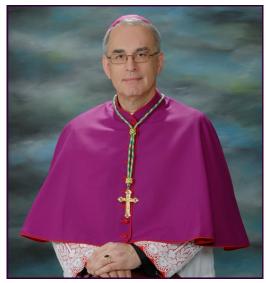
THE MESSENGER

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



"PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD"

On this Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ the King people are well into a season of preparation. In the secular world we've been preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas since the beginning of October One needs only look in

newspapers and on TV and in the malls and stores to see all the black Friday sales going on, well in advance of Black Friday.

Newscasters have been warning about how the current inflation that's happening across the United States is going to hit our pocketbooks this Thanksgiving (though I've seen turkey prices at 47 cents per pound). We're preparing to meet the series of postal deadlines, to insure packages arrive by Christmas. Stores and businesses are already preparing to deal with delays that are expected because Pacific coast ports can't unload cargo fast enough, even though they're working around the clock. The secular world is preparing.

The Church is preparing too. We're pursuing last-minute needs for the ecumenical Thanksgiving services we'll be participating in. Our ladies A.N.S. societies are already getting the sarum blue frontals out of storage and ironing them to be ready for Friday and Saturday when the Thanksgiving flowers and appointments will be removed for the sarum blue of Advent. Oplatki will soon be arranged for blessing in our churches that they may be available for families to take home and use in Christmas cards to be mailed to family and friends around the world. Rorate Masses are being planned and Advent music selected for those parishes observing this Catholic tradition, Nativity scenes will soon be unpacked and "freshened up" or new nativities will be purchased for church and home to be ready for Christmas Eve. The Church is preparing for the celebration of Advent. *Cont. next page*.



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Food is being collected for the needy as well as warm clothing for the winter months that are rapidly approaching. Seniorates are planning their Advent gatherings for candle-lighting services or other paraliturgies that bring people together in anticipation of the annual celebration of the Christ-Child's birth. The world still lives in COVID-19's shadow, but the people are less fearful and are stepping forward confidently to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

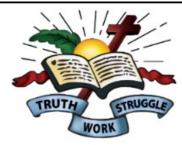
The secular world, the Church, and people in general are preparing for the holidays before us. Even so, a self-reflective question needs to be asked... and answered, "How am I spiritually preparing for Christmas?" The Jesus of the Nativity, the Jesus of the earthly ministry, the Jesus of death and Resurrection, the Jesus of the second coming and judgment; is standing at the door of our souls and knocking. Are we aware that He is there? Are we preparing a place for Him in the Inn of our souls? Are we putting time aside from the busy-ness of the season for prayer and communion with the God of life and light; the king of the Universe, He Who will come to judge?

This Christmas we can engage in and complete all our preparations, traditional and contemporary. But if we haven't prepared our hearts and our souls for Advent and Christmas, it will be a shallow preparation. Writers have often said that the secular celebration of Christmas is for children. The analogy also works well for our spiritual preparation. There is deep meaning to the words of the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 18:3-5, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

May we all experience a truly spiritual preparation for the upcoming holidays.

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:

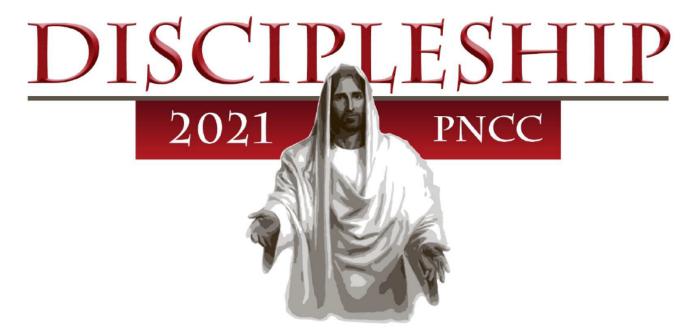
- a. increase the awareness of our church by enabling parishes to use more social media technologies, especially Facebook in promoting masses and special services, and various events and fund-raising activities.
- b. encourage the expansion of community engagement efforts among our parishes as a way 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

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

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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

<u>Reflection and Action Item</u>: 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

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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:

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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

<u>Scripture</u>: 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.

<u>Reflection and Action Item</u>: 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

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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

<u>Reflection and Action Item:</u> 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 <u>every day</u> 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 trail?

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

<u>Reflection and Action Item</u>: 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

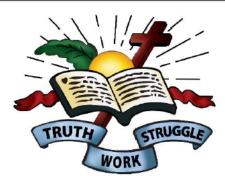
I. Growth and Membership

III. Lifelong Learning

II. Increase Spirituality

IV. Sacred Vocations

V. Community Involvement



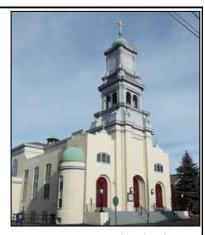
From our parishes...

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH

Parish News:

HOBART

• Ray Pieczarka putting some humor into making cabbage pierogis, getting ready for our frozen food sale in December.



Bishop Paul celebrated his birthday (10/31) and the 10th anniversary of his consecration (10/18) with his family and fellow parishioners, during cake and coffee hour after mass on Halloween.





• During the month of October, we collected to help aid teachers in their classrooms with toiletries such as tissues, paper towels and sanitary items, such as hand sanitizer, wet wipes, masks, etc.

 Also during the month of October, we had major roofing work done on our entire complex.



• For the month of November, we had our Sweats for Vets drive and collected sweats of any type for our local veterans. Bill Zygadla is helping with the delivery to the Liberty House. Also for this month we collected can



food items which was delivered to the Blessed Sacrament Church for the citywide food drive for hunger.



• Emily Tazbir was the recipient of the Kaffel Scholarship. She was an altar server and went through our School of Christian Living. Emily has actively helped with church activities through the years.

 Our cathedral has been overdue for a new nativity set, as our present one has pieces which are beginning to break. Our School of Christian Living has purchased a beautiful new nativity set.



- Wish list for helping families at Parkside Middle School, as well as supplying needed families with gift certificates for food.
- Volunteering at our local Toys for Tots.

