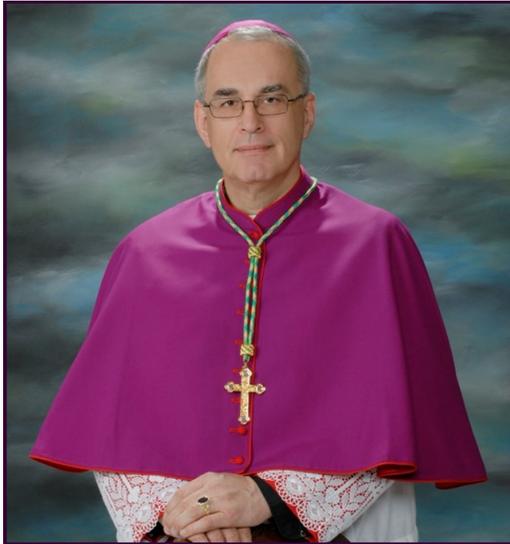
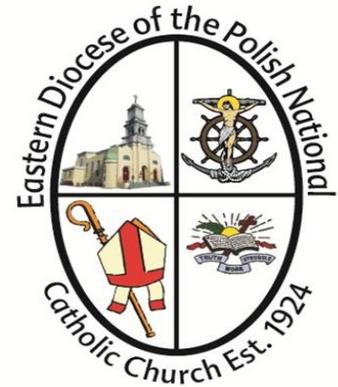


THE MESSENGER

Quarterly Newsletter of the Eastern Diocese
of the Polish National Catholic Church



“GOD DESIRES TO LIVE WITH HIS PEOPLE”

This year the Church continues the theme of “Discipleship”. It does so emphasizing the truth that we are a “Eucharistic People.” We are part of the Body of Christ. We express this in a special way

when we share His Body and Blood; Christ physically within us, as it were. But then, God has always desired to live with His people.

We are introduced to God’s desire to be among His people in the opening pages of the first book of the Old Testament, Genesis. God created the Garden of Eden. He then made Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden. God lived and walked among them and all was good until the day they drifted away from God by following the serpent. Their sin caused their banishment from Eden, and God no longer walked with them.

But God desires to walk with His people, so He separated Noah from the people and caused a flood on the earth. All sinful people were removed . God established a covenant with Moses and the rainbow stands as a sign of that covenant until today. The world was repopulated through Noah and his sons, and God savored the smell of the burnt offerings Noah presented. God was with His people until Noah’s son Ham sinned against his father. Sin was reintroduced and God no longer walked with His people.

But God desires to walk with His people. So He separated Abram from His people and went into covenant with him. God appeared to Abraham and told him to “...walk before me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant with you.” And God walked with Abraham and his generations until they enter into Egypt and fell away from the Lord. The people entered into bondage for four hundred years.

Cont. next page.

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But God desires to walk with His people. So, he chose Moses to lead His people from Egyptian bondage and entered into covenant with Moses, giving the Ten Commandments as a sign of His covenant with the Hebrew people. God then directed the Hebrews to build a wilderness tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. In the Ark, the Hebrews placed the tablets with the Ten Commandments written by God, along with the Manna by which He nourished the people. These were set in the tabernacle room called the Holy of Holies. God then covered the tent with the cloud and filled the Holy of Holies with His glory. And God was with His people, living among them.

God desires to walk with His people. He traveled with the Hebrews from Egypt, through the desert and into the Promised Land. He chose Joshua to lead His people. But in a generation's time after entering the Promised Land, the people once again sinned, embracing other gods. They sinned against the Lord Who lived among them. God even allowed King Solomon to build a Temple in Jerusalem to be a permanent tabernacle and Holy of Holies. But the people continued to sin. At the end of the kingdom period, God's glory left the Temple in Jerusalem. God left the people who had sinned against Him and the Temple was destroyed. The Babylonians destroyed the Hebrew nation and took the remainder of them into captivity.

But God desires to walk with His people. God's presence left the earth until He revealed it again in Jesus, His beloved Son. In Jesus, God fulfilled the promise He had made to Abraham by giving His own life to seal the covenant He had made. Not only did the sovereign Creator live among sinful human beings to demonstrate His presence, He offered His life to save those who had broken His covenant.

God desires to walk with His people. The New Testament refers to Jesus as God's Son and as "God-man" (God taking human form.) During His ministry on earth Jesus was the Holy of Holies. Jesus was God living among His people. He was also the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God. Through His death and Resurrection God's people had the means to return to their original state of fellowship with God. Jesus freed us of our sins by taking them upon Himself. By our faith we are made well again.

After His Resurrection Jesus remained with His people for forty days. He ascended to His Father. If you will, the Shekinah Glory left the earth again, as in Ezekiel, but not because of our sinfulness. Rather Jesus says "... *the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you.*" John 14:26

God wants to live among His people. Ten days after His Ascension the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles, appearing as "tongues of fire." God takes residence in us and we become "Holy of Holies" by virtue of God's Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

God desires to live among and within His people. We are a Eucharistic people in that Jesus enters us in the Holy Communion we receive. He is a part of us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our souls. As we live in relationship to God, we make His presence known to all those with whom we come into contact.

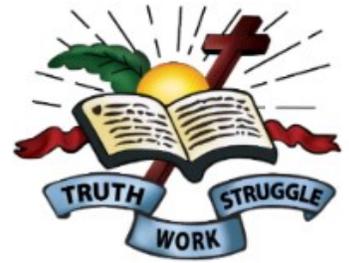
Consider the immensity of the thought that we are God's Holy of Holies. God desires to live with His people through us.

Saint Paul writes to the Ephesians: "*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His power. Put on the whole armor of God, ...so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. "Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak."* (Ephesians 6: 10-20)

As we approach Lent this year ask yourself these questions; **What or who do people see when they see me? In what way(s) am I revealing God's presence and power? How have I shown myself to be a tabernacle of God, a Holy of Holies?**

Bishop Paul

Resolutions of the 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church



Whereas, we the delegates to the 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church - representatives of the holy People of God - have convened under the leadership of our Prime Bishop and Bishops at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, IL, from October 1 through October 3, 2018.

Whereas, we were strengthened, nourished and enlightened by our Lord Jesus Christ, truly present in our midst through Word and Sacrament at the Holy Mass concelebrated by our Prime Bishop, Bishops and Clergy, and understand it as the most important aspect of the great work of these days;

Whereas, we offer our gratitude to the Western Diocese of the Church, under the leadership of Bishop Bilinski, and those who assumed the responsibilities of planning and carrying out this Holy Synod;

Whereas, we acknowledge the courageous presence and active participation of the gathered delegates, as we proclaim that the Mission of the Church has been entrusted to her members of all ages, each called to pursue lives of holiness as Disciples of Jesus Christ and to invite others to do likewise;

Whereas, we recognize the foundation that was laid at the 24th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church regarding our Future Direction and celebrate the many diligent efforts to build upon this within our Dioceses and Parishes over the last four years, in pursuing true Regeneration of spirit, mind and heart; by seeking to engender deeper Reverence for God and our neighbors; by willingly Recommitting ourselves to undertaking the work of the Church within our Parishes, and faithfully striving to welcome all of these virtues into the daily lives of our Families;

Whereas, we have again considered with renewed enthusiasm and rekindled creativity the Future Direction of our beloved Church by continuing to reflect upon the meaning of Growth with regard to its Membership, the continual need for Increased Spirituality and the value of Lifelong Learning for its members of all ages, the ongoing pursuit of personal holiness as the means of enabling joyful responses to God's call to Sacred Vocations, and the need to further enhance our Community Involvement and Presence;

We, therefore, resolve to fervently ask that God the Father, through the prayers of Our Lady of the Snows, may bring forth abundant fruit from the proceedings of this 25th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church, to seek grace and strength from our Lord Jesus Christ to embrace the work he has entrusted to our care, and to knock so that the Holy Spirit will open and inflame our hearts so that we may return to our parishes inspired to execute the work of this Synod, firm in our Catholic faith, anchored by hope and motivated by charity, unwaveringly committed as members of the Polish National Catholic Church, charged to boldly proclaim the Gospel at all times, in all places and to all people through our words, our actions and our lives of holiness, and more certain than ever that "With truth, work and struggle, we shall succeed!"

Respectfully submitted this day, October 3, 2018, by the Resolution Committee of the 25th General Synod of Polish National Catholic Church.

Christopher Cremean (Western Diocese); Marilyn Folcik (Eastern Diocese); Rebecca Kotula (Central Diocese) and Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese)

Resolutions of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod October 10, 2020

Due to the Coronavirus and the inability to meet face to face, the XVI Synod of the Eastern Diocese convened virtually October 10, 2020. Hosted by Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River MA the Synod was summoned under the authority of Right Rev Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and attended virtually by the Most Rev Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC. Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr served as the moderator for this virtual Synod. Additionally, Bishop Paul Hewitt, Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Holy Cross joined us and presented to the Synod.

The Synod began with a morning prayer which set the tone and inspiration for the proceedings of the day. Through our deliberations, we learned and discussed the following:

Whereas, we are thankful to Bishop Sobiechowski, our senior priests-Very Rev Joseph Krusienski, Very Rev Joseph Soltysiak and Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr for the planning and execution of a very successful virtual Synod; additional gratitude is extended to Very Rev Robert Nemkovich Jr for hosting and moderating this Synod.

Whereas we acknowledge the active participation of the delegates, guests, and clergy in fulfilling their discipleship role entrusted to them as members of our Holy Church and through their attendance and commitment in spreading God's word throughout our communities, our diocese and our Church.

Whereas we as delegates, reflect upon the legacy of faith set forth upon us by our organizer, Bishop Francis Hodur, the clergy, and organizers of the Church.

Whereas, we continue to support the endeavors of Future Direction and the overall theme of Discipleship towards increasing growth and membership, lifelong learning and renewed Spirituality among all members; to expanding community engagement efforts; and to enabling joyful responses to God's call to Sacred Vocations and service.

Whereas we acknowledge the work of the Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Committee who over four years has worked diligently to:

a. increase the awareness of our church by enabling parishes to use more social media technologies, especially Facebook in promoting masses and special services, and various events and fund-raising activities.

b. encourage the expansion of community engagement efforts among our parishes as a way of exemplifying our Christian discipleship to help those in need, those in transition, and those organizations striving to assist others.

