

GOOD Dzień dobry! DAY!

A newsletter published several times a year for the parishioners and friends of
St. Casimir's Parish, Polish National Catholic Church
268 Lakeview Avenue —Lowell, Massachusetts, 01850-2313

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Homecoming

Homecoming 2018 was celebrated at St. Casimir's on Saturday, December 1. Guests were greeted as they entered the hall and were seated at individually decorated tables. They served themselves appetizers prepared by parishioners as Christmas music played in the background.



At 5 pm the hall was darkened and the first star was brought forward by Emma Ford-Hunt, Christopher Tenus, Amelia Tenus and Neveah Guida while Janice Klimczak sang "O Holy Night" accompanied on the accordion by Diane Quirbach.

Guests, including Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop and wife, were welcomed by Co-Chairmen Robert Hunt and Dr. Bert Quirbach after which Father Tenus said a blessing over the food.

Guests were asked to share the oplatek with family and friends, new and old, and then pierogi appetizers were served.

Guest tables were called to the buffet by Dr. Quirbach to partake of a dinner of stuffed baked breast of chicken, mashed potatoes, string beans, carrots, and cranberry sauce. Dessert consisted of homemade pound cake with strawberries or chocolate sauce and whipped cream.



Children of SOCL sang "The Friendly Beasts", "Sliczna Panienska" and "Children Go Where I Send Thee" accompanied by Father Tenus and Diane Quirbach. The Tenus Family presented a "pastoralka" entitled "Gore Gwiazda Jezusowi". Irene Jaracz of St. Casimir's ANS explained the 2018 Giving Tree Charity.



Father Andrew, Bob Hunt and Bert Quirbach presented the 2018 Elf of the Year award to Nancy Picanso, a tireless and energetic worker in the parish kitchen, for her service to St. Casimir's.

Santa Claus appeared onstage to present gifts to children and young people. The Folcik sisters sang "Licze Na Ciebie Ojczy", beginning the sing-a-long lead by Father Tenus.

Fr. Tenus introduced Bishop Paul for his remarks after which Bishop Paul pronounced benediction and everyone left for home, well fed and in a joyous mood.

Message from Father Andrew

Well, here we are once again at the start of a brand-new year. I guess it's only natural to reflect a bit on 2018, which was a fun year, very busy indeed, and highly successful and gratifying to me as a pastor; and to all of the parishioners who worked so hard to make it so.



The Polish Food Fest was another fun filled sellout event. The homecoming dinner was also a great success. Our youth group is becoming more and more confident in presenting themselves very favorably at their talent show and other events. A new parish committee was installed and includes several new faces, eager to participate in moving St. Casimir's forward.

You may know, that our Parish has been quite successful in selling pierogi and gołąbki. An advertisement appears on page 2. The profits, of course, support our St. Casimir's Parish.

We are very encouraged by the responses received from our web site, this newsletter and our Sunday Mass for shut-ins on the internet. We hope that Facebook will stimulate more response from those who discover that St. Casimir's is truly a good place to spend time with good people committed to doing good things for all who want to share in the good works of our Lord and Savior. For most recent information, please visit our Facebook page.

Thank you for being an important part of our life and may God bless you and yours.

Rev. Andrzej Tenus

St. Casimir's Parish PNCC

Sunday Mass 10:00 A.M. Daily Mass 9:00 A.M.

Contact us via email at: st.casimir@stcasimirspncc.com

or Call any of the following:

Pastor Rev. Andrzej Tenus: 978-453-0742

Parish Co-Chairmen

Robert Hunt: 978-397-8161 or Robert Quirbach: 603-672-5649

Parish Secretary Janice Klimczak: 978-452-9646

Public Relations JoAnn Menzia: 978-459-2017

For more information, news, photos, etc. visit our sites:

www.stcasimirspncc.com

www.facebook.com/stcasimirschurch/

Polish Food Fest



The annual Food Fest at St. Casimir's Parish was held on October 20 from 10 am – 3 pm. Again it was a great success, financially as well as socially as parishioners, new and older members, worked together in harmony.