Wishing everyone a joyous Holiday Season from Bishop Paul and the parishioners of Holy Trinity Cathedral.

By Nancy Reilly

From Our Parishes...

A BLESSED AND EVENTFUL FALL AT BLESSED TRINITY IN FALL RIVER



Parish Recognized with Hero of Peace Award







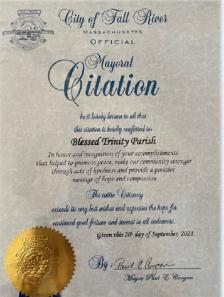
MESSAGE DURING THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION:

"To know kindness in Fall River is to know Blessed Trinity Parish. Fr. Rob and Kathy lead the way in demonstrating acts of love for our greater community...

Blessed Trinity Parish completely embodies the meaning of being a Hero of Peace. Thank you so much Rob and Kathy for your leadership and love in all of these endeavors"







On September 20, 2021 Blessed Trinity Parish was a recipient of the Fall River Hero of Peace award. This was given in recognition of our many community outreach discipleship efforts showing our love for others through acts of kindness.

As we are now limited in what we can share please follow us on Face-book to see many other parish events at *Blessed Trinity PNCC*

What A Pierogi Party - Thank You to All who Helped - 490 Dozen - Sept. 4 & 5, 2021







Opening of School of Christian Living Classes - Sept 12, 2021



FRPD Fundraiser Food Prep at Blessed Trinity & 80 Racks of Ribs & More - Sept 10 & 11, 2021





9-11 Commemoration on the 20th Anniversary







Father Kelly Neighborhood Association meeting - 9/20/21 & Voting Precincts 2A & 2B on 9/21/21











September Food Drive Delivery - 3 SUV's to Citizens for Citizens - Sept. 27, 2021











Annual Blue Mass at St. Michael's Church - Fall River - Sept. 28, 2021 Prayers for our Police Officers, Fire Fighters, EMTs and Military









Blessing of Animals - Oct. 2, 2021

St. Francis - Pray for us!







Parish Youth Fall Outing - Fun Hay Ride and Lost in the Corn Maze! Oct. 9, 2021







Fall River Mayoral Debate at Blessed Trinity - Oct. 20, 2021



FRCMedia, FRGTV, and WSAR Radio collaborated on a mayoral debate last night held at the Blessed Trinity Parish Hall on Plymouth Avenue. Incumbent Mayor Paul Coogan and City Council President Cliff Ponte shared with voters how they will govern over the next two years....

http://frmedia.org/video-mayoral-candidates-share-vision-for-fall-rivers-future-at-debate/









Polish Food Fest 2021 - Thanks to our Workers!! Day 1 (10/22)















Operation Christmas Child Box Packing - Thanks to our youth & all who donated items (11/7/21)







Operation Christmas Child Drive - Thanks to all who supported this effort. Nov. 14, 2021



Providing Lunches for our local Veterans in Need - Fall River Veterans Center - Thanks to all who donated Nov. 10, 2021



Fall River, MA

'It helps out a lot': This Fall River food pantry is a lifeline for local veterans

South Coast Today 1 day ago

FALL RIVER — A food pantry run by the Veterans Association of Bristol County is the reason many local veterans have enough food on the table. "It's a little place, but we get so much done," said Kim Wagner, the office's administrative assistant. The local association's small building near...



On Wednesday morning, the office bustled with activity, with a short line of clients outside before the doors opened at 10 a.m. In about 30 minutes, 20 or so veterans or veteran's family members had cycled through, while volunteers from Blessed Trinity Church and the Massachusetts SPCA dropped off pre-made bagged lunches and a carload of pet food.

Greater Fall River salutes: Where to celebrate Veterans Day across the region

www.southcoasttoday.com



The Rev. Robert Nemkovich of Blessed Trinity Church in Fall River, and his wife Kathy give a box of lunches made at the parish to Kim Wagner, at the Veterans Association of Bristol County Wednesday.

Colin Furz

Welcome to our Fall River Veterans Kitchen preparing a Thanksgiving Meal for our Veterans - 11/16/2021



Fall River Veterans Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner for our Veterans @ Corky Row - 11/17/2021 Blessed to offer Grace and then serve so many who served us.









Thanksgiving Brunch & Parcel Post Auction - Thanks to all who helped raise \$1,838! - Nov. 21, 2021

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH
FALL RIVER, MA

Thanksgiving Day Community Turkey Dinner - Thanks to our Volunteers - Nov. 25, 2021



From Our Parishes...

Holy Cross News - Central Falls, RI

Fall was a time of discipleship, a delicious ladies society pork supper and preparation for our annual Polish Kitchen. We held local community food distributions, a food drive, a successful Operation Christmas Child effort and our best Thanksgiving Basket Drive with 8 baskets given to families in need in our local area. Thanks to all who supported these efforts. We were busy making our Polish Food for yet another successful Polish Kitchen. Thanks to all who heled preparing the food and all your time and effort that went into this fundraiser that allows us to continue our ministry in the Central Falls area. We lead forward to be string our Seniorete Candelight Sen

in the Central Falls area. We look forward to hosting our Seniorate Candlelight Service on December 19th and have our Winter Clothing Drive now underway.



