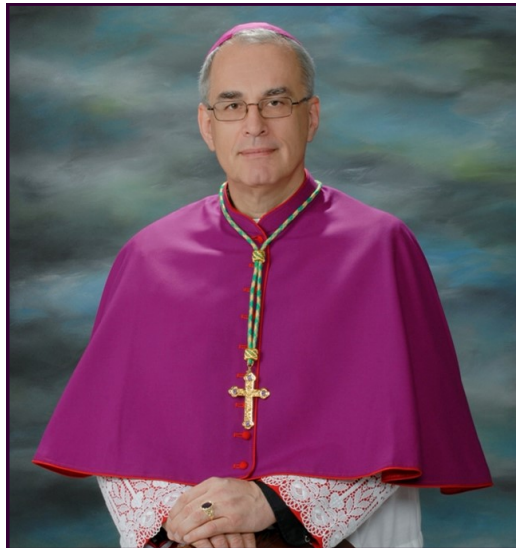


# THE MESSENGER

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



## AN ADVENT OF GRACE

Humanity fears what the future holds with COVID-19 dominating so many aspects of life. People wonder: how long will it take to turn the corner on this dreadful plague? What is the future of world health, peace and the economy? Can we ever get back to life as it was before the pandemic?

The world faces the uncertainty of a “new season” of human existence. The Church, too, begins a new season of expectation and hope. On the solemnity of Christ the King it rejoices in Jesus’ victory over death, and on the following Sunday, we begin a new Church year with the First Sunday of Advent.

While the world fears what the future may hold, the Church fears not. Rather it rejoices in the Salvation given to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. We await the Christ-child who will take our human form. He will spend three years building the foundation of His Church. He will then offer His life for us, a ransom for many, a perfect oblation. He will then rise from the grave and give that same hope of resurrection to those who believe and trust in Him. The Church does not fear. The Church rejoices and we share that hope of salvation with all who live in fear.

The first reading from the Book of Isaiah shared on the First Sunday of Advent (nine days from the date of this writing) says, “Return for the sake of your servants.... Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways!” (Isaiah 63: 17b,; 64: 4a). Our focus must be on Christ and His teachings. “Love one another as I have loved you.” “Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

**Cont. next page.**

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The responsorial of the First Sunday of Advent has us proclaiming together: *“Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80:4).*

Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians states, *“He will strengthen you to the end...he who called you to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord” (1:Cor 1: 8a,9b).* With God “strengthening us to the end” we do not fear what the world confronts us with. Masking, social distancing, washing hands, etc., is not a sign of fear or yielding to fear. Rather it is a proper use of the common sense God gave us. And working with these common sense devices the Church continues to worship, to teach, to serve, and to bring the message of Good News to the world.

We, as a Church and as a diocese, move forward without fear!

As of the writing of this article our Diocesan Synod was forty-one days ago. Since the synod occurred the minutes of the gathering have been completed and distributed to all delegates, the diocesan commissions appointed have already begun meeting, the Strategic Planning Commission is developing steps of action based on the synod’s resolution, the diocesan seniorates have met to elect their representatives to the Eastern Diocesan Council, and the Council members have been composed with 28 representatives in total.

The annual diocesan clergy retreat was changed to an evening reflection. This occurred two days ago with almost all our clergy present on Zoom with Father Christian Tutor (an Anglican priest of All Saints Parish in Concord, Anglican Church in America), serving as retreat master.

One administrative seniors meeting has also taken place.

This coming Sunday, the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Thanksgiving raffle of District Three, Polish National Union of America will take place benefitting the youth of our diocese.

The Mission and Evangelism Commission has encouraged all Eastern Diocesan Faithful to pray for our Diocese, our Church and for healing and peace in the world with a 12 o’clock noon praying of the Our Father and the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. The Commission has further encouraged every parish to take part in a diocesan-wide food collection through November and December, with food collected going to local food banks.

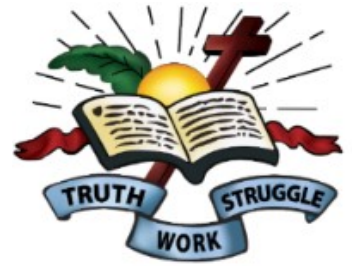
Clearly, as a diocese we are moving forward in spite of the challenges of COVID-19.

So as we approach Advent and Christmastide I encourage all of our diocesan family to step out in faith and courage. May our Churches be open and may they be open to all. May we use all the ways that technology affords to share a message of hope. Let our virtual reality also be a place where Holy Mass can be shared; School of Christian Living, Catechism and Bible Studies be taught, parish families be brought together.

The past forty days have proved a good beginning to the four years ahead of us till the next Diocesan Synod. A hymn sung in many of our parishes reminds us: ***“Be not afraid, I go before you always...”***

**Bishop Paul**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Eastern Diocese Sixteenth Diocesan Synod**

We may be in the middle of a pandemic, but the work of the Church continues. Thirty-six delegates and twelve guests gathered via Zoom on Saturday, October 10, 2020, for the Sixteenth Diocesan Synod of the Eastern Diocese, hosted by Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA. Distinguished guests included the Prime Bishop, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, and also Bishop Paul Hewitt of the Diocese of the Holy Cross (a G-4 member church).

The morning was devoted to the business of receiving reports of committees, officers, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, the administrative seniors, organizations and commissions. The Prime Bishop commended the Eastern Diocese for setting a fine example of generosity for the rest of the Church, for its own substantial donation to the PNCC Clergy Pension Fund and for matching funds given by the individual parishes. Also notable is the outreach work being done throughout the Diocese, even during this time of social distancing. A number of parishes have applied and received funds through the Grant Program, and Bishop Paul urged others to do so, while funds were still available.

The final report of the morning was that of the Strategic Planning Committee, established at the Fifteenth Diocesan Synod four years ago. Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd and Larry Gagnon summarized the work of this Committee, which investigated how parishes make their presence known within their communities, using a matrix over the span of six months. They researched the use of media by parishes and offered training and encouragement in this endeavor. The Committee suggested focus areas for the future: commitment, tradition, branding and goals for growth. The work that this Committee has done in the last four years laid the groundwork for the afternoon breakout group discussions. Lay delegates and guests assembled in one Zoom group, and clergy met in their own group to discuss the detailed plan set forth by the Committee.

Larry Gagnon and Kathy Nemkovich served as facilitators for the discussion of key questions, and Dr. Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd synthesized the groups' ideas about the short-term, medium, and long-range goals for the Eastern Diocese. In summary, the Synod participants affirmed their **commitment** to the strategic plan and for a designated person to present and oversee the implementation of it. Continuing education of our PNCC faithful is a key component in promoting **tradition and branding**, equipping all Polish National Catholics to succinctly and effectively share their Christian faith. A greater use of **social media** will help to expand the reach of our Church, and a greater knowledge of the demographics in each community will help to foster **growth**. As the plan is implemented in each parish, the results will be shared to inspire and encourage all to continue in their call to fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

At the conclusion of the breakout sessions, the Synod body voted unanimously to support the Strategic Action Plan. Although the current climate has changed the way we worship and reach out to others, we trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire and guide the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee and of the faithful people of the Eastern Diocese.

***Submitted by Karen Sobiechowski, delegate to the Sixteenth Synod of the Eastern Diocese***

## **Resolutions of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod October 10, 2020**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# DISCIPLESHIP

2020

PNCC



## DISCIPLESHIP: 2020

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

### DECEMBER – ST. JOSEPH – PROTECTOR OF THE LORD: OBEDIENCE, TRUST, PATIENCE

Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

*Reflection Question:* St. Joseph was obedient to the will of the Father even when asked to do some very difficult things. Have you struggled to embrace God's will for your life in the past? How can you spiritually prepare to more fully surrender your life as a disciple of Jesus?

*Schedule and conduct* Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

### PARISH ASSESSMENT – PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

Steady and lasting *Growth* in “readiness” to reach out and welcome others to our Church and Parishes.

*What and how will it be done:* Focus on two project areas for parishes to systematically put their house in order both physically and spiritually. Some parishes are better maintained than others, but no parish is ever complete. Just as in our own spiritual lives there is always room for improvement, and we are never complete. We must keep moving forward in some way.

Phase 1: The outcomes of this phase would be twofold: first, the plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved grounds and church building.

Phase 2: The outcomes of this phase would also be twofold: first, the assessment and plan itself and then the actual execution of the plan resulting in improved (or at least confirmed satisfactory state of) the liturgical life of the parish.

