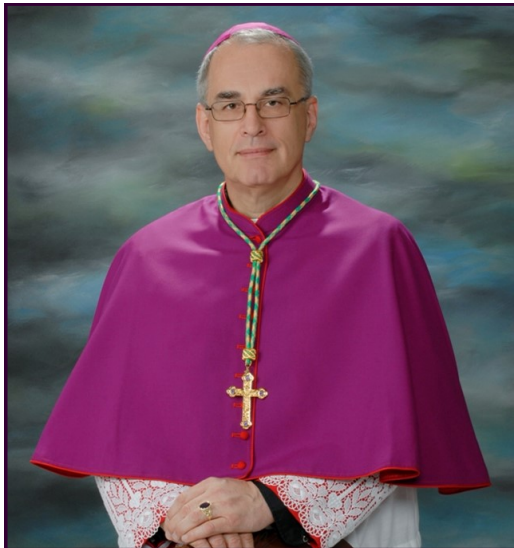
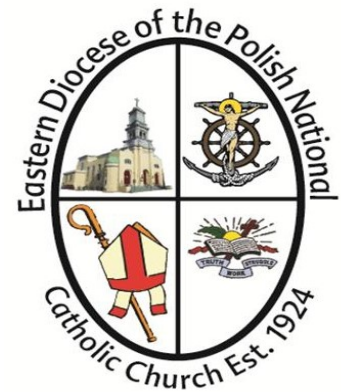


THE MESSENGER

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



EXPERIENCE JESUS

In thinking about what I would share with all of you in this issue of The Messenger, and realizing that we still find ourselves in the throes of the Covid-19 pandemic, and as the Church stands at the portal of a

Lenten journey, I found myself drawn to the fourth chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke, verses sixteen to thirty. I would encourage you to read the passage yourselves because it presents a scene in Jesus' life that does, in a way, model the position we find ourselves at the beginning of this paragraph.

To set the scene, in the previous chapter of Luke's Gospel we are presented with a detailed account of the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry. A people in sin are being led by a king who is in sin. John explodes on the scene, in the Judean wilderness echoing the words of Isaiah the Prophet (Isaiah 40:3-5, Luke 3:4-6), He is proclaiming a "baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." The Hebrew people were going out to him in the desert. They didn't know what to expect, but it's safe to say they didn't expect John's words when he called them a "brood of vipers!" and then castigated them for relying on their history as a chosen people to simply be enough. In fact the Baptist told them that God had the power to "raise up children to Abraham" from the very stones before them. Being simply of Abraham's seed wasn't enough. The people were called to change themselves, their very beings. Failing to do so was too terrible to think of for it was separation from God Himself. "...every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (Luke 3:9b).

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The people ask John what they need to do to repent and he tells them: share your clothing, share your food with those that have nothing. He told the tax collectors to quit cheating those paying taxes. He told soldiers to quit extorting others and be satisfied with their wages. The words were so powerful and proclaimed with such authority that they wondered if John was the Messiah. But John says that he is only baptizing with water, a baptism of repentance. There is One coming Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, John's words cut at King Herod's soul and he imprisons John for the accusations against him.

But before John was imprisoned, Jesus steps on the scene at the Jordan River. He traveled north, all the way from Nazareth where he lived, for just this moment. Jesus calls for John to baptize Him. The skies open, the words of God the Father are heard declaring Jesus to be His beloved Son and the Holy Spirit comes upon Him.

Luke then relates Jesus' human ancestry through his stepfather Joseph that traces all the way back to King David and to Adam. Hence Jesus's claim to be fully divine and fully human; the Son of God and the Son of Man. Next we see Jesus' being led into the desert wilderness to the east of the Jordan by the Spirit. He remains in the desert wilderness for forty days. He meditates on His both divine and human nature. He overcomes the limitations of His human nature when He experiences the temptation of the devil. In the end Jesus comes to fully realize His divine and human nature; who He is and why He is. Jesus tells the devil, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

It is with this knowledge that Jesus begins his ministry. Going north from the headwaters of the Jordan River, which is the Sea of Galilee, Jesus travels throughout the Galilee countryside. Everywhere He goes He preaches and works miracles of healing. Luke tells us, "...a report about Him spread through all the surrounding country." After that period of teaching around the Sea of Galilee He travels south and returns to His hometown of Nazareth.

We now find ourselves at the beginning of the portion of Luke's Gospel that I suggested you read. Jesus enters the Nazareth synagogue, unrolls the sacred scroll and proclaims that the passage from Isaiah (61:6) just read is being fulfilled in Himself. The people are amazed, but instead of accepting Jesus for who He is, they want Him to put on a show of power for them like He did in Capernaum, in the Galilee region. Jesus counters that they are like the empty and dry people of Elijah's time and that they would see nothing because of their lack of faith. At once the people of his hometown grow hostile against Him because of Jesus' words. They want to kill Jesus, but that was not the time for Jesus to die. The passage cited ends, "...He passed through the midst of them and went on His way."

We are in the midst of a pandemic as the people in Luke's Gospel were in the midst of sin. They were unable to see the cure for their sinfulness, because they failed to recognize Jesus for who He was and is. The Jesus Who was at the Jordan, the Jesus Who was in the wilderness, the Jesus Who was in Galilee, and the Jesus Who was in Nazareth are all Jesus at different points in the beginning of His earthly ministry. This ministry of three years was a time in which Jesus acquainted Himself to the Twelve, to the women who followed after Him, to the seventy disciples He sent out to proclaim the Good News. The times related in the third and fourth chapters of Luke are the start of our Lord and Savior's journey that would end with His death on a cross at Calvary and His glorious resurrection three days later.

And at all these times, with the exception of the forty day retreat and self-examination in the wilderness, Jesus was always with the people. He taught, healed, cared for, comforted those whom he regarded as "sheep without a shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). Up until Jesus comes to His hometown there is no point in these beginnings that Jesus faces rejection. Where rejection first raises its ugly head is at the synagogue in Nazareth. The people of Nazareth reject Jesus because they only see Him as the carpenter's son.

My dear people, this Lent we must ask ourselves do we see Jesus only as a figure in a book written long ago? A person in a story that we can understand in an intellectual way, but not relate to as a real and personal Savior?

Are we tempting Jesus? He understood the thinking of the people in the synagogue of Nazareth when He said, “Doubtless you will quote me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ and you will say, ‘do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum’” (Luke 4:23).

A similar doubt like that expressed in the synagogue of Nazareth is seen in John’s Gospel. This event followed Jesus’ Baptism and wilderness retreat. Our Lord is at the Jordan headwaters near Galilee and John is still preaching his baptism of repentance. He spots Jesus, whom he had baptized earlier and proclaims Jesus the Lamb of God. Two of John’s disciples hear this and are immediately curious. They come to Jesus and ask Him, “Where are you staying?” Jesus says: come and see. They spend the day with Jesus and are convinced He is the Messiah. One of the two, Andrew, goes and tells his brother, Simon Peter. The next day Jesus sees Philip and says to him, “Follow me.” Philip does and immediately comes to believe Jesus is the Messiah He feels the need to tell someone and runs to tell his close friend or brother, Nathaniel. Nathaniel’s response is (and now here’s the reflection to the synagogue in Nazareth): “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Jesus is aware of Nathaniel’s doubt and when He sees Nathaniel says. “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Instead of rejecting Christ, as did the people in Nazareth, Nathaniel proclaims, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel!”(John 3:43-50).

This Lent I encourage you to be a Nathaniel. I encourage you to be a Philip, a Simon, a John! Open yourselves up to the reality that Jesus isn’t just someone you read about or heard preached about in Church. Don’t limit your Jesus to a carved or molded figure in a nativity, or even a statue above an altar. This Lent don’t allow yourselves to limit your discipleship by consciously limiting the powers of Jesus Christ in your life.

Use this Lent as a time to see Jesus as He was at the Jordan, in the wilderness, in Galilee. See the divinity of Jesus Christ transfigured on the high mountain. See the humanity of Jesus Christ as He wept over the people of Jerusalem. See Jesus as He appeared before His apostles after His Resurrection from the dead.

Come to know and experience Jesus as the healing force of your life and of all humanity. His power and glory and majesty transcend all disease, all transgression, and all limitation.

This Lent let us all come to know the Jesus the Apostle Paul knew as he said, ***“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”*** (Romans 8:38-39).

