

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

FEBRUARY 2017

VOL. 7 NO. 1

St. Casimir's Committee Installed

On Sunday, January 15, St. Casimir's Parish installed its officers and committee for the upcoming year 2017. The parishioners who accepted their office and were sworn in included:

Pastor: Rev. Andrzej Tenus. **Co-Chairmen:** Robert Hunt, Dr. Robert Quirbach. **Recording secretary:** Janice Klimczak. **Treasurer:** Isabel Dziura. **Assistant to Treasurer:** Shirley Garvey. **Financial Secretary:** Linda Hedrick. **Directors:** Patricia Whiting, Robert Ferus, Phyllis Hunt, Mae Zioto, Louise Regan, JoAnn Menzia, Josephine Wrobel, Stanley Kosidlo, Atty. Diane Quirbach, Helen Rogers, Jean Doda, Johanna Ford-Hunt, Sophie Kosidlo, Shirley Garvey, Pearl Czerlonka, Charlotte Stankiewicz, Thomas McNiff, Irene Jaracz,



Parish Committee recites Oath of Office

Robert Page, Anne Marie Page, Christine Piec, Paula Jones, Paul Starenas. **Financial Reviewers:** Stanley Kosidlo, Robert Page. **Cemetery Committee:** Robert Hunt, Dr. Robert Quirbach, Robert Ferus, Thomas McNiff, Stanley Kosidlo, Janice Klimczak, Louise Regan, Phyllis Hunt. **Delegates to Seniorate meetings-second year of two year term:** JoAnn Menzia, Phyllis Hunt, Paula Jones, Janice Klimczak. **Public Relations:** JoAnn Menzia, Janice Klimczak, Linda Kosidlo, James Czerlonka, Anne Marie Page. After the Mass that followed the swearing-in ceremony, the parishioners enjoyed a luncheon at the parish hall.

A New Year Provides New Challenges

Dear Reader,

A new year begins and our thoughts take us back to the wonderful year just ended. A new parish committee is installed and faced with the challenges that lie ahead. As reported in this newsletter, our parish has experienced blessings from God last year, in our liturgy, in our social activities and in our parish operations. All of which contributed to promote St. Casimir's as a great place to express our faith in God and share in the joy that comes from working together to spread His Word to the benefit of us all.

Now our work continues into a new year. We will continue to celebrate Sunday Mass using the Traditional and Contemporary Rite as the congregation becomes more adapted and comfortable with the changes in liturgy. We have already begun plans to improve upon our Annual Polish Food Fair and Homecoming events for 2017, both of which have received tremendous support in previous years from parishioners and friends like you, Dear Reader. If you have any comments, we would love to hear from you.

We continue our presence on Facebook and are very encouraged by the responses received from our web site, this newsletter, and our Sunday Mass for shut-ins on the internet and we hope that this new media of communication will stimulate more response from those who discover that St. Casimir's is truly a good place to spend time with good people committed to doing good things for all.

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

Father Andrew



Donate Cans of Soup on Souper Bowl Sunday

Last year St. Casimir's Youth Group joined this national youth-led community sharing event which features the collection of assorted varieties of soup for distribution to poor and needy families. Soup donations should be dropped off at the Church on Lakeview Avenue in Lowell on or before Super Bowl Sunday, February 5.

GO PATS!!!

LENTEN RETREATS

Northeast Seniorate Eastern Diocese —PNCC

SATURDAY MARCH 11, 2017 —Our Savior's Parish, Woonsocket RI

SATURDAY MARCH 18, 2017 —St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell MA

Begins at 9:30 AM—Ends by 2:30 PM - Lunch served

Come spend time in Prayer, Meditation and Worship on the Salvific Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ

RSVP by March 8 to: RobNem21@aol.com

Dear Reader,

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

...Please join us.