*Final outcome:* Parishes with increased internal readiness that leads out to external growth in membership; feeling a sense of humble and grateful pride at what God had helped them accomplish and a growing sense of healthy confidence that they are truly ready to welcome others who are seeking a spiritual home.

This is really grounded in the observation that perhaps we are not as ready as we might think to welcome new growth in membership and the notion that every parish can and must continue to improve itself.

### SPECIAL MASSES

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

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

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

### **CONTINUE THE 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 continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes. Encourage use of the introductory pages of the Mass booklet – *especially page 8* as well as prayers from our Prayer Book preparing for Holy Mass and Confession.

### **CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR 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.

### **ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION**

#### **WINE AND CHEESE CLUB OR SOUP, SANDWICH AND SERMON**

Continue to gather for adult education and formation in our Christian Catholic faith. Perhaps you could use the questions for reflection from the monthly figures for 2020 above. 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.

### **TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT**

**Lent and one other (Advent)** Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and one other time in 2020 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 24<sup>th</sup> PNCC General Synod and further expanded upon at the 25<sup>th</sup> PNCC General Synod***

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

*From Our Parishes...*

**Fall 2020: Blessed Eventful Days  
at Blessed Trinity in Fall River**



The Fall was an extremely busy time at Blessed Trinity as we continued to adapt to our ever changing environment and continued in new ways to keep our parish and community events ongoing.

Thanks to all who helped make pierogi on two busy weekends in September. We made 507 dozen of potato and cheese pierogi and 284 dozen of cabbage. We were blessed to find out that they were all sold at Polish Food Fest! This effort allows us to continue with the work and ministry that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continues to call us to do in our community and world.





## September Youth Group Gathering enjoys pumpkin painting



Friday evening September 25th was our first youth group gathering and the kids had a blast painting pumpkins and then playing games. Thanks to Carrie and her family for organizing this activity and the fun games that followed. We have some talented and creative youth. Thanks also to all who helped with the cost of the pizza!



## October begins with Blessing Animals, Chrust and First Penance



Our first weekend of October was a busy one with the blessing of animals on Saturday morning and that was followed by making about 160 containers of Chrust-Chrusciki. On Sunday the six youth of our First Holy Communion Class made their First Penance. A special day for Adrianna, Connor, Enrik, Logan, Maya and Maks.



## Record Number of Golabki Made

Mid-October saw our Golabki Making efforts. Thanks to all who helped us make 1924 of these delicious delicacies. These efforts took Thursday, Friday and Saturday to get them made in preparation for our 2020 Polish Food Fest.



## Enrik Installed as an Altar Server

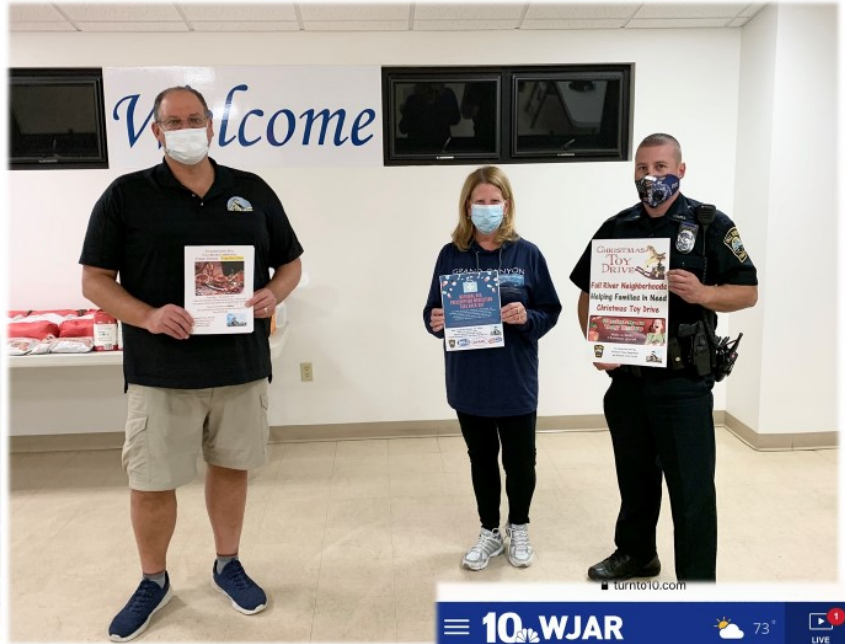


On Sunday, October 18th we were happy to welcome Enrik as another parish Altar Server. We are so blessed to have such faithful and dedicated youth that serve around the Table of the Lord.



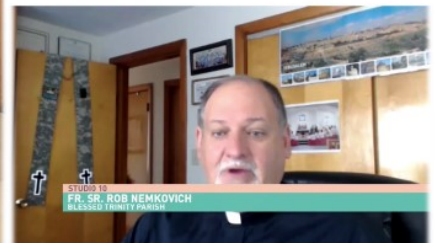
## Neighborhood Meeting on Community Efforts , Baking, WJAR and WSAR

Our Neighborhood Meeting on Oct. 19 discussed upcoming DEA Drug Return, Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Toy Drive - all at our parish. Thanks to our amazing bakers and to Will Flannagan of WSAR for two slots on our parish efforts and to Lindsay Ladeluca of Channell 10 for the parish interview.



### Polish Food Fest

by STUDIO 10  
Thursday, October 22nd 2020



*It's been a tough year when it comes to fundraising and fundraising events. But Blessed Trinity Church in Fall River isn't letting the pandemic put a damper on one of their annual events! Their Polish Food Fest is going on as planned and we learned what you can expect and when it's happening!*



It's been a tough year when it comes to fundraising and fundraising events. But Blessed Trinity Church in Fall River isn't letting the pandemic put a damper on one of their annual events! Their Polish Food Fest is going on as planned and we learned what you can expect and when it's happening!



## Our 2020 Polish Food Fest was our First Ever Sell Out - Praise God!



Our parish decided to adapt to the Covid situation and we were blessed beyond measure not to cancel our Polish Food Fest. A complete Sell Out, lines out to Winthrop Street

and a profit of over \$25,000 for our parish. Thanks to all who helped and supported this event in so many different ways. It is always a pleasure to welcome our mayor and state

representatives at our parish . And it was great to have different DEA Agents pull all the raffle winners too! More on this on page 10.



## Parish Hosts Successful National DEA Prescription Medication Take Back



Our doors continue to be open to make a difference in our local community. It was a pleasure to again host the National DEA Prescription Medication Return on Saturday Oct. 24th along with day 2 of our Polish Food Fest. It was nice to welcome our FRPD Chief Cardoza and members of the DEA and FRPD. Many used prescription medications were returned and disposed of safely and properly. And no one can claim any bias with our raffle winners as the agents from the DEA and our local Police Officers picked the winners.



Like Comment Share



City of Fall River Police Department

1 min · 🌐

348lbs of drugs were collected today during the Drug take back! Thank you to all involved!



## Early Snow Does Not Chill our Youth Group's All Hallows Eve Gathering

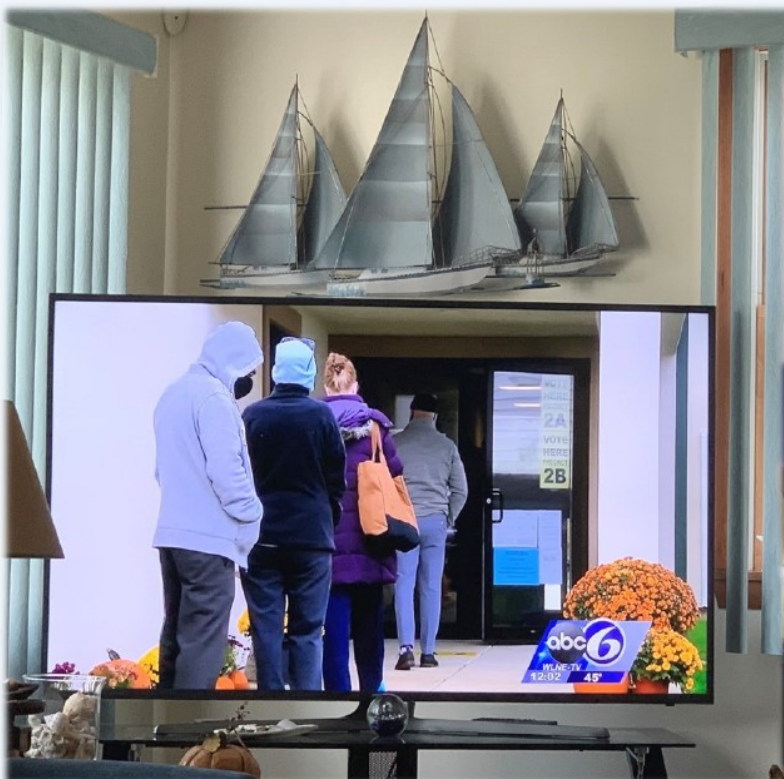


Our parish youth group gathered for an All Hallows' Eve party with a table of sweets for a procession of sweets. Thanks to the Landis family for supper and Carrie for game time. Thanks also to all who individually packed treats for our precious youth. A safe fun time!





