

# SAINT HEDWIG'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Michal Pajak, O.M.I., Pastor

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Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 2 p.m.



**Confessions:** 15 minutes before Mass and other times (see below) • **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Monday to Friday, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. • Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Recitation of the Rosary:** 30 minutes before each Mass  
**Last Week's Attendance:** 5 p.m.:120; 8 a.m.:157; 11 a.m.:302: Total: 579

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 2026

### Monday

February 16

#### Ferial

**9:00 a.m.** +Nicholas Prince by Connie & David [Note Change in Mass Time]  
 [No 4:30 p.m. Mass]

### Tuesday

February 17

#### 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Approval of Oblates Mary Immaculate

**8:00 a.m.** +Ingrid Coulas & for the Souls in Purgatory by Karen Shalla

### Ash Wednesday

February 18

#### (Universal Day of Fasting, and Abstinence From Meat)

**8:00 a.m.** +Stanley & Genevieve & Rose Marie & Jerome by Sylvie & Cathy  
**12:00 p.m.** Intentions of Andrew & Sarah Hamon by Anthony & Elizabeth Hamon  
**6:00 p.m.** +Mary Margaret Kelly by Bernadette Dudack & family

### Thursday

February 19

#### Ferial

**8:00 a.m.** +Charlotte Lehovitch by Brenda, Joyce & Rick

### Friday

February 20

#### Ferial

**8:00 a.m.** +Sylvester, Maxie & Agnes Etmanski by Kevin & Steven  
**6:00 p.m.** **Stations of the Cross** [Led by Knights of Columbus]

### Saturday

February 21

#### St. Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor

**8:00-8:45 a.m. Confessions**  
**9:00 a.m.** +Edward Beanish, living & deceased family by Diane Klobouk & family

## First Sunday of Lent

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

### Saturday

**4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Confessions**  
**5:00 p.m.** +David & Andrew by Peter & Clementine & family

### Sunday

**8:00 a.m.** + Bernadette 'Bunny' Recoskie by Noelle & Martin Recoskie  
**11:00 a.m.** Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday (Feb 22nd, 2026) First Sunday of Lent	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
<b>Readers of the Word</b>	June Szaflik	John Boskill	Mark Westen
<b>Holy Communion</b>	Deacon Robert Probert	Deacon Jean-Nil Chabot	Br. Grzegorz Loska, OMI
<b>Ushers</b>	Duncan Barber (crew captain) and ushers	Stanley Rumleskie (crew captain) and ushers	Daniel Shalla (crew captain) and ushers

**Offerings:** Last Sunday: \$3,248.40; Building Maintenance: \$915.00; Heat & Fuel: \$745.00;  
 New Year's Day: \$10.00; Initial: \$15.00

### Important Message From the Bishop:

#### **MASS FOR VICTIMS, FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY OF TUMBLER RIDGE, BC:**

Bishop Brehl will celebrate Mass for the victims, the families of the victims and the entire community of Tumbler Ridge, BC as they try to cope from this horrible tragedy.

The Mass will be on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 4:00 pm at St. Columbkille Cathedral. All are invited.

**Lenten Lamentation:** After the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sundays during Lent (except the 2<sup>nd</sup>), there will be a Lenten Lamentation or Gorzkie Żale in Polish.

**Euchre:** The next Euchre games will be held on Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00.

**Sledding Sunday:** The Knights of Columbus invite you and your family to sled on the hill beside the rectory after the 11 a.m. Mass On February 15<sup>th</sup>. Bring your snow gear and sleds and enjoy an afternoon of winter fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

**Domestic Church:** The Domestic Church is hosting a social gathering in the basement of St. Hedwig's after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. This event corresponds with the KofC sledding event. Soup and a bun will be served along with the usual coffee and snacks.

**Shrove Tuesday Family Pancake Supper & Dance:** The Knights of Columbus are holding a 'Shrove Tuesday' Pancake Supper on February 17 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Following the Pancake Supper, all are invited to a Family Dance beginning at 7:30 p.m. in St. Hedwig's basement. Bring your family and friends and join us for good food and fellowship! Admission by donation, all are welcome!

**Christian Mothers:** There will be no meeting this month due to the Family Pancake Supper and dance.

**Knights of Columbus:** Due to Ash Wednesday, the regular meeting will be rescheduled to Feb 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**Maintenance Position:** A Part-time Maintenance/Groundskeeping position (with possibility of more hours) is open at St. Hedwig Church. For a complete job description, or more information, please contact the office at office@sainthedwigparish.ca

**Sacred Music Concert:** On Saturday, February 28th, at 7:00pm in St. Hedwig's Church, there will be an all-female-voice sacred music concert entitled Sub Tuum Praesidium, presented by members of the St. Wigbert's Scholars. Admission by donation.

**Diocesan Lenten Retreat:** The Office of Faith Formation and Leadership Development invites you to the next Diocesan Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 9:30am to 2:00pm (Registration at 9:00am) at St. James the Less Parish, Eganville. Author and speaker: Patrick Sullivan. Cost: \$15.00 (lunch provided). To register please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioecese.com or 613 732-7933 ext. 206. Deadline to register: Wednesday, February 18th.

