

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

JULY 2017

VOL. 7 NO. 2

Confirmation 2017

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017, the Sacrament of Confirmation was bestowed upon four young people from St. Casimir's Parish.



The Right Reverend Paul Sobiechowski, Diocesan Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, administered Confirmation, a gift of the Holy Spirit which strengthens faith and affirms the way Christ wants us to live.

The four recipients were Karina Anna Maria Tenus, Ian Joseph John Ford-Hunt, Joseph Peter Sigmund Grieve and Justin Joseph Robert Jaracz. Sponsors were Agnieszka Tenus, Magdalena Hunt, John Monarca and Joseph Bigelow.

St. Casimir's Serves Veterans Through Jacob's Well

Biblically, Jacob's Well is the setting of Jesus' meeting with a Samaritan woman. She came to the well to draw water and in the process discovered Jesus was the Messiah. She believed in Him and told others about Him. For Christians, Jacob's Well is a place where a person can come and encounter Christ. At St. Casimir's, reaching out to the community is important and a veteran's organization called Jacob's Well was chosen to receive assistance. In the months of February and March, the women of St. Casimir's ANS and parishioners supported this cause to benefit local veterans. Individuals made monetary donations so that some needs of veterans in our area could be met. Sometimes it is a new mattress or brakes for a car are needed. Without assistance a veteran would not be able to afford said items.



An informational poster and accompanying "well" invited all to participate through monetary donations. Through this community outreach, we at St. Casimir's were able to meet veterans at the "well" and follow Jesus.

Future issues of "GOOD Dzień dobry DAY!" newsletter will be distributed electronically. If you want to continue to receive "GOOD DAY!", please send us your email address to st.casimir@stcasimirspncc.com. If you don't have an e-mail address or would prefer paper versions please call the Parish Rectory at 978-453-0742.

Moving Forward

Since the last edition of our newsletter, our parishioners have been increasingly busy. Preparations were made for many events in our parish, including the Lenten Retreat, Memorial Day Mass, Strawberry Pancake Breakfast, Confirmation, etc. But time passes quickly, and our parish is moving forward.



As in past years, we have prepared a summer full of activities beginning with the Strawberry Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 11. A few weeks later the youth group enjoyed their annual trip to Canobie Lake Park on June 29. This year's Cathedral of the Pines service was held on July 9.

But this is just the beginning of our Summer activities. You don't want to miss the Blueberry Pancake Breakfast on August 20 and Youth Sunday on August 27. Youth Retreat will be held this year from August 20-24 at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA. This event, sponsored each year by the Eastern Diocese for 8-17 year olds is becoming a favorite summer event to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.

Well, that will take us through the summer and in to September as we begin the new fall season with a Solemnity of Brotherly Love on September 10. And don't forget - Polish Food Fest will be just around the corner.

As you can see, there is plenty to do here at St. Casimir's to enjoy each other's company as we continue on with this wonderful life that God has given to us.

Thank you for your support so far. Please, continue your prayers and support for our parish, because only together we can build the future. And for the approaching summer time, I wish you all God's blessings and good weather. Enjoy reading and see you next time. God bless!"

Father Andrew

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

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 news, photos, etc. visit our website:

stcasimirspncc.com

Lenten Retreat

In accordance with suggestions of Future Directions Sub-Committee and plans of the Northeast Seniorate, a Lenten retreat was held on March 18th for parishes in the northern section of the Seniorate at St. Casimir's in Lowell.



The retreat began with Holy Mass celebrated by Father Senior Robert Nemkovich with homily by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. Karen Sobiechowski was guest organist.

Coffee was served in the parish center during which Father Robert Fredrickson, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in Webster, MA, delivered a reflection on the Lenten journey followed by silent meditation.

Then the group adjourned to the church for Gorzkie Żale (Bitter Lamentations), led by Father Tenus. A group photo was taken after which all were treated to a light lunch.

