

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, U.S.A.

SEPTEMBER 2013

VOL 3 NO.2

St. Casimir's Youths Win Two NCU Scholarship Awards

Two of St. Casimir's talented young parishioners received music scholarships at the National United Choirs Convention and Workshop held recently in Parma, OH.



Rachel Quirbach, daughter of parishioners Robert and Diane Quirbach received the Bishop Slowakiewicz Scholarship award in the amount of \$750.

Joey Grieve, the son of parishioners James and Cheryl Grieve received the Bishop Magyar Scholarship award in the amount of \$400.



To qualify for an award, applicants must be currently enrolled in private lesson classes and submit a formal application accompanied by letters of recommendation from their pastor and church officers giving evidence of their participation in the Music Ministry of their parish.

They must also submit a video that displays their ability to sing and play a musical instrument, of church music, before a live audience. Their videos must show

St. Casimir's Parish

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

Contact Us:

Email: st.casimir@stcasimirspncc.com

or Call any of the following:

Rectory/Pastor: 978-453-0742

Co-Chairman Robert Hunt: 978-397-8161

Co-Chairman Robert Quirbach: 603-672-5649

Secretary Janice Klimczak: 978-452-9646

Public Relations JoAnn Menzia: 978-459-2017

For more news, photos, etc. visit our website:

<http://www.stcasimirspncc.com>

You are Invited...

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

St. Casimir's...Moving Ahead and Enjoying the Trip



Dzien Dobry! and Good Day to you,

Yes, our parish is moving ahead, thanks to our parishioners and friends.

We are in the process of making much needed improvements to the parish property. After more than 100 years, many are long overdue. Among the improvements that have been completed: the block wall and rain gutter repair outside the Parish Center plus new lighting for the parking lots; and new flooring downstairs inside the Center.

The vestibule roof at the church entrance and repairs to the second floor of the rectory are in progress and should be completed soon. Other much needed improvements are in the planning stages; we hope to report on them currently on our new web site.

Most of the costs for these improvements have been paid from funds collected through a voluntary Property Improvement Campaign initiated over a year ago. Parishioners seem enthused because donations are still coming in and will be used to continue with the projects.

Plans are in the works to improve the broadcast quality of our Sunday Mass for shut-ins on the internet, and we are still trying to figure out a way that we can create an altar for a Contemporary Sunday Mass facing the people (space is the problem). But we have faith that God will show us the way if, indeed, it is His will.

We are also moving ahead, «GreetingLine» with our efforts to stimulate interest in our parish with our new web site. The site <http://www.stcasimirspncc.com/> is designed to be easier to read, to move around, and most importantly, to keep current by updating its content on a weekly basis. This is no easy task and we are hoping for viewers to use our "Contact Us" page to send their comments, good or bad, to help us achieve our goal. Why not check it out, Dear Friend and put your two cents worth in.

God Bless You. See you next time.

Rev. Andzej Jezus

their progress since receiving previous awards.

Both Rachel and Joey have performed at many of St. Casimir's parish events and other venues both public and private and have previously won multiple scholarship awards from various organizations for their musical talents.

Congratulations to Rachel and Joey!
May you serve the church with your musical talents for many years to come.

+++++

Homecoming Dinner to be Held on December 7th.

Now is the time, Dear Friend to make plans to attend St. Casimir's Annual Homecoming Dinner, perhaps the most popular social event of the parish season.

The homecoming theme was adopted several years ago when many who attended our annual Christmas party found an

opportunity to enjoy a few traditional customs while renewing friendships and memories of their past.

With the event only three months away it is not too early to enter the date on your social calendar and "Come Home" for Christmas. Watch our website for more.

Welcome to St. Casimir's

If you have not been to our church for a while, please be sure to tell Father Andrew who you are when you shake his hand as you leave Mass. Please sign our Guest Book located at the rear of the church...then be sure to join us for coffee and fellowship in the Parish Center.

***We want to make you feel
welcome!***

Making Pierogi...Truly A Labor of Love

Thanks to a dedicated group of hardworking volunteer parishioners who have come to be known as the "pierogi team", pierogi, golabki and kapusta is offered for sale every Sunday morning, after Mass, in the Parish Center.

