

In invite you to enter that path and may you enjoy a happy and joyful Easter!

**Fr. Wiesław Dawidowski, OSA**

## **The Communion Class: The Reconciliation Retreat**

The Communion Class is very busy preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Recently, they spent three hours at a Reconciliation Retreat, learning all about confession. First, they used a Snakes and Ladder game to identify good and bad actions. Then, Fr. Wieslaw spoke to the class about the way in which we are broken by sin, but how confession makes us whole again. The children watched a video showing the steps involved in going to confession, after which they made some beautiful hearts, which they will receive after they have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Finally, the children received little booklets which they can use while in confession, to help them remember all the words, prayers and actions. Of course, in between the serious stuff, there was time for running around, and eating snacks! Thank you very much to Mrs. Henning and Pamela Hrcir who worked very hard to make this event successful.



## **First Reconciliation**

Parents of children in the First Communion Class are reminded that their son/daughter will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 14.00 in Radna.



## **Lenten Confessions**

The children in our CCD classes have all had the opportunity to go to confession for Lent this month. The Post-Communion 1 and 2 classes received the sacrament last Sunday, Pre-Confirmation 1 and 2 went to confession today, and next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, Fr. Wieslaw will be at The British School at 18.30, where he will be available to hear the confessions of the Confirmation Class, should they so wish. Thank you to Fr. Wieslaw for helping to ensure that our children have regular opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## **Baptismal Certificates**

If your son or daughter is attending the Communion or Confirmation Class, please remember to hand in his/her baptismal certificate to the teacher as soon as possible.

## Lenten Charity

For our Lenten Charity this year, the Parish Council has decided to support the work of the Drop-In Centre for children, established by the Marian Fathers, in Grudziadz



Below is a description of the centre:

*The Marian Fathers have given up the basement in their parish house for the drop in centre. There is a kitchen which our sponsors have equipped, a big dining/homework room, a storage room for clothes and food and a computer room. Children come three times a week where volunteers help them with homework and teach them how to use computers, older children help younger ones with homework and games and older children together with the volunteers prepare food.*

*The aim is to show these children that other forms of life exist, bringing them closer to God. The children are taught social skills as well as being given time and love. There is a priest who is in charge, Fr. Grzegorz Burdynski and he has a team of volunteers.*

*Another important aspect of the centre's work is to take these children for a 5-6 day holiday twice a year, winter and summer and also on some weekend trips. There are always two coach loads and usually there is a mixture of children – children from the drop in centre, girls from boarding house run by the nuns, children from 'normal' families and sometimes from the local children's home. On these trips children learn to help each other, have rotations for kitchen/dinning room duty as well as have daily Mass, rosary, religious formation and fun! For these trips they take as much of their own food as possible to save costs and usually take sleeping bags as well.*

*The children who use the drop-in centre come from very deprived and sad backgrounds. Many of them have experienced sexual or physical abuse as well as seen terrible things committed in front of them. The volunteers are committed and devoted people who give up their own holiday time to help these underprivileged kids.*

A second collection in aid of this very deserving cause will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, and Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April. Please give generously – the children need all the help they can get.