Bishop Paul

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions of the XVI Eastern Diocese Synod October 10, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DISCIPLESHIP

2021

PNCC



DISCIPLESHIP: 2021

WE WILL TRUST IN YOU

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

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

JANUARY – DANIEL IN THE LION’S DEN

Scripture: Daniel Chapter 6

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

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

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

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

FEBRUARY – JEREMIAH

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

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

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

MARCH – BISHOP FRANCIS HODUR

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

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

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

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

Schedule Mass for Healing

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

APRIL – MOTHER TERESA

Scripture: Matthew 25:

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

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

MAY – BISHOP PADEWSKI: PNCC MARTYR

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

Reflection and Action Item:

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUNE – RUTH AND NAOMI

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

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

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

JULY – ST. PAUL: EARLY LIFE AND TRANSFORMATION

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

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

Schedule Mass for those Grieving

AUGUST – JOB

Scripture: Job 1:1-2:10; 17:1-16; 38:1-41:34; 42:1-6

Reflection and Action Item: The story of Job is both a literary masterpiece and an attempt to theologically plumb the depths of the great mystery of human suffering. At the end of the Book, though, the mystery remains, and all that Job—and we—come to understand is that suffering is somehow part of God's great

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

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

SEPTEMBER – ST. STEPHEN

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

Reflection and Action Item:

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

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

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

OCTOBER – TERESA OF AVILA

Scripture: *Psalm 42, Psalm 121*

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

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

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

NOVEMBER – ST. STANISLAUS

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

Reflection Prayer and Action Item:

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

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

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

Schedule Mass and Event (Breakfast) for those who serve

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

DECEMBER – OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND ST. JOSEPH

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

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

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

Schedule and conduct Advent Retreat/Penitential Service

PNCC CHURCH EVENING RETREATS

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

PARISH ENGAGEMENT– PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

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

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

ADULT CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

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

TWO DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RETREAT

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

CONTINUE THE BUSINESS FREE ZONE

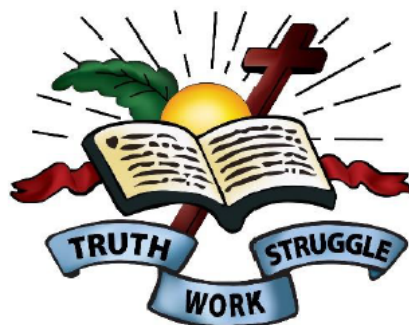
For 10 minutes prior to the celebration of Holy Mass have a time when the pastor is unavailable for Church business and that no other things are being discussed but a focus on the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. This will continue to bring an enhanced spirituality and reverence for the Eucharist to our parishes.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

COMPLETE AT LEAST SEVEN COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

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

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

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



From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH



During the months of November and December we had a food drive for the needy in our community. The drive ran from November 1 through Dec 31 and we raised 529 non-perishable food items for the New Horizon Food Pantry. The food items were delivered during the first week of January.



On November 15, 2020 our ANS had their first meeting since March. They approved the purchase of three new altar of sacrifice altar cloths and four white oil candles to adorn the Advent wreath from Christmas day through Epiphany. The altar cloths were blessed during Holy Mass on the first Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th. After Holy Mass parishioners gathered to adorn the cathedral nave and sanctuary for the Christmas season.





Each year during the month of December we continued to outreach. This year we selected The Webster House in Manchester, NH. The Webster House is a non-profit, private home housing the youth of New Hampshire that cannot live at home for a period of time. They offer structure to youth to help stabilize their lives. We were able to donate a total of \$5,200, with the parish matching what parishioners donated.



At the end of each year Bishop and Karen host an Open House. Generally, the reception is hosted in the rectory, however, with COVID-19, it was held in the parish basement this year. Everyone still enjoyed each other's company as well as all of the good food which Karen prepared for us.





Our Annual Parish Meeting was held on January 31, 2021. Due to COVID-19 it was held both in person and through a Zoom meeting. The meeting was well attended and we were able to vote on items that needed action. Our 2021 slate of officers were installed by Bishop Paul and Ray Pieczarka.





Holy Trinity Cathedral Manchester, NH

It was also voted and approved at our annual meeting to conduct the following outreach projects for the first four months:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| January | Sock drive for the homeless
Souper bowl Sunday—canned soup drive
Bagged lunches for the homeless, which includes a pair of socks
Feeding 1 st responders (will feed either ICU or Emergency Department at the Elliot Hospital) |
| February | Souper bowl Sunday wrap-up
Scarf collection—scarves to be wrapped around trees in a park for the homeless |
| March | Baby shower for Mom’s Place
All things baby: diapers, wipes, onesies, baby bath, etc. |
| April | Hygiene kits for the homeless
Tissues, small combs, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. |

By Nancy Reilly

From Our Parishes...

A BLESSED ADVENT, CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY TIME AT BLESSED TRINITY IN FALL RIVER



Amazing Christmas Toy Drive at Blessed Trinity



Our 2020 Christmas Toy drive was amazing. At one point with Covid our FRPD wasn't sure it would happen but with great support it turned out to be the largest drive date with nearly 300 children in need receiving a bag full of wrapped toys for this past Christmas. Thanks to all who supported.



Christmas Toy Drive continued

Our parish received a Community Funding Grant for this effort from our District Attorney Thomas Quinn. He is pictured on the cover with our Police Chief, Sgt. Kimball who is instrumental in this drive and our Neighborhood watch chair - Rosemary.



Rejoicing with our 2020 Blessed Trinity Christmas Toy Drive - Dec. 13, 2020



Thank you to all who supported this effort! Just Amazing!

2020 Advent Wreath Prayers and Lighting by parish families



Youth Group Spaghetti Supper Take Out & Advent Penitential



Saturday evening December 5th our youth group held their annual Spaghetti Supper as Take Out Only. Thanks to all who made this a successful event. Our Advent Penitential followed with a nice attendance - making time for our Lord.



An Amazing Living Nativity brings hope during Covid times



Thanks to Laurie for directing this year's Living Nativity. Our parish youth did an outstanding job bringing God's Word to life. Great job Gaby, Maks and Zack providing our music!



Rejoicing with our 2020 Living Nativity at Blessed Trinity - Dec. 13, 2020



Our Birthday Party for Jesus and Advent Food Drive on Dec. 20th

Thanks to Nancy who made cupcakes for our socially distanced Birthday Party for Jesus. We also have to say Thank you for the tremendous support of our Advent Food Drive to help those in need! Outstanding efforts.

4th Sunday of Advent at Blessed Trinity III: Birthday Party for Jesus - Thank You Nancy! - 12/20/2020



Two SUV Loads of Food Delivered to Help Those in Need for Christmas



Our 2020 Advent Christmas Food Drive was our largest to date. It

was wonderful to see that so many helped out during these most dif-

ficult and challenging times. Thanks and God bless!



Christmas 2020 at Blessed Trinity - Great job Maks, Gaby & Zack



Humble Shepherds, Blessing of Wine & Parish Scholarship Awarded

On the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds (Dec. 27th) our parish awarded our 2020 Scholarship to

Eric. Congratulations and keep up the good work. Wine was blessed as we honored St. John the Apostle

and Evangelist whose Feast Day it was. We also began Sanitizer & Sock drives for our homeless.



BLESSED TRINITY SOCK & SANITIZER DRIVE

TO SUPPORT THE WARM FEET PROGRAM
OF OUR STATE REP ALAN SILVIA AND THE
FRPD KIND HEARTS - CLEANS HANDS FOR OUR HOMELESS



SOCK DRIVE

**KNOCK, KNOCK
GIVE A**

SOCK

PROVIDING SOCKS FOR THOSE IN NEED

COLLECTING NEW SOCKS/WARM FEET PROGRAM/MENTH-WOMEN-CHILDREN
FROM NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY FOR HOMELESS & NEEDY.

SPONSORED BY
STATE REP. ALAN SILVIA
FOR MORE INFO CALL: 508-567-6474

Drop-off @ Blessed Trinity, 1664 South Main Street
M-F 9-4am & Sat. 9-12, Closed Wed.

SOCKS ARE RETURNED TO FOOD XCHNGR THROUGHOUT WINTER MONTHS.



Please donate
SOCKS to people
who live outside.



Parish Committee Installed for 2021 & 2021 Discipleship Message



On the first Sunday of 2021 the members of our parish committee were installed and took their oath of office. We thank those elected to serve our parish in this most important manner. Also Fr. Sr. Rob gave the January Future Direction Video message to begin another year of Discipleship!