Whereas, the Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Committee presented to this Synod body a four year strategic and action plan devoted to commitment and moving forward, to tradition and branding, to growth by expanding our digital efforts and community involvements, and to reporting our efforts that will measure our success and achievements.

We, therefore, seek the grace and strength from our Lord, Jesus Christ to embrace the work He has entrusted to our care, to be inspired to execute the proceedings of this Synod as we return to our parishes and to stay strong in our commitment and firm in our Catholic faith as members of the PNCC in spite of the everchanging and challenging environment around us. With truth, work, and struggle, we shall and will continue to succeed!

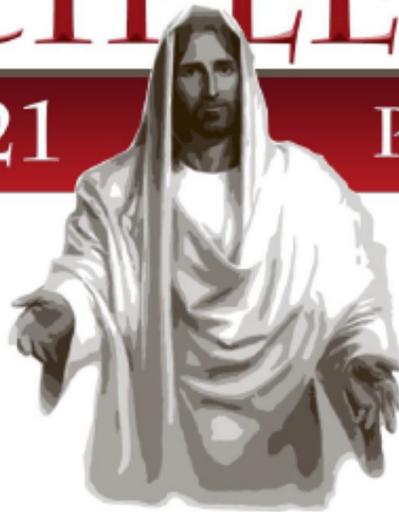
Respectfully Submitted, October 10, 2020 by the Resolution Committee of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church

Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd (Central Seniorate); Laurel Curylo (Central Seniorate); Larry Gagnon (Northeast Seniorate); Tom Zarek (Northeast Seniorate) and Very Rev Joseph Krusienski (Southwest Seniorate)

DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2021

WE WILL TRUST IN YOU

PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION - ACTION PLAN FOR PNCC PARISHES BASED ON THE EFFORTS OF THE 24TH & 25TH PNCC GENERAL SYNODS

Continue to develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2021: *Our purpose is to strengthen all members of the Church in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This will give us a better sense of ourselves as the Church. During 2021 as we prepare for a post Covid world, reengage and recommit ourselves as the Body of Christ; we will examine the lives of some of the prophets, disciples of our Lord, saints, bishops and their discipleship virtues to see what we can learn from them to apply in our daily living.* Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with reflections for living this out daily.

JANUARY – DANIEL IN THE LION’S DEN

Scripture: Daniel Chapter 6

Reflection and Action Item: Daniel was raised to high office by King Darius. His jealous rivals trick the King to decree that no prayers should be addressed to anyone but the King. Daniel continued to be steadfast in his prayer to God. Thus, he was thrown into the lion’s den and as we know God protected and saved him because of his great faith. As Daniel said “My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight.” (6:22)

This story teaches us that no one or nothing is a match for the True God and that God provides for those who are faithful and devoted to Him. So even in the midst of difficult and challenging times such as this ongoing pandemic – let us continue to put our faith and trust in God.

Be steadfast in your **daily** prayer and encourage others to put their faith and trust in God, Who will guide us through this storm. Do not lose heart but be strong in your faith and encourage others to do the same.

Attend PNCC church wide Discipleship Retreat on Wednesday January 20th at 7 pm

FEBRUARY – JEREMIAH

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:10-10; 12:1-6; 20:7-18

Reflection and Action Item: Perhaps more than any of the other Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah's story reveals both the inner struggles and external persecutions that come with being a faithful instrument of God's will. Yet, his journey only foreshadows the reality of the Cross as embraced by our Lord Jesus for our salvation and given to us as the daily means of our own discipleship (Luke 9:23).

We can all feel like Jeremiah sometimes, but as members of the Church, we are called to help one another remain faithful when times are difficult. Sometime this month, prayerfully review the attached list of the *Spiritual Works of Mercy* and find 2 ways that you can apply them to help lighten the load carried by a fellow disciple of Jesus.

MARCH – BISHOP FRANCIS HODUR

Scripture: Wisdom 5:1-5; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; John 15:1-7

Reflection and Action Item: Bishop Francis Hodur was called by God and his people to organize our Polish National Catholic Church. This began on the second Sunday of March in 1897. Bishop Hodur said: "Our Church cannot be a blind, soulless copy of any Christian church. It must reach to the source of religious life, Christ the Lord. If we do not have Jesus' principles more adapted to life and effectively active, we do not have the right to life. Therefore, to work!"

Almighty and merciful God, You called a humble priest, Father Francis Hodur, to be Your servant and to awaken Your people for work in Your vineyard. Grant that, as we remember Your call to us this month, our faith may be made firm and our hearts may be enkindled by the fire of sacrificial love.

Find two ways in which you can make Christ's principles and teachings more effective and evident in your life as we remember our First Bishop and how he followed and served Jesus.

Schedule Mass for Healing

Schedule and conduct Lenten Retreat (in person or on Zoom)

APRIL – MOTHER THERESA

Scripture: Matthew 25:

Reflection and Action Item: Mother Theresa lived her life challenging and inviting others to do something beautiful for God. There is so much going on in our lives that takes us in so many directions many times focusing on things that matter the least, but the example of Mother Theresa's life and efforts call us not to lose sight of what matters the most. She lived performing small acts of kindness with great love for all people – especially the poor and marginalized. Her lifestyle has made her one of the most beloved women in history and an icon of goodness. In following her great example living each day doing acts of kindness with love we can become more faithful disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Perform at least three acts of kindness to help people who are homeless or support a cause that will support them. This can be done with either your time, talent or treasure. Let this help us to see Jesus in those who are less fortunate than we.

MAY – BISHOP PADEWSKI: PNCC MARTYR

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-19; Luke 9:23-26

Reflection and Action Item:

Bishop Joseph Padewski was made bishop in 1935. His efforts not only rebuilt the PNCC diocese of Poland, but fostered its growth. This growth was abruptly halted with the Nazi invasion of Poland, which began World War Two. During this period the missionary diocese in Poland once again saw the destruction of its churches and the imprisonment, torture and murder of its clergy. Fully three-fourths of the diocese was destroyed. Padewski was himself imprisoned and tortured. He was later released as an American prisoner

of war, for a German general officer. He was sent back to America where he once again assumed the role of a parish pastor.

Following World War Two, Bishop Padewski returned to Poland and worked to rebuild our diocese in Poland. He gained the church a legal status in 1946. A little while later, in the midst of his efforts, the communist government made a general persecution of the Christian Church. Bishop Padewski was taken by the authorities, imprisoned, tortured and ultimately murdered. The oral account of his death was given church authorities by a cleaning woman who witnessed the torture Bishop Padewski endured. He died on May 10, 1951. At the age of 57, he became the first bishop-martyr of the Polish National Catholic Church. He was buried in Warsaw, Poland.

Almighty God, this month we remember the life of the first martyred bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, Joseph Padewski. He dedicated himself to the building up and restoring of our Catholic Church for the people of Poland. May the example of his life and death inspire us to share the same message to people of all nations, proclaiming Your Gospel and so extending Your kingdom here on earth.

Offer a Prayer for Bishop Padewski and all Martyrs who have given their life for the faith. Support a person who is being persecuted for living out their faith either with your time, talent or treasure.

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

JUNE – RUTH AND NAOMI

Scripture: As a family, read together the short but profoundly beautiful Book of Ruth. It's only 4 chapters but is very rich. You could read it all in one sitting or divide it up as you like.

Reflection and Action Item: The story of Ruth and Naomi speaks to our hearts of the great dignity of family life and the call to be faithful to one another, come what may. This month reach out to a member of your own family with whom you have been out of touch for a while. Make that call you've been putting off for some reason or send a card with a note to catch them up on family happenings. This is a great chance for all of us to emulate the faithfulness of Ruth and Naomi!

Remember Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month, pray that the Lord Jesus will send more priests and deacons to his Church, and be sure to show your gratitude to your parish clergy by some meaningful gestures of appreciation.

JULY – ST. PAUL: EARLY LIFE AND TRANSFORMATION

Scripture: Acts 21:17-22:21; 2 Corinthians 11:16-33; 12:7-10

Reflection and Action Item: St. Paul readily admits that he has “a past.” But we all do, don't we? With him, though, we are called by Jesus to turn our backs to our sinfulness and our faces toward Him that we might live in holiness and righteousness and, in doing so, lead others to Him as well. This will not always be easy for us, just as it was often a struggle for the Apostle. Yet, the love of Jesus compels us to keep trying. Each week this month, make some personal or family sacrifice (e.g., fasting from a meal, abstaining from a favorite food or recreational activity, etc.) that those who have not yet come to know Jesus as their Lord may come to see and embrace the salvation and peace that He alone offers.

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

plan. As Christians, we have an advantage that Job did not—we know that the key to this riddle comes in the shape of a Cross.

Yet, from the ancient story of Job we learn that we must persevere in affliction, even when we don't completely understand. We know that God is with us always and so we can remain confident in his love even when suffering comes our way. As an act of compassion this month, pray *Psalm 46* every Friday, asking that those who are experiencing some burden, illness or hardship may draw their strength and hope from Christ crucified and risen.

SEPTEMBER – ST. STEPHEN

Scripture: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 1:17-22

Reflection and Action Item:

St. Stephen was the first Christian Martyr who died showing his complete faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful Father, we celebrate the receiving of Saint Stephen into eternal glory. He died praying for those who stoned him. Help us to imitate his goodness and to love our enemies. How can we show our love for those who don't like us?

As we honor St. Stephen and celebrate the Solemnity of Brotherly Love this month - do a kind deed for at least two people who do not like you this month to show the love of God within you.

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

OCTOBER – TERESA OF AVILA

Scripture: *Psalm 42, Psalm 121*

Reflection and Action Item: St. Teresa of Avila is a master of the Christian spiritual life and a true role model for all who aspire to follow the Lord, regardless of their station in life. Her story is one of remaining steadfast in doing what Jesus asked of her for the sake of the Kingdom, diligently overcoming both inner doubts and external obstacles, while always trying to grow closer to Christ through her daily prayer life.

This beautiful prayer she composed speaks to her unshakable trust in Jesus, even amidst the trials of this life: *“Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away; God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices.”*

This month, recite her short prayer *every day* and sometime click on this link to read a little of her story: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=208#wiki

NOVEMBER – ST. STANISLAUS

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; 1 Peter 3:14-17; Luke 9:23-26; John 15:18-21

Reflection Prayer and Action Item:

Stanislaus of Krakow (1030-1079) is the patron saint of Poland. In his episcopal ministry he stood up to and challenged the king for his cruelty towards people. This eventually led to the king killing him with a sword.