Holy Cross Central Falls - Pawtucket Food Distribution Sept. 18, 2021









Pierogi Making Fun - Thanks to All who Helped!! Sept. 18, 2021



Successful September Food Drive & Spojnia Sunday - Sept. 26, 2021







Holy Cross Ladies Society Pork Supper - Thanks to all who support this event - Oct. 2, 2021



Cabbage Pierogi Making at Holy Cross - Thanks to our Volunteers! 10-9-2021



Thanks to all who helped make our final pierogi for our November Polish Kitchen - 10/30/21









Cabbage Prep for our Polish Kitchen & Prepping Food Distribution Bags - Thank You! 11-11-2021





Polish Kitchen @ Holy Cross
"Take Out Only" - Pre-Orders Strongly Encouraged
Saturday - November 20th - Il am to 2 pm
Cheese Pierogi, Cabbage Pierogi

Golabki & Kielbasa Sandwiches





HOLY CROSS PARISH
320 HIGH STREET
CENTRAL FALLS, RI

Holy Cross Central Falls - Pawtucket Food Distribution Discipleship Effort Nov. 13, 2021









Operation Christmas Child Drive - Thanks to all who supported this effort. Nov. 14, 2021



Thanks to our Golabki Making Crew at Holy Cross for our Polish Kitchen - Nov. 19, 2021







Thanks to our Golabki Making Crew at Holy Cross for our Polish Kitchen - Nov. 19, 2021









2021 Holy Cross Polish Kitchen - A Great Success - Thanks to all who Helped! Nov. 20, 2021









Holy Cross Thanksgiving Basket Drive - Thanks to all who helped us fill 8 baskets! Nov. 21, 2021



Delivering our 8 Holy Cross Thanksgiving Baskets to Tolman High School - Nov. 22, 2021



From our parishes...

Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI

Monthly Community Outreach – How We Started

With the assistance of the Eastern Diocese grant program, Our Saviour's was determined to put more of an effort into our community.

Never having done anything more than a food collection or something similar, we put our heads together

and came up with a breakfast to serve in the church hall. Covid put a stop to all of that, but our efforts didn't have to.

A few months later, we learned that Holy Cross in Central Falls did a drive up/walk up grocery giveaway. This got us thinking....how about a drive thru meal? Beginning in October 2020, we started a free community lunch the third Saturday of every month, from 11am-12:30pm, or earlier if we ran out. How many did we start with? I think we made about 40. How many lunches were given away? I think



Free Lunch Saturday at Our Saviour's Parish

Every third Saturday, 11am-12:30pm or until we run out



Our community is invited to drive thru and grab some lunch free of charge!

Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd, Woonsocket, RI Call 401-762-3072 for more info



about 10. Did we give up? Absolutely not. God knew our hearts were in the right place. He sent people to us month after month, and now we proudly give away about 75 lunches.

Now did we target a specific group

of people? Nope. This is a free community lunch. We are not located in the inner city, nor are we on a bus route. Folks come and we give them as much as they ask for. No questions asked.



To prepare, one week before, we post to our FB page, email our local newspaper, and put out our sign. Then this month for example, in a brown paper lunch bag, we put a small bag of chips, pack of cookies, bottle of water, pint of Lonnie's soup, napkin, and silverware. We also include an



encouraging card or verse from the parish. Some things are donated, and some are paid for by the grant.

The morning of, bags are stuffed. Anywhere from 3-8 people come to help. Folks pull up and we hand out the bags. Some drive

beat up pick ups and some drive brand new Cadillacs. They are one in the same our community. Just being there to share our gifts is an incredibly rewarding experience.

Sometimes these new ideas can be overwhelming. We were quite exhausted brainstorming in the first place. Again, we had never done anything like this before and had no idea where to start. Do not be afraid to try something new, and look to others for ideas and help. Ask questions, pay attention to their Facebook pages and newsletters for ideas. No one is going to accuse you of stealing ideas. We are all working for the greater good, with God's purpose in our hearts. And no one has the right to criticize us for that.



FREE LUNCH

ALL WELCOME

By Sally Watson

• Ecumenical/Community Spirit

On October 16, 2021 Our Saviour's Parish community participated in the Woonsocket Day of Prayer which took place at River Island Park in Woonsocket. Many Priests, Pastors and religious leaders, together with the Mayor, and other Officials, and the people of



WOONSOCKET

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Woonsocket gathered together to pray to God for His blessing and protection for our city. On behalf of Our Saviour's Parish Father Henryk Wos offered prayers and intercessions for strangers and foreigners in the community.

The First Fall Festival

On Saturday, September 25, 2021 Our Saviour's Parish held its first Fall Festival. The event was successful and God blessed us with perfect weather that day. Many people stopped by to enjoy our food, raffles, tables with Fall and Christmas decorations, children games, and many other attractions. Thank you to all who helped to make this event a success, especially to Carol Bibeault. Thank you to all of you for your hard work and dedication.









Polish Food Sale

This year, instead annual bazaar Our Saviour's held a Drive Thru Polish Food Sale on November 13th The event was very successful and all the food was sold out. Thank you to all our dedicated parishioners and friends who helped with preparations and distributions of the orders. It could not have be done without their help, enthusiasm, dedication in all aspects of the event. DINNER PLATE GOLAMBKI DZ PIEROGI POT OR CAB FRIED CABBAGE CABBAGE SOUP

Our Saviour's Fall Food Drive

Our Saviour's Parish collected food items to support Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket. Our Saviour's collected over 150 different food items to support the needy in Woonsocket, especially in Christmas season. A lot of food items were donated by the people who joined us for our Drive Thru Polish Food Sale. Thank you to Sally Watson for her dedication to this project. Thank you to all who support this initiative.



By Fr. Henryk Wos

Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, MA

Monthly Veteran Breakfast

Each 4th Saturday of the month Holy Trinity Parish community serves a free breakfast for the local veterans and those who want to join us in the parish hall that day.

The event is always well attended and the food is always delicious. It's a great

time for the veterans, spouses and others to gather

together to socialize, share the local news, and to pray for their families and for the Country.

Thank you to all parishioners for supporting these monthly outreach events. Serving others in their needs is a sign of their Christian care and brotherly love.



Holy Trinity Annual Craft Fair

On Saturday, November 13, 2021 Holy Trinity Parish held its annual Craft Fair in the parish hall. A lot of vendors expressed their interest and appeared that day at the parish with their products.

The event was very successful. People who visited us enjoyed great food, offered by the parish team, awesome crafts, great raffles, and tons of baked goods.

Thank you to all parishioners and friends of the Holy Trinity parish for their hard work and dedication. I am

> happy be their pastor.