# 1,300 voted at Blessed Trinity this election day - November 3rd and our parish was featured on Providence ABC 6 news



Protected Count: 2123 Precinct Voting Report	
Unit Serial Number:	031938578
2B	
Total Paper Sheets:	616
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	
Number to Vote For	1
BIDEN and HARRIS	272
TRUMP and PENCE	2
Write-in	321
Blank Ballots	1
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	6
Number to Vote For	1
CHARLIE J. HANLEY	247
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR	266
Write-in	12

Protected Count: 2264 Precinct Voting Report	
Unit Serial Number:	031932199
2B	
Total Paper Sheets:	684
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	
Number to Vote For	1
BIDEN and HARRIS	190
TRUMP and PENCE	4
Write-in	14
Blank Ballots	328
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	2
Number to Vote For	1
CHARLIE J. HANLEY	189
KEVIN J. O'CONNOR	278
Write-in	8
Blank Ballots	11



## Parish Youth Pack Shoeboxes to Help Children in Need



On Sunday November 8th after Holy Mass our School of Christian Living Lesson was packing boxes for children living in extreme poverty this Christmas. Our youth wrote notes to those children who will be receiving these shoeboxes.



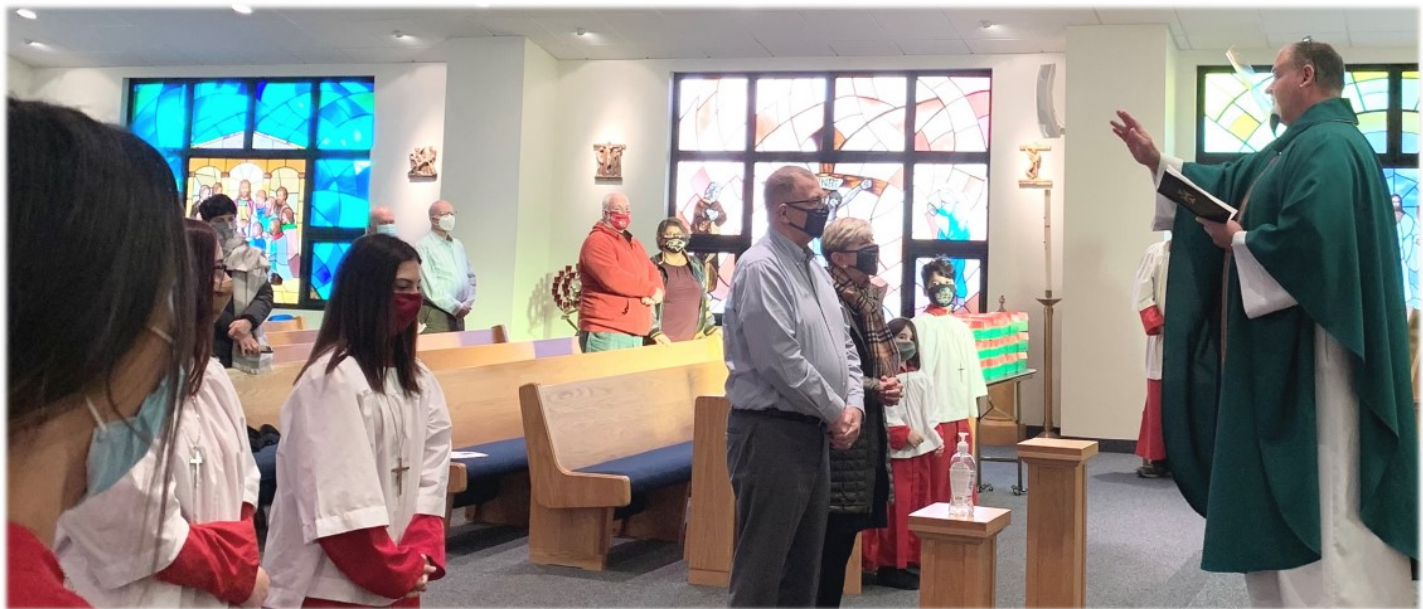
## Another Successful Operation Christmas Child Drive for 2020



Thanks to all who supported our annual Operation Christmas Child drive. Between our parish and Holy Cross in Central Falls 80 boxes were delivered by Kathy and Fr. Sr. Rob to the collection center on Monday November 16th.



## 50th Wedding Anniversaries Blessed



This fall our parish celebrated two 50th Wedding Anniversaries that were blessed by the Church. Paula and Vasco on Sunday September 6th and Pam and Jack on Sunday November 15th. May God bless you all on these special golden anniversaries. May your love for each other, for God and His Church continue to grow throughout your lives.



## Silent Auction and Thanksgiving Brunch for Parish Scholarship Fund



Adapt and adjust is the sub theme of 2020 and we did just that for our annual Thanksgiving Brunch and Parcel Post Auction for our Scholarship Committee. We had a silent auction with 25 parcels spread out throughout the hall and a Take Out Only Brunch with the same fare as always. Thanks to all who supported this event as we raised \$1,500 for our parish Scholarship fund. God bless you and our future scholarship recipients !

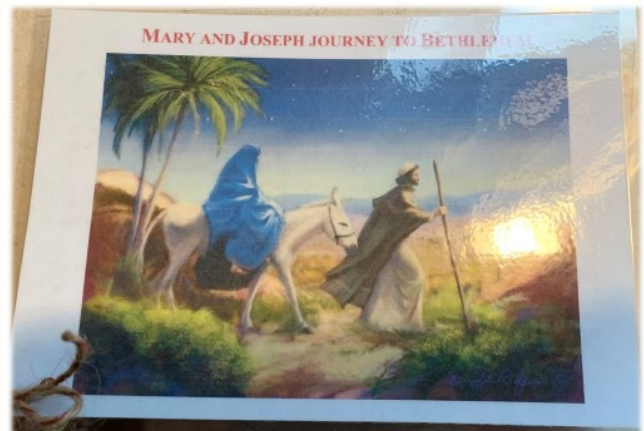


## Advent Activities prepared for our Parish Families



As we near the coming Advent season on Sunday November 15th Kathy gave to all our parish families a “Mary and Joseph Journey to Bethlehem” activity and a daily advent calendar.

May we all use this time wisely to draw ourselves closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and be prepared to meet Him whenever that may be.



*Kathy and I offer to you and your family a great way to keep Christ in Christmas this year!*

Each day, week or at various times during Advent as we lead up to Christmas, consider placing Mary and Joseph further and further along a path through your house to Bethlehem and a manger scene. The kids will have the task of finding them somewhere in the house along their journey. On Christmas Eve, Mary and Joseph will arrive at the stable and then on Christmas morning baby Jesus will join them.

God asks us to be focused on Him every day of the year. Our prayer is that this little game helps your family to develop this habit by turning our focus on Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior each day of this upcoming advent/holiday season.

On the Sunday before Christmas at the Birthday Party for Jesus Kathy will give you all a figure of the baby Jesus. If you will not be here that Sunday, please let us know. As our world and culture becomes more and more secularized let us continue to celebrate the birth of the God's Son – our Lord Jesus Christ!

