

# St. Mary's

Polish National Catholic Church

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**Church: 216-661-9246-Fr. Jason: 216-978-6645**

The Reverend Jason H. Soltysiak, Pastor

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Elaine Ploskonka, Parish Committee Chair- 216-536-3496

## **The 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**



## **Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

*9am Mass: Steve Temesi of. by wife Patty*

*10:30am Polish Mass: Open Intention*

*Readings: Isaiah 5:1-7, Philipians 4:6-9, Matthew 21:33-43*

**Lector – Greeters – Collectors –**

- 9am Holy Mass will be outside on Sunday, October 4 with a pet blessing to follow (weather permitting)
- 10:30am Polish Mass will be inside
- Noon- Pet Blessing in honor of St. Francis of Assissi

## *The Week Ahead*

### **MONDAY, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

Mass of the Day

### **TUESDAY, October 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **WEDNESDAY, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Mass of the Day – Holy Mother of the Rosary  
5pm – Weekly Food Ministry provided

### **THURSDAY, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

6:30pm – Women’s AA Meets

### **FRIDAY, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

4-6pm – Drive-Thru Dinner: Pierogi & More

### **SATURDAY, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

8pm – Saturday AA Meets in the Fellowship Hall

### **SUNDAY, October 11<sup>th</sup>-The Solemnity of the Christian Family**

*9am Mass: Sophie & Martin Szpilka of. by son John Spilka*

*Readings: Genesis 1:26-28,31a, Ephesians 6:1-9, Luke 2:42-52*

*Lector – Greeters – Collectors –*

- 9am Holy Mass will be inside on Sunday, October 11
- 10:30am- Parish Committee (Board) meets

## ***Announcements***

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER** – Today, and for all of October, we will use the 3<sup>rd</sup> Prayer, the Canon of St. Basil.

**POLISHFEST DAY 2** – Objectively, the second day of our PolishFest was one of our most successful events. It was well-run, well-planned, mistakes were corrected from Day 1...we just didn’t have the same turnout. It is pretty crazy to be somewhat disappointed in selling 500-ish dinners...but the bar was high! Over the two days of PolishFest 2020 in our updated Drive-Thru

### **UPCOMING**

Oct 4- 10:30a Polish Mass  
Oct 4 – Animal Blessing  
Oct 11 – Christian Family Sunday  
Oct 11 – Parish Comm. Meets  
Oct 18- Last outdoor Mass  
Oct 23 – Drive-Thru Dinner  
Oct 25-8 – National Liturgy Mtgs.

format, we sold just shy of 1200 individual meals. A clearer update of costs and profit will be available later.

**UPDATE ON MASS SCHEDULE** – The current plan for Sunday Mass scheduling is to continue the balance of outdoor and indoor Mass through October. There is a portion of our people who are not comfortable attending inside yet, and we want to make sure they are ministered-to before the weather becomes intolerable for a Sunday morning. We also will keep Polish Mass on a monthly basis, the first Sunday of the month at 10:30am.

**INSTALLATION OF BP. RAFALKO** – The Installation of Bp. Rafalko takes place this Saturday, Oct. 3 at 10am (Central Time) at All Saints Cathedral in Chicago, IL. The current plan is for the event to be broadcast on Facebook Live via the Western Diocese of the PNCC Facebook page. We prayerfully remember Bishop Rafalko in our prayers as our Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church is enriched by his new role as apostle.

**DRIVE THRU DINNERS** – We will be having two drive-thru dinners in October! On Friday, October 9 from 4-6pm, we will have a pierogi-and-more dinner, while on Friday, October 23, we plan on serving an Oktoberfest style meal: sausage, soft pretzel, (root) beer, etc. Please keep your eyes open for updates!

**EMAIL LIST - NEWSLETTERS** – As Covid-19 restrictions continue, we are reaching out to the congregation to perhaps, once again, save the church a few bucks each month. We have an email list that we are always trying to keep current- if you would rather receive your monthly newsletter digitally, and forgo the printed or mailed copy receive, please let us know and we will make it happen!

**DO YOU SHOP AT ACME?** – St. Mary's recently signed up for Acme's Community Cash back program. From now until December 26, please place any receipt from ACME that includes any ACME brands in the parish collection bin – we will receive 5% back from each item purchased! A "tiny-effort" fundraiser for our parish. It applies to any local ACME.

