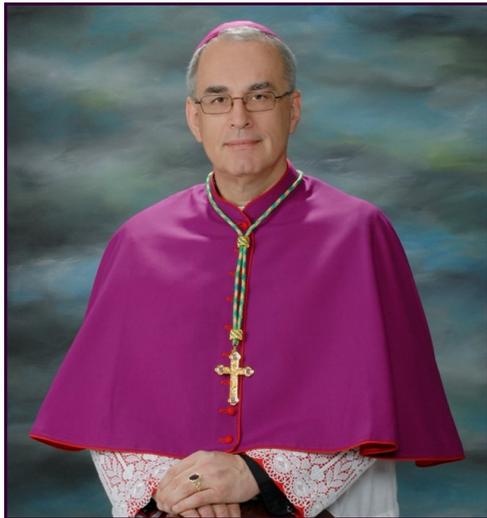


THE MESSENGER

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



FORGIVENESS IS A KEY ATTRIBUTE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Then Jesus said, "Father, Forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Luke 23:34, NRSV

We continue our 2019 journey down the road of "Discipleship" The Future Direction Committee advised all parishes at the very beginning to have some type of visible announcement when folk leave Holy Mass on Sundays that they are Disciples and should carry themselves as such. In the Cathedral we have taken the logo of their newsletter with the bold words **Discipleship** and placed them above the doors in the cathedral narthex.

During this season of Lent, as we walk out of our Church doors, I pray that we consider one specific characteristic of discipleship; **the grace of forgiveness**. We remind ourselves of forgiveness daily in so many ways. In the daily praying of the **Our Father** we say, *"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us..."* How often we catch ourselves daily saying "I'm sorry," implying, "Please forgive me." Every Sunday we confess our sins at the beginning of Holy Mass. In the Contemporary Rite first form we say "...I sincerely regret my sins and I am truly sorry...."

But are we truly asking to be forgiven? A favorite author of mine, C.S. Lewis, delivered a sermon at Oxford University, Church of St. Mary the Virgin, on June 8, 1941. It can be found in [The Weight of Glory](#), by C.S. Lewis. originally published in 1942 by G. Bles in London and by Macmillan Co., New York. In that sermon Lewis points out the following:

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Forgiving versus Excusing

"I find that when I think I am asking God to forgive me I am often in reality (unless I watch myself very carefully) asking him to do something quite different. I am asking him not to forgive me but to excuse me. But there is all the difference in the world between forgiving and excusing. Forgiveness says, "Yes, you have done this thing, but I accept your apology; I will never hold it against you and everything between us two will be exactly as it was before." But excusing says "I see that you couldn't help it or didn't mean it; you weren't really to blame." If one was not really to blame then there is nothing to forgive. In that sense forgiveness and excusing are almost opposites....

"When it comes to the question of our forgiving other people, it is partly the same and partly different. It is the same because, here also, forgiving does not mean excusing. Many people seem to think it does. They think that if you ask them to forgive someone who has cheated or bullied them you are trying to make out that that there was really no cheating or no bullying. But if that were so, there would be nothing to forgive. They keep on replying, "But I tell you the man broke a most solemn promise." Exactly: that is precisely what you have to forgive. (This doesn't mean that you must necessarily believe his next promise. It does mean that you must make every effort to kill every taste of resentment in your own heart – every wish to humiliate or hurt him or to pay him out.) The difference between this situation and the one in which you are asking God's forgiveness is this: In our own case we accept excuses too easily; in other people's we do not accept them easily enough."

C.S.Lewis gives us an important distinction to consider when we ask God or anyone for forgiveness. If we truly wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ, and if we hope to help others to become disciples of our Lord, we must seek forgiveness and not seek to be excused. To realize the difference will require prayer, discernment and actively training ourselves to always be aware of the difference.

In Scripture we find St. Paul's exhortation: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.." (*Romans 12:3, NRSV*)

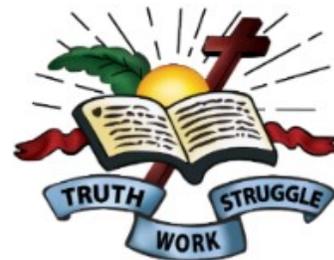
Paul calls us to "Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (*Colossians 3:13, NRSV*)

The Prophet Micah speaks to the benefit of true forgiveness when he writes: "***Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.***" (*Micah 7: 18-19, NIV*)

Let us use this Lent to understand the true meaning of forgiveness that we can indeed be the disciples of Christ that our Holy Mother, the Church, calls us to be.

+ Bishop Paul

The 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!"

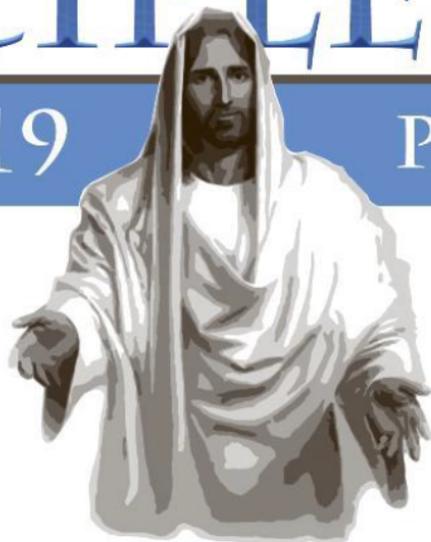
Respectfully submitted this day, October 3, 2018, by the Resolution Committee of the 25th General Synod of Polish National Catholic Church.

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

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2019

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

Develop and emphasize Discipleship through 2019: *Our purpose is to strengthen all members in their following of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Getting back to basics. Discipleship is who we are – all this flows from being a disciple of Jesus.* Please see the monthly Future Direction messages regarding this effort with concrete actions.

January – The Call to Discipleship “Follow Me”

Logo to be used during the entire year - Calling all to Discipleship

Projected Outcome: *Church members will have a deeper insight into the true nature of Discipleship, which will serve as the foundation for the rest of the year.*

February – The Disciple: Teaching by Example (Living the Virtues in our lives)

Series refresher on Catechism – Soup, Sandwich & Sermon (Presentation)

or Wine and spirit presentation format – see below for more information

Projected Outcome: *Church members will honestly reflect on themselves and come up with one way by which they can role model the life of Christian discipleship that month at home, at work, in school, etc.*

March – The Disciple: Repentance and Overcoming Temptation

Projected Outcome: *Church members will develop a better understanding of what it really means to repent and have a practical strategy to engage this and overcome temptations when they come.*

April – The Disciple: Called to Serve (The Mandatum)

Projected Outcome: *Church members will be inspired to choose one way to personally serve another person/other people within their everyday lives that month--at home, at work, in school, etc.*

May – The Disciple: Living the example of our Blessed Mother – Saying Yes to God

Projected Outcome: *Church members will be inspired to say Yes to God by a choice they make each week during this month choosing God’s Will for them and not their own.*

June – Clergy Appreciation Weekend & Sacred Vocations Month

The Disciple: Living the Great Commission - Disciples making Disciples

Projected Outcome: Church members will better understand their own roles as promoters of Sacred Vocations and come up with one practical way for them to personally do that during the month of June.

July – No Vacation for the Disciple: Living God’s Word

Projected Outcome: Church members will recognize that the life of discipleship is ongoing – even during the summer months – and they will be encouraged to continue regular Mass attendance on Sundays, even while away from home or during travel.

August – Let the Children Come to Me – Discipleship of and with our youth

Projected Outcome: Adult Church members will take an opportunity to speak with a young member of the Church to acknowledge the dignity and value of their place within the Church and to help them discern how might God want them to live out their discipleship in the new school year.

September – Disciples – ambassadors of Love and Mercy

Series refresher on Gospels – Soup, Sandwich & Sermon – Wine & Cheese

Gather – Book Club (Presentation)

Projected Outcome: Church members will genuinely live the two commandments of love and come up with a concrete way that they can show their love of God and neighbor during each week of this month.

October – The Cost of Discipleship

Projected Outcome: Church members will more fully understand that Christian discipleship means being willing to “take up our crosses” to follow Jesus and what this means in our every day lives.

November – The example of Saints and giving Thanks

Select Saints that have influenced folks in your parish and make a collage of them.

