

Saint Francis Xavier, **pray for us.**

Saint John Vianney, **pray for us.**

Saint Catherine of Siena, **pray for us.**

**All you holy men and women, pray for us.**

Saint Theresa of Jesus, **pray for us.**

Saint James, **pray for us.**

Saint Elizabeth, **pray for us.**

Saint Clare, **pray for us.**

Saint Agatha, **pray for us.**

Saint Cecilia, **pray for us.**

All holy men and women, **pray for us.**

Saints of God, **pray for us.**

**All you holy men and women, pray for us.**

Lord, be merciful, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

From all evil, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

From every sin, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

From everlasting death, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

By your incarnation, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

By your death and resurrection, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

By the outpouring, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

Of the Holy Spirit, **Lord deliver us, we pray.**

**All you holy men and women, pray for us.**

Be merciful to us sinners. **Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.**

Bring these chosen ones to new life. **Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.**

Through the grace of baptism. **Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Son of the living God. **Lord, we ask you hear our prayer.**

**Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.**

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PASTOR - Rev. Adam Piekarszewski

April 16, 2022



### HOLY MASS

**. 8.00 pm**



### MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said for a particular intention, you must stop by the Parish Office or the sacristy in the Church before/after Sunday mass. Masses can be said for a deceased person or as a special intention for the living. You may reserve a Sunday of your choice, and your intention will be published in the parish bulletin.

We encourage you to offer a Mass on the occasion of a birthday, anniversary or special personal (family) need.

# BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

### EASTER VIGIL

#### MASS INTENTION - 8pm

*For St. John's parishioners both living and deceased.*

#### PART 1 - THE CEREMONY OF NEW LIGHT

blessing of fire, charcoal, incense & Paschal Candle

#### PART 2 - PROCESSION & EASTER PROCLAMATION

#### PART 3 - EXHORTATIONS

#### PART 4 - BLESSING OF WATER

#### PART 5 - REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

#### PART 6 - LITANY OF THE SAINTS

## The Exsultet: The Proclamation of Easter

(sung by the priest)

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends,  
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,  
invoke with me, I ask you,  
the mercy of God almighty,  
that he, who has been pleased to number me,  
though unworthy, among the Levites,  
may pour into me his light unshadowed,  
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

(V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.)

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, **pray for us.**

Saint Michael, **pray for us.**

Holy Angels of God, **pray for us.**

Saint John the Baptist, **pray for us.**

Saint Joseph, **pray for us.**

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, **pray for us.**

Saint Andrew, **pray for us.**

Saint John, **pray for us.**

**All you holy men and women, pray for us.**

Saint Mary Magdalene, **pray for us.**

Saint Stephen, **pray for us.**

Saint Ignatius of Antioch, **pray for us.**

Saint Lawrence, **pray for us.**

Saint Perpetua and Felicity, **pray for us.**

Saint Agnes, **pray for us.**

Saint Gregory, **pray for us.**

Saint Augustine, **pray for us.**

**All you holy men and women, pray for us.**

Saint Athanasius, **pray for us.**

Saint Basil, **pray for us.**

Saint Martin, **pray for us.**

Saint Benedict, **pray for us.**

Saint Francis and Saint Dominic, **pray for us.**

The celebrant now sprinkles the congregation with the newly blessed water as he says:

**C.** Sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop and I shall be purified; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**R.** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence; do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

**C.** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**R.** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**C.** May the light of Christ's holy Gospel illumine your way of life. Keep in deepest respect your holy Baptism which united you with Jesus Christ, made you a part of His Holy Church, and brought you into the Communion of Saints. Observe the Commandments of God, and when our Lord comes to us as the Bridegroom of His Church, may you meet Him together with all the Saints in the heavenly court, and live for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.

**V.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night,  
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death  
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,  
had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!  
O truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!  
O happy fault  
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night  
of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me,  
and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.  
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,

**C.** Do you renounce all evil works?

**R.** I do.

**C.** Do you renounce all pomp, lies, and hypocrisy?

**R.** I do renounce them.

**C.** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?

**R.** I do believe.

**C.** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only-begotten Son, our  
Lord, Who was born and Who suffered for us?

**R.** I do believe.

**C.** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic  
Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

**R.** I do believe.

**C.** Now let us all pray to God together, as our Lord Jesus  
Christ taught us to pray:

**All:** Our Father...

**C.** And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, Who regenerated us through the water and the  
Holy Spirit, and Who has redeemed us from sin, guard us  
with His grace to everlasting life in Jesus Christ.

**R.** Amen.

## REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Standing at the baptismal font if it is in the front of the church or at the lectern, the celebrant leads the reaffirmation of baptismal vows. If desired, each member of the congregation holds a lighted candle. The celebrant addresses the congregation in these or similar words.