January 2021 Future Direction Message Fr Sr Rob Nemkovich

175 views • Jan 1, 2021

👍 12 💬 0 ➦ SHARE ⚙️ SAVE ⋮

Thanks Dave for our Rug Cleaning and meet our new Parish Friends



♥
THANK
YOU
AND
GOD BLESS



Over 500 Hand Sanitizers donated to help City's Homeless - Jan. 10th



Parish Featured on WSAR and Fall River Community Media

Parish Community Efforts discussed for 30 minutes on WSAR (The 6th Floor Report) - 1/12/21



GUNS FOR GROCERIES

In Memory of Reverend Dr. Robert Lawrence



Gift Certificates for groceries will be given in exchange for the guns you return.

\$50 - \$75

Saturday, January 30th 2021

9 am - 1 pm

Blessed Trinity Parish, 1340 Plymouth Ave. Fall River, MA

With Generous Support from many Local Businesses

BLESSED TRINITY SOCK & SANITIZER DRIVE

TO SUPPORT THE WARM FEET PROGRAM OF OUR STATE REP ALAN SILVA AND THE FRPD KIND HEARTS - CLEAN HANDS FOR OUR HOMELESS



SOCK DRIVE
KNOCK, KNOCK GIVE A SOCK

PLEASE DONATE SOCKS TO PEOPLE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE



SOUPERBOWL OF CARING

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 7th



TACKLE HUNGER

Bring cans of Soups, Peanut Butter, Tuna and cans of Chef Boyardee too to help those in need!



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH
FALL RIVER, MA



Fall River Community Media was live. 20 hrs · 🌐

Father Rob Nemkovich- Guns for Groceries

We speak with Father Rob Nemkovich of Blessed Trinity Church on the upcoming Guns for Groceries init... See More

👍 5 126 Views

👍 Like 💬 Comment ➦ Share 🌐

Comments Hide

Be the first to leave a comment.

Connor begins serving at the Altar of our Lord - Jan. 24, 2021



15 Altar Servers - What a Blessing !! - Jan. 24, 2021



400 Pairs of Socks for our Homeless & State Rep Silvia's Warm Feet Program



On the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds (two days after Christmas) our parish began drives to help and care for our Fall River Homeless population. We took part in both a hand sanitizer (500 containers collected) and sock drive to help those in need and cast aside. 400 pairs of socks were give to our State Rep Alan Silvia after Holy Mass on Sunday January 24, 2021. Thank you to all who donated to these efforts and making them very successful to help meet the great need so many face in our local community today.



Parish hosts Guns for Groceries with our FR Police Department on Jan. 30th



GUNS FOR GROCERIES
In Memory of Reverend Dr. Robert Lawrence



Gift Certificates for groceries will be given in exchange for the guns you return.
\$50 - \$75
Saturday, January 30th 2021
9 am - 1 pm
Blessed Trinity Parish, 1340 Plymouth Ave. Fall River, MA
With Generous Support from many Local Businesses



Pancake Breakfast - Thank You Jack, Pam, Julie, Zack & Chris - 1/31/2021



First Communion Class Prayer Blanket for parishioner recovering at home and Pancakes for our FRFD on Sunday, January 31st



Joshua Hetzler
2 hrs · 🌐

Thank you to Father Rob Nemkovich and all the parishioners at the Blessed Trinity Church for always thinking about IAFF L-1314 Fall River Firefighters. Today they dropped off breakfast to one of our stations as part of a community project the youth of their parish is working on. Thank you again and God bless you all!



FIRST RESPONDERS
MILITARY • POLICE • FIRE • EMERGENCY MEDICAL
WE THANK YOU

Donations pour in for our 2021 Souper Bowl of Caring

Val procures 10 boxes of food for our SouperBowl of Caring - Thanks and God bless - 1/26/21



Thank You to Val & her Tenant Association for another 10 boxes of food & winter hats/gloves for our Souper Bowl of Caring Drive - 2/4/21



2021 Souper Bowl of Caring - Thank you for your great support to help those in need! 2/7/21



Blessing of Throats asking the intercession of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr 2/7/21



2021 Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday with Cupcakes and TB12 in the house again! 2/7/21



Upcoming Parish Events and Information

February 17 - Ash Wednesday - Lenten Food Drive begins

February 19 & all Lenten Fridays 6 pm Lenten Supper & Stations of the Cross

February 27 - Parish Youth Lenten Day of Service and Caring

March - 4th NE Seniorate Lenten Retreat

March 13 - PTA Beef Stew Dinner & Lenten Penitential Service

March 21 - Meal in the Upper Room

March 23 - PNCC Future Direction Lenten Retreat

March 27 - Bread Making Fun

April 23 & 24 - Pierogi Making

April 29 & 30 - Golabki Making

May 1 - Polish Food Sale

May 31 - Memorial Day Holy Mass and Prayers for the PAWV

June 5 - Massachusetts State Polish American War Veterans Convention at BTP

June 6 - First Holy Communion Sunday

June 27 - Parish Chicken Barbecue (Trial Run of 60)

June 28 - Parish Youth-PTA Pool Party and Cook Out



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

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

Pastor: Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

Phone: 508-672-4854

Email: RobNem21@aol.com

Mailing Address:

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

Facebook: Blessed Trinity PNCC

Website: BlessedTrinityChurch.org

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

Even the first Nor-easter of the year did not stop our discipleship and outreach to our immediate local communities of Pawtucket and Central Falls on Saturday December 5th. Numerous families were helped! We also had a very successful Winter Clothing Drive to help our Central Falls families in need during Advent (33 new coats and over 100 hats, gloves etc.) and we were blessed to have folks offer the prayer and light the candles of our Advent wreath prior to Holy Mass in Advent.





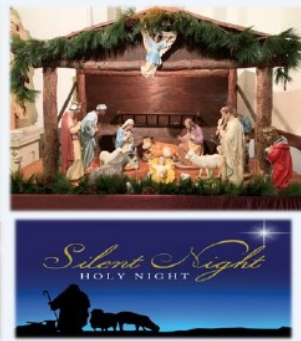
2020 Holy Cross Winter Clothing Drive Drop Off at Central Falls High School
Thanks again to all who supported this successful effort! Dec. 16, 2020



Our annual Candlelight Service and Birthday Party for Jesus on December 20th was definitely different this year but yet the spirit of the time in prayer and reflection was inspirational!



Christmas 2020 at Holy Cross



Installation of our 2021 Holy Cross Parish Committee - 1/10/21



Holy Cross PNCC Central Falls RI

Holy Cross PNCC January Drive Thru/Walk Up Food Distribution Drive II (1/23/21)



Central Falls / Pawtucket 
Holy Cross Drive-Thru Community Food Distribution
Saturday Feb. 20th 10-11 am or until we run out



Our monthly local Food Drive distribution continues to meet a huge need in Central Falls - the poorest community in the entire state of Rhode Island. Thanks to Brenda, Lois, Steve, Kathy and Cliff for your help the past couple of months! Our next one is February 20th.

Successful SouperBowl of Caring Drive to support our local neighbors in need and welcome to Cleric Justin to Holy Cross - Feb. 14, 2021



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 Saviour's Parish PNCC. The weekly masses are celebrated from Tuesday to Friday at 8:00 a.m. They are streamed live on the parish Facebook Page as well.

- **COMMUNITY SPIRIT. Our Saviour's Food Drive.** In November and December Our Saviour's Parish participated in Diocesan Food Drive program collecting food items to support *New Beginnings*, a local Soup Kitchen in Woonsocket. Our Parish collected and donated 239 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. In the season of Lent we are collecting items for the Woonsocket Shelter for single women with children who are homeless. They are in need of pillows, twin sheet sets, and blankets, deodorant, razors, and baby wipes.



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- **Free Lunch for the local community.** Every month on the third Saturday from 11am to 12:30pm Our Saviour's offers Drive Thru Free Lunch to the local community. This event is a part of our Parish outreach program.

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 previous events (November, December and January) were very successful.



Each time we served over 50 bowls of soup, crackers, snacks, and bottled water to those who stopped by, to the homeless at Woonsocket, Men’s Shelter, and to the needy at WWII Veteran Park in Woonsocket. Thank you to Lonnie and Sally for preparing delicious soup every month.

Thank you also to all parishioners and friends for their donations and to all who help us with distribution each month.

- **Christmas Celebrations 2020.** Christmas season had this year special character at Our Saviour’s. For the first time (probably in the history of the parish) we had to celebrate all the festivities in the parish Hall. Our Church was not ready yet at that time due to the reparations after Fire accident.



Parishioners did their best with decorations and the parish hall on Christmas night looked really impressive and beautiful. Beautiful was the Christmas Night shepherds Mass celebration as well. We all enjoy a special music performance offered us by the Ethier Family that night. The beautiful music performed by Jeff, Charlotte, Michael, and Matthew Ethier moved us spiritually in time to the moment when Jesus was born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. It was a beautiful spiritual experience.