Also, Time in quiet prayer and meditation in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Projected Outcome: Church members will be more aware of the many gifts God has given them—especially those not typically acknowledged as such—and more clearly understand that the best way to express gratitude for them is to share them with others OR Church members will take the time to research the life of their patron Saint or another Saint as a means of being inspired in their own life of discipleship.

December – Fruits of Discipleship

Projected Outcome: Church members will reflect on their journey during the year and articulate two ways in which they have grown in their discipleship and two areas in which they still need to focus on with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Special Masses

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.

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.

Create a Business Free Zone

For 10-15 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time where 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 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.

Adult Continuing Education via a New Forum **Wine and Cheese Club or Soup, Sandwich and Sermon**

In the spring have a series reviewing our Catechism - the teachings of our Church, and then in the Fall a series on reviewing the Gospels – specifically the teachings of Jesus. This can be done via 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.

Social Media Presence

Short two minutes messages by various members speaking to our Year of Discipleship on YouTube. Continue to post monthly messages to our Facebook page and videos to YouTube and ask our members to share them. We hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts. Parishes should have a presence of Social Media to promote their Special Masses and events. Consider streaming Holy Mass live on the internet and use these tools to promote the work of the parish. Pastors are also encouraged to record and share their Masses and Para Liturgical Services.

Two Days of Spiritual Retreat

Lent and one other (Advent) Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2019 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.

Complete at least six community service projects

It is important that the six projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

Various options include but are not limited to: blood drives, a project to aid an assisted living facility, or other care facility i.e. nursing home, group home; volunteering for a special needs event; having a Mass or event for your local widow's group; aiding a family crisis center, food drives, serving a free meal for the community, providing a community breakfast/meal for First Responders – for Veterans; prayer blanket ministry, clothing drive for the community, sponsoring a local family in need, and/or responding to a particular need in the local community, etc.

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 | |

RESOLUTIONS OF THE XV EASTERN DIOCESE SYNOD

OCTOBER 28-29, 2016

The XV Synod of Eastern Diocese convened October 28 -29, 2016 in Bristol, CT hosted by Holy Trinity Plantsville Ct by the authority of Right Rev Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop Ordinary of the Eastern Diocese and attended by the Most Rev Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the PNCC. The Synod began with Holy Mass at Holy Trinity Parish celebrated by Bishop Sobiechowski and concelebrated by the clergy of the Eastern Diocese. Through our deliberations, we learned and discussed the following:

Whereas, we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Hodur by celebrating the Hodurian mass and receiving two presentations dedicated to the life and ideals of Bishop Hodur: the Convo2016 Video Presentation on the Life of Bishop Francis Hodur by the youth of the PNCC and the presentation on the life of Bishop Hodur by Prime Bishop Mikovsky and;

Whereas, we acknowledge the dedicated and ongoing work of the Future Direction Sub-Committee of the Supreme Council as they pursue the themes defined by the 14th General Synod: Growth and Membership, Increased Spirituality, Lifelong Learning, Sacred Vocations, and Community Involvement and Presence

Whereas, through the work of the Committee of Twenty and the small group discussions, the Synod body agreed to focus their attention on young adults between ages of 16 to 35 and to reach this audience through the following overarching goals:

- Increase awareness of our church through all social media outlets addressing
 - Our founding principles and beliefs
 - Bishop Hodur and his progressive ideas
 - The spiritual needs of these young adults
 - Provide clarity on our Catholic faith

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



On December 23, 2018 parishioners gathered together to prepare the church for Christmas. Wreaths were hung, garland and bows were arranged on the altar railings and by the choir loft. Trees were placed on both of the side altars and the manager was adorned for the holiday season.



Nathan Duplessis lighting the Advent Wreath with Bishop Paul.



Our greeters for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, the Three Amigos, Max Gagnon, Larry Gagnon and Stanley Bodner.



Bishop Paul and Karen opened up their home for their annual Open House after mass on December 30, 2018. Good food was prepared by Karen and all enjoyed a wonderful buffet accompanied by good conversations.



We celebrated our Oplatek Dinner on January 6, 2019. A homestyle meal was prepared by women of our ANS organization. The dinner began with a prayer by Bishop Paul, followed by breaking and exchanging Oplatek for blessings and well wishes for the upcoming year. Bishop Paul began the Oplatek breaking with Jo-Ann O'Connell our parish secretary.



The choir played Christmas music for a sing along which led up to Santa making a late Christmas visit to our youth. Santa, Larry Gagnon, was full of energy and captivated everyone's attention. Everyone enjoyed watching Santa interact with our youth which was a good ending to our dinner.



Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on January 27, 2019. Both old and new business was discussed and officers were sworn in.



At the completion of mass on February 3rd Bishop Paul conducted the Blessing of the Throats.



On February 17, 2019 our Ladies ANS held their monthly meeting followed by their annual Installation Dinner which was held at T-Bones Restaurant in Manchester. All that attended enjoyed delicious meals.



Soup for Seniors is a new program sponsored by our choir. Weekly, choir members make various types of soups which are then distributed to seniors after Sunday mass. Shown are Tom Grzywacz handing Charlotte Raszka the turkey chili which he made.

By Nancy Reilly



From Our Parishes ...

Blessed Trinity Parish Happenings

Blessed Trinity parish in Fall River continues to take advantage of opportunities to put our precious faith into action in meaningful ways in our greater Fall River community. An incredible response was received in Advent for our commitment to help our neighbors in need. Our Christmas Toy Drive was held in conjunction with our FR Police Department and local Neighborhood associations across the city. We were blessed to open our doors and welcome folks from across the city for an incredible wrapping party to help hundreds of children in need. And Kathy and I were invited to help our officers hand out these Christmas gifts.





During Advent as we concluded our Year of the Family we had families offer the prayers and light our Advent Wreath each of the four Sundays. We also now enjoy eleven Altar Servers at the Table of the Lord.





Birthday Party for Jesus - 2018



Our Advent Food Drive was another great success. This and the toy drive culminated at our annual Birthday Party for Jesus. Several of our parish youth were present for this celebration of our Lord's birth. It was great to see how many presents were given to Jesus for families in need in our community.

Our parish youth and a few adults did a tremendous job in making God's Word come alive with our Living Nativity. Each year they find a way to outdo themselves. What a blessing they are for us all.



Living Nativity - Dec. 16, 2018





January saw two baptisms in our parish and a new Altar Server Gabriella was baptized on January 13th and Charley on January 27th. May they be faithful and devoted members of Christ's Holy Church .

On Sunday February 3rd our parish held their annual Pancake Breakfast for the benefit of our parish Scholarship Committee after throats were blessed commemorate St. Blaise. Thanks to Jack, Pam, Julie, Chris and Steve

Scholarship Committee Pancake Breakfast - Feb. 3, 2019



for their wonderful efforts. Our youth enjoyed Patriots cupcakes prior to our Patriots winning yet another Lombardi Trophy. We enjoyed time at our Youth Group spaghetti and meatball supper in December and our PTA Cookie walk in February.

Blessing of Throats - St. Blaise Day 2/3/19



Youth Group Spaghetti Supper & Advent Penitential - Dec. 8, 2018





Blessed Trinity has committed to making a difference in our local community. The parish hosted a “Fall River Breakfast for Prevention” - a town hall meeting on suicide prevention and awareness on February 16th. Our two State representatives joined us (see their Facebook pages below) as well as many other local officials and organizations represented at the table. This event made the front page of the Sunday Fall River newspaper continuing this most important and necessary conversation. We also hosted a Narcotics Anonymous Speaker Jam from 12 noon until 9 pm on February 9th; a Fall River Falcons All Star Football banquet; a Thank You for Your Service Luncheon for a



Fall River Police Officer who has been instrumental in neighborhood efforts for the past decade; and collected \$1,500 for the New Year’s Day Fire in Fall River that displaced 80 people. We also made a couple of prayer blankets for parishioners who were sick.



