

GOOD Dzień dobry! DAY!

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

September 2018

VOL. 8 NO. 3

Youth Sunday & Blessing of the Backpacks



On Sunday, August 26th, we celebrated "Youth Sunday" across our Church, with special prayers being offered for all the youth of our Church and especially for our

parish youth as they begin a new school year. As part of the Mass at St.

Casimir's, we enjoyed special songs by the Youth Choir as well as the "Blessing of the Backpacks" for those students who brought them to church.



ANS Summer Outing—Mama Mia Theater Excursion

On Sunday August 26 a group of St. Casimir's ANS members and friends had an enjoyable afternoon when they traveled to the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, MA to see the musical, Mama Mia. The live performance included singing, dancing and acting presented by a professional off-Broadway cast. Many in St. Casimir's group couldn't help but sing and clap along with the popular show tunes.

Paula Jones was the coordinator of this summer event. The



seats were terrific and attendees enjoyed the lovely landscaped grounds and the outdoor dining on this beautiful summer day.

A highlight of the afternoon was meeting Mama Mia cast members and taking photographs with the stars.

Message from Father Andrew

The days of summer are gone but not forgotten. Now our thoughts are focused on the busy season before us. There is much excitement and anticipation among the parishioners as they prepare for the events that will take place in the coming months.



First in line is our Polish Food Fest which will take place shortly. Proceeds from our biggest fundraiser benefit the operation of St. Casimir's Parish. We will be grateful for your support, and certainly look forward to seeing you. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy the best Polish food in the area.

And of course, there is no better way to welcome the Christmas holiday season than to spend an evening with friends, old and new, sharing oplatki and warm greetings at our annual Homecoming Dinner. This event is often sold out, but we always manage to squeeze in an extra seat or two. Keep the date open, Saturday, December 1. Contact any parishioner to reserve space for you and your friends.

We are pleased to have added several new parishioners this year, and continue to support our growth committee in its efforts to inform the public about St. Casimir's and the Polish National Catholic Church.

Rev. Andrzej Tenus

St. Casimir's Parish PNCC

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

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

or Call any of the following:

Pastor Rev. Andrzej Tenus: 978-453-0742

Parish Co-Chairmen

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

Parish Secretary Janice Klimczak: 978-452-9646

Public Relations JoAnn Menzia: 978-459-2017

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

stcasimirspncc.com

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast & Scholarship Awards

A blueberry pancake breakfast was held Sunday, August 19 to benefit St. Casimir's Scholarship Fund. Delicious pancakes with or without blueberries, bacon, sausages and muffins were served buffet style with maple syrup and blueberry syrup. Coffee and juice were also available. Compliments to the chefs and kitchen crew for a job well done. Lovely raffle prizes were won by several attendees.



Two scholarships were awarded by our pastor, Father Andrzej Tenus assisted by co-chairmen Robert Hunt and Dr. Robert Quirbach.

James Bigalow was awarded St. Casimir's Scholarship. James, entering his second year at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire, is a dean's list student with a GPA of 3.8. He is the son of Tanya (Jaracz) and James Bigelow.

Ian Ford-Hunt was awarded the Dr. Walter Twarog Scholarship. He will begin his freshman year at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams, MA. He was an honor student and All-Star soccer player at Lowell High School. His parents are Johanna (Hunt) and Dan Ford-Hunt.

Camp Howe Youth Retreat



This year's Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat was held August 19-23 at Camp Howe in Goshen, MA. The event is

conducted annually by the Eastern Diocese of the Polish National Catholic Church to foster a sense of community among the young people of the PNCC. The theme this year was "Faith and Family". Attending the retreat from St. Casimir's were Jonah and Christopher Tenus.

Convo 2018

This year's PNCC National Youth Convocation (CONVO 2018) was held at the University of Scranton in Scranton, PA from July 23 to

27. Attending CONVO 2018 from St. Casimir's were Karina Tenus, Jonah Tenus and Vesuvio Gauthier.



Eastern Diocese Choir meeting

A meeting of the Eastern Diocese United Choirs was held Saturday, September 8th at St. Casimir's Parish. Choir members from Manchester, NH, Chicopee, MA, S.

Deerfield, MA, Plantsville, CT and Lowell, MA were in attendance.



An opening prayer was offered by Father Andrzej Tenus, pastor of St. Casimir's.

Bishop Sobiechowski offered a blessing over the lunch we were served as the meeting proceeded.

Common problems were discussed including paucity of organists and singers willing to dedicate time and talent in rehearsal.

Officers were elected:

Neal Narkon, chairman;
Dave Curylo, vice-chairman; Karen Sobiechowski, secretary;
Jim Grieve, treasurer;
Eastern Diocese representative to National United Choirs (NUC)

Board, Neal Narkon; NE Seniorate representative, Janice Klimczak; SW Seniorate representative, Marilyn Folcik; Central Seniorate representative, Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd.



Bishop Sobiechowski suggested the elected committee act as a steering committee to decide in which direction the united choirs should go.

Dual Celebration

A dual celebration was held on Sunday, June 24th in St. Casimir's Parish Hall. Our festivities began with Co-chairmen Robert Hunt and Dr. Robert Quirbach greeting guests and explaining the reason for our celebration.

We were celebrating the blessing of our newly updated kitchen, which was modernized and brought up to 2018 Code specifications. This was accomplished by installing new appliances, sinks, and updating electrical and plumbing work.