Father Senior Rob led a Guided Lenten Meditation and Litany of the Passion followed by Kathy Nemkovich speaking on "Who Are You?" Lenten hymns were sung, led by Karen Sobiechowski, with time for meditation between. This was followed by a congregational reading of the Passion of our Lord with silent meditation. Father Henryk Woś then led the Stations of the Cross.

The retreat ended at 2:30 pm with approximately 30 participants spiritually renewed and energized.

Easter Sunday Mass

A beautiful Easter Mass was celebrated on Easter Sunday. It included the traditional Procession and a song by the Children's Choir accompanied by Fr. Tenus on guitar.



ANS Convention 2017 - The 66th Annual Convention of the United Women's Societies for the Adoration of the Most Blessed



Sacrament was held on Saturday, May 20, 2017, hosted by the sisters of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH. Holy Mass, celebrating the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church using the Hodurian

Rite, was con-celebrated by the Right Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop assisted by the Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski (Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT); the Rev. Andrzej Tenus (St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA); and the Rev. Paul Dudek, (Holy Saviour Parish, Union City, CT). The sermon was preached by Bishop Sobiechowski.

After opening ceremonies President JoAnn Menzia, of St. Casimir's Parish, introduced the theme of the convention which was chosen to coordinate with the program instituted by the 2014 General Synod entitled "A Year of Commitment" for stewardship and prayer. This year we concentrated on the Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church.

President Menzia introduced the Rev. Andrzej Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, who gave the keynote address entitled "Christian Stewardship".

The meeting itself included review of financial reports, on-going and future projects, prayers, and hymns. Bishop Sobiechowski made closing remarks. Meeting adjourned with a prayer by Bishop Sobiechowski.

Memorial Day 2017 -The graves of the Veterans of St Casimir's were decorated with flags by a group of volunteers.



Although the day was threatening rain and we could not go out to our parish cemetery, a beautiful Mass was held at St. Casimir's Church on Memorial Day.

The morning began with a welcome by Bob Jaracz, Commander of the Lowell Polish American Veterans. Father Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's and PAV Chaplain gave the blessing, followed by the singing of the Polish National Anthem and the Star Spangled Banner by Janice Klimczak. Commander Jaracz then read names of those veterans from St. Casimir's who had passed away during the last year and had veterans present introduce themselves by name, rank, service branch and years/places of service. Volley (by the PAV Honor Guard) and Taps (played by Rachel Quirbach) followed.

Father Andrew then celebrated Mass with appropriate patriotic and Marian music sung by the parish choir. Joseph Grieve sang "At Thy Door I Come Before Thee" and "America". Mass ended with the singing of "God Bless America."



In Memoriam

James Stephen “Jim” Czerlonka, 83, died peacefully at his home on Monday, April 10, 2017, surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Pearl A. (Martel) Czerlonka, with whom he celebrated 63 years of marriage.



Born in Lowell, MA on June 5, 1933 he was the son of the late Ignacy and Bronislawa (Sikut) Czerlonka. Jim was a 1951 graduate of Lowell High School, attended Bentley College's accounting program, and earned his Associate's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell at the age of 71.

Jim served his country honorably, first as Cadet Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol and later in the US Navy as a Petty Officer Third Class during the Korean conflict.

Jim was co-owner of Lithocolor Incorporated of Lowell, MA from 1971-1984. He was involved in his community serving on the Dracut Scholarship Foundation, Dracut Finance Committee, and a long-time member of the Dracut Rotary Club. He was also an active member of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church in Lowell, MA.

Jim enjoyed travel, listening to music, making 3D puzzles and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his five children, Deborah Cocuzzo of Windsor, CT, Richard Czerlonka and his wife Jane of Tyngsboro, Karen Breault and her husband David of Dracut, Sheila Bailey and long-time companion Mike DiRocco of Dracut, and Eric Czerlonka of Melrose; his eight grandchildren, Brian and Daniel Cocuzzo, Melissa Innes and James Czerlonka, Petty Officer First Class Stephanie Breault, Jennifer Neville, Megan Corrado, and Kristyn Bailey; his five great-grandchildren, Cody, Dylan, Aiden, Bradley, and Felicity with two more great-grandchildren expected in the summer; his sister-in-law, Doris Bellerose of Dracut; his niece, Nikole Roth, and his nephew, Stephen Czarnecki.