God bless you all – Fr. Sr. Rob

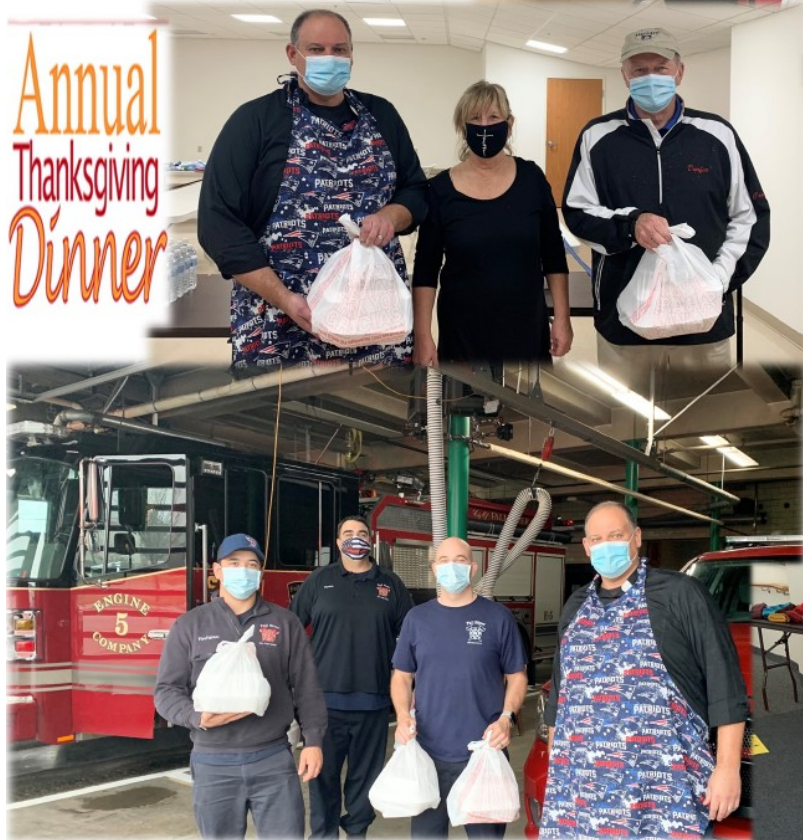
## Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner feeds many in Need



A rainy Thanksgiving Day did not stop 120 Turkey dinners being served at our Community Turkey Dinner. Thanks to all who supported this efforts in so many ways. It was nice to have our Mayor stop by as well. With the left overs we delivered meals to two FRFD Firehouses and our FRPD Police Station. Blessed to able to help some in our city!



Annual  
Thanksgiving  
Dinner



## Parish hosts Diocesan Synod via Zoom - Diocesan Appointments Made



On Saturday, October 10, 2020 our parish hosted our Eastern Diocesan Synod. Due to Covid the synod was held virtually on Zoom. We were able to accomplish all the work of the synod in this fashion with our afternoon spent in break out groups developing a strategic plan for the future of our diocese. Kathy and Fr. Sr. Rob served as moderators for this synod.

Bishop Sobiechowski made the following appointments of members of our parish to serve our Holy Church: **Diocesan Strategic Plan** - Bob Bradbury; **Diocesan Youth Commission** - Joanne Oliveira, Eric Nemkovich, and Fr. Sr. Rob (Chairman); **Diocesan Webmaster** - Bob Bradbury; **Diocesan Mission and Evangelism** - Bob Bradbury, Kathy and Fr. Sr. Rob. Bishop also reappointed Fr. Sr. Rob to the following: **Diocesan Youth Chaplain**, **Chairman of the Diocesan Diaconate Formation Commission** and **Chairman of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission**. Bob Bradbury, Kathy and Fr. Sr. Rob will also serve on the diocesan council for the 2020-2024 term. God bless you all on your appointments as you serve our Lord through His Holy Church. Our parish is well represented in our diocesan work and ministry.





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## Upcoming Blessed Trinity Parish Events and Information

**Dec. 5 - Youth Group Spaghetti Supper & Advent Penitential Service**

**Dec. 13 - After Holy Mass - Living Nativity**

**Dec. 20 - After Holy Mass - Birthday Party for Jesus**

**- 4 pm Candlelight Service at Holy Cross Central Falls**

**Dec. 28-29 - Diocesan Winter Youth Gathering at our parish**

**Jan. 6 - Epiphany Visitations by appointment only**

**Jan. 31 - Scholarship Committee Pancake Breakfast**

**Feb. 7 – Souper Bowl of Caring**

**Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday**

**Feb. 19 and all Lenten Fridays – 6 pm Lenten Supper (*Covid Dependent*)  
and Lenten Services**

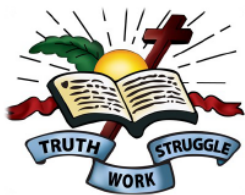
**- Lenten Food Drive begins**

**Feb. 27 – Lenten Retreat for NE Seniorate – Woonsocket, MA**

**Feb. 28– Cookie Walk – sponsored by the PTA**

**Feb. 28– Annual Congregation Meeting**

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

**Mailing Address:**

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

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

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

***Facebook:* Blessed Trinity PNCC**

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

***Website:* BlessedTrinityChurch.org**

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

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

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

# From Our Parishes...

## Holy Cross News – Central Falls, RI



Fall continued our discipleship and outreach to our immediate local communities of Pawtucket and Central Falls. We held Drive-Thru/Walk-Up Food drives on October 31. We also began our Preparation for our annual Polish Kitchen to help us continue the work our Lord is calling us to do with four pierogi workshops.

### Holy Cross Drive Thru - Walk Up Food Drive & Thanksgiving Basket Prep too - 10/31/20



Central Falls / Pawtucket COVID-19 RESPONSE  
Holy Cross Parish Drive-Thru Food Drive  
Saturday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 10-11 am or until we run out



Holy Cross Pierogi Workshop Fun - Thanks to all who volunteered - Oct. 3, 2020



Cabbage Pierogi Workshop success thanks to a great crew! Oct. 17, 2020



Our Third Pierogi Workshop - Thanks to our great volunteers! 10/31/20



This fall we had great support for our annual Operation Christmas Child Drive as well as our Thanksgiving Baskets where Tolman High School challenged us to six baskets this year and we were blessed to provide them with seven and during this Covid year they were thrilled!



**2020 Christmas Winter Clothing Drive**  
Holy Cross Parish - Central Falls, RI  
Please drop off your items by Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

**KEEP OUR COMMUNITY WARM THIS WINTER**



**DONATE WINTER CLOTHING!**



**Share the Warmth!**



 Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Holy Cross PNCC Central Falls RI**





**Central Falls / Pawtucket** 

**Holy Cross Parish Drive-Thru Food Drive**

**Saturday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 10-11 am or until we run out**



Our *Take Out Only* Polish Kitchen was a great success and we thank our parish volunteers and our local community for their great support.

We are now beginning our Winter Clothing Drive and look forward to our next Drive Thru—Walk Up Food Distribution Drive on December 5th too! Discipleship 2020 continues ...

Submitted by, **Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich**

From our parishes...

## Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



- **SUNDAY MASSES ARE CELEBRATED REGULARLY AT 10:30;** they are streamed live and available on our Facebook Page: Our Saviours Parish PNCC.

- **DAILY MASSES.** The Holy Mass at Our Saviour's Parish is celebrated from Monday to Friday at 8:00 a.m. The Mass is streamed live on the parish Facebook Page. Fr. Henryk celebrates the Mass each day in a different language (English, Polish, Italian, German, and Spanish).

- **ECUMENICAL/COMMUNITY SPIRIT.** On October 10, 2020 Our Saviour's Parish community participated in the Woonsocket Day of Prayer which took place at River Island Park in Woonsocket. Many Priests, Pastors and religious leaders, together with the Officials of the City of Woonsocket, and the people of Woonsocket gathered together to pray to God for His blessing and protection for our city. On behalf of Our Saviours' Parish Father Henryk Was offered prayers and intercessions for the families of our city.