- **Back in the Church.** After a couple of months the community of Our Saviour's had the first Mass in the Church. The fire accident which took place on September 27, 2020, destroyed completely the altar of sacrifice, and caused a lot of damage in the church, so the parish community had to use the parish hall for the religious services for over 4 months. Finally on Sunday, February 14 (Valentine's Day) the first Mass in the renewed church was solemnly celebrated.

The church after restoration looks beautiful. The old carpet in the church was replaced with the new one and the rails in the sanctuary were removed so it looks more spacious and open now.



The whole church was cleaned from the ceiling to the floor as well. We are still waiting for the new altar of sacrifice which has to be delivered at the end on February ,and for the new curtains for confessionals and the choir rails.

We are thankful to Jesus for His care for us. He bestowed upon us His protection and we are saved in His arms. We believe He stopped the fire and saved His church, and our spiritual home. He wants to be with us and among us in this holy place.

By Fr. Henryk Wos



From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT



Holy Trinity in Plantsville, CT hosts an annual Holiday Bazaar the first weekend in November. Because of the pandemic, we were challenged to create a way in which we could continue our tradition and yet stay socially distanced and safe. This was a dilemma because, anyone who has been to Holy Trinity, which was organized 107 years ago, knows that we have no parking lot. In addition, it is difficult to do a

“virtual” bazaar to say the least. Our ANS ladies, who host the bazaar, had a need to do something and so put their minds to the task and came up with the idea of using the outdoors to hold the basket raffle and provide “take out” Polish meals. The baskets were set up in front of the rectory.



People were required to wear masks and maintain social distance. Baskets were also placed to maintain the 6 foot distance. Labels as to what was included in each basket were placed for easy reading.

The Polish Kitchen was always the major draw and trying to determine how this could be accomplished was a challenge. The “take out” Polish dinner was created.

The meals had to be pre-ordered. People were told that dinners could be picked up between certain hours and they remained in their cars in front of the church. We created a system where someone would ask for the name, it would be transmitted to the kitchen and then the completed meals were packaged and brought to the cars.

Thank you to Ethan Soboleski (age 10) for doing the running up and down the stairs!



God was on our side because He provided us with a beautiful, warm day! The day was very successful and everyone felt as if this was a way to provide some normalcy in a not so normal world. We now know that it CAN be done.



Diocesan Food Drive

Holy Trinity in Plantsville, CT participated in the Diocesan Food Drive during the months of November and December. We normally collect food for the pantry during the months of May and August—when the supplies at the pantry are more limited.

While we didn't count the items collected, the pantry weighs the items we bring in. Our top collection so far was 91 pounds. During this drive, we collected 167 pounds—a new record. One of our parishioners, John Lalla, graciously offered to deliver the items to the food bank.

By Marilyn Folcik



From our parishes...

St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA

Although most normal activities have come to a halt as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, parishioners of St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA have still been carrying on their Christian duties by collecting and distributing food, clothing, and toiletries to various facilities in our area.

To the Milford Food Pantry in Milford, NH, canned goods from “Souper Bowl Sunday” were delivered by Dr. Bert and Diane Quirbach.

To Bachand Hall, a home for girls aged out of foster care and run by the Sisters of Ottawa in Lowell, over 300 toiletry items were delivered by Janice Klimczak.



To transitional housing facilities in Nashua, NH and Lowell, MA, 200+ and 300+ pairs of white socks respectively were delivered by Shirley Garvey.

To the Dracut Food Pantry, Dracut, MA, 127 food items collected during the Diocesan Food Drive, were delivered by Paula and David Jones.

By Janice Klimczak

• New Livestreaming Equipment installed at St. Casimir

For quite some time (way before the pandemic) St. Casimir's Parish has broadcast Sunday masses over the internet using the YouTube channel. In this way, we have joined in prayer with those who are homebound or for any reason could not be with us in person. Many parishioners were watching Sunday masses during snowstorms in the past years when they were not able to come to church.

Last year it became clear that the demand for remote viewing of services in the church was increasing every month. To keep up with the growing number of viewers, we decided to update our broadcasting system so it can provide good quality to all.

With a donation from the kitchen committee, we purchased a new video switcher, a few cameras, a wireless microphone system for the altar, and a microphone for the choir. A monitor and computer were donated by Fr. Andrew who found them at the Goodwill store.

We also upgraded the internet speed because broadcasting requires higher speed. Lastly, we moved our broadcast to our church's Facebook page for a better connection with our viewers who now can write comments and watch recordings of our masses any time they miss the live broadcasts.

After the update, our Facebook page recorded a 400% increase in viewing and many people became interested in checking our church website stcasimirspncc.com where we also noticed more viewers. Our Sunday masses are viewed not only by our parishioners but people from other parishes and different parts of the world who join us every Sunday. In this strange time of pandemic that keeps many apart, streaming our Sunday mass brings many together in prayer.

**By Father Andrzej
Tenus**



• **New Parish Committee at St. Casimir**

A parish meeting was held on December 20,2020 to elect officers to serve St. Casimir's Parish for 2021. The following were elected:

Co-chairmen, Robert Hunt and Dr. Robert Quirbach; Recording secretary, Janice Klimczak; Treasurer, Shirley Garvey; Financial Secretary, Linda Hedrick;

Directors: JoAnn Menzia, Patricia Whiting, Phyllis Hunt, Christopher Kowalski, Irene Jaracz, Paula Jones, Carol McNiff, Diane Quirbach, Sophie Kosidlo, Josephine Wrobel, Christine Piec, David Breault, Nancy Picanso, Shirley Kourey, Thomas McNiff, Charlotte Stankiewicz, Stanley Kosidlo

Financial Reviewers: Stanley Kosidlo, Christopher Kowalski, David Breault.

Cemetery Committee: Co-Chairmen Robert Hunt and Dr. Robert Quirbach; Co-superintendents Robert Ferus and Thomas McNiff; Paula Jones, Stanley Kosidlo, Janice Klimczak, Phyllis Hunt, Irene Jaracz.

Delegates to Seniorate meetings (second year of two year term): JoAnn Menzia, Phyllis Hunt, Irene Jaracz, Janice Klimczak (alternate).

Public Relations: JoAnn Menzia, Janice Klimczak, Linda Kosidlo, Ann Marie Page, Paul Starenas, Debbie Starenas

From our parishes...

St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT



As incidences of virus infection in Stratford rose and forced a return to Level Red restrictions, the usual festivities of Advent and Christmas were not able to be held. Advent was observed quietly with home study of the Gospel of Luke in preparation for the Nativity. In a way, the imposed separation helped focus us more on the original meaning of Christmas – giving to others as Christ was given to us.



Saturday Vigil Masses are celebrated in the main church and Sunday Masses are celebrated in the church hall to allow for more separation between participants and ventilation of the room. Sunday Mass is also live-streamed through the parish website so those homebound or unable to attend for other reasons can celebrate alongside those physically present. All proper protocols are followed to keep everyone safe.





Although our congregation numbers have been small, the giving has been large. Each week we've continued to collect food for our local food pantry which has been kindly delivered to them by Joe and Jane Pelland.



The amount of food brought in varies week to week, but the caring for our less fortunate neighbors doesn't abate with the change in season. In fact, this generosity has been evident since we resumed having Masses at the church. Unable to hold the annual collection drive at the local Stop & Shop, the parish chose to instead step up on their own to collect weekly. Since the beginning of June, at the end of each Mass in the parking lot, bags of non-perishables were left on the sidewalk by the patio. Now that we've resumed indoor Mass, these bags gather each Sunday in our foyer by the same gray bucket that graced our lawn in warmer weather.

Our communal giving is not limited to this collection. The Ladies' Society donated four \$100 Stop & Shop gift cards to Sterling House and ten \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards to the Lord's Kitchen for Christmas. They also donated \$250 to Blessed Sacrament to supplement the food pantry donations. The YMS of R ran two successful Polish Food sales, one for Christmas and the other for New Year's, the proceeds of which benefited Blessed Sacrament and the Lord's Kitchen. One of our Confirmation students, Julia Vasas, is collecting toiletries for one of the New Haven homeless shelters. The YMS of R has also made a \$50 donation to that cause.



Due to ongoing restrictions, few events have been scheduled for the upcoming months. The exception to this is the YMS of R Colossal Kielbasa Stand – it's going mobile!

**Polish/American
Comfort Classics**
"COLOSSAL"
Kielbasa Grinder
Grilled Pierogi
Kielbasa Bites
Polish Hamburger
Stuffed Cabbage
Stella's Potato Salad
The "King Colossal"
Cabbage & Noodles
CK Hot Dogs!