All this was made possible by a most generous and greatly appreciated bequest of \$119,000 from Walter Polchlopek and his mother Mary (Wasyłak) Polchlopek. Also introduced was Helen (Wasyłak) Rogers, sister of Mary, who unveiled a portrait of Walter and Mary to be hung in our parish center. The kitchen has already been put to good use in making pierogi and gołąbki which are sold weekly to the public.

In addition, we were also celebrating Father Andrzej and Agnes Tenus, our pastor and his wife, becoming US citizens on June 6. They had studied for many months and passed their tests and the interview process with flying colors. They pledged allegiance to the United States of America at Lowell Memorial Auditorium, along with a class of 995 new citizens. Beverly Runowicz also spoke about the Tenus children, Karina and Jonasz, who are now citizens of our country through their parents, and Christopher and Amelia who were born in Lowell. Our best wishes and love go to Father



Andrzej, Agnes and their family. We hope God will bless them in their new country.

After the speeches, Father Tenus proceeded to bless the kitchen and the smorgasbord brunch provided by parishioners and friends, which included hot and cold entrees, salads, finger sandwiches, desserts and hot and cold drinks.

Ties for Special Guys

During the month of June we remembered a father, grandfather, godfather, a pastor or a special man by writing his name on a "tie" and displaying their names in church.

Those who submitted ties made a Free-Will Offering in honor of the one they love and

affixed a "tie" to our parish clothesline.

All proceeds went to the Clergy Pension Fund. Our clergy work hard for us, so we are always pleased to make a donation.

**Youth Group Summer Outing—Canobie Lake Park**

This year's annual St. Casimir's Youth Group Summer Outing, on June 28th at Canobie Lake Park, was again a great success. Though the weather was threatening with a

summer storm, the children and adults enjoyed all the fun and activities offered at the Park in Salem NH.

Polish Food Fest

Saturday, October 20th

10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

St. Casimir's Parish Center

268 Lakeview Avenue - Lowell, MA - (978) 453-0742

Something for Everyone! No Admission Charge

RAFFLE PRIZES



**Potato and Cheese Pierogi
Cabbage Pierogi**



**Gołąbki —Kielbasa
Cabbage Soup**

**Take Out or Dine In
Babka - Breads - Home Made Goodies**

Spotlight —St. Casimir's Frederick Chopin Choir

We are beginning a new series of spotlight articles to describe and put some historical context to the various organizations and groups at St. Casimir's Church. The first in the series to be spotlighted is St. Casimir's Frederick Chopin Choir, which has been providing beautiful and inspiring music for over a century.

St. Casimir's Frederick Chopin Choir, which was named after the 19th century Polish composer and virtuoso pianist Frederick Chopin, was organized in 1912 by Dr. John Dziura, Stanley Leszczyk, Cyryl Obara and John Gondek to provide music that was spiritually uplifting and to encourage the continuation of Polish culture.

Throughout the years, in addition to providing music for church services, the choir put on concerts and sang on radio and television.



WLLH Radio Broadcast

For St. Casimir's 100th anniversary in 1998, the choir celebrated with a religious concert entitled "Through the Church Year in Song". Beginning with Advent, special hymns and songs were chosen for each church season.



100th Anniversary Concert

In the 106 years since the choir was formed, there were many organists. These included Rudolph Koczera, Charlotte Dziurkiewicz, Hedwig Wroblewski, Julianna Stefan, Shirley Kowalski, MaryAnn Dziegiel, Edward Koza, Jan Rajchel and Janice Klimczak.

The Frederick Chopin Choir also made numerous financial contributions to St. Casimir's Church through its fundraising efforts. It purchased the church's first organ and donated funds to renovate the original church on Lakeview Ave. In recent times, the choir coordinated the Lenten Communion Brunch, purchased new hymnals, donated to the National United Choirs Music Scholarship Fund, conducted basket raffles and bake sales, donated towards new altar linens, purchased new organ speakers, and purchased new chairs for the choir loft.

Spotlight —St. Casimir's Frederick Chopin Choir (cont.)

Because of ill health and older members passing away, the choir is small in number but continues to sing at Mass and special occasions (Confirmation, Blessing of Oils, etc).

Current active members are: Janice Klimczak (organist), Charlotte Stankiewicz (co-chairperson), Irene Jaracz (co-chairperson) and Christine Piec. Choir rehearsals are held as needed (for holidays, learning new music, special occasions).

New members would be joyfully welcomed.



Current Choir Members

For more information contact Janice Klimczak, organist, at 978-452-9646 or janice3233@comcast.net, or just come up to the choir loft some Sunday morning.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2018**Watch bulletins for additions and further information**

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

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| October | Recitation of the Rosary, Wednesdays |
| October 1-3 | XXV General Synod in Belleville, IL |
| October 6 | Blessing of pets |
| October 7 | Pastor Appreciation Day |
| October 14 | Solemnity of the Christian Family |
| Oct 14-Nov 18 | Hat/mitten drive for Lowell Public Schools |
| October 20 | Polish Food Fest, 10 am-3 pm |
| October 28 | All Souls Service, 1 pm, Parish cemetery |
| November 4 | Youth Group Dinner/Talent Show |
| November 11 | Final day for Operation Christmas Child donations; Veterans Remembrance in church |
| December | Christmas mailing to sick/shut-ins ; Giving Tree |
| December 1 | Homecoming, 5 pm |
| December 8 | Food Pantry Christmas Party (parish center) |
| December 16 | Parish elections and parish committee meeting |
| December 23 | Prepare Church for Christmas |
| Dec 24/25 | Christmas Masses 10 pm [Eve] ; 10 am [Day] |
| January 6, 2019 | Installation of officers |



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