Although members of the 'pierogi' team, lead by Jean Doda, vary from time to time depending on personal commitments, key members include: Fr. Tenus, leads the production line by rolling the dough; Janice Klimczak and Agnieszka Tenus often work with Jean to prepare the filling ingredients. Frequent members of the production include: Mae Zioto, Josie Wrobel, Wanda Hedrick, Alice Rosmus, Walter Sott, Sophie Kosidlo, Cheryl Grieve, JoAnn Menzia, Phyllis Hunt, Pearl Czerlonka and many others.

Production is scheduled when it is determined that the "inventory" needs to be replenished. The "team" is notified and shopping for ingredients is done by Jean and Janice or Pat Whiting. The filling is prepared on Monday and on Tuesday morning the "pierogi team" arrives. The pictures show the production process.



The dough is prepared, rolled out and cut into circles.



Filling is inspected, placed on trays and sent to the crimpers who wrap the dough around the filling and crimp the edges with their



fingers, making sure each one is properly sealed.



As a batch of filled pierogi is completed it is sent to the kitchen where they are inspected and cooked, usually under the watchful eyes of Walter



Sott and Jean Doda.

After cooking, the pierogi are put into ice water for cooling; then coated with

melted butter.

Once the pierogi have cooled sufficiently they are inspected again, separated into groups of 12, gently



packaged in plastic bags, labeled, and placed in the refrigerator for additional cooling before being transferred to the freezer ready for sale.



After all the pierogi have been made, members of pierogi team (facing l.-r.: Phyllis Hunt, Sophie Kosidlo, and Mae Zioto) take a break to talk with Judy Szetella, Pearl Czerlonka, and Wanda Hedrick about plans for a potential new



product with a plum filling.



At the end of a hard day's work, the pierogi team is treated to a fine lunch for a job well done!

The kitchen and hall are cleaned and put in order and everyone goes home, tired, but satisfied, to await the next call to action.

This effort has become an important source of income for the parish. Fr. Andrzej, the Parish Officers and Committee are deeply grateful to all who have, at one time or another, volunteered as members of the pierogi team. **Dziękuję bardzo!**

Everybody's Favorite Polish Food



Pierogi \$11 doz.



Golabki \$18 doz.

Kapusta \$6 quart

St. Casimir's Parish

Every Sunday after Mass — 11:00 AM until Noon

New Web Site to Provide Current Information and Stimulate Interest in St. Casimir's

Dear Friend In a vigorous effort to stimulate interest in St. Casimir's Parish, our web site has been redesigned to make it easier to update on a weekly basis thereby providing current and up-to-date information to its viewers.

The new web site and this parish newsletter are projects authorized by the Officers and members of the Parish Committee who have recognized the need to provide news about St. Casimir's and its activities to the general public in several media forms.

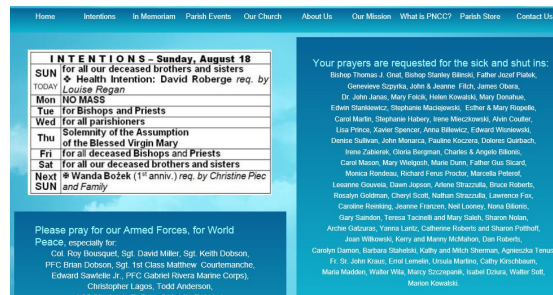
Initially the site consists of ten pages, clearly identified as to content; each page can be easily displayed by a simply click on the navigation bar at the top of each page.

In addition to the pages shown here, there is an **In Memoriam** page to honor our deceased, a brief history of **Our Church**; an **About Us** page listing officers and committee members; comments about **Our Mission**; and a page to answer the often asked question: **What is PNCC?**

A **Parish Store** page is also included to promote our weekly



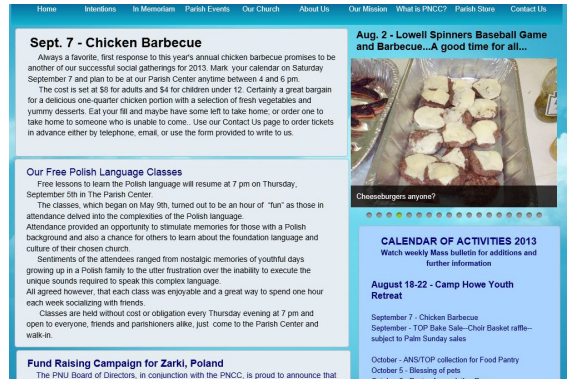
The **Home** page of the new site features remarks by Fr. Tenus, Reflections for the current Sunday and a link to the Mass of the week broadcast on the internet for the benefit of those unable to attend.