St. Casimir's Parish PNCC

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

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

or Call any of the following:

Pastor Rev. Andrzej Tenus: 978-453-0742

Parish Co-Chairmen

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

Parish Secretary Janice Klimczak: 978-452-9646

Public Relations JoAnn Menzia: 978-459-2017

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

<http://www.stcasimirspncc.com>

In Memoriam

Sophie S. (Kroafka) Rajchel, 95, died peacefully, Tuesday, October 4th at her home. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph J. Rajchel who passed away in 1967.



Sophie was born in Lowell, MA on June 7, 1921, daughter of the late Anna (Orlik) and John Kroafka. She was educated in Lowell and left school to work as a Spinner in the Abbott Mills.

After the death of her husband, Sophie dedicated her life to her family. She was a supportive, devoted and loving mother and grandmother, who would do anything for her family. She was a talented seamstress, gardener, crafter and puzzle maker. She was also extremely proud of her Polish Heritage and always made a point to instill those traditions onto her family. Sophie enjoyed listening to Polka music and was a member of St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church. Sophie was also an avid Patriots fan and a strong Tom Brady supporter.

Sophie is survived by three children Jan Rajchel and his wife Linda of Epping, NH, Diane Quirbach and her husband Robert of Milford, NH, and Darlene D'Addario and her husband Paul of Woburn; seven beloved grandchildren, Jennifer Jones and her husband Adam, Sarah and Kathryn Rajchel, Rachel and Joseph Quirbach and Gina and Carolyn D'Addario. She is also survived by her nieces Mary Lou Looney and her husband Dick, Frances Bulington and her husband Russ, Lynne Hutcheson and her husband Ed and Gayle Weber; nephew, Rick Traversy and his wife Louise, as well as her four-legged friends, Jack and Annie.

Sophie was predeceased by her children, Donna and Bobby Rajchel; her siblings, Frank Kroafka, Jennie Korpusik, Mary Traversy and her niece, Susan Burdin.

At Sophie's request calling hours were held privately. Relatives and friends were invited to her Funeral Mass which was held on October 6th at St. Casimir's Church in Lowell. Burial followed at St. Casimir's Cemetery in Pelham, NH.

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Walter S. Polchlopek, 72, died peacefully on Monday, September 5, 2016 at Lahey Clinic in Burlington.



Born in Lowell on December 22, 1943, he was the son of the late Walter and Mary (Wasylak) Polchlopek. Walter was a graduate of Lowell High School with the Class of 1961, then went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Maine in 1966. Prior to his retirement, he was a Soil Scientist for the US Geological Survey, and he also worked for Town of Tewksbury.

An avid outdoorsman, Walter enjoyed spending his free time both traveling and boating.

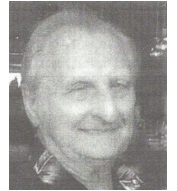
He is survived and will be deeply missed by his aunt, Helen Rogers of Pelham, NH; cousins, Robert Schiripo and his wife Beverly of Lawrence, Steven Wasylak of Salem NH, William Rogers and his wife Ann of Londonderry, NH, Beverly Darwent and her husband Richard of Pelham, NH, Karen Trembly and her husband Paul of Lowell, Margaret Corriveau and her husband Ernest of FL,

Carol McNiff and her husband Thomas of Tyngsboro, Beverly Smith of North Ridge, CA; and Robert Ferus and his wife Debby of Dracut; as well as many other family members and friends.

His funeral was on Friday, September 9th from the funeral home followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Casimir's Church, Lowell. Burial was in St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pelham NH.

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Walter Ernest "Ernie" Sott, 85, of Lawrence passed away Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at Nevins Manor in Methuen. The son of the late John and Anna (Winiarski) Sott was born in Detroit, MI. When he was in his 20's Mr. Sott moved to the Merrimack Valley. He was the co-owner of Frechette Siding Company. Mr. Sott was a former member of the Polish National Catholic Church and the Methuen Knights of Columbus 4027. He was a member of St Casimir's Parish in Lowell. Mr. Sott was a devoted Christian and read his bible every day. He enjoyed watching old movies, comedies, woodworking but most of all spending time with his family.