Bv Henryk Wos





St. Valentine 's Parish, Northampton, MA



ALL SOULS DAY SERVICE AT THE HOLY TRINITY CEMETERY

Some parishioners gathered on Sunday afternoon, October 31,2021 at 2pm Father Czarnecki celebrated the All Souls Day Service to honor and remember all our departed clergy, parishioners, parents, brothers, sisters, all who died in the service of their country and friends at our Holy Trinity Cemetery of St. Valentine's PNC Church. It a very beautiful and service. Participants with processional cross and incense processed and sang a beautiful hymn, stopping at five areas of the cemetery. At each stop, a prayer verse was said and Father then blessed the graves in each of the areas. It was a meaningful way to remember and honor all our departed souls at our cemetery.



The following hymn was sung as we processed through the cemetery:

Dobry Jezu, a nasz Panie, oto my dziś prosim za nich, daj im wieczne spoczywanie, daj im wieczne spoczywanie.

God gave us a partly sunny day; we left the Cemetery knowing our families and friends, many of whom were organizers and dedicated parishioners of St. Valentine's Parish were not forgotten.

Krysia Newman

Coming Events/Classes

- ◆ <u>BIBLE STUDY</u> at St. Valentine's Parish Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES at St. Valentine's Church Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm Parish Hall. Instructor: Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ◆ POLISH HERITAGE COMMITTEE OF NORTHAMPTOM MEETINGS at St. Valentine's Church every first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm
- ◆ POLSKIE KOLEDY (Polish Christmas Carols) SING ALONG Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Polskie KOLĘDY

January 9, 2022 2:00 pm



POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

Sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee

St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church



Please Join Us! Refreshments will follow the Sing Along (in the Parish Hall)

127 King Street Northampton, MA

All friends of Polonia are cordially invited to attend a Polish Christmas Carol Sing Along. The carols will be led by singers from area Church Choirs. An afternoon of music and fellowship is surely to be enjoyed by all.



Memory Tree

The ANS Society

of the

St. Valentine's **PNC Church** will sponsor the

"Memory Tree"

project



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

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

A **Holy Mass of Remembrance** will be celebrated by Fr. Adam Czarnecki on Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 9:30 am At this celebration each name will be read and later inscribed in the Memory Book

The Memory Tree will be displayed in December and January For the crosses contact: Krysia Newman (413) 584-4531; Nancy Slusarski (413) 586-0642; Rectory (413) 584-0133

By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

St. Joseph Parish, Stratford, CT



After a quiet summer came an equally quiet autumn. Confirmation classes and adult Bible study resumed, but all other in-person events were postponed due to the town's red zone status. A burst pipe in the bathrooms led to a small flood, necessitating replacement of the carpeting in the nearby classrooms with flooring a little more impervious to water. And as the weather cooled, the Colossal Kielbasa stand shut down for the season.



We haven't let the circumstances cool our hearts, though. Collections continue on a weekly basis to help stock the local food pantry with non-perishable items, with donations increasing steadily as the holiday seasons approach. The Ladies' Society is collaborating with Sterling House to provide Stop & Shop gift cards to disadvantaged families for Christmas meals while the YMS of R is selling ½ trays of Polish food for Christmas and New Year's delivery to raise funds for the soup kitchen and food pantry.

All Saints' and All Souls' Days were concelebrated ecumenically in our cemetery with Father Nick Pavia from Our Lady of Peace RC church down the street. The gathering honored the deceased of both parishes with special prayers of remembrance.









Photos courtesy of Yvonne Walsh

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas to All !!!

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Vasas, Music Director

St. Joseph Parish, Westfield, MA

Parish News:

2021 School Supply Collection

Fr. Sr. Joseph Soltysiak with an array of school supplies collected during July and August. The school supplies, this year, were given to Abner Gibbs Elementary School. Next year we hope to continue this mission and donate to another local school. The principal of Abner Gibbs



was very grateful for the items received, especially the book bags. It was noted that some children come to school with nothing. So thank you to all who donated.

Food Collection

St. Joseph will be collecting food from November to January
1. Our first collection of food went Westfield's Salvation Army. Pictured are Fr. Sr. Soltysiak and Parish chairman, Trenton Taylor.





St. Casimir Parish, Lowell, MA

Pastor Appreciation Day

St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA, celebrated Pastor Appreciation Day on Sunday, October 10.

At Coffee hour following Sunday Mass Father Andrew Tenus was honored for his service to the parish. Father has been with us since December 2006. He is chaplain of the local Polish American Veterans organization and is also a captain in the Army Reserves.



After greetings and congratulatory remarks by co-chairman Robert Hunt, members of the parish organizations approached Father Andrew with gifts and good wishes.



Refreshments were provided by members of the parish ANS.

Choir members Charlotte Stankiewicz, Irene Jaracz, and Shirley Kourey pose with Father Andrew after presenting him with a gift from the F. Chopin Choir.

By Janice Klimczak

Huts and mittens for Children

As part of our mission and evangelism work, during the month of October parishioners and friends of St. Casimir's Parish of Lowell collected hats and mittens for children of Lowell. Some items will be given to one of the elementary schools and the remainder will be taken to Project Head Start in the city of Lowell.

Deb Chartier stops to observe hats and mittens before they are packed for delivery.





JoAnn Menzia, president of the ANS, helps sort mittens and hats.

By Janice Klimczak

National and Diocesan Events:

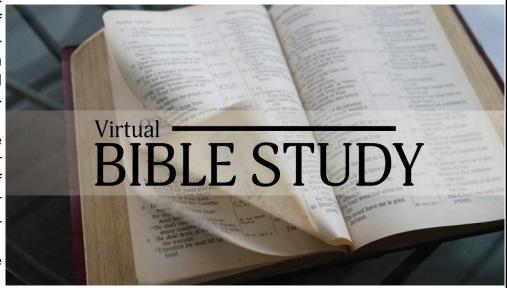
Eastern Diocese Virtual Bible Study

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 mem-

bers 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.

The last two virtual Bible Studies in 2021 were led in October - Father Tom Walsh on St. Teresa of Avila, and in November by Father Adam Czarnecki on St. Stanislaus – Bishop and Martyr.