**CHURCH WIFI** – The church wi-fi is in process of being updated is available in certain new spots around the facility. It is “St. Mary’s Guest” and the password is easy: 11111111.

**SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING/SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Unfortunately, we have had an issue getting things together to bring the 2020-21 SOCL year into fruition. If anyone would like to be helpful in offering lessons, either in-person or online, please reach out to Fr. Jason – we cannot neglect the spiritual formation of our children, especially at this difficult time.

**PARISH COMMITTEE (BOARD)** – Though the parish committee just met on September 27, we made the decision to have a quick turnaround and have our next meeting at 10:30 on Sunday, October 11. Members, please plan on attending this short meeting.

**INVESTITURES** – At the recent Diocesan Synod, two priests were chosen to be elevated to the rank of Senior Priest- Rev. Charles Zawistowski of St. Mary’s in South Bend, IN, and Rev. John Kowalczyk of St. Michael the Archangel in Cedar Lake, IN. Fr. Charles will be elevated on Sunday, October 11 and Fr. John will be elevated on Saturday, October 17. Please keep them in prayer!

**PHONES IN CHURCH** – As we are still in the midst of this pandemic and adjusting to these temporary rules, please feel free, if comfortable, to use your phone to follow along with Mass at church. Much of the prayers, readings, etc. are sent out before Sunday Mass, giving you the option to print or read from your phone.

## Prayer List

**Please pray for these St. Mary’s parishioners, family and friends:**

Barbara Baranowski	Patti Dotson	John Spilka
Bill Kastak	Marty Bengela	Ralph & June Zaun
Johanna Markiewicz	Anna Dawidziuk	Barb & Jim Lukas
Bill & Pat Glatzer	Mary Ann Loschelder	Tom Petrie
Helen Budney	Polly Gajda	Len Pryer
Chester & Ann Warzala	Tom Putynski	Louise Cygan

Craig Atherton	Millie Dominik	Amy Dreger	
Jack Spilka	Carol Hreha	Elaine Repede	
John Radon	Steve Wisniewski	David Micka	
Wanda Clark	Beth Chihill	Keith Reynolds	
Helen Cummings	Jane Hunter	Paul S.	
Jay Grabowsky	Pam Chesar	Jan Sobolewski	
Ed Kidd	Emma Freshwater	Jennifer Kmitt	
Laina Dachtal	Nina Braquet	Paulette	Lilli
Cherise Pacanovsky	Bp. John Swantek	Cecelia Hall	
Jeremy Steinbreck	Chris Minch	Ricky Koehler	
Richard & Edna Samelson	Cathy Pieciak	Daniel Morgan	
Wanda Heffner	Bryson Dzurhoff	Jim Giles	
Rich Dombrowski	Linda Duffy	Diane Black	
Debbie Washenko	John Michalczyk	Renee Lucas	
Mark Magda	Caroline O'Connor	Linda Marks	
Marcus Vaughn Jr.	Marilyn Girard	Jennifer Kless	
Stephanie Milla	Baby Parker	Mary Cawley	
George & Linda Makovicka	Shannon Alberino	Kim Penney	
Loretta Baldwin	Julia Badarzynski	Kate Stallbaum	
Wendy Andrzejewski	Kenny Mach	Baby Layla	
Patrick Kmitt	James & Bobbi Moss		

ALL WHO ARE IN NURSING HOMES OR ASSISTED LIVING  
 ALL ACTIVE & RETIRED CLERGY NEEDING HEALING  
 ALL SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

**Bless them, O Lord.**

**Pobłogosław im, O Boże**



# THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME      October 4, 2020

## OPENING HYMN

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing. He chastens and hastens His will to make known. The wicked – oppressing - now cease from distressing. Sing praises to His Name, He forgets not His own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining- ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine; so from the beginning our fight we were winning. Thou, Lord, was at our side – All Glory be Thine!

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be. Let Thy congregation escape tribulation. Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

## THE PENITENTIAL RITE

I confess to almighty God, in the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints and you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault (*striking the breast three times and continuing*) in my thoughts, in my words, in what I have done or failed to do. I ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, all the saints and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord, our God.