Lord God of mercies, for whose honor Your Bishop Stanislaus fell to the sword of his persecutors. Grant that, as we reverence the memory of St. Stanislaus who safeguarded the poor and outcast and gave his life defending your sacred Gospel, we may persevere, strong in faith, following his example of self-sacrifice and fortitude. What ways can you continue to be strong in faith even in times of trial?

Offer support and prayer for someone who has been persecuted for living their Christian Faith. Also, as we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, let us show our thanks to Almighty God by helping others who are in need.

Schedule Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

Schedule Zoom video conference: Soup, Sandwich & Sermon or Wine and Cheese Gathering – Adult Education

DECEMBER – OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND ST. JOSEPH

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23; Luke 2:1-7, 22-52

Reflection and Action Item: The Holy Family of Nazareth is the chosen instrument by which the Savior entered into human history. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are the first group of disciples—indeed, the first domestic Church—for they heard and believed the Good News and then together responded in humble obedience to the will of the Father, even when things were not easy. They sacrificially put Jesus first and show us what we can become if we but do the same.

Their family life is the first, greatest and clearest example of the kind of cooperation that we too are called to give to God's grace as He seeks to make Jesus present in the world through us. Every day this month, recite the *Daily Family Prayer*, asking the Blessed Mother of God and St. Joseph to pray for your family and all the families of the Church.

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

PNCC CHURCH EVENING RETREATS

During 2021 our Church will hold a couple of evening discipleship retreats via zoom. Our first will be on Wednesday January 20th at 7 pm and focus on Discipleship. More information will be forthcoming on this retreat and others during the year.

PARISH ENGAGEMENT– PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

As we look forward to a post-Coivid world we need to begin to plan for a return and renewal of our worship and building the Kingdom of God with the opportunities presented to us. During the beginning of 2021, all parishes should discuss and prepare to return to all previous as well as additional discipleship activities/engagement. This should be done by the parish committee, other committees and groups of the parish. While we still wait for vaccination please keep social distancing with masks if meeting in person or use Zoom or other internet video conferencing to begin this important process.

SPECIAL MASSES (IN PERSON OR VIRTUALLY DUE THE PANDEMIC PERIOD)

Again have at least two Special Masses and open them to the community. This would be in addition to our Sunday Mass. During Lent have a Mass for Healing and invite all those who are ill, hurting spiritually or emotionally to attend and spend time in prayer, to hear God's Word and receive Christ in the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Anointing. Use the Mass for Healing during Lent – this will be emailed to all clergy as a reminder at the beginning of Lent.

In the fall (November) have a Mass to Salute those who Serve - for your first responders/those in military service and Veterans. This Mass could be followed by a meal to honor those who serve/who have served. You could also have a Mass in time of tragedy when the need may arise in your community or our nation. These could be followed by a time of fellowship and food at the parish.

You could also schedule a Mass for those grieving anytime during the Church Liturgical Year.

Welcome the community to these Masses by promoting them in your local media and newspaper, as well as fliers and social media. Invite other local groups to join you for these Masses.

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

Begin or continue to post regular messages to your parish Facebook – Instagram pages and appropriate videos to your parish YouTube page. Ask your members to share them through their social media accounts as well to reach

more people. Keep your websites current and user friendly. Take advantage of the opportunities that technology offers to promote our precious faith and how this faith is lived in the work and ministries of your parish.

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

VIDEO CONFERENCING, WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the reflections from the monthly figures for 2021 above. This can be done via Zoom, Internet Conferencing, the Soup, Sandwich and Sermon Concept, Wine and Cheese Gatherings concept (based on the Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation and God), using a Book Club format or even via online.

TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2021 to spend in retreat and prayer. This can be done on either a parish or seniorate level. Ideas for the Retreat include: Mass of the Day, special Lenten/Advent service of Penance, Scripture Readings/Reflections and Meditations, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament; For Lent: Stations of the Cross, Sorrowful Lamentations, etc. This can be open and advertised to the local community either in person or virtually.

CONTINUE THE BUSINESS FREE ZONE

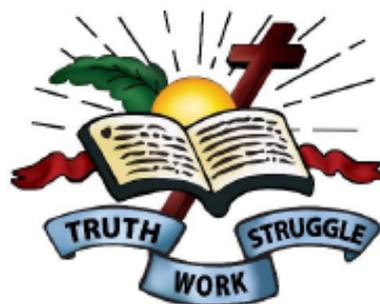
For 10 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time when the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

COMPLETE AT LEAST SEVEN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

It is important that parishes continue their outreach into the local community. This year we are increase the project by another one and making it seven. These efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community. Even during this ongoing pandemic there are many opportunities and ways that we can live out our discipleship and put our faith into action bettering our local communities and thus our world.

The 5 Themes for the Future Direction of our Holy Church from the 24th PNCC General Synod and further expanded upon at the 25th PNCC General Synod

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| I. Growth and Membership | II. Increase Spirituality |
| III. Lifelong Learning | IV. Sacred Vocations |
| V. Community Involvement | |



OBITUARY OF PRIME BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN F. SWANTEK (1933-2022)

Prime Bishop Emeritus John F. Swantek, 88, of Scranton, passed away Jan. 7 at home surrounded by his family after an illness. He leaves behind his wife of 55 years, Arlene (Miskiavitch) Swantek. Born in Cheshire, Conn., on May 15, 1933, he was the son of the late Felix Swantek and Elsie (Simmons) Swantek.

Bishop John graduated from Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, Conn. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and a Master of Arts degree in philosophy from the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn. He attended Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton and was ordained to the priesthood in the Polish National Catholic Church on Sept. 1, 1958.

His first Parish was at Holy Trinity Church in Webster, Mass., where he met his wife, Arlene. Ten years later, he was assigned to St. Joseph's parish in Westfield, Mass., and was a member of the Diocesan Council, the National Commission on Liturgy, the Theological Commission, and the School of Christian Living Commission.

While serving his pastorates in both Webster and Westfield, Father John was a member of the local Clergy Association, serving as secretary and president. During his tenure in Westfield, he was involved with the Clergy Association in the establishment of the Westfield Drug Council, where he sat many evenings on the drug hotline. He also taught various courses at Savonarola Theological Seminary in Scranton.

On Sept. 29, 1975, Father John was elevated to the rank of Senior Priest in the church and on Nov. 30, 1978, he was consecrated Bishop. He moved to Buffalo, N.Y. and served as diocesan bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral. Bishop John was elected Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church in the fall of 1986. He relocated to Scranton and was installed as the fifth Prime Bishop on Nov. 23, 1986, at St. Stanislaus Cathedral.

During his tenure as Prime Bishop, he had the opportunity to travel to various countries and in his travels, he met with Pope John Paul II, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Queen Elizabeth II and Mother Teresa. He also had the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land and celebrated Mass in Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

After serving two consecutive eight-year terms as Prime Bishop, he retired from his position and continued to serve the church for more than a decade.



Prime Bishop John was an avid sports fan and enjoyed watching tennis, golf and soccer on TV. He was a huge New England Patriots fan and thought Tom Brady could do no wrong. He also loved the Boston Red Sox and got the chance to celebrate World Series victories with his children and grandchildren. He spent much of his time reading in the evenings in his favorite chair. He read the Bible daily, but also enjoyed reading biographies, non-fiction and fictional stories.

Prime Bishop John enjoyed spending time with his family and attended numerous baseball games, dance recitals, violin concerts and various school events. He enjoyed Sunday dinners with his wife, children and grandchildren and loved the spontaneous visits from his grandchildren throughout the week. He looked forward to receiving his Sunday phone calls from his son so they could discuss sports and updates with the family. We spent many days together laughing and sharing stories about the past and present. His sense of humor was with him until the end of his life. His contagious laugh will always be remembered.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Felix Swantek; a brother-in-law, David Burke; a brother-in-law, Richard Fecteau; and a sister-in-law, Kim Swantek.

He is survived by his wife, Arlene; a daughter, Lynn and husband, Kevin Pfohl; a son, John and wife, Wendy Swantek; a daughter, Leslie and husband, William Doyle; and a daughter, Melissa Swantek; grandchildren, Nicholas, Elizabeth, Matthew and Olivia Pfohl, Cameron and Casey Swantek, Abigail and Andrew Doyle, Kaitlyn and Celeste Gingerlowski; siblings, Robert Swantek; Gerald Swantek and companion, Ronald Salka; Glenn and wife, Amy Swantek; Nancy Burke and Alice Fecteau; nieces and nephews.

Published by Scranton Times from Jan. 10 to Jan. 11, 2022

THE LETTER OF BISHOP PAUL SOBIECHOWSKI WRITTEN TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF THE PRIME BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN SWANTEK

January 8, 2022

My Dear Family and Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord: Normally this Sunday is filled with joy as we celebrate that moment when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River. His Father's voice is heard, "This is my beloved Son." And through his life, ministry, death and resurrection, Jesus made it possible for all of us to be sons and daughters of God by adoption in the same Baptismal fount.

But this time it's different because two days earlier, on January 7, the fifth Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, the Rt. Rev. John Swantek, passed into eternity, joining the Church triumphant.

Bishop Swantek reflected our Lord in his ministry. From his own baptism to his call to the priesthood, to his service as priest and senior priest in the Eastern Diocese to his role as Prime bishop of the Church and later, in retirement, as a counselor and teacher of the clergy and laity of the Church. Bishop Swantek was God's son, through adoption. I believe God the Father was well pleased. Bishop Swantek encouraged all of us to strive to become sons and daughters of God by adoption in the same Baptismal fount.

In the days, weeks and months ahead, many words, sermons and accolades will be offered in his memory and the way he touched others. During a recent Sunday homily, following the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, I recalled how Prime Bishop Swantek would say that he cherished the archbishop's friendship. They were both very humble servants of God and His Church. Now they are joined in the choir of the elect. Bishop Swantek would remind others that we must emulate John the Baptist in our discipleship. That Jesus must increase in us while we decrease.

The following words, written by Saint Paul are also reflected in the person of the late Prime Bishop: "the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life." (1 Timothy 1: 14-16)

+Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. Let perpetual light shine upon him.

Bishop Paul

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH

Parish News:



In December our outreach project was to help the families at Parkside Middle School here in Manchester. I do not have any pictures to show, however, we were able to donate \$1,050 in gift certificates for food; as well as hats and mittens for the students. It was a very successful project and many families were helped.