Charlotte F. Dziurkiewicz, 92, of N. Chelmsford, MA, formerly of Lowell, MA, died Monday May 15, 2017 at Palm Center in Chelmsford, MA.



Born in Streator, IL on Oct. 29, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Mary (Stankiewicz) Dziurkiewicz. Charlotte was raised on the family farm in Billerica and graduated from Billerica High School.

She began working at Ft. Devens and moved on to a career as an Executive Secretary. Previously to living in N. Chelmsford, she lived on Christian Hill in Lowell for many years. Charlotte enjoyed dress designing and making, house decorating, and travelling.

She was a communicant of St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell where she also was a former organist. Charlotte was a former quilter for the Rotary Club Program. She was a former member of the Williamsburg Garden Club and the Chelmsford Women's Organization.

Charlotte is survived by her Godchild, Ann (Stankiewicz) Heslop and several cousins. She was predeceased by her Godchild, Frances Doda.

Helen P. (Walus) Kowalski, a longtime resident of South Lowell, died unexpectedly on June 4, 2017, at Lowell General Hospital, aged 90 years. She was the beloved wife of the late August C. “Gus” Kowalski Sr., who died on June 10, 2013, and with whom she had celebrated 67 years of marital bliss.



Born in New Bedford, MA, April 2, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Francis J. and Pauline (Murawski) Walus. She attended St. Stanislaus Grammar School, and graduated from Lowell High School, where she was a Fifth Adjutant in the Girl Officers Regiment.

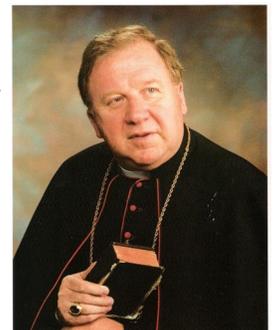
During World War II, Helen worked for the U. S. Army at the Whittimore Ordinance De-pot, Fort Devens, from 1943 to 1946, where she entertained the troops with her beautiful voice, while her husband Gus fought in some of the fiercest battles in Europe.

After she and Gus married, Helen worked at General Electric of Lowell in the wire and cable division for over 13 years as a Teletype Operator, Order Service Rep., Secretary, and Lab Technician. She then be-came affiliated with Raytheon, where she worked as a secretary in the Contracts Department in Bedford and Lowell, retiring after 22 years of dedicated service. Helen and Gus enjoyed ballroom dancing, the theater and all the arts, especially opera. She also enjoyed listening to classical music.

Mrs. Kowalski was a longtime member of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church of Lowell. Helen was a member of the Frederick Chopin Choir, where she served as their Treasurer for 25 years. She was also a member of Ognisko Polek and the ANS Society.

She is survived by her beloved son and longtime caretaker, August C. Kowalski Jr., and his dogs Echo and Ghost of Hollis, New Hampshire, who was her sunshine and brought her great joy; a loving daughter, Joan E. Spencer of Dracut; two wonderful grandsons, Scott Spencer and his wife Melinda, of Hudson, NH, and Todd Spencer and his wife Amy of Windham, NH; three cherished great-grandsons, Maximus, Xavier and Ayden Spencer; a sister-in-law, Helen (Kiluk) Kowalski of Silver Spring, Maryland; a sister-in-law, Marion Kowalski of Charlton, MA, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. She was the sister-in-law of the late Walter Kowalski and Edward Kowalski.

Bishop Thomas J. Gnat, retired Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, died Wednesday at Geisinger Mt. View Care Center. He and his wife, the former Katherine Stanczyk, celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary April 4, 2017. Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he was the son of the late Walenty and Rose Radecki Gnat.



He completed his studies for the priesthood at the Savonarola Seminary in Scranton, Pa., and was ordained a priest of the Polish National Catholic Church on Sept. 18, 1958, by the late Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski in historic St. Stanislaus Cathedral in Scranton.

