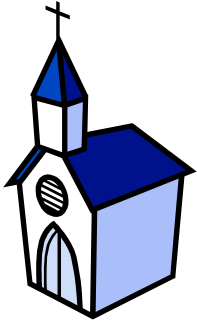


St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations, English Speaking Roman Catholic Parish



St. Vincent De Paul Charitable Society

Ul. Radna 14, Warsaw

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CCD: Sunday 10:30

Mass: Sunday 11:30

COMMUNITY BULLETIN, January 25th, 2009

From Fr. Wiesław's Desk:

Dear Parishioners!

I could not resist the pleasure of calling you with this very catholic title "Parishioners" for the first time in history of our community. I've just received an official document from the Archbishop in which our Ordinary establishes a Center of Pastoral Care for the Foreigners of English Language. This Center will all the privileges of a Personal Parish. In the bulletin you will find a scan of the official document written. So we are no longer a Community but "almost a parish"! "Almost", for we are still waiting for our own church and I hope that it's in the near future.



enjoy

I believe it is not a coincidence the decree was issued on the 6th of January 2009, the feast of Epiphany and effectuates on the 25th of January, the feast of Conversion of St. Paul. The Archbishop commended our Parish to the intercession of St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations; therefore I understand the main Patron Saint of our new Parish will be St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations. St. Paul was a great Apostle and was very much loved by St. Augustine. I think we are in good company with a man who was powerful in his words, yet humble and in search for God as we all are. The 25th of January is also a traditional day of for closing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. All this indicates the pastoral direction of our unique parish: mission to the world and work towards the unity among Christians.

Being a Parish gives us a lot of independence regarding the sacraments. We will run our own sacramental records. We will be in constant touch with the Archbishop's Office, informed about the initiatives and invited to present our own initiatives to the Ordinary. According to the decree, the Parish embraces "all foreigners...either permanent or a temporary resident in any of the territorial parishes within the Archdiocese of Warsaw"

Therefore it bestows more responsibility on me as the Rector for the Center. Since we will have our own office, I will now have office hours. Please pray for me, so that I won't become institutionalized because of the office! I will be asking for your help in many things, and I'm sure that you will be able to help.

Soon we will celebrate our annual Carnival brunch on the 8th of February. This will be an occasion to celebrate this great event among us. A week later on the 15th of February we will hold a solemn Mass in which the suitable decrees will be read and the Parish Office will be blessed. At this Mass I would like to invite some guests. I would also love to have all of our altar servers serving the Mass.

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!"

Fr. Wiesław Dawidowski, OSA

CCD NEWS

Class Masses

Thank you very much to the Communion Class children who performed so beautifully during Mass last week. Thank you also to Mrs. Henning, their teacher, for preparing them so well.



On February 1st, our Confirmation Class of 13 children will be introduced to the community when they participate in their Rite of Acceptance. They will be asking the congregation for their prayers as they approach this very important sacrament. They will also be presented with small crosses to remind them of the role religion, and the sacrifice of Christ, should play in their lives.

Christmas Charity

A huge thank you to all our CCD children and parents who donated so many items to our collection at Christmas to help the families identified by the Warsaw Volunteer Mission as most desperately in need of support. Toys, clothes, toiletries, food and all kinds of sweets flowed into the CCD classrooms during Advent. In particular, the children and parents of the Communion and Confirmation classes were very, very generous.

And, of course, the Christmas Cards designed by the children also raised over 800PLN for the Warsaw Volunteer Mission – our CCD children can be very proud of themselves! Thank you all for your generosity.

COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION DATES

As Bishop Jarecki has now informed us when he will be able to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, we can now announce the dates of the Communion and Confirmation ceremonies, and the events surrounding these.

COMMUNION

Saturday, 14 th March:	Reconciliation Retreat
Saturday, 28 th March	First Reconciliation
Saturday, 9 th May:	Rehearsal for the ceremony
Saturday, 16 th May:	Rehearsal for the ceremony, followed by a second Reconciliation
Sunday, 17 th May:	First Holy Communion Ceremony

CONFIRMATION

Sunday, February 1 st :	Rite of Acceptance (10.45)
Saturday, 30 th May:	Rehearsal for Confirmation Ceremony
Sunday, 31 st May:	Confirmation

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

This year, our Advent charity focused on the needs of some exceptionally poor families in the Warsaw area, identified to us by the Warsaw Volunteer Mission. CCD classes, and the congregation as a whole, were asked to donate what they could to the chosen families, and items such as clothing, food, toys, chocolate, cleaning goods and toiletries were particularly requested. Monetary donations could also be made



The response to the appeal was excellent. By the third Sunday of Advent, towering piles of boxes and bags had built up in the foyer, the sacristy and the CCD rooms. Great generosity was shown by the congregation – particularly when the WVM volunteers were unable to collect the goods as planned, and so members of the community promptly loaded up their cars and drove everything to the meeting point. Mike Murphy, the founder of the WVM, provided the following account:

All the families received financial donations to cover their basic needs this Christmas, plus extra funds have been distributed for special needs such as medical equipment and specific home repairs and improvements. Besides this, many of them have been provided with sizeable amounts of food and new clothing, as well as individually selected presents for their children.

The pictures provide glimpses of one of the major highlights of the seasonal initiatives. The large amount of donations and presents that came in filled a big section of the meeting room, and as the poorest families struggled to carry it all away, we were reminded about the beautiful promise of blessings poured out that there wouldn't be room enough to hold. (Malachi 3:10)

Some of the kind volunteers and sponsors present even took the extra step of paying for taxis for a few of the neediest cases, which on top of everything else was very touching. All in all, it was a wonderful sample of the true spirit of Christmas!

Thanks to the faithful giving of our main partners who help to cover our running costs, we've been able to pass every financial donation received in December in its entirety to the needy families!!

Thank you to everyone involved in this charity drive – particularly Basia Krasnodebska and Debbie Kuncewicz – for your generosity, and for the time and thought you devoted to choosing gifts and goods for those in great need.

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