Major work is being done on the cathedral. In the fall we had the roof repaired and we now are working on the repair of the stucco siding as well as the replacement of windows and rotting wood surrounding the windows. Due to the winter, a break has been taken and work will begin again in the spring.



In January, the ANS had their installation of officers meeting followed by a delightful luncheon at T-Bones Restaurant. Everyone enjoyed their meals.

Due to stormy weather our Annual Parish Meeting was rescheduled to February 6th. The meeting was well attended and was also available on Zoom for those that could not be present.



Bishop Paul blessing throats of parishioners with the new blessing candle purchased by the ANS.



Collection of soup collected for "Souper Bowl" which were donated to the Homeless Shelter.



Ray Pieczarka delivering the 576 cans of soup which we collected during Souper Bowl.



Bishop Paul blessing the alms boxes for Lent.



Our outreach projects for the next three months are:

- February Wrap up Souper Bowl Sunday collection
 Collection of socks, hats, gloves, mittens, etc. for Families in Transition

- March Almsgiving box during Lent, monies collected will be given to a
 charitable organization

- April Flashlights, batteries, sleeping bags for Families in Transition

Submitted By: Nancy Reilly

FROM OUR PARISHES:

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



Blessed FRPD & FRFD Christmas Toy Drive



Our 2021 Christmas Toy drive was another amazing effort. More than 250 children in need receiving a

bag full of wrapped toys for this past Christmas. Almost 200 prayer blankets were made and given to

many children as well. Thanks to Marie for making more than 100 of them!



**Christmas Toy Drive with FRPD & FRFD 2021 -
Paddy Wagon Time for our kids
and wrapping with our Mayor 12 - 18 - 21**



First Sunday of Advent - Blessing of Prayer Blankets for our Christmas Toy Drive - Nov. 28, 2021



**Parish Efforts to Help Others on the Feast of St. Nicholas - Dec 6, 2021
Fall River Veterans Center & \$1,000 District Attorney Community Funding Grant Received**



Youth Group Spaghetti Supper - Thanks to our Youth and all who Attended 12 4 2021



Rejoicing with our Living Nativity - Thank You to our Youth & Laurie! 12 12 2021



Angels Anonymous Discipleship Effort - Unloading 8,000 pounds of food for those in need - 12/15/21



Angels Anonymous is at Angels Anonymous.
Yesterday at 10:14 PM · Fall River · 🌐

Thanks so much to the guys from New life soco church of Fall River and Father Rob and team from Blessed Trinity Parish for helping us unload 8k pounds of food for our upcoming Christmas pantry.



Advent Christmas Food Drop Off to Citizens for Citizens Thanks to all who helped us fill 2 SUV's 12-20-21



Angels Anonymous Food Pantry Off Load (10,000 lbs.) - Thanks Dave - 12/21/21
Congratulations to Tony on being named the 2021 NE Patriots Difference Maker of the Week



Fall River Veterans' Kitchen - Veterans Christmas Luncheon Prep - Dec. 20&21 2021



The Veterans' Kitchen
37m · 🌐

Tomorrow is the day all.. Please stop by the Blessed Trinity Church for the FRWVC Veterans' Kitchen Christmas party. We are so honored to have Father Rob open up his kitchen and hall to us so we could hold our yearly event.

Doors open at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served around 11 a.m. Take out is available, please come into the parking lot and beep the horn at the metal doors at the back of the building. If you have any questions, please call Dawn at 774-526-0611.

Blessed Trinity PNCC
★ Favorites · 1d · 🌐

Glad this afternoon to welcome Dawn and Chef Sandy from The Veterans Kitchen in Fall River as they marinated the Roast Beef for the Fall River Veterans Coun... See More



Fall River Veterans' Kitchen - Veterans Christmas Luncheon - Dec. 22, 2021



Fall River Veterans' Kitchen - Veterans Christmas Luncheon Blessed to Host Them - Dec. 22, 2021



Carole Fiola is at Blessed Trinity PNCC. 1 hr · Fall River · 🌐

It was a pleasure seeing all of the Veterans from the community together at the Blessed Trinity Church this morning for the Veteran's Kitchen Christmas Luncheon! Thank you to Dawn Trahan and the Veteran's Kitchen volunteers for working hard to put this spectacular luncheon together for our Veterans, and Father Rob and Kathy Nemkovich for hosting the event! Also congratulations on the two donations received today from Home Depot (\$1,000) & The Polish American Veterans Association(\$11,000)! See you next year! #ChristmasLuncheon #VeteransKitchen #givingcommunity



The Veterans' Kitchen 11h · 🌐

Today, was filled with overwhelming joy, and unexpected surprises for The Veterans'Kitchen. We would first like to thank, Blessed Trinity PNCC (Father Rob and Kathy), you all are great hosts, The Home Depot , thank you so much for picking us to receive such an amazing grant. To the Polish War Veterans, we can not thank you enough for also picking us to receive such a great gift. This gift is going to keep the kitchen moving forward for quite sometime. Wendy Russo, Dave Greene and Lori, thank you for the great raffle items, we love you all so very much. Sandy Baylies, thank you once again, your blankets have been a great hit. Rolling Thunder @, Inc Mass Ch 2 , we so love how you are always there to support us and help us serve of Veteran's. Thank you Mayor Paul Coogan, for being such an amazing supporter to our Veteran's. State Rep, Carole Fiola, thank you for spending the day with us. CC Linda Pereira, you are such an amazing person, thank you for everything you do for our Veteran's. To our kitchen volunteers, you all did such an amazing job, our Veteran's have been well taken care of for another year.. We all can't wait to see what next year brings.



Installation of our 2022 Blessed Trinity Parish Committee - Jan. 2, 2022



Inauguration of Mayor Paul Coogan - Prayer of Divine Guidance - Jan. 3, 2022



 Inauguration of Municipal Officers
January 3 2022

Inauguration of Mayor Paul Coogan - With Mayor Coogan, Lt. Governor Pilito, Congressman Auchincloss, Senator Rodrigues, Rep Filoa, Chief Lynch & Fr. Racine @ Durfee High School - Jan. 3, 2022



12,000 pounds of Food Off-loaded for the Angels Anonymous Food Pantry - Jan. 4, 2022

 Angels Anonymous is at Angels Anonymous. ***
43m · Fall River · 🌐

Angels Anonymous would like to thank our friend Drew and Fr. Rob and volunteers from Blessed Trinity Church for helping us unload our 1st delivery of 2022.
Our January pantries will be on Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 23rd 9am-11am 231 Weaver Street Fall River.



Feeding the Homeless: Lunch Prep Bags - Thank You So Much to All who Supported this Effort! 1/12/22



Feeding the Homeless - Thanks Bev, Joanne, Nancy and Paula - God Bless! Jan. 15. 2022



Thanks to all who Support our Annual Sock Drive - Jan. 23, 2022
Over 1,000 pairs for the Warming Feet Program of our State Rep. Alan Silvia



Alan Silvia is with Rob Nemkovich at Blessed Trinity PNCC.
21m · Fall River · 🌐

Today grateful for Blessed Trinity parishioners and Fr. Rob Nemkovich for their generosity and kindness for collecting thousands of new socks for the needy in the our community and supporting our warm feet program. Thank you....
#warmfeet#helpingothers



Thank You all who supported our Fire Collection to help those displaced during the Fall River Blizzard Fire
\$700 collected and Pizza delivered to all 6 FRFD Fire Houses on 2/3/22 for the same shift that worked the fire





Thank You all who supported
our Veterans Hygiene Collection
to help those Vets in need
Feb. 6, 2022



Blessed to Deliver Two Carriages full of Hygiene Products for our Local Vets in Need - Feb. 7, 2022



Our 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring - Helping to Feed those in Need
Thank You to all who Supported this annual Effort! Feb. 13, 2022



Our Scholarship Committee Pancake Breakfast - Thank You to the DeTemple/McLean Families and to all who support our Scholarship Fund! And Pancakes for our local Firehouse too! Feb. 13, 2022



Upcoming Parish Events and Information

March 2 - Ash Wednesday - Lenten Food Drive begins

February 4 & all Lenten Fridays 6 pm Lenten Supper & Stations of the Cross

March 5 and 12 - NE Seniorate Lenten Retreat

March 19 - PTA Beef Stew Dinner & Lenten Penitential Service

March 20 - Spring Clam Boil

March 26 - Parish Youth Lenten Day of Service and Caring

March 27 - Parish Youth Outing to the P Bruins Game

April 3 - Meal in the Upper Room

April 9 - Bread Making Fun

April 28 & 30 - Pierogi Making

May 5 & 6 - Golabki Making

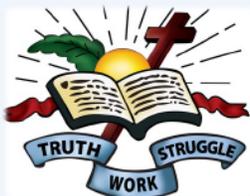
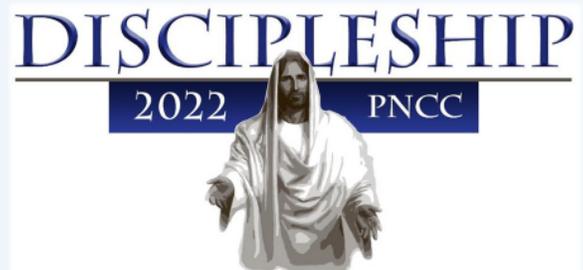
May 7 - Polish Food Sale

May 30 - Memorial Day Holy Mass and Prayers for the PAWV

June 18 - Veterans Breakfast for Fall River

June 25 - Parish Chicken Barbecue and Rib Roast

June 26 - Parish Youth-PTA Pool Party and Cook Out



**BLESSED TRINITY PARISH
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
SUNDAY HOLY MASS @ 8:30 AM**

Mailing Address:

**1340 Plymouth Ave.
Fall River, MA 02721**

**37 Winthrop Street
Fall River, MA 02721**

***Pastor:* Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich**

***Facebook:* Blessed Trinity PNCC**

***Phone:* 508-672-4854**

***Website:* BlessedTrinityChurch.org**

***Email:* RobNem21@aol.com**

***YouTube Page:* Blessed Trinity PNCC**

***Serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His Holy Church
in the greater Fall River community since 1898***

From Our Parishes...

Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI

Discipleship continued at Holy Cross with monthly local food distributions, a tremendous Winter Clothing Drive, and great drives for our Birthday Party for Jesus and SouperBowl of Caring. We also enjoyed our annual Candlelight Service and blessed bread in commemoration of St. Lucy (Dec. 13th), St. Basil (Jan 1st) and St. Agatha (Feb. 5th). Throats and Scouts were blessed on Sunday—Feb 6th.



Rejoicing on the 3rd Sunday of Advent - What A Winter Clothing Drive - Thank You! 12 12 2021



Rejoicing on the 3rd Sunday of Advent - What A Winter Clothing Drive - Thank You! 12 12 2021



Rejoicing on the 3rd Sunday of Advent - Blessing Bread Commemorating St. Lucy
Thank You Michael and Paula - Dec. 12 2021



Holy Cross Winter Clothing Drop Off to Central Falls Family Support Coordinator - 12 13 2021



Annual Candlelight Service at Holy Cross - 12-19-21



Annual Candlelight Service at Holy Cross and our Birthday Party for Jesus - 12-19-21



Humble Shepherds 2021 at Holy Cross - Blessing of Christmas Chasuble - Thank You Michael & Paula!



Installation of our 2022 Holy Cross Parish Committee - Jan. 2, 2022



Blessing of Sweet Bread in honor of St. Basil the Great - Thanks Michael - Jan. 2, 2022



January Holy Cross Community Food Distribution - Thanks to our Great Crew! Jan. 22, 2022



Scout Sunday and Blessing of Zack - Feb. 6, 2022



SouperBowl of Caring Drive Growing Nicely



Blessing of Bread in Commemoration of St. Agatha - Thank You Michael & Paula - Feb. 6, 2022



Blessing of Throats asking the Intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr - Feb. 6, 2022



Our 2022 Souper Bowl of Caring - Helping to Feed those in Need
Thank You to all who Supported this annual Effort! Feb. 13, 2022



From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



• Monthly Community Outreach

Since October 2020 on the third Saturday of each month Our Saviour's has been serving free Lunch to the local community from 11am-12:30pm.

This Lunch is for everybody who stops by. No question asked. In Winter season we serve a delicious hot soup with crackers, snacks, and water. The soup is prepared by our "master cook" Lonnie Watson. We give away around 75 lunches. Part of it (20) is delivered to the Woonsocket Men's Shelter and distributed to the homeless in Woonsocket.

Thank you to the parish volunteers and to all who support this event financially. We are happy we can serve our community!



Christmas Polish Food Sale and Food Collection

In December 18, 2021 Our Saviour's held its Christmas drive thru Polish Food Sale.

The Event was very successful and we sold out all our pierogi, cabbage soup, babka, apple pie, golabki, and many dinners. The parish team worked perfectly. We received a lot of compliments regarding our food and the service. Thank you to all parishioners who worked hard to prepare food for this fundraiser.

This event was also an opportunity to organize a food collection to support the poor families in Woonsocket. An email was sent to all who ordered the food about this collection and the answer to it was beyond our expectations. People were very generous and we collected hundreds of food items that day.



All the food items collected were donated to the Woonsocket Care Alliance, a local organization who helps the poor in Woonsocket.

Thank you to all Polish Food Fans for their generous hearts and brotherly love for the needy.



Christmas Celebrations 2021

Christmas season had this year special character at Our Saviour's. In the past year we held all Christmas celebrations in the parish hall due to the restoration of the church after the fire accident. It was joy to have all the services in the church.

Parishioners did their best with decorations and the church on Christmas night looked really impressive and beautiful. Beautiful was the Christmas Eve shepherds Mass celebration as well. We all enjoy a special music performance offered us

by the Ethier Family that night. The beautiful music moved us spiritually in time to the moment when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Thank you to all parishioners for their involvement and help.



Scout Sunday

On February 6, 2022 Our Saviour's Parish celebrated Scout Sunday. The Readings, the Responsorial Psalm, and the Prayer of the Faithful were prepared and read by the parish Eagle Scouts Michael Kuchar.

During the Mass special prayers were offered for the Scouts and their families.'

Our Saviour's Parish Scouts: (from the left) Tyler Dixon, Michael Kuchar, and Brenda Dixon)



Miscellaneous

Thank you to Edward Nawrocki, Michael Kuchar, and Gerry Ethier for their great job on the renovation of the parish kitchen stove and table . The stove was thoroughly cleaned, repainted, and some small repairs were made. The kitchen table was cleaned, repainted, and the new shelves' covers were installed.

Congratulations to Tyler Dixon on being inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, and to Patrycja Wos on being selected the Student of the Month at Villanova Middle School. We are proud of both of you!

Upcoming Parish Events:

- Meat Raffle - April 29, 2022
- Golf Tournament - July 25, 2022

By Fr. Henryk Wos



From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Holy Trinity Church in Webster has had a busy fall and holiday season.

We continue to serve the people in our community by hosting a free community breakfast on the last Saturday of each month. Attended by mostly veterans it's a great time for them to come together, have a hearty breakfast and enjoy some time for fellowship. We also presented our local Veterans agent with 12- \$25.00 Price Chopper Gift cards to give to our needy veterans.



We had our Holiday Fair in November with several great vendors selling their homemade items. From handmade charcuterie board, jewelry, Christmas craft, knitted items and more there was something for everyone. We held a bake sale and served some homemade soups from our kitchen. It was a good day of shopping and eating for everyone and some lucky people won some great prizes in our raffles.



We were approached in November during our craft fair asking if we would be willing to rent our church hall out to be used for auctions. So in December we started hosting auctions every other Saturday. The church gets a fee for hall rental, there's a 50-50 raffle with Holy Trinity receiving 50 percent of the tickets sold and we run the kitchen while the auction is going on serving burgers, hot dogs, chili and more. It's a

great way for us to earn some money for the church as well as getting our name out into the community. The auction sales consist of a wide array of items, from antiques, household items, food, toys and more. The auctioneers are very generous with their donation of items to our church as well. It's a fun night, and you never know what kind of bargain you may be going home with!



By Rita Ouellette

From our parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Parish News:

The Divine Providence Parish is still continuing Holy Masses on Sundays and Holy days of obligations.

We still continue the Taste of Poland every month. We are very thankful to our parishioners and friends who spend many hours preparing the food for this monthly event



Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Divine Providence Parish, PNCC, Cemetery

In spite of the drizzle that was falling on Saturday, December 18, 2021, the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony sponsored by Divine Providence Parish, PNCC in Norwich, CT took place at our cemetery as scheduled at 12:00 noon. It was well attended by Divine Providence parishioners and a troop of 40 American Heritage Girls along with their parents and friends. A group of almost 60 people participated.

The WAA Ceremony helped everyone in attendance to better understand why we should Teach, Honor, and Remember the veterans buried in our cemetery and the sacrifices they made for us and our country.



An explanatory program was read during the Ceremony. Wreaths were placed at the Veterans Memorial for all the different branches of the U. S. Armed Forces. Wreaths had also been placed earlier at the 110 Veterans graves. Prayers were said by our Parish Priest, the Reverend Christopher Rogalski. A bugler played “Taps” to end the Ceremony.

Our Parish has now been privileged to be involved with WAA for the last five years.

By George Verweris



From our parishes...

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

Coming Events/Classes

- ◆ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ **POLISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF NORTHAMPTON MEETINGS** at St. Valentine's Church — every first Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm
- ◆ **ROAST PORK DINNER TAKE OUT** — TBD (look for the announcements)



CELEBRATE WITH
THE ST. VALENTINE'S PNC CHURCH
AND THE POLISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF NORTHAMPTON

Polish Constitution Day

MAY 3, 2022

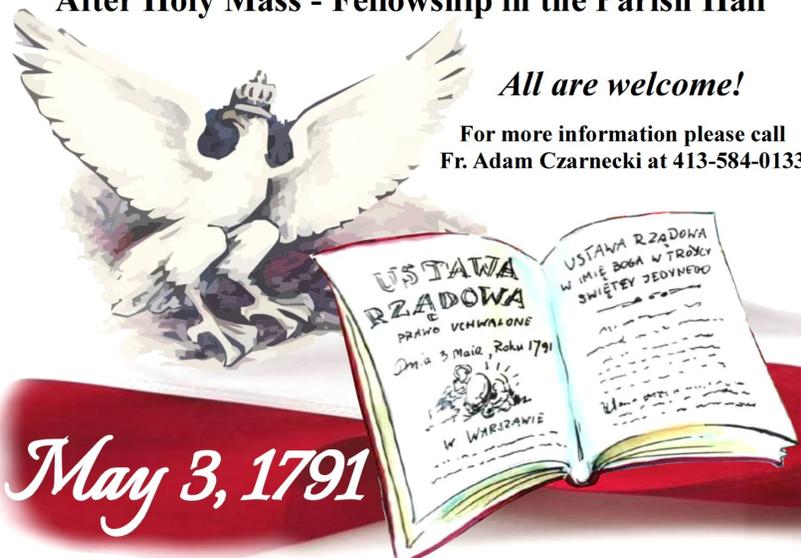
ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH
127 KING STREET NORTHAMPTON, MA

6:00 PM – HOLY MASS (BILINGUAL)

After Holy Mass - Fellowship in the Parish Hall

All are welcome!

For more information please call
Fr. Adam Czarnecki at 413-584-0133



By Fr. Adam
Czarnecki

From our parishes...

St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT



Advent and Christmas in the parish were more reflective this year. Although the Colossal Kielbasa arm of the YMS of R sold platters of Polish food for Christmas and New Year's, we were unable to hold our annual Christmas Fair fundraiser under the town's gathering rules. So, we turned our focus internally. The adult Bible study class and the Confirmation class continued to meet, having many thoughtful discussions about the Word of God and how it relates to life in these modern times.



We also concentrated on our charitable works. The YMS of R volunteered their time at the Lord's

Kitchen and Sterling House in addition to making donations to those organizations. They also made a monetary donation to Blessed Sacrament towards stocking the food pantry. The ANS donated grocery gift cards to Sterling House so that those who needed could help feed their families for the holidays.





The new year saw a new slate of officers elected and sworn in to serve on the parish board. At the annual meeting on 23 January, one of their first actions was to recognize two individuals for their service and commitment to the parish.

The first honoree, Joe Pelland, has been a dedicated caretaker of the building and grounds of our parish for many years. One of the church’s lectors, he also faithfully transports the weekly food donations to Blessed Sacrament for their food pantry.