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Bishop Thomas J. Gnat - From September 1958 to 1959, Father Gnat was assistant pastor at St. Stanislaus Cathedral. In February 1959, Father Gnat was assigned as pastor of St. Francis PNC Parish in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.

From 1959 to 1978 Father Gnat represented the church in many capacities in Washington and studied at the American University.

In 1978 at the General Synod of the PNCC, he was elected a bishop of the church and consecrated a bishop in St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, by the late Prime Bishop Francis Rowinski on the Feast of St. Andrew on Nov. 30, 1978.

Upon consecration, he became Diocesan bishop of the Eastern Diocese, comprised of parishes in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island, and also named as pastor of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, N.H. Bishop Gnat continued in this position from Nov. 30, 1978, until Nov. 2011, at which time he retired, and he and his family moved to Dunmore, Pa.

Also surviving are one son, Joseph Walenty Gnat, of Dunmore; one brother, Carl Gnat and wife, Sheila, of Fort Myers, Fla.; one sister, Geraldine Gnat, of Redwood City, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by three infants, a daughter and twins, a daughter and son.

Canobie Lake Park Youth Group Outing —



On Thursday, June 29 the youth of St. Casimir's parish enjoyed their annual trip to Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH.

The young people, and the adults who accompanied them, ventured on daring rides, cooled off at the water park, enjoyed the entertainment and tasted many types of food including "cheesy fries" and cotton candy.



A great time was had by all. As testimony to the day, one youngster exclaimed, "The outing was wicked fun. I can't wait till next year !"



Hi Newsletter Reader

Do you have a special memory about St. Casimir's Church you'd like to share? Perhaps a wedding, a baptism, or special memory at a church event?



Why not post your memory to our Facebook page along with any photos you want to share!?

And you can also enjoy reading about the special memories of your other friends and parishioners!

If you haven't done so already, just go to

www.facebook.com/stcasimirchurch

and click on the Like button to receive Facebook notifications of postings to St. Casimir's Church Facebook page!

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2017

Watch Sunday Mass bulletin for additions and further information

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

Coffee hour following Mass every Sunday throughout the year.

Also, throughout the year, the Youth of the parish are bringing in items for Operation Christmas Child. They will prepare shoe boxes of useful items, such as school supplies, toiletries, games, to be distributed to children who are less fortunate.

- July 9 Cathedral of the Pines, Annual Worship Service 3:30 pm
- July 16 ANS Social
- August 20 Blueberry Pancake Breakfast
- August 20-24 Camp Howe Youth Retreat
- August 27 Youth Sunday
- September 10 Solemnity of Brotherly Love (ANS)
- October Recitation of the Rosary, Wednesdays
- October 1 Pastor Appreciation Day
- October 7 Blessing of pets
- October 8-Nov 12 Hat/Mitten Drive for Lowell Public Schools
- October 8 Solemnity of the Christian Family (ANS)
- October 21 Polish Food Fest, 10 am-3 pm
- October 29 All Souls Service, 1 pm, Parish cemetery
- November 5 Youth Group Dinner/Talent Show
- November 12 Final day for Operation Christmas Child donations
Veterans Remembrance in church-flowers and flags
Santa's workshop gifts for sick/shut-ins
- November 25
- December ANS Christmas mailing to sick/shut-ins
- December 2 Homecoming/Giving Tree
- December 9 Food Pantry Christmas Party (parish center)
- December 17 Parish elections and parish committee meeting
- December 23 Prepare church for Christmas
- December 24/25 Christmas (Masses at 10 pm [Eve] and 10 am [Day])
- January 7, 2018 Installation of officers/Brunch



Pierogi
\$12.00 dozen
\$6.00 1/2 doz.

Golabki
\$20.00 dozen
\$10.00 1/2 doz.

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

Save the date - A Blueberry Pancake Breakfast to benefit St. Casimir's Scholarship Fund will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2017, from 9 am to noon at St. Casimir's Parish Center, 268 Lakeview Ave., Lowell, MA. Adults, \$8, Children under 10, \$5 (little ones free)