Both sessions were very successful and inspirational.



The last presentation this year will be led in December by Father Adam Piekarzewski on Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

The Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Commission decided to continue the virtual Bible Study in the upcoming year 2022. The biblical topics will follow the monthly themes of the Action Plan prepared by the PNCC Future Direction Committee for this upcoming year.

The Eastern Diocese virtual Bible study is led on the second Thursday of the month at 7 PM. To register email either <u>revpauls@yahoo.com</u> or <u>ksobiechowski@yahoo.com</u>

G3/PNCC Ecumenical Dialogue

On October 5th and 6th, 2021, the G-3/PNCC Ecumenical Dialogue Group met at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire. Representing the Polish National Catholic Church were Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky, Bishops John Mack and Paul Sobiechowski, Father Senior Robert Nemkovich Jr., and Father Scott Lill. G-3 members included Archbishop Mark Haverland (Anglican Catholic Church – ACC), Bishops Paul Hewett (Anglican Catholic Church – DHC), William Bower (Anglican Church in America – ACA), Chandler Jones (Anglican Province in America - APA), Brian Marsh (ACA), and Alexander Webb (ACA) and Fathers Robert Bader (ACC - DHC), Jonathan Foggin (ACC), and Christian Tutor (ACA). Bishops Sobiechowski and Hewett served as the Dialogue Co-Chairman for this meeting.

Updates were given by the various churches and the Union of Scranton about recent events within their respective communions and to how they are now moving forward considering the ongoing Covid situation.

The dialogue also discussed various issues and ways the Churches can continue to grow closer together and achieve the unity that our Lord prayed for His Catholic Church. Prime Bishop Mikovsky celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of Mass during the meeting.

Thanks to Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Eastern Diocese of the PNCC for their hospitality in hosting this meeting. The next meeting of the G3/PNCC Ecumenical Dialogue will take place in February of 2022 to be hosted by the G3 Churches.



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PNCC National Clergy Conference—Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral, Lancaster, New York - October 25-27, 2021



On November 25-27, 2021 the Clergy of the Polish National Catholic Church met at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY for their Clergy Conference.

The Conference addressed many theological, pastoral, and administrative topics as well as those connected with the preparation for the upcoming 2022 General Synod of the Church. The last day of the Conference was a short spiritual retreat offered to the clergy.

Thank you to Bp. John Mack, the Ordinary of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese and to the parishioners of the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral for their hospitality and delicious food in hosting this meeting.

By Fr. Henryk Wos

PNU District 3 Thanksgiving Raffle - 2021



4 Parishes participated Fall River - 184 Manchester, NH - 135 Central Falls - 94 Westfield - 42

w/4 other individuals participating = 55

Donations to offset prizes = \$125 Fr. Sr. Joe & Loraine Krusienski - 50 Bp. Paul & Karen Sobiechowski- 25 Fr. Sr. Rob & Kathy Nemkovich - 25 Tom & Lynette Zarek - 25



Winners

1st Prize - \$50 - Henry Sacchi (Central Falls, RI)
2nd Prize - \$25 - Bill & Stasia Zygadlo (Manchester, NH)
3rd Prize - \$25 - Janice Dzialo (Central Falls, RI) - donated to Blessed Trinity Christmas Toy Drive

Profit for District 3 = \$535.00



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

1501 Tampico Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207
Mailing: Rev. Fr. Mark Raya, 8706 Dumaine, San Antonio, TX 78240
(210) 992-9591

November 15, 2021

Rt Rev Paul Sobiechowski Eastern Diocese PNCC 166 Pearl Street Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Bishop:

I am writing to tell you that the renovations to Annunciation Parish were finally completed on November 10, 2021. This has been a very long journey but thanks to your Diocese's generous donation and prayers we have moved from disaster to success.

I pray God's many blessings upon you and your family and hope the upcoming holidays will bring you much joy and happiness.

Rev. Father Mark Raya

Pastor, Annunciation Parish

Row. Fr. Male Kage

Upcoming Events:

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

For the Parishes of the Northeast Seniorate – Eastern Diocese

Sunday, December 19th at 4:00 pm Holy Cross Parish 320 High Street - Central Falls, RI



A fellowship hour with a
Birthday Party for Jesus will follow
You could even bring a gift for Jesus
(canned goods or nonperishable food item)

Please join us and RSVP by Dec. 15^{th} to $\underline{RobNem21@aol.com}$



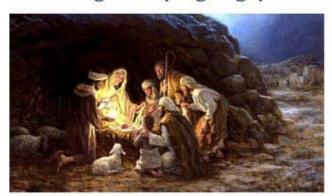
2021 EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC WINTER YOUTH GATHERING & LOCK IN

When: Monday - Tuesday - Dec. 27 & 28, 2021

begins at 2:00 pm Monday and ends Tuesday morning

Where: Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA

Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and be ready for some fun!!







Cost - \$20.00 per person - To register please contact:

Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Robnem21@aol.com

Come see your friends in Christ over the Christmas Vacation



PNU District 3 Children's Day Friday - Jan. 14, 2022 @ 7:05 pm



Providence
Bruins
vs.
Hartford
Wolfpack





Dunkin Donuts Center Providence, RI



Youth of PNU District 3 and of the Eastern Diocese PNCC will be guests of PNU District 3. Join Us for a Fun Evening.

For reservations, tickets and more information please contact Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich - Robnem21@aol.com



Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission The Future is Yours!

The Polish National Catholic Church Eastern Diocese (PNCC ED) is growing and will continue to grow because of you.

The PNCC ED established a Strategic Planning Commission to work across all parishes to create and act on a long-term plan to grow our diocese. A lot of work has been accomplished, a vibrant plan for growth has been created and now is the time for action.

Some of the plan's key focuses are:

- Commitment
- Traditions and Branding (Increasing Spirituality and Learning)
- Growth and Membership (Community Engagement and Social Media Usage)

The question is: Will you join us in this great work of discipleship?