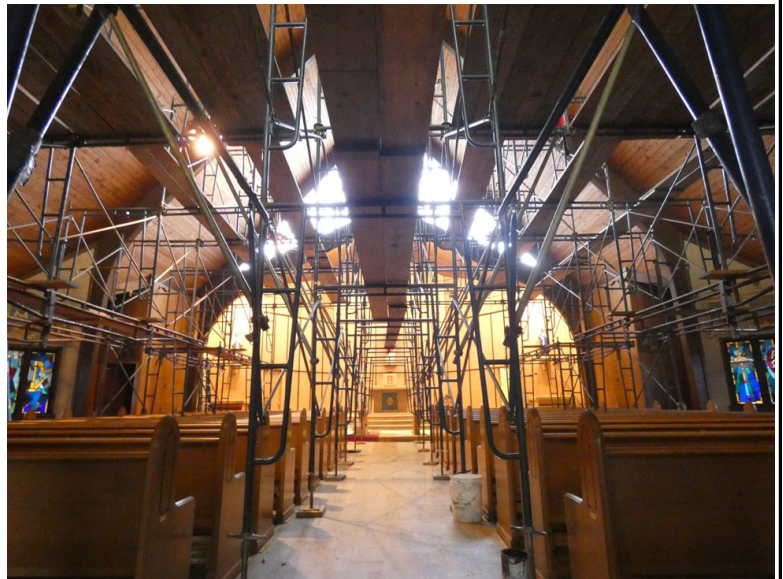
- **WE ARE BLESSED AND PROTECTED BY JESUS!** (Fire in the church). Our community has experienced a small fire accident at the church on Sunday night, September 27, 2020. It occurred at the front altar, and damaged the altar of



sacrifice, altar linens, microphone, candlesticks, and carpet around the altar. The fire stopped in some miraculous way just at the altar. We believe in God's Providence and His special protection for those who believe and trust in Him. Our Saviour Jesus Christ protected His home and our spiritual home. Like He had stopped the storm on the Sea of Galilee, He also stopped the fire in our church.

He wants to be with us and among us in this holy place. Thank you Jesus for being with us, for your blessings and protection. The church is still under construction and our liturgical services are led in the parish hall, but we hope we will be back in the church for Christmas.

- **POLISH FOOD SALE.** This year at Our Saviour's, we held a Polish Food Sale on November 14<sup>th</sup> instead of our annual Bazaar. Like many parishes, this was a hard decision on whether to hold anything at all. In Woonsocket, we have a following for our food, and we knew that we wanted to provide for our customers and give them something to look forward to during Covid.



### *Our Saviour's Polish Food Sale Menu*

ALL FOOD IS COLD UNLESS SPECIFIED

**Dinner for 2      \$22**

- 2 Golambki
- 6 frozen pierogi (3 cabbage 3 potato)
- Small fried cabbage w/ kielbasa
- Rye bread
- Polish Apple Squares

**Dinner for 4      \$42**

- 4 Golambki
- 12 frozen pierogi (6 cabbage 6 potato)
- Quart fried cabbage w/ kielbasa
- Rye bread
- Polish Apple Squares

**Dozen Frozen Pierogi (cabbage or potato)      \$12 or 5 dozen for \$55**

**Half Dozen Frozen Pierogi (cabbage or potato)      \$7**

**Golambki (2)      \$6**

**Quart Fried Cabbage      \$12**

**Quart Cabbage Soup      \$9**

**Babka with Raisins      \$5**

Not knowing how this would go over, we surveyed folks on what they would be interested in us offering. Advertising urged folks to pre-order their food. We wanted to be prepared. Because we have a large parking lot, we held a drive thru style event. This was safer for all involved, and it certainly helped that the weather was great. We also only served cold and frozen food. Again, this proved much safer and there was less food handling and interaction.

The response we received for pre-orders and even the follow up comments from our customers were outstanding! We totally surpassed our original expectations of how it went. We certainly could not have done it without the dedication of our parishioners and friends in all aspects of the event. We even plan on doing another before Easter.



Let's face it, fundraising was clearly difficult for everyone in 2020. We love to see what others are doing and possibly try their ideas too. We are all on the same PNCC team, and we should all work together and share ideas, to help make us stronger and get through any difficulties we are having. I am so thankful to all the people around the PNCC who have helped us and answered my questions many times. Working together is what it is all about.

**By Sally Watson**

• **FATHER HENRYK'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT OUR SAVIOUR'S.** November 16, 2020 marked Father Henryk's 10 year anniversary at Our Saviour's. We surprised him with a cake and small gifts of gratitude after our Polish Food Sale. Hopefully he will enjoy shopping at Lowe's for himself for once and not church! We have been



blessed with a pastor who does not only preach, but he treats the building and property as his own, and is always seeking to improve them. He treats his parishioners like his family, and is

always willing to help them, counsel them, and be there in need. His family is our family, and we look forward to many continued years of his service at Our Saviour's.

•**DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY LUNCH.** On October 17th and November 21th we were hosting our Drive Thru Community Lunch. This event is a part of our Parish outreach program.



Every third Saturday of the month, (from 11 am to 1 pm. or until we run out), we serve a Free Lunch to ALL the members of our local community. EVERYONE (including the members of our parish) is invited to drive thru and grab some lunch for free. For the Winter Season we serve delicious “**Lonnie’s soup**”,



snacks, and water. Our menu may change in the future. Our first two events were very successful. We have served over 100 bowls of soup, crackers, snacks, and bottled water to those who stopped by and to the needy at WWII veteran park in Woonsocket. Thank you to Lonnie and Sally for preparing and donating delicious soup for this event. Thank you also to Edmund Fox, Debbie Boucher, Katherine Caranci Joe and Chris Ko-

zlik, Berenika, Patrycja, Sara Wos, and all others for helping to make this event a success.

**Our Saviour’s Food Drive.** Our Saviour’s Parish collects food items to support *New Beginnings*, a local Soup Kitchen in Woonsocket. This food collection is a part of the Eastern Diocese Food Drive throughout November and December. Our Saviour’s collected and donated 112 different food items for their Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas Dinner: Gravy (Turkey, chicken, and beef), instant potatoes, instant rice, canned potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and black olives.



A lot of food items were donated by the people who joined us two weeks ago for our Polish Food Sale. Thank you to Sally Watson for her dedication to this project. We are still collecting food items for the *New Beginnings* for their Christmas baskets. Thank you to all who support this initiative.



**In October we prayed the Rosary.** In the Catholic tradition (our PNCC tradition as well) the month of October is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Rosary is prayed. As Catholics we believe in the special intercessory power of the

Blessed Virgin Mary. Every Sunday of October before the Mass our community was praying Rosary in the personal intentions of parishioners as well as for our parish community, and our Polish National Catholic Church. People could write their personal intentions before the prayer and drop them in the basket. They were read at the beginning of the rosary and we prayed together. The rosary booklets were also available for those who decided to join us. Thank you to Renata, Berenika, Patrycja, and Sara Wos for leading the prayer.



**In November we commemorate our Loved Ones.** On November 2, 2020 on the day of

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day) Our Saviour's parishioners gather at the parish cemetery in Blackstone, MA to participate in traditional All Souls Day Prayer Service; to pray together for eternal happiness for their Loved Ones mentioned in All Souls Day envelopes and those buried at the parish cemetery. The service gathered 12 people.



**Congratulations to Joe and Chris Kozlik , Phil and Patricia Kaczorowski, Michael and Linda Kuchar , & Lonnie and Sally Watson on their Wedding Anniversaries!**



**Joe and Chris Kozlik -  
Married October 24, 1964 (56 years)**



**Phil and Patricia Kaczorowski -  
Married October 20th, 1973 (47 years)**



**Michael and Linda Kuchar -  
Married November 11, 1990 (30 years)**

**Congratulations to  
ALL of you!**

**Wishing you many  
God's blessings, the  
most love, laughter and  
happiness for years to  
come.**

**Our Saviour's Parish  
Family**



**Sally and Lonnie Watson -  
Married October 19, 2002 (18 years)**

## From our parishes...

### Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Holy Trinity Church in Webster is trying to bring back some sort of normalcy amid the Covid 19 crisis by starting up our monthly veteran's prayer breakfast. Our September breakfast was well received with a turnout of about 25 people.

October's breakfast was the day after our first snowfall of the year with temperatures of 15 degrees that morning. We did have some attendees, but I can tell you that they were probably enjoying a nice warm bed that morning instead of venturing out which I



can't say I blame them!

It's always nice when we have a visit from our 4 legged friends as well!

Unfortunately, due to the new Covid 19 social distancing regulations we had to cancel a drive thru Thanksgiving meal for the



month of November which we were planning to have instead of our usual breakfast. We hope we will be able to host our veterans again in the nearby future.

Be safe and God Bless,

**By Rita Ouellette,  
chairperson**



## From our parishes...

### St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT



They're baaack! After months away, during which time they underwent repair and repainting, our statues of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph have returned from their restorative journey to once again grace our side altars. They were a little delayed in their return because our parish was not the only one who thought to catch up on this kind of maintenance work while in-person services were on hiatus, but the wait was well worth it, as you can see.



