

COMMUNITY COMING EVENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 08/16 (XX Ordinary Sunday) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) in the church hall.
- 08/23 (XXI Ordinary Sunday) **Holy Mass** at 10am. Coffee hour (fellowship hour) in the church hall. *Mass Intention: For the CABIAS family.*

- Our **Annual Parish Tag Sale** will be held on **Saturday, September 19**. Volunteers Needed: If you're able to lend a hand on the day of the sale, please contact the Parish Chairman. We encourage all parishioners to **donate items for the sale**. Items may be dropped off at the church office door any day, any time leading up to the event.
- **Mass Intentions Announcement:** If you have a particular date in mind for a Mass Intention, please be sure to book it in advance, as we are able to schedule only one intention per Sunday. At this time, the first available Sunday with no intention is August 30, 2026. Please contact the parish office to reserve your date.

CHURCH NEWS

- Upcoming birthdays & anniversaries: AGNES SIMPSON (08/21). Happy anniversary! Happy birthday!

If you have any information for the „Church News Column”, please inform Fr. Adam by email or phone no later than Friday afternoon.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PASTOR - Rev. Dr. Adam Piekarczywski

August 16, 2026

BEHOLD

PARISH BULLETIN

XX SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTION

For + BARBARA STEPIEN (req. by Joe)

INTROIT

C: Up Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

R: I rejoiced when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem.

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.



HOLY MASS

10.00 am



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.

READING 1

A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:
Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.
The foreigners who join themselves to
the LORD,ministering to him,
loving the name of the LORD,
and becoming his servants—
all who keep the sabbath free from
profanation and hold to my covenant,

IS 56:1, 6-7

them I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

„O God, let all the nations praise you!“

PS 67

READING 2

A reading from the Letter of
St. Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
I am speaking to you Gentiles.
Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the
Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order
to make my race jealous
and thus save some of them.
For if their rejection is the reconciliation
of the world, what will their acceptance
be but life from the dead?

ROM 11:13-15, 29-32

For the gifts and the call of God are
irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed
God but have now received mercy
because of their disobedience,
so they have now disobeyed in order
that, by virtue of the mercy shown to
you, they too may now receive mercy.
For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

MT 15:21-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory be to You, Lord.

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.
And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on
me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon."
But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him,
"Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to
the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage,
saying, "Lord, help me."
He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the
dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table
of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it
be done for you as you wish."
And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This is one of the more startling encounters in the gospels, precisely because Jesus' initial
silence and his sharp words seem so out of character. A mother is desperate for her child, and she
meets what looks like indifference, then outright refusal. Yet she doesn't walk away. She keeps
calling out, kneels before him, and even takes his hard words and turns them into an argument for
her cause - "even the dogs eat the scraps." Her persistence isn't stubbornness for its own sake; it
comes from a conviction that Jesus has something her daughter needs, and she refuses to let
boundaries of ethnicity or protocol stand in the way. There's a boldness in how she engages him
directly, unwilling to settle for silence or a closed door.
What makes the passage remarkable is Jesus' response to her tenacity: "O woman, great is your
faith." He doesn't just relent, he praises her, holding her up as an example. It raises real questions
worth sitting with rather than smoothing over - why the initial silence, why the language of "dogs" -
but whatever is happening underneath, the outcome points somewhere clear: faith that keeps
showing up, that argues and wrestles and refuses to be dismissed, is met and honored. Her
daughter is healed not despite her persistence but seemingly because of it, a reminder that prayer
doesn't always have to be polished or immediately welcomed to be heard.