Alan Silvia is attending Suicide Prevention Town Hall Meeting with Carole Fiola at Blessed Trinity PNCC. 1 hr - Fall River, MA

Carole Fiola is attending Suicide Prevention Town Hall Meeting with Alan Silvia at Blessed Trinity PNCC. 2 hrs - Fall River, MA

Today attending Suicide Prevention Town Hall Meeting presented by members of Bristol County Regional Coalition for Suicide Prevention. Many community groups represented today including FR/NB Samaritans. Thank you to Fr. Nemkovich and his wife Kathy for providing the venue for this very important issue. Let's remove the stigma of this through support and education. #importanttotalkaboutit

Today we attended the Suicide Prevention Town Hall forum presented by members of the Bristol County Regional Coalition for Suicide Prevention with several groups represented from the community including the Samaritans of FR/NB, Inc. The numbers are up. The stigma of discussing this needs to stop. Bristol County has numerous resources for family support and education. Let's... See More





Our annual commitment to the Souper Bowl of Caring was again made this year. Another incredible drive with 300 cans of soup collected. On this Sunday throats were blessed remembering St. Blaise. We also gave all our young families a special Valentine Day gift - the book "Words to Love By" and all are excited about Discipleship:2019!
Submitted by, **Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich**



Facebook Page:
**Blessed Trinity
PNCC**

From Our Parishes...

Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI



Our annual Candlelight Service and Birthday Party for Jesus was held on Sunday, December 16, 2018 and we had another great turnout. Clergy and faithful from across the Northeast seniorate gathered at Holy Cross parish to spend time in prayer, worship, reflection and fellowship as we prepared to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich celebrated this service and Fr. Was preached God's Word. Our Birthday Party for Jesus followed and we enjoyed the beautiful birthday cake that was delicious. Bishop Paul



Birthday Party for Jesus - Dec. 16, 2018



blessed the coats, hats and gloves collected for our annual winter clothing drive as well. These items were handed out to children who needed them in the Central Falls schools - pictured is Ed Paluch dropping them off. We also thank the ladies society for providing sandwiches.

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC





During December as we concluded the Year of the Family in our PNCC, we had families offer the prayers and light the Advent wreath. We were also excited to have Glen installed a new parish lector proclaiming God's Word.



In 2019 we have begun a parish assessment/audit - one of the suggestions from the synod break out sessions on our PNCC Future Direction. On the first Sunday in January we installed the Parish Committee that was elected for this Year of our Lord 2019.



**Solemnity of Epiphany
Jan. 6, 2019
Installation of 2019
Parish Committee**

Holy Cross participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 3rd - putting the teachings of our Lord into action to help those in need. Also throats were blessed this day as we commemorated St. Blaise.



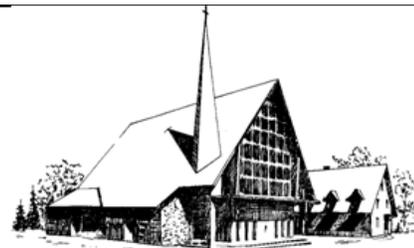
Submitted by,
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

Souper Bowl of Caring & Blessing of Throats - 2/3/19



From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



• Adopt - A - Family

For several years leading up to Christmas, the Ladies Sodality leads the parish in participation in the Adopt -A-Family program, which is held in the city of Woonsocket. Over 900 families annually apply for assistance through a local non-profit RI corporation for their children for Christmas.



This year children from four families from Woonsocket were sponsored. All donors remain anonymous to those who receive the gifts. This event is important to share with those in the community

of Woonsocket the spirit of giving, and share with their children the love that it brings to us to make their Christmas special. It is important for us all to remember, that no matter how big or small our organization or individual parish may be, that we are making the difference in the life of someone less fortunate. All it takes is one person to make a difference.

By Sally Watson

• SOCL Christmas Pageant

On Sunday, January 13, 2019 during the annual Parish Oplatek Dinner the School of Christian Living entertained parishioners of Our Saviour's and invited guests with a Christmas Pageant.

The SOCL students dressed as angels, wise men (one of them a little bit older than the two other), a star, and two particularly active "raccoons," told us the story of the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ in a poor manger in Bethlehem. The children had practiced their parts and were very excited to perform the Christmas play and speak about the birth of Christ.



As children read different parts of this play, parishioners and guests joined them in singing Christmas carols. At the end of the play two of our students played for us Christmas songs on piano and saxophone.

This parish event gave us also the opportunity to say thank you to Sally Watson for the great job she does as the organist and the choir director. Thank you Sally for your great job and dedication to the church.

At the end of the play all together sang Happy Birthday to Jesus. After the play, Father Henryk blessed the oplatek and the food. After sharing wishes with each other all enjoyed delicious food and desserts made by our parishioners.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

• **Parish Meat Raffle**

Everyone had a great time at Our Saviour's Meat Raffle, which was held on Friday January 25, 2019.

The aroma of Chef's Lonnie's Lasagna soup filled the church hall. It was a great night for soup as many of our loyal supporters and newcomers braved the cold for a fun evening.

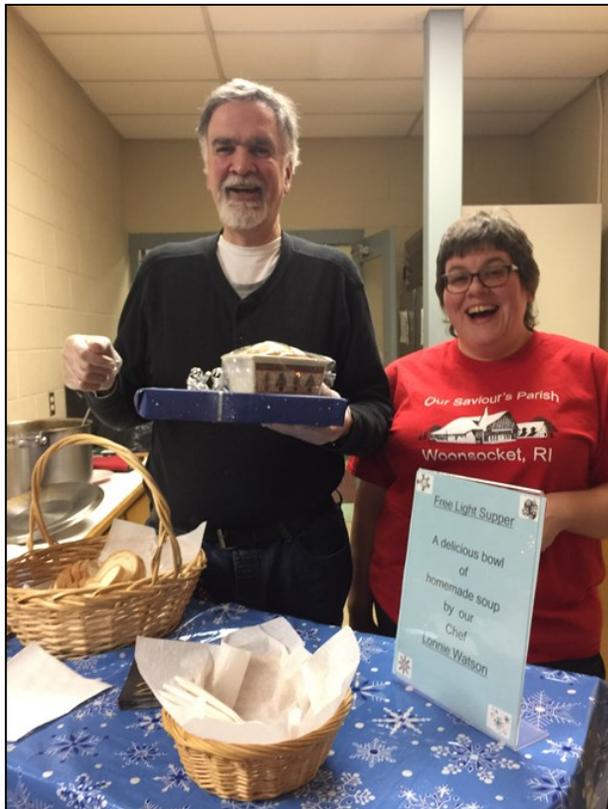
Our first Meat Raffle was held in January of 2012 and it is held 3 times a year- January, April and September. It has become a very successful fundraising event. Our best advertising seems to be word-of-mouth throughout the community.



Gerry Ethier Parish Chairman selling raffle tickets



Father Henryk Wos and Parishioners.....



Chef Lonnie Watson and wife Sally serving delicious Lasagna Soup.

Everyone involved truly works hard at their assignments, kitchen crew, dessert and beverage table, ticket sales...meat raffle passes, penny social, gift card raffle special raffle and split-the-pot and especially the clean-up crew. This small group of individuals makes the evening run smoothly!

It was all about SMILES especially if your ticket number was called. This Meat Raffle offers so many prizes... meat items, a breakfast package, 2 mystery envelopes, 2 bonus bags, consolation and attendance prizes and so much more.



Our "Hostess with the Mostest", Chris, likes what she got in her Bonus Bag.

A big hit of the evening is that we invite you to take home all the "TREASURES" on your table. EVERYONE goes home a winner!

Please join us for the next Meat Raffle on April 26, 2019. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the Meat Raffle begins at 7 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 for a pass that covers all 10 meat raffles throughout the evening.

You can bring a friend or make a friend... it's an evening full of fun at Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI. Co-chairs for this event are Philip and Patricia Kaczorowski. Thank you for your support!

By Patricia Kaczorowski



Shelby was all smiles as she collected raffle tickets and she was turning 11 on January 28th. Sto Lat!



Marie was all smiles because she won a Bonus Bag.



These Friends from Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls really had a good time!



Kate was a great help throughout the evening. She was in charge of the Mystery Envelopes.



Olivia is all smiles ... she won the Valentine Bear.

• Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 10th, the scouts and scout leaders of Our Savior's Parish participated in the celebration of mass under the direction of Fr. Henryk Wos.