If you are interested in hearing more details or would like details on how you can help, then please contact Subdeacon Justin Daviault at deaconjustinPNCC@gmail.com

TRUTH STRUGGLE

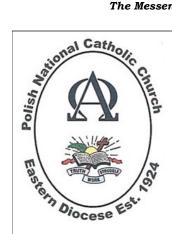
Be Part of and Create the Future of the Eastern Diocese!

Parish Liaison Opportunity

Duties and Responsibilities

The Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission is seeking Parish Liasons to assist in delivering on its mission to grow our church both physically in membership and spiritually. Please consider these active and engaging items and ask to be included in this valuable work.

- Be an information conduit between the Strategic Planning Commission and the Parish family.
- Communicate with other Parish Liaisons to share information and to discuss and share parish level activities. Includes discussion on inter parish activities, fund raising and diocese activities.
- Working with the Clergy and Parish Committee articulates and institutes the Strategic plan at the Parish level
- Attend Monthly/Quarterly Strategic Planning Commission meetings to provide input to the plan and to
 provide a status on the implementation of the Strategic plan at the Parish level. The status may be provided via email in lieu of meeting attendance.
- Work closely with a Diocesan Staff member (TBD) to keep social media accounts up to date and containing new content where needed. Along with the Staff member implements new social media accounts, modifies social media pages for ease of use, and makes changes for new formats, and layouts.
- Assists/Provides PNCC awareness ("branding") to the Parish Family.



サササササササ FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

This December our diocesan family is being asked to pray the "Holy Family Prayer" (adapted from the Offertory Prayer of the Solemnity of the Holy Family and the Lord's Prayer every Wednesday at 12 Noon for the intention of our diocese, the PNCC and for healing and peace in our communities, nation and world.

Assignments:

no new assignments

Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

None scheduled

Diocesan and National Meetings: (all times are Eastern)

- Monday, November 29 Future Direction Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 7 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
- Thursday December 9 Eastern Diocese Zoom Bible Study on the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph led by Father Adam Piekarzewski - 7:00 PM
- Monday, December 13 Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- Monday December 20 National Scouting Commission Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, December 21 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
- Tuesday, January 4 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
- Eastern Diocese Mission & Evangelism Zoom Meeting 6:30 PM
- Monday, January 10 Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- Thursday, January 13 Eastern Diocese Zoom Bible Study led by Father Henryk Wos topic TBA -7:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 19 Eastern Diocese Clergy Conference Our Saviour Parish, Woonsocket, RI-10:00 AM
- Wednesday, January 19 PNCC Bishop's Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
- Monday January 24 Eastern Diocese Scouting Commission Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM

- Tuesday, February 1 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
- Thursday, February 10 Eastern Diocese Zoom Bible Study lead by Father Robert Koerber topic TBA
 7:00 PM
- Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12 Union of Scranton Scholars Conference Mainz, Germany
- Monday, February 14 Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Commission Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 15 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM
 - National Mission and Evangelism Zoom Meeting -7:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 22 and Wednesday, February 23 G-3 Continuing Anglican / PNCC Dialogue Meeting Columbia, SC
- Tuesday, March 1 PNCC Bishops' Zoom Meeting 1:00 PM

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

- Sunday, November 28 First Sunday in Advent, Cycle "C" readings and Year I weekly readings begin
- Tuesday, November 30 Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle
- Wednesday, December 1 Rorate Mass may be celebrated
- Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 8 Solemnity of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 - Rorate Mass may be celebrated
- Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
- Monday, December 13 Solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe (translated)
- Sunday, December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 - Northeast Seniorate Candlelight Liturgy -Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI -4:00 PM (tentative due to Covid-19)
- Tuesday, December 21 Feast of Saint Thomas, Apostle
- Friday, December 24 Vigil of the Nativity of our Lord
- Saturday, December 25 Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord
- Sunday, December 26 Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds,
 - Commemoration of the Feast of Saint. Stephen, Deacon & Proto-Martyr
- Monday, December 27 Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist
- Tuesday, December 28 Commemoration of the Holy Innocents
- Friday, December 31 Solemnity of the Holy Family
- Saturday, January 1, 2022 Solemnity of the Circumcision of our Lord
- Sunday, January 2, 2021 Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus
- Thursday, January 6 Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord

- Sunday, January 9 Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord
- Sunday, January 16 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday, January 18 Feast of Saint Peter's Chair at Antioch
- Sunday, January 23 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday, January 25 Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle
- Sunday, January 30 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 - Music Scholarship Sunday
- Wednesday, February 2 Solemnity of the Presentation of our Lord
- Sunday, February 6 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Sunday, February 13 Septuagesima Sunday (Pre-Lent 1)
- Sunday, February 20 Sexagesima Sunday (Pre-Lent 2)
- Thursday, February 24 Feast of Saint. Matthias, Apostle
- Sunday, February 27 Quinquagesima Sunday (Pre-Lent 3)
- Wednesday, March 2 Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 6 First Sunday of Lent
- Sunday, March 13 Solemnity of the Institution of the Polish National Catholic Church

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

- Monday, December 27 & Tuesday, December 28 Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Retreat Overnight at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA
- Friday, January 14 District # 3 Polish National Union of America Youth Outing Providence Bruins vs. Hartford Wolfpack - 7:05 PM in Providence RI
- Monday, January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr., U.S.A. Federal Holiday
- Tuesday, January 18 Monday, January 24 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Monday, February 14 St. Valentine's Day
- Monday, February 21 Presidents' Day, U.S.A. Federal Holiday
- Sunday, March 13 Daylight Savings Time begins