Colossal

Kielbasa
-Food Stand-

**CORPORATE &
PRIVATE
PARTIES
Fundraisers Too!**


203.377.9901
colossalkielbasa@hugatuga.com

FACEBOOK: COLOSSALKIELBASA

Check them out at the Shakespeare Food Market in March prior to their seasonal opening on our church grounds April 25th!

Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday Mass at 6:30 pm in the church. Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Friday evenings at 6:30 pm. There will be no potluck dinner prior to Stations this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Vasas, Music Director

From our parishes...

St. John the Baptist Parish, Manchester, CT

Following the invitation of our Bishop and the Eastern Diocese Mission Commission, we conducted a food drive in the Parish from November 1 until Christmas Day. We have collected more than 150 items. Just before Christmas Eve, all items were divided and packed as “Christmas baskets” and then eventually delivered to the families in need in the area. The food



drive showed us that great things are done by a series of small things brought together with a generous heart!

Advent & Christmas time at St. John's Church in Manchester was very special this year.

All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament held on Saturday, Dec 19 from 9am till 3pm has become a custom Advent Devotion at St. John's, as a spiritual preparation for Christmas Season.



We gathered together to celebrate the Shepherds' Mass on Wigilia night at 10pm followed by traditional mulled wine and cheese prepared by Fr. Adam and his wife. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we couldn't share oplatek and individual wishes.



On Christmas Day a solemn Mass was celebrated at 10am. for all the families of our Parish!

New Parish Committee has been elected at the Annual Parish meeting held in the Church Hall on Jan 10, 2021.

Congratulations to the new Parish Committee members: Mitchell A. Bielenda – Chairman, Edward Makles – Vice-chairman, Diane Makles – Treasurer, Linda Johnson – Secretary and Walter Motulski – Committee member.



Next Sunday, at the end of the Holy Mass celebration, newly elected Parish Committee members swore their oath. After the Mass we shared an occasional cake!

By Fr. Adam Piekarczywski

From Our Parishes...

Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

2020 Wreaths Across America Ceremony

At noon on Saturday, December 19, 2020, Divine Providence Parish, PNCC in Norwich, CT participated with many thousands of other churches and cemeteries across the country in conducting a Wreaths Across American Ceremony at our Divine Providence Cemetery. The Ceremony was to honor the veterans buried there. All went on as scheduled in spite of the cold weather and in spite of eight inches of snow on the ground.

Approximately 18 of our parish members were present at the Ceremony along with 25 members of the American Heritage Girl CT0003 Troop from Gallup Hill Baptist Church in Ledyard, CT and approximately a dozen officers and enlisted men and women from the nearby Coast Guard and Navy bases. The program included reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, reading the WAA statement, placing seven

ceremonial wreaths for branches of our Armed Forces, prayers, and the playing of Taps.

Before the Ceremony, all present helped to lay wreaths at the 110 graves of veterans buried at the cemetery. 20 of these wreaths were donated by parish members and 90 of the



wreaths were donated by the America Heritage Girls who purchased them through a Troop fund raising effort.

The Ceremony was organized and conducted by our priest, Father Christopher Rogalski, and parishioners Jerry Donat and George Ververis. This was the fifth year that Divine Providence Cemetery has held this event

By George P Ververis Jr

Other Parish Activities:

- Christmas pierogi sale



Eva Klos, left, and Ela Chmielewski of Devine Providence Church in Norwich show off the pierogis and other baked goods for sale Saturday at Shop Local Holiday in the Market Street Garage in downtown Norwich. See more photos at NorwichBulletin.com [John Shishmanian/
NorwichBulletin.com] [Show less](#) ^
[JOHN SHISHMANIAN/ NORWICHBULLETIIN.COM]



Christmas PIEROGI SALE



POTATO & CHEESE \$10
FARMER CHEESE \$12
CABBAGE \$12
per dozen

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



By Elizabeth Chmielewski

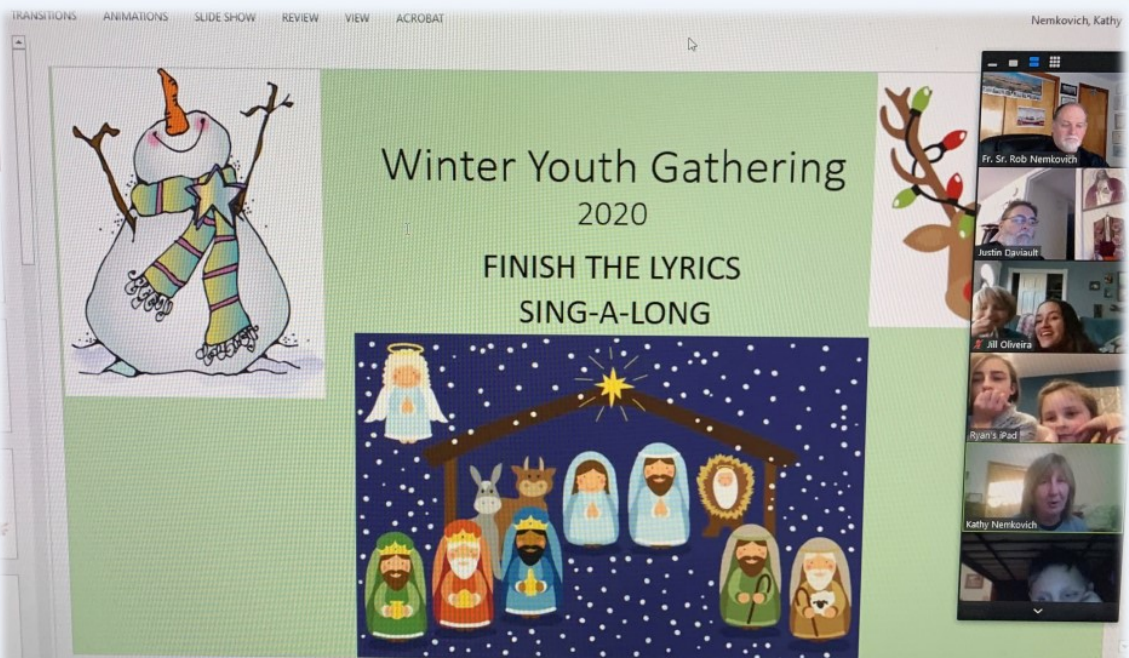
National and Diocesan Events:

2020 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering (Dec. 28th)



Our 2020 Diocesan Winter Youth Virtual Gathering was held Monday afternoon December 28th. It was a fun and blessed time together with laughs and learning. Thanks to all who participated.

After an opening prayer by Fr. Sr. Rob; in + Bp. Stan fashion all gathered had to start by answering a question - what was their favorite Christmas Gift. Kathy then led the Christmas song game with many laughs. Bishop Paul, Cleric Justin, Joanne and Fr. Rob were the singers. Joanne led a Christmas Trivia game highlighting the past Advent and current Christmas seasons. Kathy then led the Nativity Alphabet Game which we



Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With angelic host proclaim:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

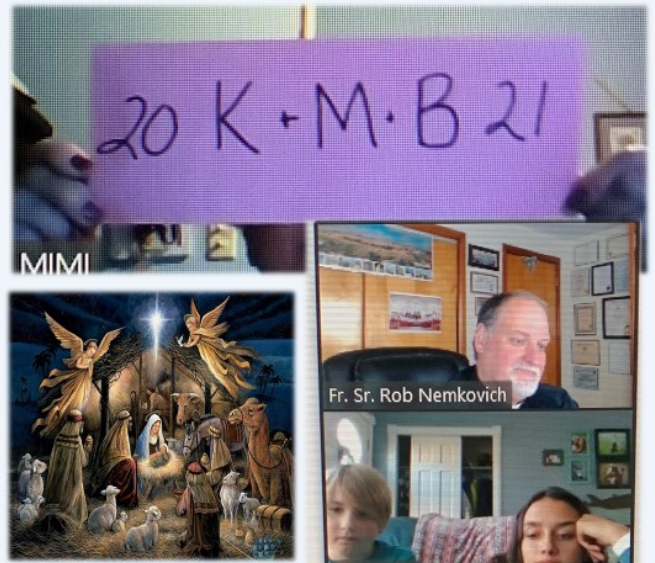
Hark! The herald angels sing...



all enjoyed and together got a word for each letter!