***9am Holy Mass - Contemporary Rite- Page 63***

## THE INTROIT (*Psalm 80:9-10, 12-13*)

**C:** You brought a vine out of Egypt; You drove away nations and planted it. You cleared the ground; it took root and filled the land. **R: It sent out boughs as far as the sea, shoots as far as the river. Why have You broken down the walls, so that all who pass by pluck its fruit?** **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.**

## THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father. We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the

Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us! You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer! For You alone are the Holy One! You alone are the Lord! You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## **THE OPENING PRAYER**

**LET US PRAY...** Heavenly Father, of all the nations on the earth, You chose the people of Israel to be Your very own. May we, who share in Your new covenant, never cease to thank You for our Savior, Christ Jesus. 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 LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **THE FIRST LESSON - *the book of the prophet Isaiah (5:1-17)***

Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside; he spaded it, cleared it of stones, and planted the choicest vines; within it he built a watchtower, and hewed out a wine press. Then he looked for the crop of grapes, but what it yielded was wild grapes. Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard: What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done? Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? Now, I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard: take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall, let it be trampled! Yes, I will make it a ruin: it shall not be pruned or hoed, but overgrown with thorns and briars; I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it. The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! For justice, but hark, the outcry!

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

### **THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*Psalm 80:9,12,13-14,15-16,19-20*)**

**R/ (Is 5:7a) The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it. It put forth its foliage to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.

**R/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

Why have you broken down its walls, so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,  
The boar from the forest lays it waste, & the beasts of the field feed upon it?

**R/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see;  
take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted  
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon  
your name. O LORD, God of hosts, restore us; if your face shine upon us, then we  
shall be saved.

**R/ The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

**THE SECOND LESSON-*the letter of Paul to the Philippians(4:6-9)***

Brothers and sisters: Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the  
peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and  
minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, my brothers and sisters, whatever is true,  
whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is  
lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is  
anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what  
you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of  
peace will be with you.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **R. THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**THE ALLELUIA** (*Jeremiah 2:21*)

C: Alleluia, alleluia. **R: Alleluia, alleluia.** C: I had planted you, a choice  
vine of fully tested stock; How could you turn out obnoxious to Me, a  
spurious vine? **R: Alleluia, alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL - according to Matthew** (*Mt 21:33-43*)

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another  
parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, but a hedge around  
it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and  
went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to  
the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and



one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.’ They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?”

They answered him, “He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times.” Jesus said to them, “Did you never read in the scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit.”

*This is the gospel of the Lord. R. PRAISE BE TO YOU...*

## **THE HYMN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT (NB 76)**

Holy Spirit, Thou art welcome in this place, Holy Spirit, Thou art welcome in this place Omnipotent Father of mercy and grace, Thou art welcome in this place.

## **THE HOMILY**

### **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary AND BECAME MAN. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe

in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A –Prayers of the Faithful**

**Celebrant: We worry about many things in this life. St. Paul tells us that there is no need to worry, but that we should “ask God with prayer and thanksgiving” for what we need.**

*Lector:* For our brother Steve Temesi, for whom we acknowledge the anniversary of his leaving this world and entering the heavenly Jerusalem, *(pause)* We pray to the Lord, ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

*Lector:* For the Church of God, that the beloved vineyard of the Lord may produce its fruits for His glory, *(pause)* we pray to the Lord, ***Lord...***

*Lector:* For the Lord’s blessing on Bishop Jerry Rafalko, formerly installed yesterday as the Bishop Ordinary of our Western Diocese *(pause)* We pray to the Lord, ***Lord...***

*Lector:* For peacemakers, that their efforts will bring real peace in families, in countries, and between nations, *(pause)* We pray to the Lord, ***Lord...***

*Lector:* For ourselves here gathered in worship, that we will give more of our time to other people, *(pause)* We pray to the Lord, ***Lord...***

*Lector:* For God’s help, strength, and assistance for brothers and sisters in need, especially all impacted worldwide by nearly year-long reach of Covid-19, for Richard & Edna Samelson, Shannon Alberino, Jeremy Steinbreck, Mary Cawley, Eugene Beggin, Diane Black, Len Pryer, Emma Freshwater, Jennifer Kless, Jack Spilka, John Radon, Jim Giles, Tom Slomka, Kim Penney, Nina Braquet, Tammy Teubl, Jan Sobolewski, Debbie Washenko, Linda Duffy \_\_\_\_\_, for all on our prayer list, for all parishioners, friends and family members, *(pause)* We pray to the Lord, ***Lord...***