The final Colossal Kielbasa Stand of 2020 was held September 27<sup>th</sup> to rave reviews. Because it was held behind the church this time, volunteers took shifts at the front gate in a hot dog costume to direct



customers to the new location. This had the added benefit of enticing new customers to stop in and see what was going on, most of whom made purchases. One hundred people were served over the course of the afternoon. Many thanks to all who helped with the stand over the season! We're looking forward to its return in the Spring.



Photo courtesy of Yvonne Walsh

Our All Souls service this year was an ecumenical effort with Our Lady of Peace RCC in Lordship. Father Tom and Father Nick Pavia co-celebrated the service in our cemetery on October 31<sup>st</sup>, blessing the cemetery grounds and remembering in particular those who are buried there as well as all the deceased of both parishes.



Photo courtesy of Yvonne Walsh

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the YMS of R held a Polish Dinner, drive-thru style. Although it was supposed to be by reservation only, a few drive-up customers were able to be accommodated as well. Dinner consisted of kielbasa, stuffed cabbage, pierogis, green beans, rye bread, and a brownie for dessert.



Volunteers put together dinners buffet style and packaged them up for delivery to the cars waiting outside. The response was beyond belief – for last year’s sit-down dinner 150 meals were prepared, but this year that number was far surpassed with 189 dinners sold.



A million thanks to the volunteers for this event – the ones who prepared the food, the ones who carefully packaged it for distribution, the ones who worked to ensure everything kept moving smoothly, and the ones who delivered pre-ordered meals to the homebound. Without their generous, selfless assistance, this event wouldn’t have been the success it was.



Onsite dinner crew - Jeanine May, Darlene Kopka, Yvonne Walsh, Rob Shandrowski, Brian Borchuk , and Joe Shandrowski. Photo courtesy of Father Tom.

Despite the pandemic, we have continued our involvement in The Lord’s Kitchen, serving meals to those less fortunate in the community. We have also increased our donations to the local food pantries, collecting every Sunday instead of only once a month. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Joe and Jane Pelland for transporting the food each week to the pantries.



In the coming weeks, the YMS of R will be making a donation to the Daughters of Charity in Bridgeport from the proceeds of the Colossal Kielbasa Stand. They are also making arrangements with Sterling House in Stratford to adopt a family for Christmas (provide food and presents to make their holiday a little brighter).

Due to the uptick in COVID cases in the county, restrictions on gatherings have been re-imposed, so there are currently no public events planned for the immediate future. Our present concentration is on determining and implementing the safest way for the congregation to move indoors for Mass now that the weather is cooling significantly, making outdoor Mass impractical. Father Tom continues to offer a home Communion service for parishioners – schedule a time with him and he will conduct a Communion service on one’s porch or physically distant in one’s home.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to all our diocesan brothers and sisters!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Vasas, Music Director

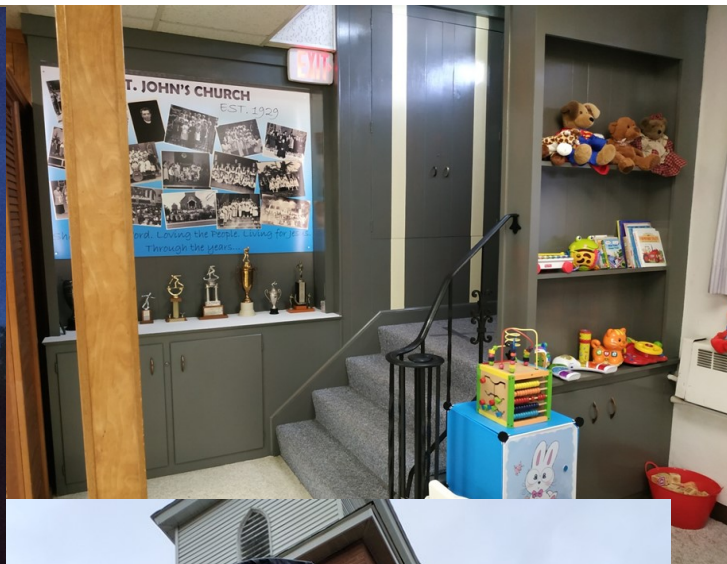


From our parishes...

### St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT

Autumn 2020 at St. John's Parish in Manchester, CT was/is a very busy season... Despite the regular Polish Food Sales, we started renovating our church hall.

On the pictures you can see the first effects of our work including wall painting, play area for kids, memorial board at the entrance. Two solar powered lanterns were installed in front of the church along with two welcome flags.





Traditionally All Souls Day memorial board was placed in the church to remember our deceased brothers and sisters throughout the month of November.

Thanks to the generosity of our Parishioners and Friends, St. John's church collected more shoeboxes that it was expected at the beginning of the month. This was a moment of sharing our Christian love and care for the others in a very practical way.



Right now, following the invitation of ED Mission and Evangelism Commission we run a Food Drive in the Parish till December 20 when all the items collected will be given to families in need from the area in the form of Christmas baskets.

**By Fr. Adam Piekarczycki**

## From Our Parishes...

### Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

Divine Providence Parish is continuing holy Masses on Sundays and holidays at 9:00am. After Mass, we complete paperwork, and we hold Parish committee meetings as needed.

On November 1, 2020 we held the All Saints service at the Divine Providence Cemetery in Norwich CT with a few participants.

On December 19, 2020 we plan to have our traditional Wreaths Across America ceremony at 12:00pm. Each year, the ceremony has more participants so we will keep count. Our parishioners buy a wreath and place it upon the graves of soldiers in our Parish families, many of whom are buried at our cemetery.

We are currently preparing a food drive for Christmas which will be delivered to our local St. Vincent's soup kitchen.

Our Taste of Poland continues monthly every second Friday of the month and it is a very successful event.

Additionally, before Christmas, we plan to sell pierogi as a special fundraiser. Every year we sell everything we are able to make.



*By Elizabeth Chmielewski*



From our parishes...

**St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA**



# Memory Tree

The **ANS Society**  
of the  
**St. Valentine's**  
**PNC Church**  
will sponsor the  
**“Memory Tree”**  
project



**Hand made miniature crosses will represent loved ones  
and friends that have passed away**

**Suggested donation for each cross  
Is \$2.00 for one name or for one family**

**A Holy Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated by  
Fr. Adam Czarnecki on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 9:30 am**

**At this celebration each name will be read and later  
inscribed in the Memory Book**

**The Memory Tree will be displayed in December and January**

**For the crosses contact: Krysia Newman (413) 584-4531;  
Nancy Slusarski (413) 586-0642; Rectory (413) 584-0133**

## Diocesan News:

# Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas celebrates 70 years

WARE – The Very Rev. Fryderyk S. Banas, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Polish National Catholic Church, will observe the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood in the Polish National Catholic Church. A native son of Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish, in Chicopee, he was ordained on Oct. 19, 1950 by the late Rt. Rev. John A. Misiaszek, who was born in Gilbertville, in St. Stanislaus B & M Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania. A special blessing upon the six neo-presbyters was conferred by the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, organizer of the Polish National Catholic Church.

Father Senior Banas was elevated to the dignity of Senior Priest in the Church by the late Prime

Bishop Leon Grochowski, successor to the late Prime Bishop Francis Hodur. He was installed in St. Adalbert's Church, Dickson City, PA by Prime Bishop Leon Grochowski.

Father Senior Banas is the son of the late Stanley and Valeria Szczepanek Banas, and was born in Chicopee. He served parishes in Buffalo, New York, Hazleton, McAdoo Throop and Dickson City, Pennsylvania, Fall River, and Holy Cross Parish in Ware, the latter for the past 31 years.

Throughout his priestly ministry he served on many diocesan and national church commissions, headed some of them, and also served as national director representing the Polish National Catholic Church on the Polish American Congress with

headquarters in Chicago, served as director on the board of directors at the Scranton State Hospital, Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was the first delegate of the American Polish National Relief for Poland, established by the Church under the leadership of Prime bishop Leon Grochowski, who spent six months in Warsaw, Poland, negotiating an agreement with Minister Stanley Zawadzki, of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and also served as chaplain of the United Choirs of the Church.

Throughout his priesthood, he served his parishioners with dignity, love and devotion, as well as non-parishioners whom he gained as friends and devoted people of God fulfilling Christ's command to love God and neighbor.

*From: Ware River News, Thursday, October 15, 2020*



**Congratulations Fr. Sr. Banas on your 70th anniversary of Priestly Ordination!**

*....."May the Lord bless you and keep you; may He make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; may He give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26 )*

Thank you for your 70 years of devoted service to Christ and His people in the Polish National Catholic Church!