Bishop Paul shared a Christmas Discipleship message with all and then gave us his Apostolic Blessing. We hope our next diocesan youth event will be in person. So good to see and spend some time with our precious diocesan youth. Six diocesan par-

ishes were represented and thanks to the few clergy who made the effort to attend this youth zoom gathering. Go share the JOY of this sacred season always! **Fr. Sr. Rob**

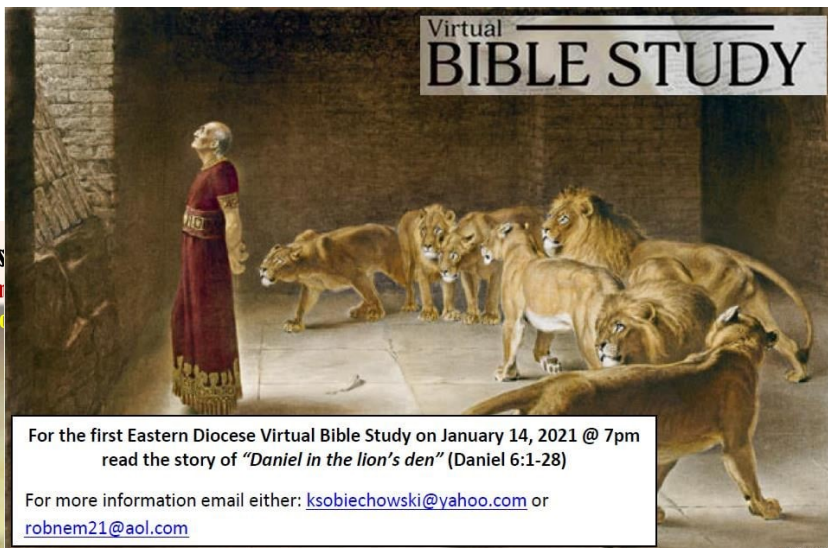


Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible Study

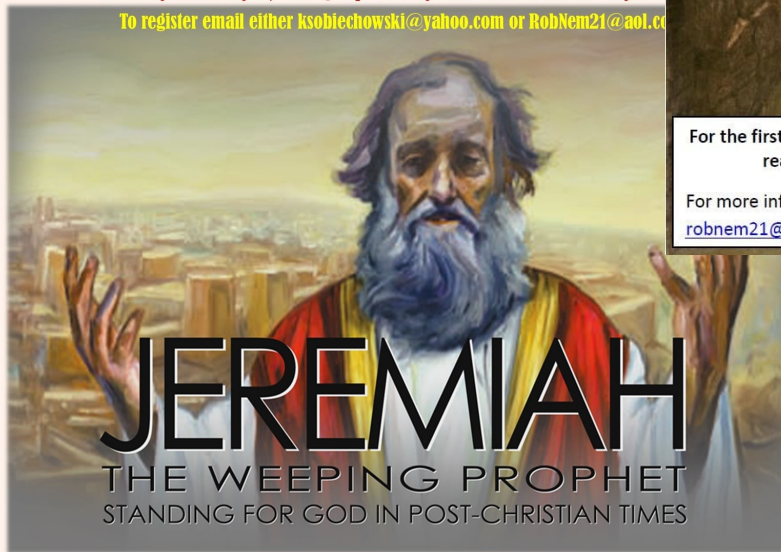
Since January 2021 the Eastern Diocese leads its monthly virtual Bible Study. This was the idea of the Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission to provide sources for the spiritual growth of the members of our parishes. The commission also decided that the topics of the monthly bible study will be following the themes from the action plan for PNCC parishes. prepared by the PNCC Future Direction Committee.

Eastern Diocese PNCC Monthly Virtual Bible Study Series

Thursday - February 11, 2021 @ 7 pm led by Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich on Jeremiah
To register email either ksobiechowski@yahoo.com or RobNem21@aol.com



For the first Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible Study on January 14, 2021 @ 7pm read the story of "Daniel in the lion's den" (Daniel 6:1-28)
For more information email either: ksobiechowski@yahoo.com or robnem21@aol.com



The first virtual Bible Study, entitled "Daniel in the lion's den" was prepared and led by Fr. Henryk Wos. The second one "Jeremiah -The weeping prophet" was led by Fr. Sr. Robert Nemkovich. Both were very successful and gathered each around 50 participants.

The Eastern Diocese virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. To register email either ksobiechowski@yahoo.com or RobNem21@aol.com.

• Eastern Diocese Clergy Meeting

On Tuesday January 26, 2021, The Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission held the meeting with the diocesan clergy. Most of the clergy and Bishop Paul Sobiechowski were present. Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky also attended the meeting.

During the meeting several topics were discussed. One of the most important topics addressed by the clergy regarded rules and regulations for the liturgical celebrations during the Covid-19 pandemic. The clergy were reminded to follow the rules established by the government and by particular states, as well as those prepared by the church. Clergy were also reminded to follow the liturgical rules and the Ordo of the Church in the liturgy and given guidance for the upcoming liturgical celebrations. Clergy also discussed the rules regarding the livestreaming of the liturgical celebrations. The meeting ended with the solemn blessing given by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky.



By Fr. Henryk Wos

EASTERN DIOCESE FOOD DRIVE



At the end of October 2020 all parishes of the Eastern Diocese were called to participate in the diocesan Food Drive. The parishes were called to collect non-perishable food items to support the local food banks and the charity organizations.

Many parishes in our diocese took seriously this appeal to their hearts and joined in collecting the food for those who are in most need in the local communities.

Thank you to all parishes who responded to the call of the Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission. Their effort as St. James says, is a sign of their deep and true faith and love they have for their brothers in need.

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2:14-18).

Below there is the list of the parishes and number of items collected during the Diocesan Food Drive in November and December.

- **Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH** raised 529 non-perishable food items for the *New Horizon Food Pantry*. The food items were delivered during the first week of January.



- **Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA** collected over 2,000 non perishable, canned food items, gift cards and a 20 lb. turkey. They were given to our local Citizens for Citizens Food Pantry located about 1/2 mile from our parish.



- **St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT** during the recent Diocesan food drive we collected about 240 food items. During the pandemic folks have been giving cash as well. The donations range from \$10 to \$200 per week. They were delivered to the local Food Pantry.



- **St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA** collected 127 food items during the Diocesan Food Drive. They were delivered to the Dracut Food Pantry, Dracut, MA.

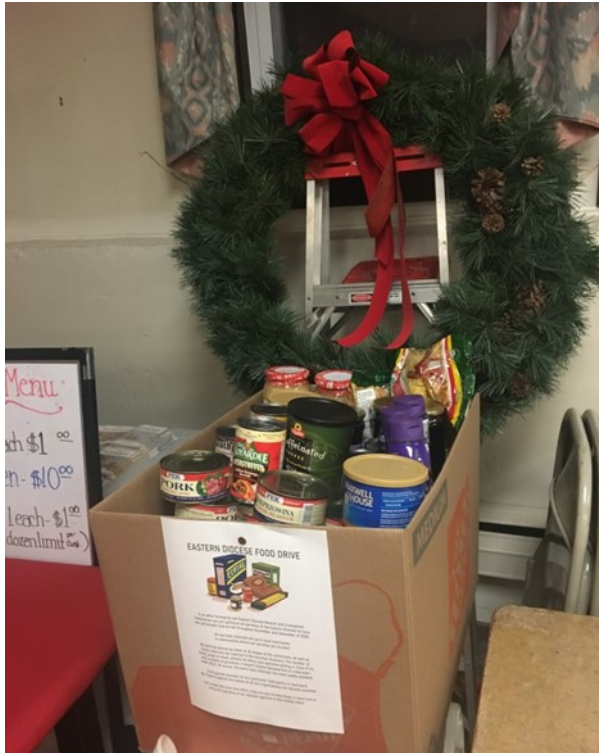


- **St. John Parish, Manchester, CT** collected more than 150 items. Just before Christmas Eve, all items were divided and packed as "Christmas baskets" and then eventually delivered to the families in need in the area.



- **Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT** during the Diocesan Food Drive in November and December collected 167 pounds of non perishable, canned food items. All items were delivered to the local Food Pantry.

- **Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI** throughout November and December collected 239 different food items. All items were delivered to the *New Beginnings*, a local Soup Kitchen in Woonsocket.



- **Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT** collected several food items and donated them to the local Food Pantry in Norwich.