My dear brothers and sisters:

**In this most sacred night (time), we recall the death and burial of our Lord Jesus Christ. In return for His great love, we keep watch. And, celebrating His glorious resurrection, we are filled with joy that knows no end. As the Apostle Paul teaches, by our baptism we have been buried with Christ into death. As Christ has risen from the dead, by our baptism we too are raised up to walk in newness of life. We know that by baptism our old self has been crucified with Christ, so that we may no longer be slaves to sin. Let us remember, then, that we have died to sin, and are to live for God, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

**Now that we have completed our preparation during this Great and Holy Lent, let us reaffirm the promises of our baptism, by which we once renounced all evil and turned our backs to that world which is the enemy of God, and promised to serve God faithfully in the Holy Catholic Church.**

**C. And so I ask you: Do you renounce the evil one?**  
**R. I do.**

an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,  
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,  
a fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees  
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honor of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.

Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.

May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

## EXHORTATIONS

The Readings may be taken from those provided below or from the approved Lectionary.

### THE FIRST EXHORTATION

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water He called "the sea." God saw how good it was.

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it

Lord, Jesus Christ, sent the apostles to the nations, He desired that nations, as such, should be made part of His Church. The Savior loved His nation, and requires all nations to profess and lay down their love for Him, revealing it as best each nation can.

**C.** Let us pray.

**D. or C.** Let us kneel.

[Pause for private prayer and reflection.]

**R.** Let us stand.

**C.** Almighty, eternal God,

You desire that all nations of the world  
be united in One Church

with Jesus Christ as her High Priest.

May every nation manifest

that which is most praiseworthy

in service to You and Your Holy Church.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Lord, Who lives and reign with You

and the Holy Spirit, one God,

for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.

We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that You sent Me, and that You loved them even as You loved Me. Father, they are Your gift to Me. I wish that where I am they also may be with Me, that they may see My glory that You gave Me, because You love Me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know You, but I know You, and they know that You sent Me. I made known to them Your name and I will make it known that the love with which You love Me may be in them and I in them.” [John 17:1b-26](#)

All nations of the world will be found in the Savior’s Church to create one family, whose Father is God; Whose High Priest and Teacher through the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ revealing Himself to those whom He chooses and where He wills.

The Savior Himself tells us: “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:18b-20](#)

Having, therefore, such assurance from the Savior Himself, that He is with all the apostles, when they are gathered together, but not with one individual apostle only, let us strengthen our faith that it is His will that the Holy Spirit should reveal Himself to His Church. Such a revelation takes place not in one person, but rather in the gathering of those who represent the Church.

Let us also strengthen our faith in the teaching that, if our

happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and He made the stars.

God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was.

Then God said: "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened.

God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work He had been doing, He rested on the seventh day from all the work He had undertaken.

**C.** Let us pray.

**D. or C.** Let us kneel.

**[Pause for private prayer and reflection.]**

**R.** Let us stand.

everything You gave Me is from You, because the words You gave to Me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from You, and they have believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones You have given Me, because they are Yours, and everything of Mine is Yours and everything of Yours is Mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one just as We are.

When I was with them I protected them in Your name that You gave Me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled.

But now I am coming to You. I speak this in the world so that they may share My joy completely. I gave them Your word, and the world hated them because they do not belong to the world anymore than I belong to the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world but that You keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world anymore than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate Myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.

I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, so that they may all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one, as

## THE FOURTH EXHORTATION

Beloved, we also have assurance from Jesus Christ Himself, that all nations will unite in His Church and that He will not forsake His Church. He tells us lovingly: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." [John 14:18](#)

And He will come if we ask in faith, and not wait for Him to ask His Father in heaven for us. We are to ask, not separately but as united in one brotherhood, joined by His love into a Holy Church, taking its mission from God through Jesus Christ, enjoined to the Apostles: "Whoever listens to you listens to Me." [Luke 10:16a](#) "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained." [John 20:23](#) "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." [Matthew 16:19b](#)

The Savior Himself will intercede before His Father on behalf of the Apostles and all those who through them shall believe in Him. He said: "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You, just as You gave Him authority over all people, so that He may give eternal life to all You gave Him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know You, the only true God, and the One Whom You sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified You on earth by accomplishing the work that You gave Me to do. Now glorify Me, Father, with You, with the glory that I had with You before the world began.

"I revealed Your name to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They belonged to You, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that

**C.** Lord, our God,  
by the strength of Your will  
You called the world into existence,  
breathed life into all creatures  
and gave us the gifts of mind and heart  
to know and love You.  
As we follow the light of Christ,  
strengthen our wills against temptation  
and enlighten our minds  
so that we may come to know  
and love You more deeply.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ,  
Who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.