The second honoree, Julia Vasas, is a member of this year’s Confirmation class. Currently the only altar server in the parish, she faithfully performs as many of her duties from the rear of the church as she can until such time as servers are permitted to be on the altar with Father again. She also reads the weekly intentions of the Mass and serves as lector when needed.



Even though it was a snowy Super Bowl Sunday this year, a few parishioners ventured out to attend Mass and support the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive, bringing attention to the fact that while most of the world is gorging on chicken wings and drinking beer watching the big game, others are struggling to put food on the table.



As we prepare for Lent, we hope restrictions will loosen enough that we can resume more of our congregation’s social gatherings and fundraisers, but, for now, there are no events scheduled in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Vasas, Music Director

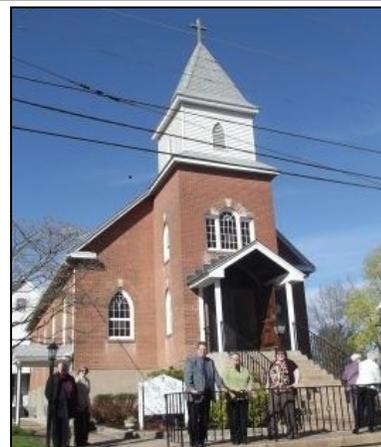
From our parishes...

St. John the Baptist Parish , Manchester, CT

Parish News:

- **Parish Committee 2022**

At the Annual Parish meeting held on Jan 16, 2022 the Parish Committee has been re-elected for a new term. Thank you Mitchell, Diane, Linda, Ed & Walter for your continuous service and dedication to St. John's Church.



- **Solar Energy Project**

Last year in collaboration with the PurePoint Energy LLC, our Parish started a project to get solar energy system for the church and the rectory building. This month we have completed the system installation and we're ready to go through some inspections to start using it.

By Fr. Adam Piekarczywski

From our parishes...

St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA

HOMECOMING 2021

For our first attempt at normalcy, St. Casimir's celebrated "Homecoming" on Sunday December 5 at 12 noon. We were graced with the presence of Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski.

Because of covid, we did not exchange the oplatek but packages to be taken home were available on each beautifully decorated table.

Guests were welcomed by co-chairmen Bob Hunt and Bert Quirbach after which Father Tenus offered grace.

Dinner, prepared by Bob Hunt, Linda Hedrick and Pat Whiting, assisted by a company of elves, consisted of stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, fresh string beans, carrots, rolls and butter followed by dessert of pound cake and ice cream, covered with chocolate syrup or strawberries.

A program was presented by Karina, Christopher and Emilia Tenus, accompanied by Father Tenus (guitar), Diane Quirbach (accordion) and Rachel Quirbach (keyboard). Songs included "Every Move I Make", "Ring The Bells", "Away From the Manger", "Gore Gwiazda", and "Swiec Gwiazdeczko". This was followed by a Sing-A-Long of Christmas carols and kolędy led by Father Tenus.

Each year someone is chosen for extraordinary service to St. Casimir's Parish. This year our Elf of the Year is Deb Charette who has a quiet demeanor and a big heart. She is always ready and willing to help.

A 50/50 Raffle was held with half the proceeds going to the parish.

Santa Claus arrived to greet each child and present candy-filled stockings. Many pictures were taken with Santa.



Elf of the year, Deb Charette with Father Tenus, Bob Hunt and Bert Quirbach.

The Giving Tree Project for December was introduced by ANS president JoAnn Menzia. Disposable diapers, baby wipes and other baby items will be collected and donated to Project Wish.

Bishop Sobiechowski spoke about the need to attend church in person and delivered his benediction.

By Janice Klimczak



Father Tenus, Emilia Tenus, Christopher Tenus, and Karina Tenus entertain with song



Jimmy, Jimmy Jr, and Brittany Kosidlo.



Guida-Gauthier family.



Cooks (l to r), Linda Hedrick, Bob Hunt, Patricia Whiting

COOKIE SWAP

The ANS of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, celebrated the holiday season with a cookie swap. Each ANS member brought three dozen of one kind of cookie and went home with six different kinds of cookies, a time-saver during the busy Christmas season. After swapping cookies, ANS members played Christmas Bingo and tried to solve Christmas-themed puzzles. A fun time was had by all.



ANS members prepare for cookie swap: (left to right): Beverly Runowicz, Irene Jaracz, Christine Piec (hidden), Deb Charette, Sophie Kosidlo, Phyllis Hunt (partially hidden), Linda Kosidlo, Diane Quirbach, Joyce Normand, JoAnn Menzia, Holly Guida-Gauthier.

By Janice Klimczak

ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH, PROJECT WISH

This year the women of St. Casimir's ANS society sponsored the annual "Giving Tree" event to benefit the Wish Project. The Wish Project is a non-profit organization in Chelmsford MA that helps local people in need by providing home and baby necessities.

The ANS kicked off the event on December 5 at our annual Homecoming Dinner. Throughout the Christmas season parishioners donated over 40 packages of diapers, several shopping bags of baby wipes, lotions, shampoos, hand-made baby hats and other useful baby items.



Beverly and Phyllis packing up the car

ANS members Beverly Runowicz, Phyllis Hunt, Paula Jones, Janice Klimczak and JoAnn Menzia, worked to pack and deliver the items to Lori, the Projects Manager at the Wish Project.

Opportunities for volunteer work at the Wish Project are available, and some ANS members were interested in volunteering. For information on donating items and helping those in need, go to the Wish Project webpage.



JoAnn Menzia, Beverly Runowicz, Paula Jones, and Phyllis Hunt with donations from members of St. Casimir's

Diapers and baby things



By Linda Kosidlo

National and Diocesan Events:

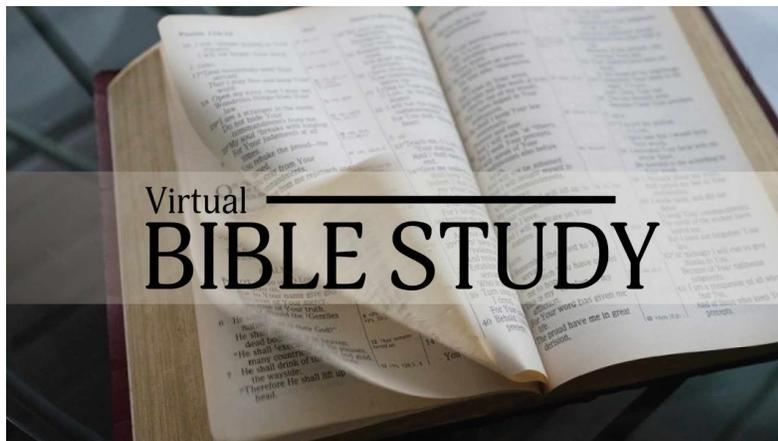
Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible Study

Since January 2021 the Eastern Diocese leads its monthly virtual Bible Study. This was the idea of the Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission to provide sources for the spiritual growth of the members of our parishes. The topics of the monthly Bible Study follow the themes from the action plan for PNCC parishes, prepared by the PNCC Future Direction Committee.

This year we focus on the Eucharist

The last two virtual Bible Studies were led in December (2021)- by Father Adam Piekarczywski on Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph in the Orthodox Iconography; in January - by Fr. Henryk Wos on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; and in February - by Fr. Robert Koerber on the Eucharist in the context of the Season of Pre-Lent.

The Eastern Diocese virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. To register email either revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com



**Eastern Diocese PNCC
Monthly Bible Study**

**Topic: The Eucharist: Jesus Christ
Himself**

When: Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 7PM.

Presenter: Fr. Henryk Wos

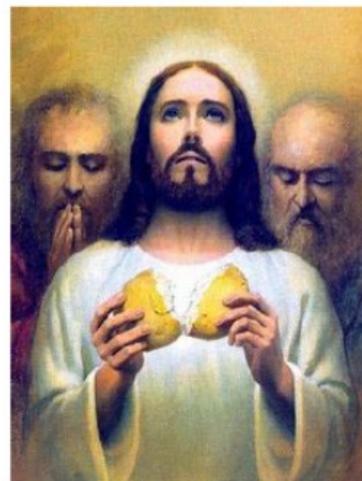
For preparation read: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26



The Eastern Diocese virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM.
To register email either revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

Virtual

BIBLE STUDY



**EASTERN DIOCESAN PNCC
MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY**

TOPIC: The Eucharist and the season of Pre-Lent

When: Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM

Presenter: Fr. Robert Koerber

For preparation: John 6:25-35

The Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM.

To register email either revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

By Fr. Henryk Wos

Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference

On January 18, 2022 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI for their annual Clergy Conference.

The clergy present at the Conference were; Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich, Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. Sr. Joseph Krusienski, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Adam Piekarczywski, Fr. Thomas Walsh, Fr. Henryk Wos, and Subdeacon Justin Daviault. Some priest were absent due to the health and pastoral issues.

The Conference addressed many theological, pastoral, liturgical, and administrative topics. The reports from the diocesan commissions were received and approved. Subdeacon Justin made a presentation on the work of the Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission. Bishop Paul distributes charity boxes to the present priests. These charity boxes were to be distributed to the parishes of the Eastern Diocese at the beginning of the Pre Lenten season.



The Conference also addressed topics connected with the preparation for the upcoming 2022 General Synod of the Church.

Bp, Paul thanked Fr. Henryk Wos and his wife Renata for their hospitality and delicious food in hosting this meeting.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

2022 NORTHEAST SENIORATE LENTEN RETREATS

EASTERN DICOESE - PNCC



March 5th - Our Saviour's - Woonsocket, RI

March 12th - St. Casimir's - Lowell, MA

9 am to 2 pm

To register please email: RobNem21@aol.com by the Wednesday prior to the Retreat you will attend.

DISTRICT 3 PNU EASTER RAFFLE

The PNU has been supporting our Polish National Catholic Church since its organization in 1908 and with your support will continue to do so. Last year District 3 provided support to youth at the diocesan youth retreat and at the Altar Servers Retreat.

The Easter Raffle will take place on Sunday, April 3, 2022 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. The first prize is \$50.00 cash and the second and the third prizes are \$25.00 cash.

Tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00 and 7 for \$10.00. Please ask your Pastor for tickets. Your generous support of this District's fund raiser is greatly appreciated.