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

Jan Kasprowicz

Urodzony 12 grudnia 1860 we wsi Szymborze pod Inowrocławiem, w rodzinie chłopa-analfabety. Uczył się w pruskich gimnazjach w Inowrocławiu, Poznaniu, Opolu i Raciborzu, brał udział w konspiracyjnych pracach samokształceniowo-patriotycznych, maturę uzyskał w Poznaniu w 1884 roku. W roku 1884 podjał studia na uniwersytecie w Lipsku; studia kontynuował na uniwersytecie Wrocławskim. Na przełomie 1888/1889 przeniósł się do Lwowa; dla "Kuriera Lwowskiego" pisał artykuły literackie, artykuły polityczne o zaborze pruskim, sprawozdania sądowe. Działał w Kole Literacko-Artystycznym, "Sokole", został członkiem Ligi Narodowej. W roku 1893 ożenił się z Jadwiga Gasowską (pierwsze małżeństwo z Teodozja Szymańską w r. 1886 rozpadło się po kilku miesiącach); tym razem żona Kasprowiczowa odeszła z Przybyszewskim. W 1904 doktoryzował się na Uniwersytecie Lwowskim na podstawie rozprawy o liryce Lenartowicza. W 1909 objął specjalnie dla niego

utworzoną katedrę komparatystyki literackiej. W roku 1911 ożenił się po raz trzeci - z Rosjanką Marią Bunin. W czasie pierwszej wojny światowej związany z Narodową Demokracją. W roku 1920 ze Stefanem Żeromskim brał udział w akcji plebiscytowej na Warmii i Mazurach. W latach 1921-1922 był rektorem Uniwersytetu im. Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie. Od 1924 przebywał stale na Harendzie w Poroninie, gdzie zmarł 1 sierpnia 1926.

Poeta, dramaturg, krytyk, tłumacz.

W roku 1891 ukazały się utwory związane z naturalistycznym okresem twórczości, cykle wierszy: Obrazki natury, Ze Szląska, Z chałupy, tom gawęd Z chłopskiego zagonu. W roku 1891 nastąpił w jego twórczości przełom modernistyczny, dla którego charakterystyczny jest Krzak dzikiej róży (1898) i zbiory hymnów: Ginącemu światu (1902), Salve Regina (1902), tom prozy poetyckiej O bohaterskim koniu i walącym się domie (1906). Szczególne miejsce w jego twórczości zajmuje tom wierszy Księga ubogich (1916). Tłumaczył dramaty Ajschylosa, Eurypidesa, z łaciny m.in. Pieśń o żubrze Macieja Hussowskiego, z angielskiego m.in. Szekspira, Marlowa, Byrona, Shelleya, Keatsa, Swinburne'a, Wilde'a, z języka niemieckiego: Goethego, Schillera, z języka francuskiego Rimbauda, Maeterlincka, tłumaczył także z włoskiego i holenderskiego.

Witajcie, kochane góry

Witajcie, kochane góry, O, witaj, droga ma rzeko! I oto znów jestem z wami, A byłem tak daleko!

Dzielili mnie od was ludzie, Wrzaskliwy rozgwar miasta, I owa śmieszna cierpliwość,

Co z wyrzeczenia wyrasta. Oddalne to są przestrzenie,

Pustkowia, bezpłodne głusze, Przerywa je tylko tęsknota, Co ku wam pędzi duszę.



Jankayrowing

Born on December 12, 1860 in Szymborze near Inowrocław to a family of an illiterate peasant. He studied at Prussian grammar schools in Inowrocław, Poznań, Opole and Racibórz, during which time he took part in self-educational and patriotic conspiratorial work. He passed his matriculation exams in Poznań in 1884. He entered the University of Leipzig and continued his studies at the University of Wrocław. In 1888/1889 he moved to Lwów; he wrote literary articles, political articles about the Prussian partition of Poland and judicial reports for "Kurier Lwowski". He was active in the Literary and Artistic Circle "Sokół", and he became a member of the National League. He married Jadwiga Gąsowska in 1893 (his first marriage with Teodozja Szymańska in 1886 had disintegrated after several months): on this occasion his wife left him for Przybyszewski. He obtained his PhD degree in 1904 at the University of Lwów on the basis of a thesis on Lenartowicz's lyrics. In 1909 he was appointed to the Chair of Comparative Literature, a post which was especially created for him. He married for the

third time in 1909 – a Russian lady, Maria Bunin. During the First World War he was involved with the National Democracy Party. In 1911 he took part in the plebiscite action in Warmia and Mazury along with Stefan Żeromski. In 1921-1922 he was Rector of the University of Jan Kazimierz in Lwów. From 1924 he stayed at Harenda in Poronin where he died on August 1, 1926.

Poet, dramatist, critic, translator.

In 1891 the poems connected with the naturalistic period of his work were published - the cycles of poems: Obrazki natury, Ze Szląska, Z chałupy, a volume of tales Z chłopskiego zagonu. Krzak dzikiej róży ("The Wild Rose Bush") (1898); the collection of hymns: Ginącemu światu ("To a Dying World") (1902), Salve Regina (1902) and the volume of poetic prose O bohaterskim koniu i walącym się domie (1906) were characteristic for the modernist breakthrough which came in 1891. Księga ubogich ("The Book of the Poor") (1916) occupies a special place in his literary output. He translated dramas by Aeschylus and Euripides; from Latin, among others, Pieśń o żubrze by Maciej Hussowski; from English, among others, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Byron, Shelley, Keats, Swinburne and Wilde; from German: Goethe, Schiller; from French Rimbaud, Maeterlinck; he also translated from Italian and Dutch.

Welcome my beloved mountains

Welcome my beloved mountains, Welcome O my river dear! I used to be so far away, But now again I am so near.

Crowds of people stood between us, And the hubbub of the street; And the patience farcical That oft in sacrifice we meet.

Those are all remote domains, Wilderness, and sterile waste; Ruptured only by the longings That my soul to you still haste.

I ona mnie wreszcie przygnała, Że widzę was oko w oko, Że słyszę, jak szumisz, ty wodo, Szeroko i głęboko.

Tak! Chodzę i patrzę, i słucham -O jakżeż tu miło! jak miło! -I śledzę, czy coś się tu może Od kiedyś nie zmieniło?

Nic, jeno w chacie przydrożnej Zmarł mój przyjaciel leciwy I uschły dwie wierzby nad rowem, Strażniczki wiosennej niwy.