Available from our parish kitchen were Polish plates consisting of pierogi, kapusta, rye bread and kielbasa. Servings of pierogi or gołąbki, and kielbasa sandwiches were also available.

Desserts could be purchased from our sweets table as well as entrees which could be taken home and reheated. Frozen pierogi and gołąbki were also available for purchase—we totally ran out of gołąbki both in the kitchen and in the frozen food department.



During the afternoon, raffle prizes from our tea cup raffle were awarded at 15 minute intervals. These included many gift cards and other items donated by parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's.



A lottery raffle also took place where the winner could take home 100 lottery tickets or toaster oven (2nd prize) or gift basket (3rd prize).

We were blessed with the attendance of our diocesan Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and his wife Karen along with six parishioners from Holy Trinity Cathedral of Manchester, NH. Also in attendance were Father Paul Lukaszewicz, wife Monika and daughter Patricia.

At the end of the afternoon and after many weeks of preparation, everyone went home with a feeling of accomplishment.

Giving Tree Project

In December St. Casimir's ANS sponsored its annual Giving Tree project. It was decided Veterans of Greater Lowell would be the 2018 Giving Tree recipients. New white socks were needed by Veterans. For many who spend much time in the cold, white socks are a lifesaver.



Parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's were asked to donate white socks for men and women. The goal was to bring 300 pair of socks to the Giving Tree which stood at the rear of the church. When the collection deadline of December 20 arrived there were 768

pairs of socks to be distributed to local veterans! A Christmas miracle had happened thanks to the generosity and kindness of the people of St. Casimir's.

ANNUAL HARVEST DINNER AND YOUTH GROUP PROGRAM

The 14th Annual Harvest Dinner and Program took place at St. Casimir's Parish on November 4, 2018. Our special guests were Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and his wife Karen who have supported us for many years. We were blessed to have them in attendance.

The reason for the dinner is three-fold: first to honor God by giving thanks for all His goodness; second to share God's blessings given to



us in our garden; and third to build confidence in our children who perform during the program.

Our pastor, Father

Andrzej Tenus, welcomed our guests to the dinner and asked the youth to sing a blessing song after which he pronounced the blessing over the food.

The dinner, coordinated by Diane Quirbach (adult advisor) and cooked by her helpers Dr. Bert Quirbach and Bob Hunt, consisted of chicken pie, potatoes, carrots, corn, squash with a variety of desserts including blueberry cake and pumpkin pie. Dr. Bert has sponsored the dinner for many years. For this we are most grateful.

In a program arranged by Karina Tenus and Diane Quirbach, the children sang songs of faith as well as a modern Polish folk song.

Songs sung were "Praise and Thanksgiving", "You are My All in All", "Standing on the Promises", "How Great is Our God", and "Sieje Je". Soloists were Karina and Christopher Tenus. Emma Ford-Hunt performed 3 Irish step dances and Amelia Tenus sang "A Thousand Years" by Christina Perri.

Vesuvio Gauthier, Karina Tenus and Jonasz Tenus spoke about CONVO and Church camp which they had attended. Proceeds from the dinner/show are used to send our youth to both of these church related events. Thanks were expressed to those in attendance for supporting the youth in their endeavors.



Everybody's Favorite Polish Food

On Sale at St. Casimir's Parish Center
270 Lakeview Avenue—Lowell, MA
Every Sunday After Mass—11:00 am until 12:00 pm



Lovingly prepared by the Parishioners of St. Casimir's Parish to generate income for the exclusive use of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church of Lowell, Massachusetts For consumption by the purchaser—Resale is Prohibited

Operation Christmas Child

In 2018 St. Casimir's PNCC once again participated in Operation Christmas Child by collecting shoebox gifts.



Blessing of the Shoeboxes — Nov 18th

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, which is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing

spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver 157 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries. Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God's love through their simple gifts.