PNU District 3 Christmas Food Donation supports Eastern Diocesan Effort - Dec. 16, 2020
PNU Vice President Kathy, District 3 Treasurer Eric and PNU Board member Fr. Rob



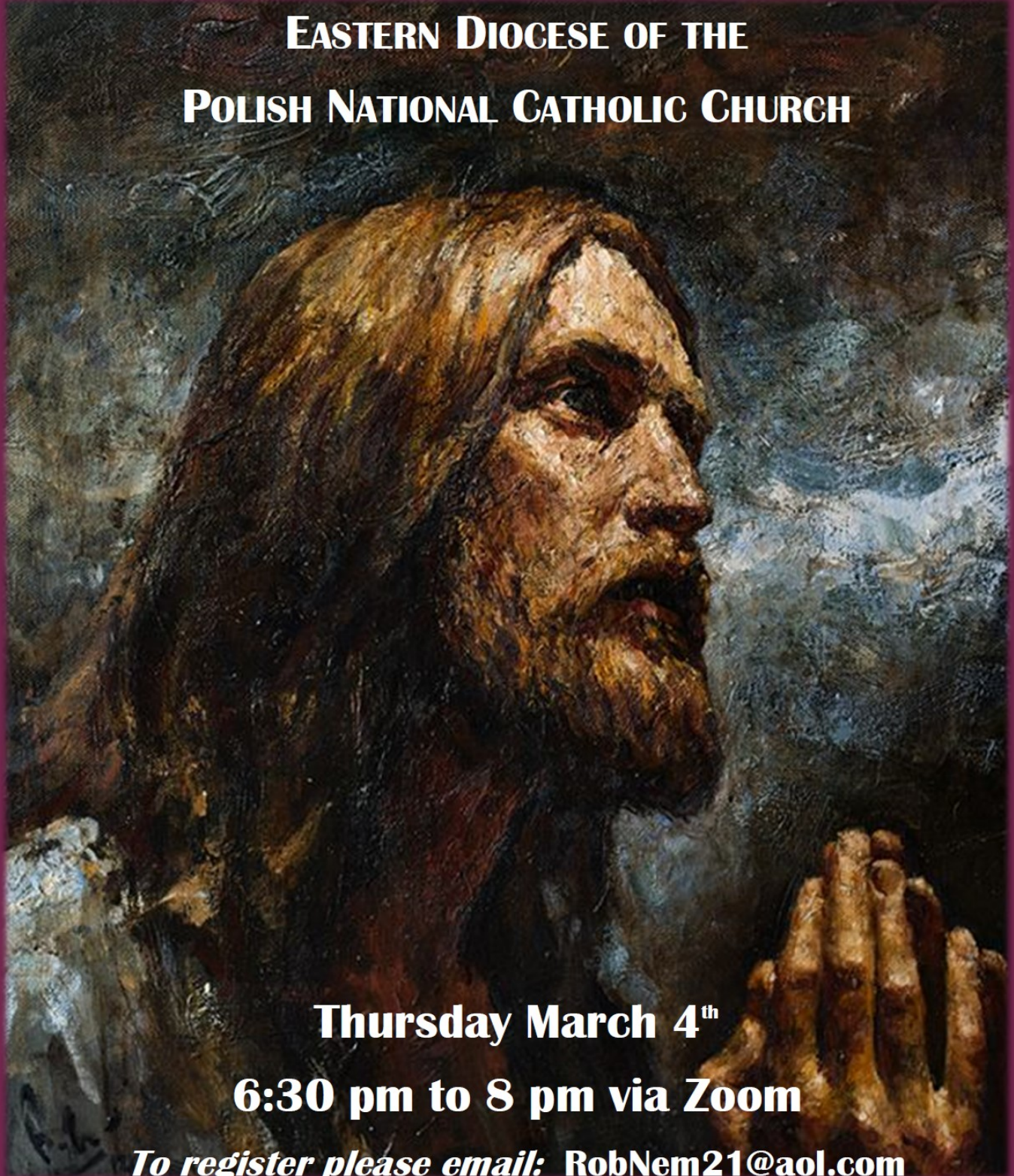
A huge THANK YOU to all Parishes of the Eastern Diocese and to PNU District 3 for their spirit of charity and brotherly Love.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

Upcoming Events:

2021 NORTHEAST SENIORATE LENTEN RETREAT

**EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE
POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Thursday March 4th

6:30 pm to 8 pm via Zoom

To register please email: RobNem21@aol.com

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.

The Easter Raffle will take place on Sunday, March 21, 2021 immediately following the 10:30 AM Holy Mass at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI. The first prize is \$50.00 cash and the second and the third prizes are \$25.00 cash.

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

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

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

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich



2021 PNCC VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT to

A painting of Jesus Christ wearing the crown of thorns, looking down.

Tuesday March 23rd
7 pm to 8:30 pm (EST) via Zoom
BY THE PNCC FUTURE DIRECTION COMMITTEE
Register by Passion Sunday March 21 by emailing:
pbmikovsky@pncc.org or RobNem21@aol.com

2021 EASTERN DIOCESE ALTAR SERVER RETREAT

THURSDAY – JUNE 24, 2021

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH – FALL RIVER, MA

“DISCIPLESHIP: 2021”

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT HORSENECK BEACH

SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVING DURING THE LITURGIES OF THE CHURCH



Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow

Altar Servers - Plus a trip swimming at Horseneck Beach

Open to Altar Servers of our Eastern Diocese - registration is just \$10



To register or for additional

information contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich

RobNem21@aol.com



FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

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

A reminder:

Our diocesan family is being asked to pray the “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.

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

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

We thank all parishes that participated in the November/December Diocesan Food Drive. While we haven’t received totals (items or pounds) received or the names of local food pantries that received your donations, articles concerning this program are in this issue of “The Messenger”.

Assignments:

- No new assignments

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

- None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Tuesday, February 2 - District 3 Polish National Union of America Zoom Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Thursday, February 4 - Eastern Diocese Mission & Evangelism Commission Prayer and Business Zoom Meeting - 6:15 PM
- Tuesday, February 9 - Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Zoom Meeting - 10:30 AM
- Tuesday, February 9 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Thursday, February 11 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Bible Study lead by Father Senior Robert Nemkovich
- Wednesday, February 17 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Saturday, February 20 - Eastern Diocese Ladies A.N.S. Sub-Central Executive Committee Zoom Meeting - 7:00 AM
- Tuesday, February 23 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Thursday, February 25 - National Mission & Evangelism Commission Zoom Meeting - 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 9 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Thursday, March 11 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Bible Study lead by Father Robert Koerber
- Tuesday, March 23 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 6 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Thursday, April 8 - Eastern Diocese-wide Adult Bible Study lead by to be announced
- Tuesday, April 20 - P.N.C.C. Bishops' Zoom Meeting - 1:00 PM
- Monday, April 12 - Wednesday, April 14 - National Liturgical Commission (face to face) Meeting, National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Monday, April 26 - Annual P.N.C.C. Bishops' Meeting (face to face), National Church Center, Scranton, PA
- Tuesday, April 27 - Wednesday, April 28 - Annual Supreme Council Meeting (face to face), National Church Center, Scranton, PA

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

- Monday, February 1 - +Sp. Bishop Valentine Gawrychowski (1934) - Anniversary
- Tuesday, February 2 - Solemnity of the Presentation of our Lord - blessing of candles
- Wednesday, February 3 - Commemoration of Saint Blaise - blessing of throats
- Sunday, February 7- Sexagesima Sunday (readings from Ordinary 7)
- Sunday, February 14 - Quinquagesima Sunday (readings from Ordinary 8) Commemoration of Saint Valentine
- Tuesday, February 16 - 68th Anniversary of the death of First Prime Bishop Francis Hodur

- 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

- Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, February 21 - First Sunday of Lent
- Wednesday, February 24 - Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle
- Sunday, February 28 - Second Sunday of Lent
- Thursday, March 4 - Northeast Seniorate Lenten Zoom Retreat - 06:30 PM
- Sunday, March 7 - Third Sunday of Lent
- Sunday, March 14 - Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church
- Wednesday, March 17 - Commemoration of Saint Patrick
- Friday, March 19 - Solemnity of Saint Joseph - Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 21 - Passion Sunday
- Tuesday, March 23 - P.N.C.C. Lenten Retreat hosted by Future Direction-7:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 24 - Feast of Saint Gabriel, Archangel
- Thursday, March 25 - Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday - blessing and distribution of palms - beginning of Holy Week
- Monday, March 29 - Chrism Mass celebrated at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH - 10:00 AM
- Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday - one Mass only celebrated birth of First Prime Bishop Francis Hodur, 1866
- Friday, April 2 - Good Friday - liturgy of the pre-sanctified
- Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday - liturgy of blessings and, if in the evening, Expectant Mass of Easter
- Sunday, April 4 - Solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Sunday - procession, *Te Deum*, Holy Mass - beginning of Bright Week
- Sunday, April 11 - Second Sunday of Easter (Low Sunday)
- Sunday, April 18 - Third Sunday of Easter
- Friday-Saturday, April 23 - 24, PNCC National Mission Workshop to be held virtually.
- Sunday, April 25 - Fourth Sunday of Easter
- Monday, April 26 - Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist
- Friday, April 30 - Solemnity of Joseph the Workman