**Rite of Election and Acceptance:** For those to be received into the Faith this Easter, Bishop Michael Brehl will celebrate Mass at St. Columbkille Cathedral on the 1st Sunday of Lent, February 22, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. The Mass the Rite of Election are for those to be baptized this Easter Vigil as well as the Acceptance of Candidates who will be confirmed and received into the Faith. Everyone preparing for baptism and reception into the Church throughout the Diocese are invited to participate with our Bishop at this Mass. If you do plan to attend, please contact Deacon Adrien Chaput at dcadrienchaput@pembrokedioecese.com.

**Pro-life News and Other Social Issues:** There is a very alarming bill before the Canadian parliament, Bill C-9. If you wish a copy of this letter expressing the opinion and concerns of the Canadian Bishops regarding Bill C-9, it is available on the tables at the back of the church. You can also sign a CLC petition on-line. Just google "Campaign Life Coalition on-line petition for Bill C-9".

**From Fr. Michal:** REFLECTION ABOUT THE LITURGY - SACRED WATER

Every time we enter a church, we perform a simple gesture that we often take for granted. We dip our fingers into holy water and make the sign of the cross. The Church teaches us that holy water is a **sacramental**. As the Catechism says, sacramentals are sacred signs that prepare us to receive grace and make holy the ordinary moments of life (CCC 1667–1668). Holy water does not replace the sacraments—but it disposes our hearts to receive them.

From the very first page of Scripture, water is connected with God's saving action. In Genesis, before there is light, before there is life, the Spirit of God hovers over the waters. Water becomes the place where God brings order out of chaos, life out of nothingness. Throughout the Old Testament, water is never neutral. It cleanses, it protects, and it prepares people to enter God's presence. The priests of Israel were commanded to wash with water before approaching the altar—lest they die. Water marked the boundary between ordinary life and holy ground.

**Water That Cleanses:** The Psalmist cries out, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Water becomes the language of repentance, mercy, and renewal. To be washed is to be given a new beginning.

**Jesus, the Living Water:** All of this finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Jesus stands in the Temple and proclaims: "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink." He speaks of the Holy Spirit, who will flow like living water from the hearts of believers. Water is no longer only something external—it becomes the sign of God dwelling within us. And at the Cross, when Jesus' side is pierced, blood and water flow out. The Fathers of the Church saw in this the birth of the Church and the sacraments—Baptism and the Eucharist—flowing from the pierced Heart of Christ. Holy water always points us back to that moment. Every time we use it, we are touching the mystery of the Cross.

**Holy Water and Baptism:** This is why holy water always recalls **Baptism**. When we bless ourselves at the church door, we are not simply performing a habit. We are renewing our baptismal identity. We are saying: I belong to Christ. I have died with Him. I have risen with Him. That is why the Church especially highlights holy water during Easter, when baptismal water is blessed and sprinkled upon the people. The Church is reminding us that the Christian life begins—and continues—with water and the Spirit.

**The Living Tradition of the Church:** From the earliest centuries, Christians understood the power of holy water. Homes were blessed with it. Fields, animals, and food were sprinkled. Families carried it with reverence, trusting not in magic, but in God's grace working through the prayer of the Church. Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches that the sprinkling of holy water can remit venial sins because it stirs reverence and opens the heart to grace. Saint Teresa of Avila speaks very simply and powerfully: "There is nothing like holy water to put devils to flight." Not because the water is special by itself—but because God is faithful to the prayer of His Church.

**What This Means for Us:** So what should holy water mean for us today? First, it should never be rushed or thoughtless. When we bless ourselves, we should do it slowly and with faith—remembering our Baptism and calling upon the Holy Trinity. Second, holy water reminds us that we are a people who must be cleansed again and again. We carry the dust of daily life, of sin, of distraction. God meets us not with condemnation, but with mercy. And finally, holy water sends us out. We enter the church marked by Christ—and we leave strengthened to live as His disciples in the world.

Brothers and sisters, may we never forget the power hidden in this simple sign. Each time we touch holy water, may our hearts be renewed, our faith awakened, and our lives conformed ever more closely to Christ, the Living Water. Amen.

**Masses Transferred to Fr. Jerry Gauvreau:** +Thomas & John & Michael Yandernoll by Raymond (x5), +Bridget Gutoskie by Teresa, +Leonard Trader by Andrew & Catherine Etmanski, +Fr. Norbert Cybulski by Teresa Chapeskie, +Bridget Gutoskie by Theresa Trader, For the Souls in Purgatory, +David & Andrew Brotton by Peter & Clementine & family, +Frances & Frank S. Zilney by Peter & Clementine & family, +Monica LeDrew & Boyd Kelso by Peter & Clementine & family, +Stanley & Martha Brotton, brothers & sisters & family by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, +Victor, Rose, Victor Jr., Bruno & Melissa Stoppa by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, For Thanksgiving & Blessing on family by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, +Dr. Jana Weider by Elena Afelskie, +Les Mellor by Elena Afelskie, +Ronnie Frew by Elena Afelskie, Deceased members of the Culshaw & Lynch families by Elena Afelskie, Deceased members of the Afelskie & Fitzpatrick families by Elena Afelskie, +Pamela George & deceased family members by Constance Martin, +Benny Lehovitch by S.H.L., +Anne Nieman by S.H.L., +Florence Peplinskie by S.H.L., +Barbara Dombroskie by S.H.L., +Fr. Mervin Coulas by S.H.L.