Veteran's Day Mass



On Sunday November 11, Veterans were remembered during Sunday Mass. As a special tribute, parishioners placed framed pictures of service men and women on the altar railings, side altars and

window sills. The photos featured active, inactive, living and deceased individuals who selflessly served our country.

This tribute to our veterans demonstrated our respect and appreciation for those who serve or served in the United States Armed Forces. It also showed those with actively serving family members that the people of St. Casimir's appreciate the sacrifices they make.



25th General Synod of the PNCC

Fr. Tenus, Janice Klimczak and JoAnn Menzia represented St. Casimir's at the 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church, which was held October 1-3, 2018 at our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, IL.

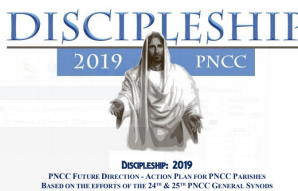


During the Synod, which is held every four years, laity and clergy received reports from all national church organizations and commissions and made decisions.

The following are some of the noteworthy decisions that were made: Prime Bishop Mikovsky was re-elected for another eight-year term; term limits for the Prime Bishop were removed and the retirement age for the Prime Bishop was also removed. One constitutional change that would have amended the retirement age of diocesan bishops from 75 (present) to 78 did not pass after many hours of discussion.

Financial reports of the entire church were received. Enthusiastic reports were received from the National United Youth Organization, the Young Men's Society of the Resurrection and the Mission and Evangelism Commission. The Salary and Benefits commission reported that some parishes have not kept up with the guidelines and recommended they do so.

Overlaid on the agenda were breakout groups relative to Future Directions to discuss what were our successes/failures in the last four years and where do we go from here. It was decided to move forward to continue to implement the five themes developed by the 24th PNCC Synod in 2014: Growth and Membership, Increased Spirituality, Lifelong Learning, Sacred Vocations and Community Involvement.



Subsequent to the Synod, the Future Direction Subcommittee determined 2019 to be the year of Discipleship. The purpose of Discipleship:2019 is to strengthen all members in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For more information please go to www.stcasimirspncc.com

Christmas at St. Casimir's

As usual the Ladies of ANS made sure our Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas. This year we also enjoyed the Nativity Scene with new figurines that were generously donated by Janice Klimczak.



Every Sunday after Mass, parishioners and friends gather at the Parish Center for coffee, snacks and fellowship. *...Please join us.*

Spotlight —ANS

This is the second in a series of spotlight articles. It features St. Casimir's ANS organization.

Adoracji Najświętszego Sakramentu (ANS) or translated to English, Society for the Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, is the oldest women's organization in the Polish National Catholic Church. The first ANS Society was organized by Bishop Franciszek Hodur in 1897 during the struggle to organize the Polish National Catholic Church. The stated purpose of ANS was "to celebrate and love the Lord Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, to support the members in the pursuit of Christian perfection, help in the event of illness or scarcity and the last service for the deceased member of the Society". Over the years ANS has grown and flourished, and today most parishes in the PNCC have an ANS branch.

St. Casimir's ANS Society was created by JoAnn Menzia in 2007 in memory of Michalina Czekanski, who passed away in 2006. For many years Michalina was a role model demonstrating exemplary service to St. Casimir's. The purpose of St. Casimir's ANS is to give more meaning and depth to religion in the family and in the church, to worship and love Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, to promote spiritual development in members and to care for the church, sanctuary and altars.



ANS officers are: president – JoAnn Menzia, vice president – Joyce Normand, co-secretaries – Phyllis Hunt and Linda Kosidlo and treasurer – Paula Jones. Currently there are a total of 30 members.

ANS is one of the most active organizations at St. Casimir's.

Activities include Valentine activity for the children of the SOCL, Pre-Lent Chocolate Mardi Gras, church preparation for Easter and Christmas, Memorial Day Hot Dog Lunch, Pastor Appreciation brunch, Blessing of Animals, Flags/Flowers/Pictures for Veteran's Day, and Christmas greetings and gifts for sick/shut-ins. St. Casimir's ANS Society also participates in several outreach activities such as Jacob's Well drive for veterans, hat and mitten drive for Lowell schools, Giving Tree and support for residents of Bachand Hall. In addition, it holds an annual summer social event for members. In 2018, the group went to see the musical "Mama Mia".

