

THE PEREGRINATION OF THE TRIPTYCH AT SACRED HEART CHURCH



May 18, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of St. Pope John Paul II. In order to celebrate this milestone event - only one Polish man in the history of the Catholic Church has held the role as Saint Peter's successor—many churches around the world are celebrating Holy Masses and offering thanksgiving devotions. Hence, for this reason three portable altars called Triptychs, consisting of a central part and two side wings with the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa (Black Madonna), St. Sister Faustina and St. Pope John Paul II and their relics are travelling across three continents of the globe (Europe, Asia and North America), so that the faithful people of God can receive God's favours and blessings.

In December of last year, the Ordinary of the Diocese of Hamilton, Bishop Douglas Crosby, issued a pastoral letter to all priests in which he encouraged them to open the doors of their churches and welcome this Triptych. Its peregrination in Canada began in January of this year. At the request of the Foundation of St. John Paul II, whose head office is in the Vatican, I was asked to take on the role of a custodian and organizer of the

peregrination in the Province of Ontario. At the beginning of January, I had the privilege of receiving the Triptych from the State of New York, USA to Canadian soil.

Now, I would like to present the general program of the jubilee celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of John Paul II at the Parish of Sacred Heart in Kitchener:

1. Beginning in October, our Parish will be praying for Saint John Paul II's intercession following every Mass.
2. Two large banners with the image of the Pope have been placed in the sanctuary of our church with inscriptions in English and Polish, emphasizing the importance of the jubilee celebrations.
3. On January 7th in Toronto at the Christmas Dinner for Polish Priests ministering in the Province of Ontario, I did a presentation about the peregrination of the Triptych and offered proposals for its visitation to various parishes.
4. At the beginning of January, I was a guest on the Catholic Radio Station "Radio Maryja" in Toronto. Reaching listeners across the world, I again presented pastoral proposals for having the Triptych visit other churches, not just Polish ones.
5. Good News! The long-awaited Triptych arrives at our Parish on Friday, the 23rd of October, staying until the 30th of October; this shall also conclude the month of Our Lady of the Rosary.
6. On Saturday, October 24th, following the evening Mass there will be the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:00 pm. The Domestic Church will lead prayers in Polish beginning at 6:30 pm.
7. The main celebrations will occur on Sunday, October 5th, at 10:00 am and 11:30 am. Provided his health allows it, His Excellency Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki, retired Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton, will preside and preach at the English Mass at 10:00.

At the 11:30, Bishop Joseph Dąbrowski, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of London, will celebrate the Eucharist and lead further devotions. The solemn ceremony will end with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Litany to St. John Paul II and a prayer to obtain favours through his intercession.

8. During the peregrination of the Triptych, the order of Eucharistic celebrations in our church will change. This is the following schedule from Monday to Friday.

a. Morning Masses at 8:00 am will be celebrated in English & evening Masses at 7:00 pm in Polish.

b. Daily Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be from 8:30 to 10:00 am, from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm, and from 7:45 pm to 10:00 pm.

c. Daily Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) from 7:30 am - 7:55 am and from 6:30 pm to 6:55 pm.

9. On Friday, Oct.30th after the morning Mass there will be Stations of the Cross with Saint Pope John Paul II, followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

10. On the website of our parish www.kitchenercr.com the Litany to St. John Paul II and Novena have been posted. These prayers are printed weekly in our parish bulletin.

11. At the parish office or in the sacristy two books are available for purchase; "*Miracles of John Paul II*" and prayer book to Pope John Paul II. Both of these are available at the price of \$10.00.

12. On April 2nd we celebrate Canada's Pope John Paul II Day. For this occasion, a special insert will be included in our newsletter.

Emphasizing the importance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla - St. John Paul II - the Government of Poland and Lithuania have designated the year 2020 as the "Year of Saint John Paul II".

On behalf of myself and this faith community of Sacred Heart Parish in Kitchener, I cordially invite and encourage all people to visit our church and pray together in the presence of the Triptych and the relics of the two saints. May celebrating this beautiful Jubilee help us all obtain God's blessings and graces for ourselves and others through the intercession of the great St. John Paul II.

Fr. Adam Wroblewicz, CR