Checks in payment for the Easter Raffle tickets should be made payable to "District 3 PNU". Checks and ticket stubs should be returned to District 3 PNU c/o Blessed Trinity Parish, 37 Winthrop Street, Fall River, MA 02721.

Thank you for your help in this fund raising effort for our District.

Fraternally yours in Christ on behalf of Maryann Zarek (District 3 Director),

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

The Polish National Catholic Church invites you to join

PRIME BISHOP ANTHONY MIKOVSKY

as he celebrates Holy Mass of Thanksgiving on his
25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

Sunday - April 24, 2022 at 4 pm

St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania



A Dinner Reception and Banquet will follow in the Cathedral Youth Center.

The Banquet will be limited to 200 people as we continue in these Covid times.

Reservations are required. Dinner Reception and Banquet - \$20.00

R.S.V.P. your name(s) and payment(s) to:

National Church Center, P.N.C.C.

Attention: Banquet Reservation

1006 Pittston Avenue

Scranton, PA 18505

Paid reservations will be honored on a first come first served basis, deadline April 1.

*"God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God
and God lives in him" (1 John 4:16).*

Dear Prime Bishop Anthony,

As you celebrate your 25th Anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood we thank you for your devout care and love you have for the church and for all of us.

We say thank you to our Father in heaven for your ministry and we ask Him to give you strength, wisdom, and knowledge to continue to serve the Church for many years to come.

We pray that Our Lord Jesus Christ, Who chose you, keeps you in perfect peace, so you may provide constant inspiration to your flock, bring comfort in times of pain, and good counsel in times of need.

Wishing you a lifetime of God's blessings!

Happy Anniversary!

***The Clergy and the Faithful
of the Eastern Diocese***



Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission

The Future is Yours!

The Polish National Catholic Church Eastern Diocese (PNCC ED) is growing and will continue to grow because of you.

The PNCC ED established a Strategic Planning Commission to work across all parishes to create and act on a long-term plan to grow our diocese. A lot of work has been accomplished, a vibrant plan for growth has been created and now is the time for action.

Some of the plan's key focuses are:

- Commitment
- Traditions and Branding (Increasing Spirituality and Learning)
- Growth and Membership (Community Engagement and Social Media Usage)

The question is: *Will you join us in this great work of discipleship?*

If you are interested in hearing more details or would like details on how you can help, then please contact Subdeacon Justin Daviault at deaconjustinPNCC@gmail.com



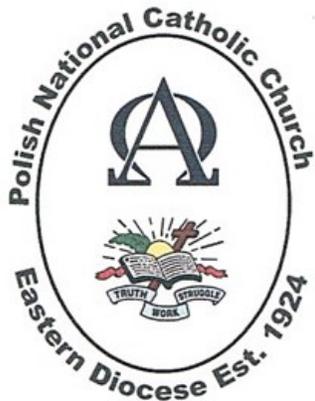
Be Part of and Create the Future of the Eastern Diocese!

Parish Liaison Opportunity

Duties and Responsibilities

The Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission is seeking Parish Liasons to assist in delivering on its mission to grow our church both physically in membership and spiritually. Please consider these active and engaging items and ask to be included in this valuable work.

- Be an information conduit between the Strategic Planning Commission and the Parish family.
- Communicate with other Parish Liaisons to share information and to discuss and share parish level activities. Includes discussion on inter parish activities, fund raising and diocese activities.
- Working with the Clergy and Parish Committee articulates and institutes the Strategic plan at the Parish level.
- Attend Monthly/Quarterly Strategic Planning Commission meetings to provide input to the plan and to provide a status on the implementation of the Strategic plan at the Parish level. The status may be provided via email in lieu of meeting attendance.
- Work closely with a Diocesan Staff member (TBD) to keep social media accounts up to date and containing new content where needed. Along with the Staff member implements new social media accounts, modifies social media pages for ease of use, and makes changes for new formats, and layouts.
- Assists/Provides PNCC awareness (“branding”) to the Parish Family.



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Note: all outlying events should be considered tentative due to the continuing COVID-19 Pandemic. Events will be adjusted as to face-to-face or on a Zoom platform as we draw near the event.

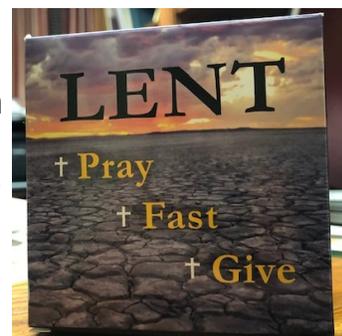
A reminder:

Our diocesan family is being asked to pray the “Act of Hope Prayer” and the “Our Father” prayers found in the in the PNCC Prayer Book each Wednesday at 12 Noon during the month of March for the intention of our diocese, the PNCC and for healing and peace in our communities, nation and world.

We remind our diocesan family that on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday we practice a full fast (one small meal only during these days).

On Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent we abstain from eating meat. The only exception to this rule is for adults over the age of 65 and those individuals who are required to eat a regular schedule of meals due to health requirements as advised by a personal physician.

We thank all parishes that are participating in the Diocesan Alms Collection from Septuagesima Sunday until Maundy Thursday. Individual parishes will decide which local community action they will be supporting. Please prepare articles with accompanying photos for the next issue of “The Messenger”.



Assignments:

- no new assignments

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Tuesday, March 8 - Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Zoom Meeting - 10:30 AM
- Tuesday, March 8 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Monday, March 14 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting - Meeting - 7:00 PM

- Tuesday, March 15 - Wednesday, March 16 - P.N.C.C. / G-4 Dialogue in Columbia, SC
- Monday, March 21 - National Scouting Commission Zoom meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 22 - Wednesday, March 23 - P.N.C.C. Doctrine Commission Meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Monday, April 4 - Eastern Diocese Scouting Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 5 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 19 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Sunday April 24 - Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky celebrates his twenty-fifth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood at Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Cathedral in Scranton, PA
- Monday, April 25 - Tuesday, April 26 - Annual Supreme Council Meeting (face to face), National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Wednesday, April 27 - Annual P.N.C.C. Bishops' Meeting (face to face) and I.C.B.C. Bishops meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Monday, May 2 - Northeast Seniorate Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 3 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 11 - District Three P.N.U. of A. Zoom meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 17 - Wednesday May 18 - PNCC / Roman Catholic Dialogue meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Saturday, May 21 - Eastern Diocese Ladies A.N.S. Convention - Saint Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA
- Monday, May 23 - Wednesday, May 25 - National Liturgical Commission Meeting - National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, May 31 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM

Diocesan and National Liturgical Celebrations: (all times are Eastern)

- Wednesday, March 2 - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 6 - First Sunday of Lent
- Sunday, March 13 - Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church
- Thursday, March 17 - Commemoration of Saint Patrick
- Saturday, March 19 - Solemnity of Saint Joseph - Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 20 - Third Sunday of Lent
- Thursday, March 24 - Feast of Saint Gabriel, Archangel
- Friday, March 25 - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 27 - Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare*)
- Friday, April 1 - Birth of First Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, 1866
- Sunday April 3 - Passion Sunday
- Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday - *blessing and distribution of palms - beginning of Holy Week*
- Tuesday, April 12 - Chrism Mass celebrated at Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI - 4:00 PM

- Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday - *one Mass only celebrated*
- Friday, April 15 - Good Friday - *liturgy of the pre-sanctified*
- Saturday, April 16 - Holy Saturday - *liturgy of blessings and, if in the evening, Expectant Mass of Easter*
- Sunday, April 17 - Solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Sunday - *procession, Te Deum, Holy Mass - beginning of Bright Week*
- Sunday, April 24 - Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)
- Monday, April 25 - Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist
- Saturday April 30 - Solemnity of Joseph the Workman
- Sunday, May 1 - Third Sunday of Easter
- Monday, May 2 - Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles
- Tuesday, May 3 - Solemnity of the Finding of the Holy Cross
- Sunday, May 8 - Fourth Sunday of Easter
- Tuesday May 10 - Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Bishop Joseph Padewski
- Sunday, May 15 - Fifth Sunday of Easter
- Sunday, May 22 - Sixth Sunday of Easter
- Monday, May 23 - Martyrdom of Jerome Savonarola (m. 1498)
- Thursday, May 26 - Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord
- Sunday, May 29 - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Diocesan and National Event Schedule: (all times are Eastern)

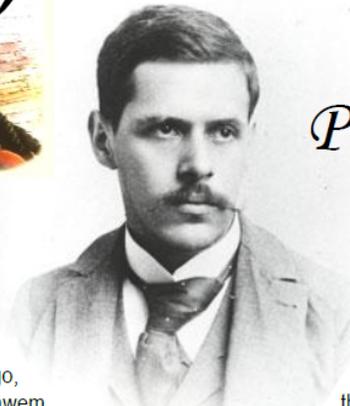
- Saturday, March 5 - Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat (south) - Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI – 9 – 2 PM
- Thursday, March 10 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Karen Sobiechowski 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 12 - Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat (north) - Saint Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA – 9 -2 PM
- Sunday, March 13 - Daylight Savings Time Begins - USA
- Friday, April 1 - Sunday April 3 - National Mission and Evangelism Workshop - "Being Eucharistic People" - Resurrection Parish - Temperance, MI
- Sunday, April 3 - District 3 P.N.U. of A. Easter Raffle held at Holy Cross Parish - Central Falls, RI
- Thursday, April 7 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Father Senior Robert Nemkovich - 7:00 PM
- Thursday, May 10 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Zoom Bible Study led by Father Adam Piekarczywski - 7:00 PM
- Friday, May 20 - Sunday May 22 - Y.M.S.R. National Bowling Tournament – Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral - Lancaster, NY
- Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day - USA

Polish Poetry



“Poetry comes nearer to vital truth than history.” - Plato
 „Prawdziwą, typową formą współżycia duchowego jest poezja.” - Karol Irzykowski