St Casimir's ANS meets every 4th Sunday of the month to plan/discuss activities. It is one of 13 parishes represented in the Eastern Diocese ANS. The ED ANS, which is chaired by JoAnn Menzia, holds an annual convention in May to discuss resolutions from the Synods. The national PNCC ANS meets a minimum of four times per year via teleconference. JoAnn is St. Casimir's representative. PNCC ANS activities include conducting women's conferences and publishing the POLKA magazine.



2018 Convention

New ANS members are always welcome. All parish women age 18 or older are eligible to join. Please contact JoAnn Menzia at 978-459-2017 or myblackcats@yahoo.com for additional information.

Parish Officer & Committee Elections

On December 16, 2018 the Annual Elections of the Parish Officers and Committee was conducted with the following results:

PARISH COMMITTEE 2019

Pastor: Rev. Andrzej Tenus. **Co-Chairmen:** Robert Hunt, Dr. Robert Quirbach. **Recording secretary:** Janice Klimczak. **Treasurer:** Shirley Garvey. **Financial Secretary:** Linda Hedrick.

Directors: Patricia Whiting, Robert Ferus, Phyllis Hunt, Christopher Kowalski, JoAnn Menzia, Josephine Wrobel, Stanley Kosidlo, Atty. Diane Quirbach, Jean Doda, Johanna Ford-Hunt, Sophie Kosidlo, Holly Gauthier-Guida, Charlotte Stankiewicz, Thomas McNiff, Carol McNiff, Irene Jaracz, Robert Page, Anne Marie Page, Christine Piec, Paula Jones, Shirley Kourey, Joseph Czarnecki, Nancy Picanso.

Financial Reviewers: Stanley Kosidlo, Robert Page, David Breault.

Cemetery Committee: Robert Hunt, Dr. Robert Quirbach, Robert Ferus, Thomas McNiff, Stanley Kosidlo, Janice Klimczak, Paula Jones, Phyllis Hunt, Irene Jaracz

Delegates to Seniorate meetings-second year of two year term: JoAnn Menzia, Phyllis Hunt, Irene Jaracz, Janice Klimczak (alt.).

Public Relations: JoAnn Menzia, Janice Klimczak, Linda Kosidlo, Anne Marie Page, Paul Starenas, Debbie Starenas.



The Officers and Committee were sworn in at a brief ceremony on January 6, 2019.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 1ST QTR OF 2019

Watch bulletins for additions and further information

Meetings: First Sunday, TOP; Second Sunday, Choir; Third Sunday, Parish Committee; Fourth Sunday, ANS.

- Year round Make pierogi and gołąbki as needed
- January 6 Installation of Officers
- February/March ANS Bachand Hall toiletry collection
- February 3 "Souper bowl" Sunday (Youth Group)
- March 6 Ash Wednesday-beginning of Lent. Mass at 9 am and 7 pm with imposition of ashes. Lenten Services, Fridays, 7 pm.
- March 9 Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat 9am-3pm St. Casimir's Parish
- March 10 Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church
- March 17 Parish Meeting for Presentation of Financial Report/ Parish committee meeting
- March 29,30,31 Mission and Evangelism Workshop, Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT
- April 7 Meal in the Upper Room, BVM Parish, Fall River, MA 4:30 pm
- Mid April Church property and Cemetery clean up
- April 14 Palm Sunday- Mass at 10 am
- April 16 Holy Mass with Blessing of Oils
- April 18 Holy Thursday, Mass at 6 pm
- April 19 Good Friday Mass of the Presanctified 10 am; Divine Mercy novena, 3 pm
- April 20 Holy Saturday, Mass at 10 am followed by preparation of the church by ANS.
- April 21 Easter Sunday Procession and Mass, 9 am