Readings were performed by scout leaders Mike Kuchar, Brenda Dixon and Webelo scout Tyler Dixon. Collections were taken by Brownie scout Lindsay Dixon. Following mass, coffee hour was hosted by Sally and Kathy for all parishioners.



By Brenda Dixon

From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

- “Paint Nite “

Holy Trinity Parish in Webster is still going full swing in their fundraising efforts. They recently held a “Paint Nite” fundraising event in January gathering in a group of people of all ages for a fun afternoon of painting and socializing. There were also a couple of raffle to add to the fun. We try to sponsor a few of these events yearly with different themes. This was the first for the year with thoughts being on Valentine’s Day.



The last Saturday of the month is our scheduled free monthly outreach breakfast to the local folks. You can always guarantee that most of the people showing up are veterans from the different veteran organizations around town. Steve Rogerson, our local veteran’s agent for the Town of Dudley



always gets the word out. It’s a great time for them to get together and have a hot cup of coffee and breakfast. It’s always great to see some new faces. The menu varies month to month depending on what our dedicated group of ladies decide to make, but one thing is for sure, you will never go away hungry!

All are welcome to join us, even our 4 legged friends!

By Rita Ouellette



HOLY MOTHER OF THE ROSARY PARISH IN CHICOPEE, MA



The Christmas Dinner called traditionally “OPLATEK” was held on January 13th. That was a wonderful time when we were sharing oplatek – traditional Christmas wafer and extended our wishes to our family members, parishioners and friends. The Oplatek Dinner always includes a sing-a-long Polish and English Christmas Carols. Christmas is the time when we celebrate with our close family but also, we think how to help those who are in need, and how to open our hearts for them as we open them for the newborn Jesus. This is the reason why just a short time after Christmas we are organizing a Souper Socks Saturday when people from our parish and our community can donate items like socks, gloves, hats. This year on February 26th, we hosted Souper Socks Saturday for the fourth time. All collected items were distributed to the local shelters and places where people are in need. So far we have donated over 3000 pairs of socks. This is one example how we share our hearts and our love with people living in our community. Thank you for all donations.



Speaking of love, one of the days we typically show our love to special people is on Valentine's Day. We celebrated it on the Sunday before (Feb. 10), having a Valentine's Breakfast together with many raffles and games. Father Pawel Lukaszewicz entertained us by singing songs about love.



Our parish is always grateful for the many parishioners, their families and friends and we would like to say thank you to all of them for being with us and sharing their love with us. Recently a beautiful rose vestment for our parish was donated by James and Patricia Reilly. Father Pawel blessed the vestment on Septuagesima Sunday, February 17th, and celebrated Mass for the first time in that liturgical color to begin the Pre-Lenten season. Our pastor and parishioners are very thankful for this donation.



On Sunday, February 24th, at 4p.m. our church celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation which was administered by our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski. Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation were James and Alyssa Oxley, father and daughter. Alyssa chose a name Joan and her uncle John



Hollywood to be her sponsor. After she received the Sacrament of Confirmation, she became a sponsor for her father James who chose a name Nathaniel. After service in the church the Bishop Paul, all invited priests, Fr. Sen. Fryderyk Banas, Fr. Robert Koerber, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, our pastor Fr. Pawel Lukaszewicz, all guests, family and friends enjoyed a dinner in our social center prepared by our parishioners.

We keep them in our prayers, especially Alyssa who is leaving in March to serve in the US Air Force in Texas. God bless you!

Submitted by Fr. Pawel Lukaszewicz



From our parishes...

St. Valentine's Parish, Northampton, MA

WORKSHOP – POLISH CHRISTMAS STAR



St. Valentine's parish sponsored a workshop on how to make Polish Christmas Ornaments Saturday, December 8, 2018 from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish hall. The workshop was directed by our parishioner, **Nancy Slusarski**. She provided instruction and materials (colorful Christmas wrapping paper) to make a star ornament.



Each workshop participant (10 in all) worked very hard to make their ornament and were pleased with their creation. Everyone had a great time working and socializing. We thank Mrs. Slusarski for sharing her talents for this workshop.

By *Krysia Newman*



POLSKIE KOŁĘDY SING ALONG – ST. VALENTINE’S CHURCH



St. Valentine’s Polish National Catholic Church and the Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton, Massachusetts celebrated the Christmas Season with a concert of Polish Carols. The event was held January 6, 2019 and hosted by St. Valentine’s Church. With twenty lead singers and over two hundred guests, the Annual Polskie Kolędy Sing Along featured twenty traditional Polish Christmas Carols and

Pastoralki. Some of the selections included: “Cicha Noc”, “Wśród Nocnej Ciszy”, and “Śliczna Panienska”, “Dzisiaj w Betlejem”, “Oj Małuški, Małuški”, “Mędrcy świata, monarchowie”, “Pastuszkowie bracia mili”, ”Bóg zawitał”, “Skrzypi wóz” and “Nowy Rok bieży”. The lead singers were comprised of choir members from area churches throughout



the Pioneer Valley. The organist for the event was Jean Gromacki, the organist at St. Valentine’s as well as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parishes.

This year we were privileged to have two special guest musicians, Eddie Forman, Accordionist, the leader of the Eddie Forman Orchestra for over fifty years and retired Music Director of the Hadley Public Schools after thirty four years. Lenny Kokoski, violinist and bass player with the Eddie Forman Orchestra for seven years who currently plays for the Mark VI Band and is a participant in the Polish Carolers group from Ludlow, Massachusetts.

This year the program was a little different from previous years – in addition to the blessing of chalk and incense, two Gospel readings were read: “Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary” and the “Birth of Jesus” by Rev. Adam Czarnecki and Rev. Robert Koerber, respectively.

(cont. on next page)

In addition, the program included a live Nativity scene portrayed by Janina Bolibok (Mary), Stephen Matusiewicz (Joseph), Lucy Karieva (Angel), Francis Martin, Isaac Scott and Nancy Slusarski (3 Kings), Dennis Daniels, Mary Ellen English and George Symborski (Shepherds). Some are members of the Polish Heritage Committee and some are parishioners of St. Valentine's Church.



Rev. Czarniecki opened the event with prayer asking God to open our hearts to praise Him and give glory by singing the beautiful Polish Carols which are about his miraculous birth. During the intermission Rev. Czarniecki blessed incense and chalk for distribution to all in attendance. Bob Gibowicz, Chairman of the Polish Heritage Committee, Northampton, spoke about "Polish Christmas Traditions".

Rev. Robert Koerber, Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield offered a closing prayer and noted that the event was beautiful and the carols described what Christmas is all about – the birth of Jesus.

It was very heartwarming to see so many guests in attendance. This year was the largest attendance – the church was packed. The event culminated with a reception and fellowship in the Church hall. We all had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the 2020 Polskie Kolędy Sing Along scheduled for January 5, 2020. Watch for the announcement!

by Krysia Newman

Coming Events/Classes

- ♦ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — **Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Prayer & Discussion Leader: Rev. Adam Czarniecki, Pastor
- ♦ **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — **Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm** — Parish Hall. Instructor: Rev. Adam Czarniecki, Pastor
- ♦ **ZAPUSTY AT ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH** — **Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm**
- ♦ **GORZKIE ŻALE** (Bitter Lamentations) in Polish - every Tuesday during Lent at 6:30 pm (as a part of Polish Language Class)
- ♦ **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** (Droga Krzyzowa) in English - every Friday during Lent at 6:30 pm
- ♦ **MAY DEVOTION** (with sung Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary) in Polish - every Tuesday during May at 6:30 pm (as a part of Polish Language Class)

From our parishes...

St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT

- **Polish Dinner at St. John's** On Saturday evening, March 2, the church hall of St. John's in Manchester, CT was packed with people who have come to experience delicious Polish food prepared by the church team led by Mr. Joseph Bednarz (chairman of the parish committee) and Fr. Adam Piekarczywski (parish administrator). Our dinner menu included pierogi, golabki, bigos & variety of



cakes. All the guests were very impressed by the atmosphere, Polish music & of course by the tasty food. During the dinner there was a possibility to take part in Polish food raffle – 3 bundles of Polish food were prepared as prizes. The big success of the Polish dinner (70 people participated)

prompts us to continue... What will be next at St. John's, Manchester?! Pierogi Festival or maybe Polish breakfast?! If you're interested, visit our website (saintjohnspncc.com) & follow us on Facebook: John the Baptist, Manchester CT.