Kazimierz Przerwa - Tetmajer



Urodzony 12 lutego 1865 w Ludźmierzu, powiat nowotarski. Ojciec - Adolf - uczestnik powstania listopadowego i styczniowego, był marszałkiem powiatu nowodworskiego. W 1883, z rodziną przeniósł się do Krakowa, gdzie uczęszczał do Gimnazjum Św. Anny, w 1884 rozpoczął studia na wydziale filozoficznym Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego, tam zaprzyjaźnił się z Lucjanem Rydlem, Stanisławem Estreicherem i Ferdynandem Hoesickiem. W 1888 podjął współpracę z "Tygodnikiem Ilustrowanym", w 1889 z "Kurierem Warszawskim", w 1893 z krakowskim "Czasem". Po opublikowaniu drugiej serii *Poezji* (1894) brał intensywny udział w życiu literackim Krakowa, będąc uosobieniem poety młodopolskiego. W 1895 przebywał w Heidelbergu, pełniąc funkcję osobistego sekretarza Adama Krasieńskiego. Wyjeżdżał za granicę, zwiedził Włochy, Szwajcarię, Francję i Niemcy. W 1912 obchodzono w Warszawie jubileusz 25-lecia jego twórczości. W tym okresie wystąpiły pierwsze objawy choroby umysłowej. W czasie pierwszej wojny światowej był zwolennikiem Legionów Piłsudskiego, inicjatorem Komitetu Ochrony Podhala, prezesem Komitetu Obrony Kresów Południowych. Po wojnie mieszkał w Krakowie, Zakopanem, wreszcie osiadał na stałe w stolicy. W 1921 zostaje prezesem Towarzystwa Literatów i Dziennikarzy Polskich, w 1934 członkiem honorowym Polskiej Akademii Literatury. Utrata wzroku i nasilająca się choroba umysłowa zmusiły go do wycofania się z życia społecznego, pozbawiły możliwości tworzenia. Egzystował dzięki ofiarności społecznej. W pierwszych miesiącach drugiej wojny światowej został wyrzucony z Hotelu Europejskiego, gdzie miał zapewnione utrzymanie. Zmarł w Szpitalu Dzieciątka Jezus 18 stycznia 1940 roku.

W drugiej i trzeciej serii *Poezji* wprowadził problemy znamienne dla epoki modernizmu, znalazła tu swoje odbicie filozofia Artura Schopenhauera i Fryderyka Nietzschego, a także fascynacja filozofią indyjską. Był autorem śmiałych erotyków, a także wierszy poświęconych pięknu Tatr. Muzykę do jego utworów poetyckich komponowali m.in. Marian Karłowicz i Karol Szymanowski. Autor nowel *Na Skalnym Podhalu*, pisanych stylizowaną gwara podhalańską, powieści *Legenda Tatr* (1912), nieudanej artystycznie powieści historycznej *Koniec epepei*.

Born on 12th February 1865 in Ludzimierz, in the Nowy Targ district. His father - Adolf - took part in the November and January Uprisings, and was the speaker in the Nowy Dwór district parliament. In 1883 he moved to Kraków along with his family. He attended St. Anne's Grammar School, then in 1884 he commenced his studies at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University, where he made friends with Lucjan Rydel, Stanisław Estreicher and Ferdynand Hoesick. In 1888 he started to co-operate with "Tygodnik Ilustrowany", in 1889 with "Kurier Warszawski", and in 1893 with Kraków's "Czas". After he had published his second series of *Poezja* (Poetry) (1894) he took an active part in the literary life of Kraków, where he was the embodiment of a Young Poland poet. In 1895 he was in Heidelberg, where he worked as a personal secretary of Adam Krasieński. He travelled abroad, he visited Italy, Switzerland, France and Germany. In 1912, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the start of his literary career was celebrated in Warsaw. At this time the first symptoms of mental illness appeared. During the First World War he was a supporter of Piłsudski's Legions, he was the initiator of The Committee for the Defence of Podhale and the chairman of The Committee for the Defence of the Southern Borderlands. After the war he lived in Kraków and Zakopane, until finally he settled down in the capital. In 1921 he became the chairman of The Society of Polish Writers and Journalists, then in 1934 he became an honorary member of the Polish Academy of Literature. The loss of sight and his deepening mental illness forced him to withdraw from social life and deprived him of the possibility to create. He existed thanks to social generosity. In the first months of the Second World War he was evicted from the Europejski Hotel, where he had been granted board and lodging. He died on 18th January 1940 in the Hospital of the Infant Jesus.



Symbolic grave at Powązki, Warsaw

In the second and third series of *Poezja* he introduced problems pertinent to the modernism period; the philosophies of Arthur Schopenhauer and Friedrich Nietzsche as well as his fascination with Indian philosophy found their reflection in this poetry. He was the author of bold erotic poems and also of poems dedicated to the beauty of the Tatras. Marian Karłowicz and Karol Szymanowski, among others, composed music to his poetry. The author of: short stories, *Na skalnym Podhalu*, which were written in a stylised Podhale dialect, a novel *Legenda Tatr* ("Tale of the Tatras") (1912), and a historical novel *Koniec epepei*, which was an artistic failure.

Cień Chopina

Na wiejskie gaje, na kwietne sady,
na pola hen,
idzie nocami cień bładny,
cichy jak sen.

Słucha, jak szumią nad rzeką lasy
owite w mgłę;
jak brzęczą skrzypce, jak huczą basy
z odległej wsi.



By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

Chopin's Shadow

To orchards blooming, to countryside groves,
fields by a stream,
at nightfall his shadow, deathly pale goes,
soft as a dream.

It listens to trees breathe o'er the river
shrouded in haze;
bass viols bellow, violins quiver
there, far away.

Słucha, jak szeptać drżące osiny,
malwy i bez;
i rozplakanej słucha dziewczyny,
jej skarg, jej łez.

W wodnych wiklinach, w blasku księżycy,
w północny chłód,
rusałka patrzy nań bladolica
z przepastnych wód.

Słucha jęczących dzwonów pogrzebnych
i wielkich łkań,
i rozplyniętych kędyś, podniebnych,
gwiazd błędnych drgań...

Słucha, jak serca w bólu się kruszy
i rwą bez sił - -
słucha wszystkiego, co jego duszą
było, gdy żył...



It listens to whispering aspen sough,
mallow, lilac;
and to a girl's sobbing, sighing breath: bowed,
elegiac.

In watery reeds, as the moon glimmers,
shivers and shakes,
a water nymph's pale gaze on him shimmers
out of the lake.

It listens to moaning funeral tolls,
and mourning cries,
the flicker of stars – celestial souls,
wand'ring the skies...

It listens to heartbreak, pain undisguised,
helpless, distraught – –
listens to all that his own soul comprised
when he still walked...

Translation from: Marcin Gmys, *Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer's Cień Chopina and its compositional interpretations*

Koniec wieku XIX

Przekleństwo?... Tylko dziki, kiedy się skaleczy,
złorzeczy swemu bogu, skrytemu w przestworze.
Ironia?... Lecz największe z szyderstw czyż się może
równać z ironią biegu najzwyklejszych rzeczy?

Wzgarda... lecz tylko głupiec gardzi tym ciężarem,
którego wziąć na słabe nie zdoła ramiona.
Rozpacz?... Więc za przykładem trzeba iść skorpionia,
co się zabija, kiedy otoczą go żarem?

Walka?... Ale czyż mrowka rzucona na szynę
może walczyć z pociągiem nadchodzącym w pędzie?
Rezygnacja?... Czyż przez to mniej się cierpieć będzie,
gdy się z poddaniem schyli pod nóż gilotyny?

Byt przyszły?... Gwiazd tajniki któż z ludzi ogląda,
kto zliczy zgasłe słońca i kres świata zgadnie?
Użycie?... Ależ w duszy jest zawsze coś na dzień,
co wśród użycia pragnie, wśród rozkoszy żąda.

Cóż więc jest? Co zostało nam, co wszystko wiemy,
dla których żadna z dawnych wiar już nie wystarcza?
Jakaż jest przeciw włóczni złego twoja tarcza,
człowiecze z końca wieku?... Głowę zwiesił niemy.

W kaplicy Sykstyńskiej

Ta ściana cała ryczy, jak bawół zraniony!
Ten Chrystus tam, jak piorun, z cyklopa ramiony,
Ta trupia głowa pełna boleści i jęku,
Ten szturm kłębów, rozpacz, wściekłości i lęku,
Farba zmieniona w kamień, pędzel w dłuto, siła,
Co, zda się, góry pięścią na miał-by kruszyła!
Żrenice głuche patrzą z pod skostniałych powiek - -
Wulkan to chyba z siebie wyrzucił, nie człowiek.

(z II. serii Poezyj)

Ku mej kołysce leciał od Tatr
o skrzydła orle otarty wiatr,
o limby, co się patrzą w urwisko,
leciał i szumił nad mą kołyską.

I do mej duszy na zawsze wlał
tęsknot do orlej swobody szal
i tę zadumą limb, co się ciszą
objęte wielką, w pustce kołyszą.



(from 2 series of Poezyj) A Cradle Wind

Toward my cradle flew a Tatra wind,
brushed by eagles' wings and mountain pines
which gape from craggs into the abyss --
it blew and roared above my cradle.

Into my heart poured a lasting fit
of longing for eagles' flight and the
pensiveness of pines swaying in the
mountain tops, engulfed in pure quiet.

Translated by Walter Whipple

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524	St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403
Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721—2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854	St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133
St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742	Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812
Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130	Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035
Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072	Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479-1119 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736
Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233	St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT 01850-2313 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Henryk Wos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Adam Piekarczywski-Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Thomas Walsh, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Pastor (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575	

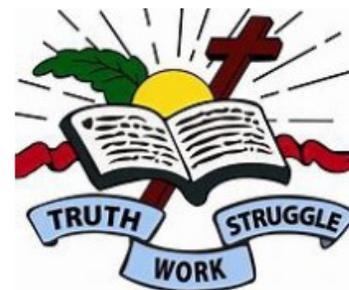
Diocesan Chaplains

Mission & Evangelism Commission Rev. Robert Koerber	Scouting Commission Rev. Adam Czarnecki
Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak	United Choirs Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz
Polish National Union of America (Spojnia) District 3 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich	Youth Commission Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
School of Christian Living Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak	Deacon Program Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
Young Men's Society of the Resurrection Rev. Thomas Walsh	Lay Ministries Rev. Adam Czarnecki

Each Wednesday at noon, join us in praying the Lord's Prayer and the Act of Hope:



O God, relying on Your infinite goodness and merciful promises, I hope to obtain pardon for my sins, the continual help of Your grace and eventually attain eternal life with You. I have this hope because of the merits of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who died on the cross for me and all other sinners, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven.



Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission

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The quality and style of this newsletter depends upon your cooperation. It is also a great way to let others know about our church, parishes and people. We look forward to your contributions!