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

- Friday, February 12 - Birthday of Abraham Lincoln, USA
- Sunday, February 14 - Valentine's Day, USA
- Monday, February 15 - Presidents' Day - U.S.A. Federal Holiday
- Monday, February 22 - Birthday of George Washington, USA
- Sunday, March 14 - Daylight Savings Time Begins - USA
- Wednesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day, USA



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

Posłuchajcie, bracia miła... Listen, dear brothers...

the greatest masterpiece of Polish lenten medieval lyric

Ten anonimowy wiersz (*Posłuchajcie, bracia miła...*) z benedyktyńskiego klasztoru Świętego Krzyża na Łysej Górze został napisany w drugiej połowie XV wieku. Wiersz ten należy, obok *Bogurodzicy*, do największych arcydzieł średniowiecznej liryki. Nazywany jest również *Lamentami Matki Bożej pod Krzyżem* lub *Lamentem Krzyża Świętego*. Wiersz jest potężnym i dramatycznym wyrazem w prostych i poruszających słowach osobistego smutku; jest lamentem bezradnej matki będącej świadkiem agonii swego syna i szukającej pocieszenia u innych ludzi.



This anonymous poem (*Posłuchajcie, bracia miła...*) from the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Cross at Łysa Góra (Bald Mountain) was written in the latter part of the fifteenth century. This poem belongs, next to the *Bogurodzica*, to the greatest masterpieces of medieval lyric. It is also called *Laments of the Mother of God under the Cross* or *The Holy Cross Lament*. It is a powerful and dramatic expression of personal sorrow, a lament of a helpless mother witnessing the agony of her son and seeking consolation from other people in touching, simple words.

Posłuchajcie, bracia miła...

Posłuchajcie, bracia miła¹,
Kęć wam skorzyć krwawą głowę²;
Usłyszycie moj zamętek,
Jen mi się zstał w Wielki Piątek³.

Pożałuj mię, stary, młody,
Boć mi przysły krwawe gody⁴;
Jednegociem Syna miała
I tegociem ożała⁵.

Zamęt ciężki dostał się mie, ubogiej żenie⁶,
Widząc rozkrwawione me miłe narodzenie;
Ciężka moja chwila, krwawa godzina,
Widząc niewiernego Żydowina,*
Iż on bije, męczy mego milego Syna.

Synku miły i wybrany⁷,
Rozdziel⁸ z matką swoją rany;
A wszakom⁹ cię, Synku miły, w swem sercu nosiła,
A takżej tobie wiernie służyła.
Przemow k matce, bych się ucieszyła¹⁰,
Bo już jidziesz ode mnie, moja nadzieja miła¹¹.

Listen, dear brothers...

Listen, dear brothers,
I want to complain of a cruel murder¹;
Hear about the sorrow
That befell me on Good Friday.

Have pity on me, you old and young,
Because a painful feast day came for me:
I had only one Son
And I mourn for him.

Deep sorrow came over me, a miserable woman,
Seeing my dear son covered with blood.
Dreadful is this moment and frightful this hour,
When I see an infidel Jew
As he beats, tortures my dear Son.

My little Son, dear and loved,
Share your wounds with your mother;
I have always carried you, little Son, in my heart,
And I have also served you faithfully.
Speak to your mother, so that I can be consoled,
Because you are going away from me, my dear hope.

Synku, bych cię nisko miała,
Niecoć bych ci wspomagała¹²;
Twoja główka krzywo wisa¹³, tęć bych ja podparła;
Krew po tobie płynie, tęć bych ja utarła;
Picia wołasz, piciac bych ci dała,
Ale nie lza dosięć¹⁴ twego świętego ciała.

O anjele Gabryjele,
Gdzie jest ono twe wesele,
Cożeś mi go obiecował tako barzo wiele,
A rzekęcy¹⁵: "Panno, pełna jeś miłości!"
A ja pełna smutku i żalości.
Sprochniało¹⁶ we mnie ciało i moje wszytki kości.

Proścież Boga, wy miłe i żądne maciory¹⁷,
By wam nad dziatkami nie były takie to pozory,
Jele ja nieboga ninie dziś zeżrzała¹⁸
Nad swym, nad miłym Synem krasnym¹⁹,
Iż on cipi męki nie będąc w żadnej winie²⁰.

Nie mam ani będę mieć jinego,
Jedno ciebie, Synu, na krzyżu rozbitego²¹.

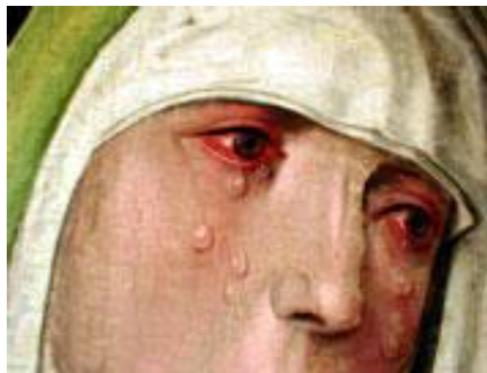
¹zwrot "bracia miła" to stara forma rzeczowników zbiorowych rodzaju żeńskiego w liczbie pojedynczej; ²chcę się wam poskarżyć w związku z krwawym zabójstwem; ³posłuchajcie o smutku, który mnie spotkał w Wielki Piątek; ⁴krwawe święto; ⁵opłakała; ⁶ciężkie strapienie spotkało mnie, nieszczęsną kobietę; ⁷drogi; ⁸podziel; ⁹przeciem; ¹⁰bym się pocieszyła; ¹¹moja nadziejo miła (mianownik w funkcji wołacza); ¹²pomagałabym ci trochę; ¹³wisi; ¹⁴nie można dosięgnąć; ¹⁵mówiąc; ¹⁶rozpada się; ¹⁷miłe i drogie matki; ¹⁸byście nie przeżywały takiego widoku waszych dzieci, jaki ja, nieboga, dziś ujrzałam; ¹⁹pięknym; ²⁰nie będąc wcale winnym; ²¹rozpiętego.

My dear Son, if I had had you down here,
I could have helped you somewhat:
Your little head hangs to one side; I would support it;
Blood is flowing over you; I would wipe it off;
You cry for water; I would give you drink;
But I may not reach your holy body.

O, angel Gabriel,
Where is this great joy of yours,
Of which you promised me so much,
Saying: "Virgin, you are full of grace!"?
And I am full of sorrow and grief.
My flesh and all my bones have rotted away.

Implore God, all you dear and loving mothers,
So you do not see such a sight with your children,
As I, a miserable woman, saw today
With my own, my dear, beautiful Son,
Who suffered such torments, though perfectly innocent.

I do not have nor will I have another one,
Only you, my Son, stretched upon the cross.



¹skorzyć in the Polish original meant to produce the corpse in court as evidence of crime. The Mother of God points to the head of her Son, covered with blood, in order to reveal the crime.

(Translated by Michael J. Mikoś)

* The *Lament Świętokrzyski* is a lyricist monologue of the Mother who suffers with the crucified Son and is tormented to the limit of human endurance. The apparent disorder of speech enhances the impression of despair, pain and helplessness. The author masterfully uses the contrasts of tender diminutives and drastic images of torment. The author of the poem refers to dolorism (Latin: dolor - pain, suffering), a religious current present in Europe of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, exhibiting the cult of the Lord's Passion and of Our Lady of Sorrows. The poem is an eloquent image of the medieval understanding of faith and only in such a context it can be analyzed and judged by contemporary readers.

By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

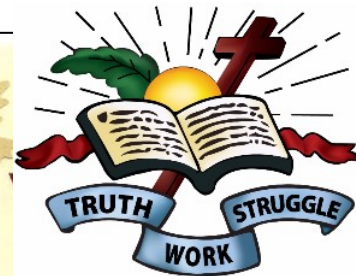
Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

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 61 Maple St., Ware, MA 01082-1545 Very Rev. Fryderyk Banas, Pastor (413)967-5233	St. Casimir Parish 240 Quinnipiac St., Wallingford, CT 01850-2313 Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski, Administrator (203)294-8888
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Henryk Wos, Administrator (508)-943-0608 / (401)-762-3072	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Adam Piekarczywski-Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Thomas Walsh, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Pastor (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575	

Diocesan Chaplains

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

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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<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!