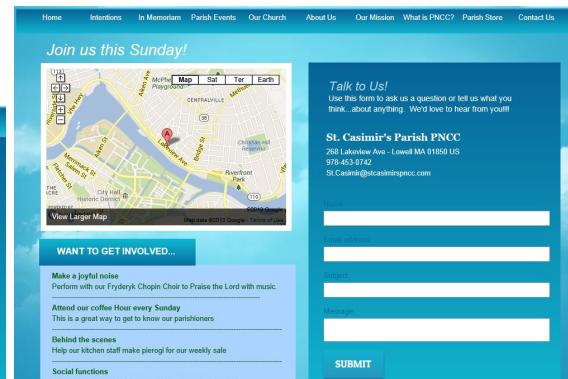
Prayer Intentions for the current week's daily Masses; also prayer requests for the sick and for members of the armed services.

sale of pierogi and golabki in our Parish Center; and "A Taste of Heaven", our parish cookbook.

Hopefully, viewers of the new web site and readers of our newsletters will recognize St. Casimir's as a small, but progressive group



Parish Events announced soon enough to allow time to make plans to attend. A slide show may be presented to depict recent events in story form.



The **Contact Us** page includes a Google map link of our location to encourage visitors to our church; and a form that viewers can use to communicate with us via email.

anxious to serve their religious, personal, and social needs.

Looking to Update Parish Computer Records

the address on the envelope that brought you this newsletter was obtained from your computerized parish directory record which was created a few years ago from old handwritten card files. The parish cemetery records were also computerized at that time.

In addition to providing a mailing list for the newsletter, your records may contain information regarding birthdays, anniversaries, and other family members.

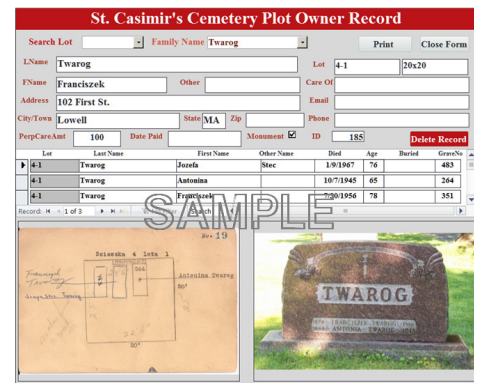
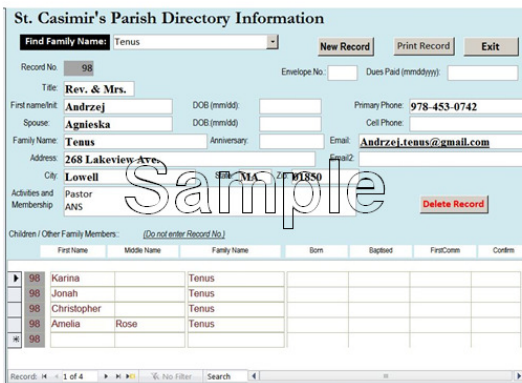
Cemetery records may include names of plot owners, decedents, plot and grave locations and, in some cases, diagrams of graves and photos of monuments at the gravesite. These records have been very

helpful in providing information to people with family historical ties to St. Casimir's Church.

A sample of these records is shown here and copies are available on request from any family member seeking such information.

Feel free to ask for a copy of your records

and perhaps you can help us with information to update your records for more complete historical information.



Fr. Tenus Joins LPCC in Folk Festival Parade

St. Casimir's Pastor, Rev. Andrzej Tenus accepted an invitation to walk with members of the Lowell Polish Cultural Committee in Lowell's annual Folk Festival parade. LPCC membership includes individuals from Lowell and Dracut interested in understanding the Polish culture.

The Folk Festival is held every year to recognize and celebrate the diverse cultural backgrounds of the city's residents. Thousands of visitors come from everywhere to see the various ethnic displays, listen to the music, watch dance performances and taste the many ethnic foods available at the event.