# Zbigniew Kaszubski

Urodzony 8 Pazdziernika 1932

Zmarl 18 Pazdziernika 2020

Msza Sw. 12 listopada 2020 o godzinie 11:00

Kosciol

All Saints Cathedral

National Catholic Church

## Prosi o modlitwe...

*Boze Ojczy wszechmogacy,*

*Wierzymy, ze Twój syn umarl*

*I zmartwychstal, spraw laskawie,*

*Aby moca tej tajemnicy Twój sluga,*

*Ktory zasnal w Chrystusie, przez  
niego dostapil*

*Radosci zmartwychwstania*

*Przez Chrystusa, Pana Naszego.*

*Amen.*

+ Eternal Rest grant unto him, o Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

+ Wieczny odpoczynek racz mu dać, Panie, a światłość wiekuista niechaj mu świeci. Niech odpoczywa w pokoju. Amen.

We are deeply saddened to inform you that Rev. Dr. Zbigniew Kaszubski, a long-time priest of the Eastern Diocese, passed away on October 18, 2020.

+Father Zbigniew Kaszubski worked as the Pastor in several parishes in our Diocese. Prior to his retirement, he worked as the Pastor at SS. Peter&Paul Parish in New London, CT.

The Requiem Mass for + Fr. Kaszubski was celebrated on November 12, 2020 at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral of All Saints - Polish National Catholic Church in Chicago, IL.

May the soul of + Fr. Zbigniew Kaszubski be at peace with our Heavenly Father.



## PNU District 3 Thanksgiving Raffle - 2020

### 4 Parishes participated

Manchester, NH - 175

Fall River - 135

Central Falls - 95

Westfield - 30

w/ 3 other individuals participating = 50

### Donations to offset prizes = \$100

Bishop Paul & Karen Sobiechowski - 25

Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich - 25

Brenda Richard - 25

Mike & Maryann Zarek - 25

### Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$50 - Janice Dzialo (Central Falls, RI)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$25 - Carolyn Hebert (Manchester, NH)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25 - Mary Wilczek (Fall River, MA)

### Donation to the District 3:

Fr. Sr. Joe & Lorraine Krusienski - 50

Profit for District 3 = \$535.00



**Thank you to all who supported our PNU District 3 Raffle  
We wish you all a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!**

*District 3 will be providing pizza and ice cream Sundays to all attending the Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock in on December 28 & 29, 2020. God bless you all!*

*We hope that in the future more parishes in District 3 will support this effort as it does benefit our fraternal efforts and diocesan youth program.*

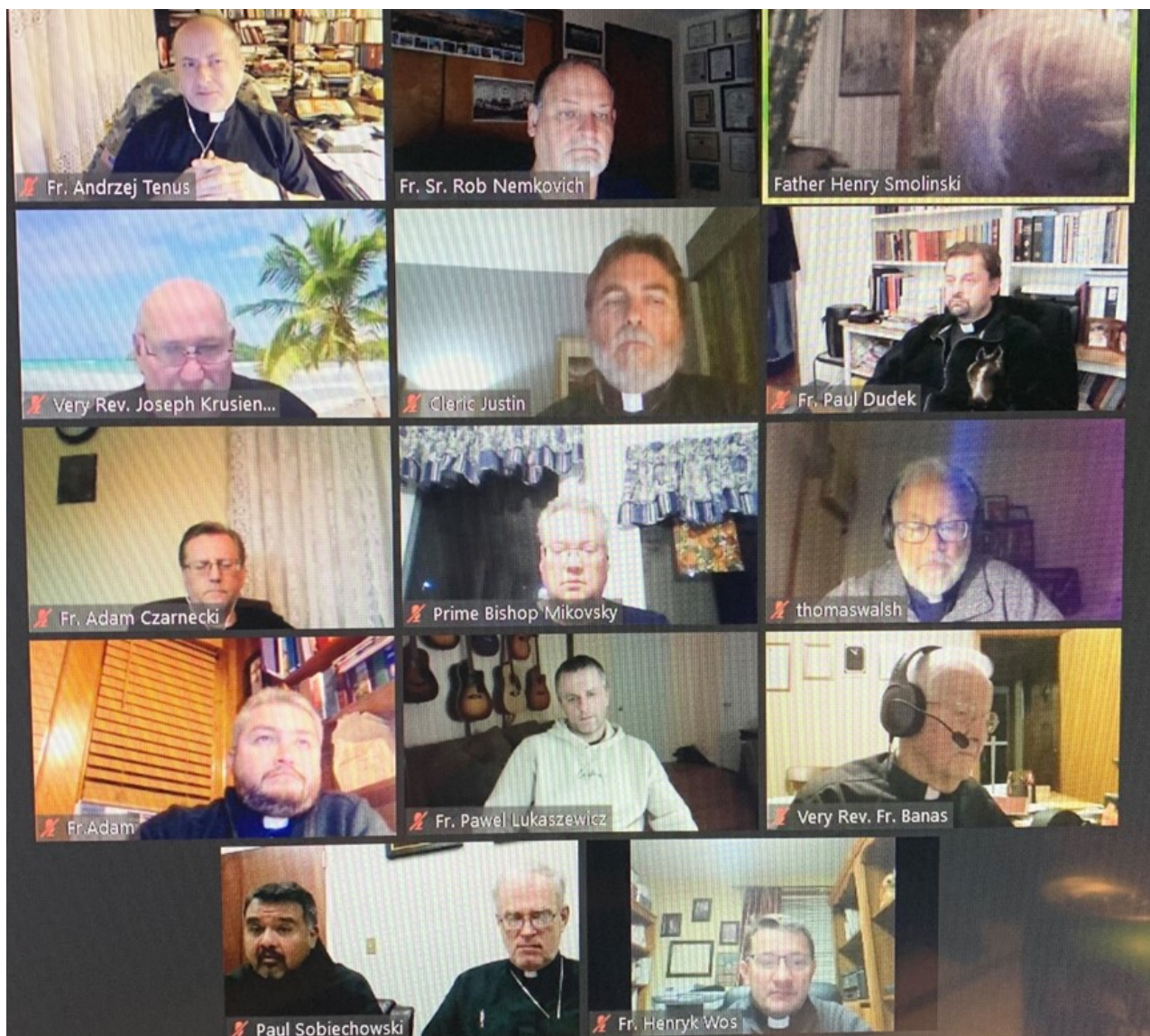
## Eastern Diocese Annual Clergy Retreat 2020

On November 18, 2020 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met Via Zoom on their Annual Clergy Retreat. The retreat could not be held in person due to the Covid 19 restrictions. The retreat was led by Fr. Christian Tutor, OSA, the Rector of All Saints Parish of the Anglican Church in America, in Concord, NH.

Father Christian offered to the Eastern Diocese clergy a deep spiritual reflection on priestly identity, spirituality and vocation, and on physical, spiritual, and emotional factors of the priestly life.

In his speech Fr. Christian underlined that every priest has to be humble and trustful in God's promises and that he is called to give testimony not only with his words, but first of all with his life. It was a great spiritual experience for all the clergy.

Thank you once again to Fr. Christian Tutor for this deep spiritual analysis of the priestly life.



**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



# EASTERN DIOCESE FOOD DRIVE



In an effort formed by our Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission we are calling on all parishes of the Eastern Diocese to have non-perishable food drives throughout November and December of 2020.

All the food collected will go to local food banks in communities where our parishes are located.

We ask that photos be taken of all stages of the collections, as well as totals collected, be reported to the diocesan chancery. The number of items, large or small, should not affect your parishes joining in. Even if it's only a bagful of groceries, it doesn't matter because this is a diocesan-wide effort. Of course, the more food collected, the more needy assisted.

Every parish chooses its own particular food pantry or food bank. We hope to publish the names of all the organizations our diocese assisted.

Let's make this first time effort a big success to help those in need and to bring the parishes of our diocese together in this unified effort.