*Lector:* For the souls for those who walked this earth as our brothers and sisters, especially our brother Steve Temesi, \_\_\_\_\_, for all departed friends and family members of our Parish, (*pause*) We pray to the Lord, **Lord...**

**Celebrant: Father, your Son was the stone rejected. We accept Him with thanksgiving, and confidently bring these prayers to you, always, through Him, Jesus Christ, our Lord. R: Amen!**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

### **THE OFFERTORY VERSE (*John 15:1-2*)**

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.

### **OFFERTORY HYMN (NB 75)**

All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing. Alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam: O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Let all things their Creator bless and worship God in humbleness, O praise Him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one: O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All ye men of tender heart forgiving others take your part O sing ye! Alleluia! Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on Him cast your care. O praise Him, O praise Him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord God, accept these gifts of bread and wine which You have given to us. Help us to be faithful stewards of Your Sacred Mysteries. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

### **THE PREFACE AND THE SANCTUS (*Sung*)**

### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3, PG 84**

A bit after the Consecration, spoken together:

**We praise You, we bless You,  
we give thanks to You,  
and we pray to You, Lord, our God.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In Your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**R: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever.**

**C.** The Cup of Blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ?

**C.** The Bread which we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ?

**R.** **Because there is one bread we who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one Bread.**

**C.** May the union of divinity and humanity in Jesus Christ bring us sanctification and eternal life. **R. Amen.**

**C.** Lord Jesus Christ, You said to Your apostles: I leave you peace, My peace I give you. Do not look at our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of Your kingdom where You live for ever and ever. **R. Amen.**

**C.** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **R: And also with you.**

**C.** Let us pray together the first Communion Prayer:

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, Your death brought life to the world. By Your holy Body and Blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to Your teaching and never let me be parted from You.**

**Act of Spiritual Communion**

*Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.*

**POSTCOMMUNION HYMN – NB #174**

Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love; where there is injury, Your pardon, Lord; and where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of Your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope; where there is darkness, only light; and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of Your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; in giving to all men that we receive; and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## **THE COMMUNION VERSE** (*John 15:5*)

**C:** I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit,

**R:** because without Me you can do nothing.

## **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**LET US PRAY...** Lord Jesus Christ, You are the true vine and the source of life. May we follow You and receive the power of Your Eternal Sacrifice, that in sharing the cup we may share Your glory and be perfected in Your love. For You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **R. AMEN.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify Your name;  
Prince of Peace, Almighty God, O Lord God Almighty!

*Pet Blessing follows 9am Holy Mass and 11am Holy Mass*

# ***Pet Blessing***

## **OPENING PETITION**

**C:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R:** Amen.

**C:** Bless the Lord, all you His creatures,

**R:** And forget not all His benefits

## **THE OPENING PRAYER**

**C:** O Lord, grant your people the grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Saint Francis, we may, for love of You delight in Your whole creating with perfectness of joy.

O God, You have made us and all living things. You are even more wonderful than what you have made. We thank you for giving us these animals who bring us joy. As you take care of us, so also we ask Your help that we might take care of those who trust us to look after them. By doing this, we share in Your own love for all creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. **R: Amen.**

*A Reading from the Book of Genesis (Genesis 1:24-31)*

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*C: This is the Word of the Lord.* **R: Thanks be to God.**

D/C: The Lord be with you.

**R: And also with you.**

C: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. +

**R: Glory be to you, O Lord.**

*(Matthew 6:25-26)*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

*C: This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **THE INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

C: Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

L: Today’s response is: *We thank You, Lord.*

L: For the beauty and wonder of Your creation, in earth and sky and sea, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers, *We thank You, Lord.*



L: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our pets, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: That each pet here may be treasured with care, *We thank You, Lord.*

L: That we may love and honor all Your works, O God, *We thank You, Lord.*

C: Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of Your abundant creation. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. **R: Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

C: May all these animals be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May all of you enjoy life together with your pets and find joy with the God Who created you.

**R: Amen.**

*The clergy will now bless each animal individually with Holy Water*