By Fr. Adam Piekarczywski



From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT

- Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, Ct held its third annual “Sweats for Vets” drive during the months of November and December, 2018. Parishioners and friends were very generous this year and we were able to bring two large boxes filled



with sweat shirts, sweat pants, flannel shirts, socks, hats and gloves to Veteran’s Crossing, a shelter for veterans in East Hartford, CT. The residents were excited and thankful to receive warm clothing for the holiday.

- At the monthly church dinner on Wednesday, February 6, 2019, Ms. Marissa Mastroianni was presented the Pernal-Danieleski Scholarship offered by Holy Trinity PNCC in Plantsville, CT. Ms. Mastroianni, who is a freshman at Southern Connecticut University in Hamden, CT is studying to become a social worker. She has maintained a 4.0 point average.



L-R: Sandy Wood, President, ANS, V.Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor, Mr. Mastroianni, Marissa’s Dad, Marissa, and Marilyn Folcik, Parish Chairperson.

The scholarship is named after two generous families, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Pernal and Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Danieleski, lifelong members of Holy Trinity. It is awarded each year to a student graduating from Southington High School.

Submitted by: Marilyn Folcik

• Christmas Eve at the Stable

For the Children's Christmas Party at Holy Trinity/Church of the Transfiguration in Plantsville, the youngsters (and the young at heart) performed "Christmas Eve at the Stable" for the parishioners present. In this story, the animals try to answer the Owl's question about which animal was most important on the night Jesus was born. Each animal presents a reason why he or she represents the most important. Unfortunately, the animals get into a little argument about this! However, the Owl points out that the Donkey has not yet spoken, and it is his soft statement about the service that Donkey provided throughout the life of Jesus and the imprint of the cross on the Donkey's back that calms everyone down. They all go to sleep keeping each other in their prayers and thinking about the night's discussion.

Our small group took on this task eagerly. The Owl and the Sheep were played by Ethan Soboleski. Aidan Daviault played the Dog and the Donkey. The Dove was played by Erin Wood, and Cleric Justin Daviault kindly joined the cast as the Cat and the Cow.



L-R: Ethan Soboleski, Erin Wood, Diane Hodgkins, Aiden Daviault and Cleric Justin Daviault

Following the play, everyone present joined in singing "The Friendly Beasts."

Submitted by Diane Hodgkins

From our parishes...

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

HOMECOMING 2018

Homecoming 2018 was celebrated at St. Casimir's of Lowell, MA on Saturday, December 1.

Guests were greeted as they entered the hall and were seated at individually decorated tables. They served themselves appetizers prepared by parishioners as Christmas music played in the background.



At 5 pm the hall was darkened and the first star was brought forward by Emma Ford-Hunt, Christopher Tenus, Amelia Tenus and Neveah Guida while Janice Klimczak sang "O Holy Night" accompanied on the accordion by Diane Quirbach.

Guests, including Bishop Paul and Karen Sobiechowski, diocesan bishop and wife, were welcomed by Co-Chairmen Robert Hunt and Dr. Bert Quirbach after which Father Tenus said a blessing over the food.



Guests were asked to share the oplatek with family and friends, new and old, after which pierogi appetizers were served.

Guests at the head table were called to the buffet by Dr. Quirbach after which other tables were called to partake of a dinner of stuffed baked breast of chicken, mashed potatoes, string beans, carrots, and cranberry sauce. Dessert consisted of homemade pound cake with strawberries or chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

Children of SOCL, sang "The Friendly Beasts", "Sliczna Panienska" and "Children Go Where I Send Thee" accompanied by Father Tenu and Diane Quirbach. The Tenu Family presented a "pastoralka" entitled "Gore Gwiazda Jezusowi". After the children were introduced they returned to their seats to partake of dessert.

Irene Jaracz of St. Casimir's ANS explained the 2018 Giving Tree Charity. This year we are collecting white socks for veterans. Our goal is to



provide 300 pairs to veterans in hospitals as well as those who are homeless.

Father Andrew, Bob Hunt and Bert Quirbach presented the

2018 Elf of the Year award to Nancy Picanso, a tireless and energetic worker in the parish kitchen for her service to St. Casimir's.

Santa Claus appeared onstage to present gifts to children and young people.

The Folcik sisters sang "Licze Na Ciebie Ojczy", beginning the sing-a-long led by Father Tenu.

Fr. Tenu introduced Bishop Paul for his remarks after which Bishop pronounced benediction and everyone left for home, well fed and in a joyous mood.

By Janice Klimczak

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Extremely cold weather finally arrived in southeastern Connecticut at Divine Providence Parish after the New Year at the end of January. But so far this year we have been very lucky weather-snow-wise, in that we have had only a couple snow storms and cold weather events.

Otherwise the succession of events over the Holidays - Thanksgiving – Advent – “Wreaths Across America” wreath laying ceremony at our cemetery – Pasterka - Christmas –New Year’s – Epiphany – Annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner - were enjoyed by all.



Wreaths Across America

Our parish participated in the nationally sponsored Wreaths Across America event for the fourth consecutive year with a wreath laying ceremony on Saturday December 15, 2018 at our own cemetery. The weather this year for the ceremony was a moderate cloudy but cold day with no snow on the ground.

We had in attendance for the ceremony 16 people this year. This is the third year that individuals could purchase wreaths decorated with a red bow and a mini Polish flag which were laid in advance at their friend’s and loved ones’ graves as part of our event. All wreaths were either removed from the cemetery on the same day that WAA wreaths are removed from Arlington National Cemetery or on request left until the spring clean-up in April.



Wreaths Across America Ceremony Participants

The Christmas Season

We had a fine attendance this year for our Christmas Pot Luck Dinner. The parish provided the roasted meat and parishioners who attended brought the side dishes and desserts. Beautiful traditional Christmas carols and delicious smells from the kitchen were in the air. A very simple quiet way of celebrating the holiday.

Bingo and Taste of Poland Continues

Our Bingo Nights continue every second Friday of the month beginning at 7:00pm. There are usually close to 50 players in attendance having fun and vying for the cash prizes. Our Bingo number caller, Jerry Donat continues to call the lucky numbers. Bingo leaders Rick and Marianne Siemiatkoski and Judy Donat collected entrance fees, distributed bingo cards, double checked winner's cards and distributed prizes.

Preceding the Bingo, the Taste of Poland kitchen is open between 5:00pm and 7:00pm selling Polish food delicacies. You can choose from golabki, four kinds of pierogi, kielbasa sandwiches with kapusta, hearty soups, and delicious desserts. Be sure to try the specials of the evening! This kitchen is led by Ela Chmielewska and church member volunteers. The food prepared for the evening in February sold out before it was time for the kitchen to close.



Taste of Poland Guests



Kitchen Helpers



Kitchen Serving Area



Guests Enjoying the Food



Bingo Leaders



Bingo Players and Bingo Caller



Bingo players in the Parish Hall



Hopefully, the months of February and March will be a quiet end to the winter months as we go into Lent and Easter.

