

The Seventeenth Annual Polka Mass

Saturday, November 5, 2011

4:30 P.M.

The Thirty-second Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Rev. Andrew A. Czajkowski
The Catholic Community of
St. John the Evangelist and Blessed Sacrament*

*Niech będzie pochwalony Jesus Chrystus,
y na wieki wiekow. Amen*

*Praised be Jesus Christ,
both now and forever. Amen*

Dear friends, it gives me such great joy to welcome each and every one of you to our Annual Polka Mass and Polish Night. It's hard to believe that this is our 17th year to gather together. Our gathering has become a tradition—always the first Saturday of the month of November, just so we have an extra hour when we turn back our clocks tonight.

Our gathering provides a chance for families to come together, for old friends to meet, and new ones to be made. Like someone said, "If it weren't for the Polka Mass and Dinner, the only time we seem to get together anymore is for funerals." But thanks be to God, this isn't a funeral! This is more like a wedding. How many of you have been to a Polish wedding? They literally last three days, and there's room for everybody. Children are always included! After all, how can they learn what family is all about? At last count, over 75 children will be our guests at the dinner and dance and our table servers will be the youth of our parish—the young Church of today.

It literally takes a small army to prepare for a Polish wedding, including many hours in the kitchen. I would like to acknowledge now the many hands that spent all week getting ready for tonight's feast. In many ways, our gathering is like a wedding—all we need is the bride and groom.

How coincidental that tonight Jesus tells a story about a wedding. Like in Poland, in the part of the world where Jesus lived, weddings were also quite elaborate. There was a wedding banquet, generally at the house of the groom. It was up to the groom as to when the celebration would begin. Many times it was late at night, usually after midnight, when everybody dozed off. No matter when