# 2020 EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC WINTER YOUTH GATHERING

When: Monday - Tuesday - Dec. 28 & 29, 2020

*begins at 2:00 pm Monday and ends Tuesday afternoon*

Where: Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA

*Be ready for some fun!!*



*Cost - \$25.00 per person - To register please contact:*

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - [Robnem21@aol.com](mailto:Robnem21@aol.com)

***Come see your friends in Christ over the Christmas Vacation***





## FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

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

### **Assignments:**

- No new assignments

### **Bishop's Visits to Parishes:**

- None scheduled

### **Representatives to the Eastern Diocese Council for the Period 2020-2024**

- Diocesan Ordinary - Bishop Paul Sobiechowski
- Administrative Seniors: Father Senior Joseph Krusienski (Southwest)  
Father Senior Joseph Soltysiak (Central)  
Father Senior Robert Nemkovich (Northeast)
- Recording Secretary - Jo-Ann O'Connell, appointed
- Treasurer - Cindy Hebert, appointed
- The Messenger Editor - Father Henryk Wos, appointed
- Diocesan Website - Robert Bradbury, appointed

### **Supreme Council Representatives:**

- Raymond Pieczarka
- Marilyn Folcik

### **Southwest Seniorate:**

- Clergy Representative - Father Pawel Dudek
- Lay Representatives - Blesser Justin Daviault, Holy Trinity Parish in Plantsville, CT.
- Joseph Shandrowski - St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT.

### **Central Seniorate:**

- Clergy Representative - Father Pawel Lukaszewicz
- Lay Representatives - Mary Tudryn, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in South Deerfield, MA
- Curtis Yetton, St. Joseph's Parish in Westfield, MA

### **Northeast Seniorate:**

- Clergy Representative - Father Andrzej Tenus
- Lay Representatives - Sally Watson, Our Saviour's Parish in Woonsocket, RI
- Michael Zarek, Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI

### **Sub-Central Organization Representatives:**

- Spojnia District 3 Director - Maryann Zarek, Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI
- A.N.S. President - JoAnn Menzia, St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA
- Y.M.S.R. - Father Thomas Walsh, St. Joseph's of Stratford in Stratford, CT (no sub-central executive committee exists yet)
- United Choirs - Karen Sobiechowski, Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish, Manchester, NH (sub-central executive committee to be reorganized)

### **Members-at-Large:**

- Kathryn Nemkovich, Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA (Supreme Council member)
- Janice Klimczak, St. Casimir's Parish in Lowell, MA (ED A.N.S. Executive Council)
- Shirley Mietlicki-Floyd, Holy Name of Jesus Parish in South Deerfield, MA (Strategic Planning Commission chair)
- Father Robert Koerber (chaplain of the Mission and Evangelism Commission / chair is representing United Choirs)

### **Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)**

- Monday, November 30 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Post-Synod Zoom meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 1 - PNCC Bishop's Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 1 - District 3 Spojnia Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday December 2 - Eastern Diocese Mission Commission Zoom Meeting- 7:00 PM
- Monday, December 7 - Eastern Diocese Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Meeting - 1:30 PM
- Thursday, January 7 - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Thursday, January 14 - First-ever Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Bible Study lead by Father Henryk Wos

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

- Sunday, November 29 - First Sunday in Advent, Cycle "B" readings begin
- Monday, November 30 - Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle
- Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday in Advent
- Tuesday, December 8 - Solemnity of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday, December 12 - Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- Sunday, December 13 - Northeast Seniorate Candlelight Liturgy -Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI - 4:00 PM (tentative due to Covid-19)
- Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Monday, December 21 - Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle
- Thursday, December 24 - Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord
- Friday, December 25 - Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord
- Saturday, December 26 - Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon & Proto-Martyr
- Sunday, December 27 - Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds, Commemoration of the Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Monday, December 28 - Commemoration of the Holy Innocents
- Friday, January 2, 2021 - Solemnity of the Circumcision of our Lord
- Sunday, January 3 - Solemnity of the Holy Family
- Wednesday, January 6 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord
- Sunday, January 10 - Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord
- Sunday, January 17 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, January 24 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday, January 25 - Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle
- Sunday, January 31 - Septuagesima Sunday (Pre-Lent 1)
- Tuesday, February 2 - Solemnity of the Presentation of our Lord
- Sunday, February 7 - Sexagesima Sunday (Pre-Lent 2)
- Sunday, February 14- Quinquagesima Sunday ((Pre-Lent 3)
- Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday of Lent
- Wednesday, February 24 - Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle
- Sunday, February 28 - Second Sunday of Lent

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

- Monday, December 28 & Tuesday, December 29th - Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Retreat Overnight at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA (tentative due to COVID-19)
- Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr., U.S.A. Federal Holiday
- Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day, U.S.A. Federal Holiday



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

# Polish Christmas Poetry

## Christ's Birth

You, Jesus,  
Are not always welcome  
In many mangers  
There is even a shortage of hay  
The inn is full  
Overnight accommodations are refused  
A poor but hospitable stable  
Will be found  
Shepherds will come  
Leaving behind their flock  
Kings will notice Your birthday  
From the stars  
Herod will be furious  
Afraid of your power  
And YOU  
Come silently — humble — small  
And bring  
The biggest LOVE  
Eternal  
Which shall not draw back  
From the sacrifice of the Cross.

- Wladyslawa Anna Jamroz

## Warsaw Carol 1939

O, Mother, put aside the day of the Birth  
For another time,  
May the eyes of the Creator not see  
How they oppress us.  
May your most beloved Son be born  
Among other stars,  
But not with us, not in the saddest  
Of all cities.  
Because in our city, which you remember  
From distant days,  
Crosses arose, crosses and cemeteries,  
Fresh from blood,  
Because our children fell under the shrapnel,  
Out of breath.  
O, Holy Mary, pray for us,  
But don't come here.  
And if, regardless, you want to give birth in the shadow  
Of Warsaw's cinders,  
It would be better after the birth immediately  
To throw Him on the cross.

- Stanislaw Balinski

## Christmas Carol

Angels, white Angels  
what for where you waiting by the creche  
why while flapping your wings  
you scattered snowflakes in the dark night?  
Did you want the glare to mislead the road  
of the cursed, that dirtied their hands with blood?  
Did you scatter flowers, silver leaves  
on these steel knights' tombs,  
on these marching knights' tombs  
that died from whip and hunger?

Dark nights, angels on our earth  
dark stars and dark snow, and love,  
and under these dark clouds  
our heart turned into darkness.  
Angels, white angels,  
oh! Light with the glare of your wings  
So the lost gets to the Lord  
and the one that's scared to lift his eyes  
and the one that waits with no hope  
and that knight in his torn armor  
so he walks as a human to God-Human,  
Angels, white Angels.

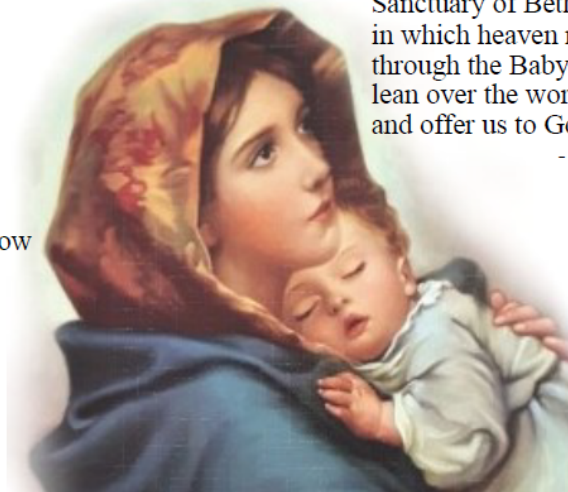
- Krzysztof Kamil Baczynski



## Offer Us To God

Holy Mother, giver  
of heavenly gifts  
from hands full of love,  
Smiling Country Woman,  
with a face tanned by the heat of the sun,  
Sanctuary of Bethlehem,  
in which heaven met earth  
through the Baby's cry in the manger,  
lean over the world  
and offer us to God.

- Fr. Jan Pach



By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

## Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

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

## Diocesan Chaplains

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

Our diocesan family is being asked to pray the “Our Father” and the “Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi” each Wednesday at 12 Noon for the intention of our diocese, the PNCC and for healing and peace in our communities, nation and world.



### Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me a channel of your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me bring love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy;  
Lord, grant that I may not seek to be  
Consoled as to console;  
Understood as to understand;  
Loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
In pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And in dying we are born to  
Eternal life.

Amen

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- 2021 THE MESSENGER deadline for articles:

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**Fall Issue: September 12**  
**Winter issue: November 21**

The e-mail address to send articles is:  
**woshenryk@gmail.com**

All issues of THE MESSENGER are available on diocesan website:

<http://www.easterndiocesepncc.org>, or through the smart phone app “Eastern Diocese PNCC.”

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!