Mr. Sott was pre-deceased by his brother Donald Sott. He is survived by his sister June Frechette of Lawrence and several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends were invited to call at Edgar J. Racicott Inc. Funeral Home in Dracut. A Funeral service was held at the funeral home; burial followed in the Polish National Cemetery in Methuen.

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Yvonne Marie (Marcotte) Rawson-Bozek, 83, died on Friday, August 5th, at Lowell General Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Lowell on January 19th, 1933, she was a daughter of the late Joseph Herve and Regina Louise (Archambeault) Marcotte.



After graduating from the St. Louis Academy, she attended the University of Massachusetts Lowell where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Poly Science with a minor in History. She also went on to receive an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Northern Essex later in her life.

Yvonne held several positions throughout her lifetime, including Deputy Sheriff of Middlesex County, Union Organizer, President and Treasurer of the local 218 United Shoe Association, and Constable for Middlesex and Essex County. She was also a member and officer of many different organizations such as the Polish American Veterans Auxiliary, the Lowell Democratic Committee of which she was Vice Chair, the SL Louis Parish Veteran's Auxiliary of which she was President, Dom Polski of which she was Vice President, SL Casimir Parish where she served two terms as Vice President, as well as being active on the Board of Directors and Parish Committee. A proud Catholic, she enjoyed attending service and spending time with her great-granddaughters, family and friends.

Yvonne is survived by her sister, Pauline of North Reading, her son, Alvin Coulter of Acton; her godson, Richard Marcotte of Tewksbury; her granddaughter, Maureen (Coulter) Brito and her

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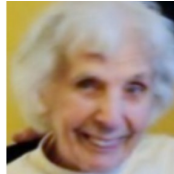
IN MEMORIAM Bozek from Page 2

husband, Marcus Brito of Lowell; her grandson, Kyle Coulter of Acton, her 5 great-granddaughters and 4 stepchildren. She is predeceased by her 3 husbands, 7 of her sisters and her 9 brothers. She will be dearly missed.

At Yvonne's request, all services were held privately. Donations in her honor may be sent to the Massachusetts Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA).

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Isabel H. Dziura, 95, died on Dec. 24, 2016, at the Lowell General Hospital. She was born in New Bedford, a daughter of the late Dr. Jan and Michalina (Piterak) Dziura, and was educated in the New Bedford School system and earned her bachelor's degree at Valparaiso University in Indiana. She served in the United States Navy during World War II.



Upon her separation from the service, she worked as a bookkeeper/accountant for over 35 years for the Department of the Army at the Fort Devens Military Base in Ayer, MA. She also used her bookkeeping skills for many years at St. Casimir's Polish National Catholic Church where she served as Treasurer until earlier this month. She was a charter member of the Polish American Veterans of Lowell as well as the Dom Polski Club, where she was voted Polonia of the year in 2002. She was also recently honored as Elf of the Year by the Church.

Surviving her is a brother: Walter Dziura, of Hingham; nieces: Shirley Garvey, Janice Sweeney and her husband Donald, all of Dracut; Linda Hedrick of Hudson, NH; a nephew: James Tuttle of Dracut; grandnieces: Lindsey Hedrick and her wife, Dana of Amherst, NH; Caitlin Fuentes, and her husband Joshua of Hudson, NH; Sarah Garvey and her companion Jamaal of Salem, MA; and Kerrie Garvey and her companion Joshua of Burlington, VT; grandnephews: Anthony Schiripo of Boston; Alexander Schiripo and his wife, Amy of Dracut; and Jonathan Schiripo of San Diego, CA; as well as several great-grandnieces and a great-grandnephew. She was predeceased by her sisters: Janina Tuttle and Wanda Hedrick; and nephews: Joseph Tuttle and Robert Hedrick.