By George Ververis

Upcoming events and activities at Divine Providence Parish, P.N.C.C. for the next three months will include:

- **SUNDAY SERVICES:** Mass at 9:00am and 12:00pm every Sunday.
- **HEALING SERVICES:** Mass at 11:00am every third Wednesday of the month in the church social hall followed by a light lunch.
- **BIBLE STUDY:** Sunday after 9:00am Mass.
- **SUNDAY SOCIAL HOURS:** Coffee and snacks after 9:00 Mass every Sunday.
- **Lent Begins, Ash Wednesday Service:** Wednesday, March 6, 2019 Mass at 11:00am.
- **Lenten Services:** Sundays during Lent, March and April after the Sunday 9:00am Mass.
- **Annual Parish Meeting:** Sunday, March 10, after 9:00am Mass.
- **Annual Flea Market/Taste of Poland: Vendors, the Sweet Shoppe Bakery Table, the Trash and Treasure Room, and the Polish Bazaar:** Saturday, April 6, 2019, 8:00am to 3:00pm in the church social hall. We will have some 20 vendors from our area with crafts, wares, and collectibles, the Sweet Shoppe Bakery with delicious treats, and the Trash and Treasure Room and Polish Bazaar with and lots of bargains. The Taste of Poland kitchen will be open during the Annual Flea Market from 9:00am to 2:00pm serving delicious breakfast and lunch items with a Polish touch.
- **Lenten Retreat:** Monday, April 8, 4:00pm Mass, Tuesday, April 9, 11:00am Mass, Wednesday, April 10, 11:00am Healing Mass with Lunch.
- **Palm Sunday Service, Bake Sale, and Breakfast:** Sunday, April 14, at 9:00am will be followed by the Palm Sunday breakfast and bake sale.
- **Interfaith Lenten Cantata:** Sunday, April 14 in the afternoon at Taftville Congregational Church, Taftville, CT at a time yet to be determined.
- **EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:** Sunday, April 21 at 6:00am, 9:00am, and 12:00pm Masses.
- **Easter Dinner:** Sunday, April 28 at a time yet to be scheduled.
- **Annual Greenville Neighborhood Clean-Up Walk:** Sunday April 29 after Mass.
- **Mother's Day:** Sunday, May 12, celebrated with placing flowers.
- **BINGO NIGHTS:** Every second Friday of the month starting at 7:00pm. The Taste of Poland is open before Bingo from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Entering our fourth year of Taste of Poland and Bingo, we are proud to say it has been a profitable and fun adventure. Both events are very successful and well attended. We are serving delicious food for over 100 customers in 2 hours. None of these events would be possible without our wonderful volunteers who run the kitchen, make/cook the food, and run Bingo. Thank you to all who have helped in any way to make such a successful event.

Rick Siemiatkoski
Ela Chmielewska

Making gołąbki and pierogi for Taste of Poland. We are serving our delicious food for over 100 customers in two hours!



Diocesan Events:

“Make Room in Your Heart” at the 2018 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In

A rainy windy day did not keep folks away from the 2018 Winter Youth Gathering and Lock-In on Friday December 28 and Saturday December 29, 2018. 35 youth, adults and clergy from across our Eastern Diocese gathered at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, Massachusetts for this special time of prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with their brothers and sisters in the faith.



Our Youth Chaplain Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich welcomed everyone and this Youth Gathering began with a prayer for the time together and remembered our National Youth Chaplain + Bishop Stanley Bilinski (a picture of Bishop Stan was in the hall for this retreat). Joanne Oliveira led a reflection/examination on how the youth have incorporated the Year of Family in their individual and parish families since our Diocesan Youth Retreat this past August. It was wonderful to see some of the great things our diocesan youth have been doing to live and share their Catholic faith by concrete actions done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.





We received a visit from the angel Gabriel (Kathy Nemkovich) who spoke to us about her conversation with the Blessed Virgin Mary. She spoke about how our Blessed Mother "Let It Be" done unto her as God had asked. Gabriel told us that we as well needed to let God's will be done in our lives and introduced the kids to the Beatles classic song "Let It Be" as a tool to help easily remember what we are to do when we have faith and hope.

An activity was then led by Kathy Nemkovich and Joanne Oliveira on making special Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering Ornaments with the verse of Luke 2:11 "For unto us is born this day...a Saviour which is Christ the Lord and a picture of Jesus, Mary and Joseph at the stable in Bethlehem.



We received a special visit from “Shep” (Dylan), a shepherd who was there the night Christ was born, to help Fr. Sr. Rob talk about the Holy Masses of the Christmas Season. The youth learned about “Lex Orandi – Lex Credendi” – what we pray is what we believe and what God, our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church is teaching us during these Masses and what we are praying for. We discussed the three Masses of Christmas, the Feast of St. Stephen and John, the Memorial of Holy Innocence and the Solemnities of the Holy Family, Humble Shepherds, Circumcision of our Lord, Holy Name of Jesus and Epiphany. The presentation ended with an introduction to the theme of our PNCC for next year: Discipleship:2019.



Prayer Blankets was the next activity that we made with love and care for children in need in Fall River. These blankets would be blessed during the closing Mass of the Winter Gathering. Thanks to our wonderful chaperones who helped out in this important effort to help some children in need and let them know that they are loved and prayed for.



PNU District 3 sponsored a pizza party and everyone enjoyed some great local pizza. Remember the support that the sister organization of our Church the Polish National Union (PNU) gives to our Church and consider becoming a member if you are not one already. After everyone had more than enough pizza we gathered in Church for a group picture and some reflections from Bishop Paul.



The Magi was our next presentation given by Fr. Pawel Lukaszewicz. Fr. Paul spoke about the Wisemen, the Solemnity of Epiphany and how our homes can be blessed during the Epiphany season. (20 C+M+B 19 or 20 K+M+B 19). He concluded his presentation by bringing out his guitar and leading everyone in singing "We Three Kings of Orient Are".

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Game Time featured Team Jesus and Team Christ as the youth on each team had five seconds to answer questions about the presentations they had heard and participated in during the Winter Youth Gathering. It was very nice to see how much they learned during this time together.

Fr. Paul and his guitar came back as we enjoyed singing several Christmas Carols, many religious and a couple of secular ones as well. We had quite the diocesan youth choir – it was great to hear and see their enthusiasm in singing their hearts out!

Fr. Paul and his guitar came back as we enjoyed singing several Christmas Carols, many religious and a couple of secular ones as well. We had quite the diocesan youth choir – it was great to hear and see their enthusiasm in singing their hearts out!



Another staple of our annual gathering is Nativity Bingo – everyone had a blast playing to see who would win, get four corners and fill a card. Many laughs were had and some interesting gifts were won.



The Ice Cream Sundae Social was a big hit. Sundaes of many kinds were created by our youth and adults and gallons of ice cream just disappeared. Thank you again to PNU District 3 for sponsoring our ice cream social.



After all the blow-up mattress and sleeping bags were in place, and popcorn and chips were at the ready – every enjoyed the movie “The Star”. If you haven’t yet seen it – it is worth your time and effort to do so. After the movie and a couple of big bags of popcorn, Fr. Sr. Rob led everyone in evening prayer.



Saturday morning came quickly and after deflating the mattresses, folding up the sleeping bags and straightening up the parish hall all gathered for the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Fr. Sr. Rob celebrated Mass on this the Solemnity of the Holy Family. In his brief homily he spoke about the importance of the Holy Family, how they are the example for all families to follow by saying "Yes to God" and that we need to make sure that we "Make Room in our Hearts" for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. Fr. Paul concelebrated



Mass with Fr. Sr. Rob and Cleric Justin Daviault assisted. The readings were proclaimed by Deacon Candidate Bob Bradbury and Cleric Justin. After Mass the prayer blankets were blessed and will be given to children in need.







After singing the traditional camp/youth retreat grace, a fantastic breakfast was served. Thanks to Bev, Laurie, Jim and Jessica for cooking us delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and of course – Donuts. Fr. Sr. Rob thanked all the youth for making the time for Jesus. He thanked the adults for chaperoning and especially Fr. Paul who made the effort to be there for our youth!

Our diocesan parishes represented were: Blessed Trinity – Fall River; Holy Cross – Central Falls; Holy Mother of Rosary - Chicopee; Holy Trinity – Plantsville; Our Saviour's - Woonsocket and St. Joseph's – Stratford and Holy Trinity Cathedral. Clergy participating: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Fr. Paul Lukaszewicz and Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our diocesan Acolyte Retreat in June and at Youth Retreat 2019 at Camp Howe in Goshen, Massachusetts from August 18-22. This year our youth can again bring a friend with them to Church Camp! Save the date and plan to join us. Have a blessed New Year 2019 as we begin Discipleship:2019 in our Holy Church. Let us always make room in our hearts for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Diocesan Youth Chaplain



Diocesan Events and Programs:

LENTEN RETREATS

*NORTHEAST SENIORATE
EASTERN DIOCESE – PNCC*

SATURDAY – MARCH 9, 2019

ST. CASIMIR'S PARISH – LOWELL, MA

SATURDAY – MARCH 16, 2019

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH – FALL RIVER, MA

BEGINS AT 9:00 A.M.