## THE SECOND EXHORTATION

Listen to what Holy Scripture tells us about bringing forth the universe from God's Spirit and pointing out to man that he is dust of the earth physically, yet a part of God through His spirit which was breathed into him by God. The blessed Apostle Paul writes:

"In times past God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, He spoke to us through a Son, Whom He made Heir of all things and through Whom He created the universe, Who is the

refulgence of His glory, the very imprint of His being, and Who sustains all things by His mighty word. When He accomplished purification from sins, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

The blessed Evangelist John, reaching for the beginnings of eternity and led by God’s Spirit, says:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through Him and without Him nothing came to be. What came to be through Him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

“A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

“He was in the world, and the world came to be through Him, but the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him.

“But to those who did accept Him He gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man’s decision but of God.

“And the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we saw His glory, the glory as of the Father’s only Son, full of grace and truth.”

John testified to Him and cried out saying, “This was He

kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is My commandment; love one another as I love you.” **John 15:1-12**

And so, beloved, if we continue with faith in Christ’s love, in word and deed, we have the assurance of the Savior Himself that we are His Church and, therefore, have a part in the kingdom of God.

**C.** Let us pray.

**D. or C.** Let us kneel.

**[Pause for private prayer and reflection.]**

**R.** Let us stand.

**C.** Lord God,  
You are absolute power and eternal Light.  
With unceasing direction and grace  
look upon Your Church,  
the means of our salvation.  
May the whole world witness  
what You accomplish through Your Church,  
raising up the humble and making all things new.  
May all humanity come to know  
that all things return to Him  
from Whom they have their beginning:  
Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
Who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God  
for ever and ever.

**R.** Amen.

revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold, that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen Him you love Him; even though you do not see Him now yet believe in Him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of [your] faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours, made careful search and inquiry.”

**1 Peter 1:5-10**

The Savior Himself tells us: “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-grower. He takes away every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does He prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in Me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit because without Me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in Me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become My disciples. As the Father loves Me, so I also love you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have

of Whom I said, “the One Who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because He existed before me.” From His fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. “No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God Who is at the Father’s side, has revealed Him.” **John 1:1-18**

John says further: “I baptize with water, but there is one among you Whom you do not recognize, the One Who is coming after me, Whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” **John 1:26-27**

John testified further, saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon Him. I did not know Him, but the One Who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘on whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, He is the One Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now I have seen and testified that He is the Son of God.’” **John 1:32-34**

Jesus said of Himself, “Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father.” **John 14:9b** And again, “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.” **John 14:11** And again, “The Father and I are one.” **John 10:30** And again “...the word you hear is not Mine but that of the Father Who sent Me.” **John 14:24**

Therefore, beloved, we have the assurance that in Jesus Christ we are created through God and for God. Through Jesus Christ we are reborn in Him for God. Our final destination is not the grave but eternal life in God.

About all of these things the Apostle John says, “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of Life—for the life was made

visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete. Now this is the message that we have heard from Him and proclaim to you: God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say, “We have fellowship with Him, while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth but if we walk in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of His Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.” [1 John 1:1-7](#)

**C.** Let us pray.

**D. or C.** Let us kneel.

[Pause for private prayer and reflection.]

**R.** Let us stand.

**C.** Almighty God,

You revealed Yourself through the prophets,  
but most completely in Jesus Christ,  
through Whom You have refashioned us for Yourself.  
As we journey through this life,  
may we never stray from the road that leads to You  
and may we always remain united to You.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ,  
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## THE THIRD EXHORTATION

Beloved, we are comforted that God, our Father, not only showed Himself as our highest goal, but also left us an abundant teaching of how we are to strive toward this goal. This is what our Lord Jesus Christ says of Himself: “I am the way and the truth and the life.” [John 14:6a](#)

How are we to go along this way which is often winding, difficult and narrow? Where are we to seek the truth that is often unreachable by the human mind? How are we to find eternal life? God established the way and means by which these are to be found in the inexhaustible riches of His Church, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

This is what He said about Himself: “Upon this rock I will build My Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.” [Matthew 16:18b](#) What is this rock? It is the faith of Simon the Apostle, called Peter (Cefas), that Jesus is the Son of God. This faith does not flow from the wisdom of man, from the human mind, but rather from the Revelation of God the Father, Who is in heaven. Therefore, whoever lives abundantly in this revealed faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God is also a component of the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ and a participant in God’s kingdom.

For our comfort and confirmation in the faith the blessed Apostle Peter tells us: “[You are] by the power of God safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be