Family and friends paid their respects on Dec. 28th. Her funeral service took place directly following calling hours in the funeral home. Burial took place in St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pelham, NH.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Isabel's name c/o St. Casimir's Church, 268 Lakeview Ave., Lowell, MA 01850 or to Northeast Animal Shelter, 347 Highland Ave., Salem, MA 01970.

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Anna M. Billewicz, 97, a longtime resident of Lowell, died peacefully on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at Methuen Village Assisted Living.

Born on August 24, 1919, she was the daughter of the late Marjan and Mary (Kapala) Billewicz. Upon graduating from Lowell High School, Anna went on to attend secretarial school. She then spent her career working for fifty-five years as an Executive Assistant to the CEO for Worthen Industries. Upon her retirement, Anna received a Scroll of Recognition thanking her for "embracing four generations of the Farnsworth/Worthen families and creating a reputation of trustworthiness, competence and right character." In her spare



time, Anna enjoyed creating a beautiful backyard filled with flowering plants and shrubs. A devoted daughter, Anna took numerous classes with her mother in cake decorating, sewing and holiday crafting. Their Christmas decorations were highly prized gifts to friends and family members. Avid collectors, Anna spent weekends on antiquing excursions with her mother in search of jewelry, china and crystal collectibles. Anna raised card playing to a sport, her favorite games being Scat, Michigan Rummy and Canasta. Although she didn't have children of her own, Anna served as an "adopted" grandmother to the Lohmueller children of East Hampstead, NH. She attended all graduations, piano recitals and holiday parties. The first one to arrive, she was often the last one to leave.

Anna is survived by her many beloved cousins and their family members. The family would like to thank the staff at Methuen Village for the compassionate care she received during her time there.

Anna's Funeral Service was held on January 21 st at the Dracut Funeral Home. A spring burial will take n St. Casimir's Cemetery, Pelham, N.H. In lieu oftowers, donations may be made to one of Anna's favorite charities - Smile Train, a non-profit dedicated to helping children with cleft birth defects.

St. Casimir's Participates in United Choirs Concert

Members of St. Casimir's took part in a diocesan concert, held at Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA on Saturday, September 24. The concert began with combined choirs singing "Called To Sing", the anthem of United Choirs of the PNCC written by Karen Sobiechowski.

St. Casimir's of Lowell was represented by Karina Tenus and Janice Klimczak who sang "Jesus, Name Above All Names" in English and Polish. They were accompanied by Diane Quirbach on accordion and Joe Quirbach on drums. The Lutnia Choir of Chicopee performed with David Curylo as soloist.



Photo: A highlight of the program was a performance by "The Reverends", with St. Casimir's Rev. Andrzej Tenus, left; Rev. Henryk Woś, center; and Rev. Pawel Łukaszewicz, right, who performed four hymns, the last one encouraging the audience to clap and sing along.

The Finale included five songs by the Chopin Choir of Manchester, NH with a duet performance by Karen Sobiechowski and Cindy Hebert. The concert closed with the Combined choirs offering "Here I Am Lord". Individuals from Woonsocket, RI, Norwich, CT, Ware, MA and Enfield, CT also took part. Preludes and Postludes were performed by Mira Cieslak, concert organist, visiting from Poland.

Happy 100th Birthday

Helen Rogers was honored on Sunday, November 13 at a special luncheon to celebrate her 100th birthday. As she entered the hall Helen was presented with a corsage by Phyllis Hunt on behalf of St. Casimir's ANS. Then she was escorted to the head table where a microphone and video was set up to record the event.

Helen, always a confident and interesting speaker, shared experiences from her long and productive life. She highlighted tales of her youth as a daughter of Polish immigrants, who loved the musical thread that was an important part of her family's history. She described her travels throughout the United States and Europe.

She spoke of her parents, who were integral in the early years of St. Casimir's inception. She told of adventures at her family's ski chalet and fun at the lake with her children and their numerous guests. Helen and her husband, Bill, built homes together during their long marriage.