ENDS BY 2:00 P.M.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED



*COME SPEND TIME IN PRAYER, MEDITATION AND
WORSHIP*

*ON THE SALVIFIC PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST*

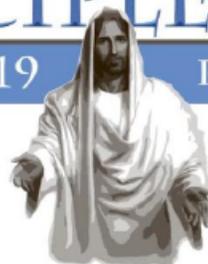
RSVP BY MARCH 5TH TO:

RobNem21@aol.com

DISCIPLESHIP

2019

PNCC



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 (paid for the bowling trip) and winter youth gathering (provided a pizza party and ice cream social).

The Easter Raffle will take place on Sunday, April 7, 2019 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 third prizes are \$25.00 cash.



Tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00 and 7 for \$10.00. Please download the tickets and make as many copies as necessary. 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

Maryann Zarek (District 3 Director)

2019 EASTERN DIOCESE ACOLYTE RETREAT

TUESDAY – JUNE 25, 2019

OUR SAVIOUR'S PARISH – WOONSOCKET, RI

"DISCIPLESHIP: 2019 - FOLLOWING JESUS"

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT LINCOLN WOODS PARK

SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIPS, SERVING IN PROCESSIONS AND SERVING FOR PARA-LITURGICAL SERVICES



*Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow
Altar servers - Plus a trip swimming at Lincoln Woods Park
Open to Altar Servers of our diocese - registration is just \$10*



*To register or for additional information
contact:*

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

(508) 672-4854 - RobNem21@aol.com

FOLLOW ME ~ JESUS

6TH ANNUAL CAMPOREE

**OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE
OF THE PNCC**

JULY 12-13-14TH 2019

OUR SAVIOUR PARISH

**500 SMITHFIELD ROAD
WOONSOCKET, RI**



COST:

\$15.00 PER PERSON

The program of the Camporee include:

- ◆ *REVIEW OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SCOUTING AWARDS*
- ◆ *DISCIPLESHIP IN THE BIBLE*
- ◆ *DISCIPLESHIP IN THE CHURCH*
- ◆ *DISCIPLESHIP IN THE COMMUNITY*
- ◆ *SCENARIO OF A BUS ACCIDENT TO TEST FIRST-AID SKILLS*
- ◆ *CAMP FIRE*

DEADLINE:

JULY 7, 2019



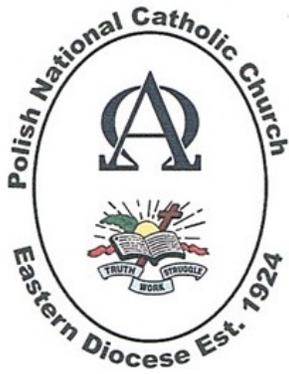
AND OF COURSE A LOT OF FUN!!!

CONTACT:

Mr. Michael Kuchar: (401) 473-4121; mlku@aol.com

Fr. Adam Czarnecki: (413) 584-0133; fradam1967@yahoo.com

The Camporee is open to all who want participate: current, past and perspective Scouts (Boys and Girls) from our PNC Church and even outside of our Church



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

Assignments:

- As a result of the last General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church a number of individuals were appointed or re-appointed to various commissions and positions of the Church. Those particular to the Supreme Council were published in the October 2018 edition of God's Field. The remainder, we expect, will appear in a future issue of God's Field.
- We do take the opportunity to congratulate Father Adam Czarnecki for his appointment as National Chaplain for the Program on Scouting.
- We also congratulate Mrs. Jo-Ann O'Connell who was elected by the diocesan caucus to serve on the Supreme Church Tribunal.
- We extend our condolences to Father Thomas Walsh and his family on the death of his mother, Gloria Walsh on February 22. She was 92 at the time. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.
- We extend our congratulations to Father Adam and Magda Piekarczywski who are expecting a second child. Their son Jan will soon have a baby brother or baby sister.
- We express our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mrs. Dorothy Stahelski who died recently. Dorothy was a member of St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA and a dedicated Polish National Catholic who devoted her entire life to the Church. Serving in so many capacities on a parish, diocesan and national levels, she exemplified Discipleship by loving her church and loving people as she loved her Lord and Savior. The Eastern Diocese is a better church for the service she rendered to it. Wieczny odpoczynek racz jej dac, Panie.

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Monday, March 4 - Eastern Diocesan Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Teleconference
- Tuesday, March 5 - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Teleconference
- Monday, March 11 - Eastern Diocese Youth Commission Teleconference
- Tuesday, March 12 - Eastern Diocese Senior Priests Teleconference
- Tuesday March 19 - Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Meeting at Our Saviour Parish in Woonsocket, RI
- Monday, March 25 - Eastern Diocese Committee on Scouting Teleconference
- Tuesday March 26 - Eastern Diocese Administrative Seniors Meeting (tentative date)
- Tuesday, April 2- Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference at Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish in Chicopee, MA

- Monday, April 8 or Thursday April 11 - Eastern Diocese Financial Committee Meeting in the Diocesan Chancery
- Monday, April 29 - PNCC College of Bishops Meeting in the National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, April 30 - Wednesday May 1-Supreme Church Council Meeting in the National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Friday May 3 - Sunday May 5 - National A.N.S. Convention at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA
- Thursday, May 9 - Eastern Diocese Northeast Seniorate Teleconference
- Tuesday, May 14 - Wednesday, May 15 - PNCC / RC Dialogue Meeting at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY
- Saturday, May 18 - Eastern Diocese ANS Convention at location to be announced
- Monday, May 20 - Wednesday May 22 - National Mission and Evangelism Commission Meeting at Holy Trinity Parish in Washington, PA
- Wednesday, May 29 - District Three Polish National Union of America Teleconference
- Saturday, June 1 - Eastern Diocesan Council Meeting at St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA
- Monday June 3 - Wednesday, June 5 - National Liturgical Commission Meeting - at the National Church Center in Scranton, PA

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

- Wednesday March 6 - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 10 – **First Sunday of Lent is observed** / *The Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church is observed in the Traditional Mass Rite with a second Collect and in the Contemporary Rite with an additional General Intercession Prayer*
- Saturday March 16 - Lenten Retreat - Eastern Diocese Northeast Seniorate at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA
- Saturday, March 16 - Lenten Retreat - Eastern Diocese Southwest Seniorate at Holy Cross Parish in Plantsville, CT
- Tuesday, March 19 -Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 24 - **Third Sunday of Lent is observed** / *The Solemnity of St. Gabriel the Archangel is observed in the Traditional Mass Rite with a second Collect and in the Contemporary Rite with an additional General Intercession Prayer*
- Monday, March 25 - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Monday, April 1 - Observance of the birth of First Prime Bishop Francis Hodur (1866)
- Sunday, April 7 - Passion Sunday
- Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday
- Tuesday, April 16 - Eastern Diocese Chrism Mass at Divine Providence Parish in Norwich, CT
- Sunday, April 21 - Solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord
- Monday, April 29 - Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist (*translated*)
- Tuesday, April 30 - Solemnity of St. Joseph the Workman

- Wednesday, May 1 - Feast of Ss. Philip and James, Apostles
- Friday, May 3 - Solemnity of the Finding of the Holy Cross
- Friday, May 10 - Observance of the death of Bishop Joseph Padewski (1951)
- Thursday, May 23 - Observance of the death of Father Jerome Savonarola (1498)
- Thursday, May 30 - Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord
- Sunday, June 9 - Solemnity of Pentecost
- Saturday, June 15 - Solemnity of Confirmation to be conferred to candidates at Our Saviour Parish in Woonsocket, RI
- Thursday, June 20 - Corpus Christi

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

- Sunday, March 10 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Sunday March 17 - St. Patrick's Day - U.S.A.
- Friday, March 29 - Sunday, March 31 - National Mission and Evangelism Workshop hosted by Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT
- Thursday, April 25 - Friday, April 26 - Convocation of the Union of Scranton in the National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Friday, May 3rd - Observance Day of the Polish Constitution
- Sunday, May 12 - Mother's Day - U.S.A.
- Thursday, May 16 - Saturday May 18 - Y.M.S. of R. Men's Spiritual Retreat at the Bishop Hodur Retreat and Recreation Center in Waymart, PA
- Saturday, May 18 - Armed Forces Day - U.S.A.
- Monday, May 27 - Memorial Day - U.S.A.
- Friday, June 7 - Sunday June 9 - Y.M.S. of R. Bowling Tournament hosted by St. Joseph's of Stratford Parish in Stratford, CT