A za to świeżym się liściem Pokryły nasze jesiony I jaskry się złocą w trawie Zielonej, nie pokoszonej.

A za to płyna od pola Twórcze podmuchy wieczności. Co śmierć na życie przetwarza I ścieżki myśli mych prości.

Witajcie, kochane góry, O, witaj, droga ma rzeko! I oto znów jestem z wami, A byłem tak daleko!



A może z straszliwej zawiei

A może z straszliwej zawiei, Co świat ten naokół niszczy, Nie same-li gruzy wyrosną, Nie same-li kupy zgliszczy?

> Może w zapasach olbrzymów Zło się nareszcie przełamie I Bóg już na jego miejscu W ludzkim zamieszka chramie?

Może to chwila przebudzeń,

Gdzie, wstydząc się swojej gnuśności Zbyt długiej, uczuje człowiek, lże stalowe ma kości?

Miast kajdanami podzwaniać I rzewnie ołzawiać się bolem, Być może, zbawcze gdzieś wyjście Okiem wyśledzi sokolem?

Nie! szukać ci go nie będzie, W chytre rachunki bogaty, Lecz piersi wypręży i ręce, Wiezienne roztrzaska kraty.

Pod pięścią jego, silniejszą Od najtwardszego młota, Rozprzęgną się rygle i zamki, Żelazne rozprysna wrota.

Oby ta wielka godzina, Co taka nadzieję nieci, Stała się dziś już naprawdę Przepołowieniem stuleci!

> Oby wbrew wszelkim pojęciom Dowód przyniosła nam rada, Że oto z dwojakiej wieczności Jedna się wieczność składa.

Że po wieczności, co legła Przy dzwonie tego zegara, Nikt w czarnej nie chodzi sukni, Nikt po niej się płakać nie stara.

Że zasię nowa się wieczność Z krwawej poczyna rzeki, By dziękczynnego Te Deum Słuchać po wieków wieki...

Niech otwierają się rany, Niech krew się leje do woli, Byleby wieczność ta wzrosła Z tak umierzwionej roli.







My grief has brought me back to you, So I am standing by your side, O mountains, and I'm listening to The waters' murmur deep and wide.

Yes! I am hiking, looking, listening... How beautifully is all arranged! And I am seeking to find out If anything, since then, has changed.

Nothing, only in a roadside cabin A friend of mine has died of age. Withered are the willows two That used to guard the springtide's stage.

Upon our olden ash-trees though New leaves again have densely grown, Yellow buttercups are shining

Among the greening grass unmown.

And from the fields I feel now blowing Eternity's creative breeze That into life transforms all death, And puts my thoughts again at ease.

Welcome my beloved mountains, Welcome O my river dear! I used to be so far away. But now again I am so near.

Mayhap - from the frightful tempest

Mayhap - from the frightful tempest That shatters the world about us, Not merely ruin may follow, Not only wreckage to flout us.

Mavhap - 'mid the wrestling of Titans The evil at last will crumble, And God will enter and dwell in All ready hearts and humble!

Mayhap - 'tis a time of waiting, When man will be bold, and feel (Ashamed of his age-long foulness) That flesh can endure like steel!

> In place of renewal of fetters And tearful nursing of pain, Mayhap a gate of releasing Will open to human ken!

None can this gate discover By his clever calculations: But by heart and muscle straining He bursts the cage of the nations.

Blows of his arm and gauntlet. Harder than hammered steel. Will snap the bars and the latches And destroy this earthly hell.

Would that the hour momentous, Which thus our hopes engages, Today might strike, and be counted The turning point of the ages!

Would that, despising logic, The proofs might today be given; That - born of earth's past and future. Shall come an image of heaven!

For the untold aeons vanished. When strikes this clock beside me. Let none go gowned in mourning, Let none shed tears to chide me!

This shedding of blood may give us An earnest of new endeavor, And a thanksgiving Te Deum Resound for ever and ever.

Let wounds once more be opened, Fresh blood be poured in beakers, If only that great fulfillment May rise from the sodden acres!

Na bohaterskim niech stosie Najlepsze konają serca, Skoro podpali go wiara, Że wieczność ta nie uśmierca. Że chociaż wszystko by stlało, To jeszcze z jakiegoś ukrycia Zaczną się sypać iskry Na bohaterski stos życia.

Napewne, napewne, napewne — Niechże ta pewność mnie krzepi! — Czas idzie, gdzie głusi usłyszą I w którym już przejrzą ślepi.

Czas idzie nieprzewidziany, A może przewidzian wielce Przez dusze, co światów bezmiary W miernej dowidzą kropelce.



Let hearts, the best and the bravest,
As whole burnt offerings perish;
If only the faith that fires them
The Hope of the Ages cherish!
For, though the fires burn feebly,
From hidden places living
Sparks will be struck in season.
The flame of life reviving.
Surely, Oh surely, surely -

That faith inspires my being,
Again will the deaf be hearing,
The blind again be seeing.
The time is at hand - unbidden:
Yet those its message utter,

Yet those its message utter, Whose vision has seen the vastness Of worlds in a drop of water.

Translations by Jarek Zawadzki & W. I. Rose

By Fr. Adam Czarnecki

Parishes of the Eastern Diocese

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

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

During the month of December, please join us each Wednesday at noon in offering the Lord's Prayer and Holy Family Prayer, adopted from the PNCC Liturgy:



LOVING FATHER, WE DE-SIRE TO LIVE AS JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH, IN PEACE WITH YOU AND WITH ONE ANOTHER.

BY THEIR INTERCESSION, MAY WE BE STRENGTH-ENED TO LIVE LIKE THE HOLY FAMILY AND TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE.

WE ASK THIS THROUGH THE SAME JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN.

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All issues of THE MESSENGER are available on diocesan website:

http://www.easterndiocesepncc.org, or through the smart phone app "Eastern Diocese PNCC."

The quality and style of this newsletter depends upon your cooperation. It is also a great way to let others know about our church, parishes and people. We look forward to your contributions!