Helen was proud to befriend some pretty famous people - Ed McMahon and former owner of the New England Patriots, Billy Sullivan to name a few. The audience was captivated by her anecdotes which were told with a touch of humor and whimsy. Helen revealed she drove a motorcycle, much to her mother's dismay and was nicknamed "Little Gypsy" because of her travel.

After her delightful presentation and the rousing applause that followed, Father Tenus offered words of congratulations from St. Casimir's Parish. He recited a blessing before a delightful lunch was served by St. Casimir's ANS. Everyone joined in singing Happy Birthday as Helen blew out all 100 candles of her cake.

It was a very happy occasion for all who know and love the spirited, kind, and generous Helen Rogers.



Helen Rogers, 100 years

Homecoming 2016

Homecoming was held on December 3 and began with the star being brought forth by Christopher and Amelia Tenus, Emma Ford-Hunt, Heath Pelletier and Patricia Lukaszewicz to the tune of "O Holy Night" by Rachel Quirbach via Skype. Welcome was extended by co-chairmen Robert Hunt and Bert Quirbach. A prayer was offered by Father Tenus who also pronounced the blessing of the food. Oplatek and greetings were shared by all followed by the pierogi appetizer. The head table, with Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski, Father Henryk and Renata Wos and family, Father Pawel and Monica Lukaszewicz and daughter, and Father Andrzej and Agnieszka Tenus and family proceeded to the buffet table.

Children of SOCL were introduced by Karina and sang "Listen to the Story" (solos on verses by Jonasz Tenus, Christopher Tenus and Emma Ford-Hunt), "Rudolph" and Jingle Bells. Ian Ford-Hunt and Karina Tenus sang "Cicha Noc", and were joined by other children with "Silent Night".

Patricia Lukaszewicz, age 6, daughter of Father Pawel and Monica of Chicopee, MA, sang a song she composed. She was accompanied by her father on keyboard. The Folcik sisters sang "Śliczna Panienska".

Father Andrew and Bob Hunt presented the 2016 Elf of the Year award to Dr. Bert and Diane Quirbach in recognition and appreciation of their outstanding service and



Bob Hunt presents "Elf of the Year" awards to Bert and Diane Quirbach

contributions to our parish and especially our youth. Santa Claus then appeared on stage and presented gifts to the children/young people in attendance.

Bishop Sobiechowski delivered his remarks. Father Tenus led a short sing-a-long after which he pronounced the benediction. "Silent Night" was sung in unison and everyone was invited TO join us in 2017.

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Afghan Raffle to Benefit St. Jude's

The beautiful Afghan shown here will be awarded to the lucky ticket holder at St. Casimir's Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, June 11.

The piece depicts the inspiring phrase "Jesus Loves Me This I Know For The Bible Tells Me So".



It was made and donated by Karen Breault specially for the benefit of St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Tickets will be sold at \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and can be obtained from most parishioners.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2017

Watch bulletin for additions and further information

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

Throughout the year, Youth of the parish are collecting items for *Operation Christmas Child*. Children and youth will prepare shoe boxes of useful items (school supplies, toiletries, games) to be distributed to children who are less fortunate.

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| February | Make pierogi and golabki |
| February 26 | Chocolate refreshments and viewing of movie "Chocolat" in anticipation of Lenten fasting (ANS) |
| February/March | Collection for "Jacob's Well" (sox, tee shirts) a facility for veterans (ANS sponsored) |
| March 1 | Ash Wednesday -beginning of Lent. Mass at 9 am and 7 pm with imposition of ashes . Lenten Services, Fridays, 7 pm. |
| March 18 | Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat . St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA 10 am-3:30 pm (ANS lunch) |
| April 2 | Meal in the Upper Room , St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA (ANS will assist) |
| April 9 | Palm Sunday -TOP Cake Sale |



A special Guest