Polish Poetry



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

Lenten Poetry

Popielec - by Krzysztof Piechowicz

Z włosów na czoło
 Wargi dłonie
 Stopy
 Sypie się proch rozpada
 W proch
 Światło źrenic powietrze
 Nozdrzy płuc i krtani
 Ogień serca krew
 Pot woda
 I wątroby i nerek
 I włókno i ścięgno
 Jak przed własnym poczęciem
 Jak po własnej śmierci
 Z prochu w proch
 Od włosów
 Po stopy
 Pod stopami
 Pod wirującą posadzką ziemi
 Panie panowie
 Koniec
 Karnawału
 To tylko wirują nasze
 Cienie
 Żywe i martwe
 Światło powietrze woda
 I jeśli usłyszysz
 Wołanie z głębin
 Tej biednej
 Tej sproszkowanej
 Łez doliny
 Niech znaczy jedynie
 Tak – tak
 Nie – nie
 Wszystko co nadto
 Jak kąkol
 W ognistym piecu spal
 Bo to
 Nie Twoje.



Dary - by Katarzyna Sarabun

Daleś swego Syna,
 Abym mogła być w Królestwie Twoim
 Życie, abym mogła żyć dla Ciebie.
 Wolną wolę, bym wybrała
 Drogę życia.
 Wiare, abym wierzyła w
 Twoje istnienie.

Ash Wednesday

From the hair on the forehead
 From the lips the fingers
 The feet
 The dust sifting into dust crumbling
 Into dust
 The light of the eye the air
 Inside the nostrils the windpipe the lungs
 The fire inside the heart the blood
 The sweat and water
 Of the liver and the kidneys
 The fiber and sinew
 As before your own conception
 So after your own death
 From ashes to ashes
 From the hair
 To the feet
 And beneath the feet
 Underneath the spinning tile of the earth
 Ladies and Gentlemen
 The End
 Of Carnival
 Only the spinning
 Of our shadows
 The living and the dead
 Of the light and air and water
 And if you hear
 A voice calling from the depths
 Of this pulverized
 Impoverished
 Valley filled with tears
 Let its meaning to you be
 Yea, yea
 Nay, nay
 For anything more
 Is like the chaff
 Cast into the oven
 Because it
 does not belong to you.

Gifts

trans. Daniel Bourne

You gave Your Son
 So that I could be in Your Kingdom;
 Life, so that I could live for You.
 Free will, to choose
 the path of Life.
 Faith, to believe in
 Your existence.

Rozum, abym rozpoznawała
Znaki Twej miłości.
Serce, do kochania bliźniego
Łzy, abym okazywała
Wzruszenie.
Usta, abym mogła
Wysławiać Ciebie pieśnią.
Krzyż życia, abym zrozumiała
Jak wielką, łaską jest Twoja miłość.

Stabat Mater - by Teofil Lenartowicz

Wiatr w przelocie skołał chyżym,
Przeniknęła ziemię zgroza,
Krzyż na skale, a pod krzyżem
Stabat Mater dolorosa.

Żadnych słów i żadnych głosów:
Krew z korony bożej spływa;
Wobec Boga i niebiosów
Stała Matka boleściwa.

Na konania patrząc bole,
Rany, pręgi od powroza.
Na lzy oczu, cieni na czole,
Stabat Mater dolorosa.

Konająca od współmęki,
Przyjmująca śmierć za żywa.
Cieni i gwoździe z bożej ręki,
Stała Matka boleściwa.

Jak, raniona szybkim strzałem,
Deszczem lzy wylewa brzozą,
Z takim sercem przebolełam
Stabat Mater dolorosa.

Czując męki w piersi wzdętej,
Jak się życie w lzy rozplywa,
Łza przepada w uśmiech święty,
Stała Matka boleściwa.

Jak świat wielki opuszczona,
Gdy ją zdjęła życia zgroza,
Prerażona, że Bóg kona,
Stabat Mater dolorosa.

Z wysokości więc boleści,
Która ludzkie gładzi grzechy.
Na jęk trwogi, żal niewieści
Jeszcze promień spadł pociechy.

„Nie zostawię cię sierotą.
Ukochana do ostatka,
O! niewiasto, syn twój oto,
Janie! oto twoja matka.”



Intellect, to recognize
The sign of Your love.
Heart, to love my neighbor.
Tears, to demonstrate
emotion.
Lips, to be able to glorify
You in song.
Cross in life, to understand
How great a grace is Your love.

Stabat Mater trans. Danuta Romanowska

The wind in haste swiftly died,
Penetrated the earth in horror,
The cross on the rock, and under the cross
the Mother Dolorosa.

No words and no sounds:
Blood from God's crown flows;
In the presence of God and Heaven
Stood the suffering Mother.

In agony she looks on His pain,
Wounds, stripes from the whip.
Tears in the eyes, thorns on the forehead,
the Mother Dolorosa.

Agonizing from the shared grief,
Accepting death while alive.
Thorns and nails in God's hands,
Stood the suffering Mother.

As if wounded by a speeding arrow,
With tears flowing like rain pouring from the birch,
With such a suffering heart,
the Mother Dolorosa.

Feeling grief in a swollen breast,
As life melts in tears,
Tears disappear in a holy smile,
Transfiguring the suffering Mother.

As the great world is abandoned,
Moved with pity at the horrors of life,
Frightened that God is dying,
Stands the Mother Dolorosa.

From the height of grief,
Which smoothes human sins,
To the groan of fear, womanly sorrow,
Still the ray of solace falls.

“I will not leave you orphans.
Beloved to the end.
O! Woman, here is your son.
John! Here is your Mother!”

By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

trans. Danuta Romanowska

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Cathedral 166 Pearl St., Manchester, NH-03104-4236 Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Pastor (603)622-4524</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Joseph's Parish 73 Main St., Westfield, MA 01085-3189 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor (413)562-4403</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Blessed Trinity Parish 37 Winthrop St., Fall River, MA 02721—2541 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Pastor (508)672-4854</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Valentine's Parish 127 King St., Northampton, MA 01060-3234 Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor (413)584-0133</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">St. Casimir's Parish 268 Lakeview Avenue, Lowell, MA 01850-2313 Rev. Andrzej Tenus, Pastor (978)453-0742</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Church of the Transfiguration 8 Concord St., New Britain, CT 06053-2904 Rev. Paul Dudek, Administrator (860)229-2693</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Vos, Pastor (401)762-3072</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 723 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082-2903 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Administrator (860)745-5066</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Parish 200 Summer St., Plantsville, CT 06479-1119 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Pastor (860)628-0736</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Cross Parish 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT 01850-2313 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Adam Piekarczywski-Administrator (860)643-5906</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Administrator (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Thomas Walsh, Administrator (203)923-2424</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Henryk Vos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072</p>	

Diocesan Chaplains

<p style="text-align: center;">Diocesan Newsletter Editor Rev. Henryk Vos</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Scouting Commission Rev. Adam Czarnecki</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">United Choirs Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Polish National Union of America (Spojnia) District 3 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">School of Christian Living Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Deacon Program Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Young Men's Society of the Resurrection Rev. Thomas Walsh</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lay Ministries Rev. Adam Czarnecki</p>

Country Prayer for Lent

Dear Lord, we are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin to realize anew that these are the days of salvation, these are the acceptable days.

We know that we are all sinners.

We know that in many things we have all offended Your infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the land, leaving an arid, dusty desert.

Help us now, Lord, in our feeble attempts to make up for past sin.

Bless our efforts with the rich blessing of Your grace.

Make us realize ever more our need of penance and of mortification.

Help us to see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up for past infidelities.

Every day we are so often reminded in field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless generosity to us.

Help us to realize that You are never outdone in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and flowing over.

Then we shall see, in our own souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected of it from the beginning. Amen.

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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!