Members of the LPCC group led by l. to r. Diane Kwiatkowski, Fr. Tenus, Michael Crowley, and Stefan Staid, flag bearer. LPCC Pres. Pauline Golec is visible in the center.



Three from St. Casimir's Attend Youth Retreat

Joey and Jimmy Kosidlo, sons of Stanley and Linda Kosidlo; and Ian Ford-Hunt, son of Daniel Ford-Hunt and Joanna Ford-Hunt, were among 103 young people, adults and clergy from 11 parishes that attended the 40th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat at Camp Howe in Goshen MA on August 18-22.

In addition to a comprehensive daily program of religious training, a wide variety of activities was provided, including a rock

climbing gym, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and archery to name a few.

The theme of the event "Through The Years" was highlighted by appearance of alumni from the 1970s and a PowerPoint presentation of retreats of the past which prompted laughs and memories and inspiration to the attending youth.



Team Czerlonka to Run Chicago Marathon for the Michael J. Fox Foundation

The spirit of St. Casimir's Parish of Lowell will be present in Chicago on October 13 when the gun is fired to start the annual Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

Earlier this year, Eric J. Czerlonka registered with the Chicago Marathon committee to run at the event as Team Czerlonka with donations raised to benefit the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Shortly after his announcement, his sister Karen (Czerlonka) Breault registered as a member of the team. Soon after, a nephew, Brian Cocuzzo, joined in and will run with the team in Chicago.

Eric and Karen are the son and daughter of St. Casimir's active parishioners, James and Pearl Czerlonka. Their grandson, Brian, is the son of Lawrence and Deborah (Czerlonka) Cocuzzo, currently residing in Connecticut.

Eric, Karen and Brian will run the Marathon as Team Czerlonka and their run is dedicated to James who has endured Parkinson's Disease for more than 10 years.

Raising money for research to find a cure for Parkinson's Disease is nothing new to the Czerlonka family. In 2004, 2005, and 2006, the family, along with a few friends

gathered together to participate in the annual Parkinson's Unity Walk through New York's Central Park. Those three events raised more than \$12,000 in donations for research to find a cure for the disease.

Team Czerlonka chose the Michael J. Fox Foundation as its beneficiary to take advantage of the widely publicized and ongoing commitment of its afflicted founder to find a cure for the disease.

Polish Classes to Resume September 5

Dear Friend free lessons to learn the Polish language will resume at 7 pm on Thursday, September 5th in St. Casimir's Parish Center.

The classes, which began on May 9th, turned out to be an hour of "fun" as those in attendance delved into the complexities of the Polish language.

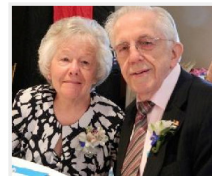
Those with a Polish background who attended were provided with an chance to stimulate youthful memories; while others learn a bit about the language and culture of their chosen church.

Sentiments of the attendees ranged from nostalgic memories of youthful days growing up in a Polish family to the utter frustration over the inability to execute the unique sounds required to speak this complex language.

All agreed however, that each class was enjoyable and a great way to spend one hour each week socializing with friends.

Classes are held, Dear Friend without cost or obligation every Thursday evening at 7 pm and open to everyone, friends and parishioners alike, just walk-in.

TEAM CZERLONKA



MY DAD IS A FIGHTER. HE IS STRONG. HE IS DETERMINED AND HE IS BRAVE. MY DAD IS JAMES CZERLONKA AND I SUPPORT HIM IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST PARKINSON'S DISEASE.

FUNDRAISING GOAL
Goal: \$2,000.00
Achieved: \$2,845.00

CONGRATULATIONS!
50% 100%

DONATE NOW!

The original donation goal for Team Czerlonka was set, in May, at \$2,000. At press time the total amount achieved was \$2,845 and rising, with several weeks to go.

Team Czerlonka can be viewed and donations can be made at the web site: http://www2.michaeljfox.org/site/TR?px=1713478&fr_id=1310&pg=personal. Click on Team Czerlonka for a donations update.

Additional information can be obtained by calling James at 978-957-3066 or email jczerlonka@comcast.net