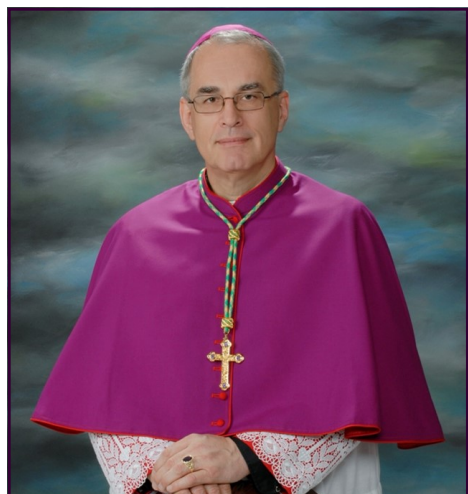
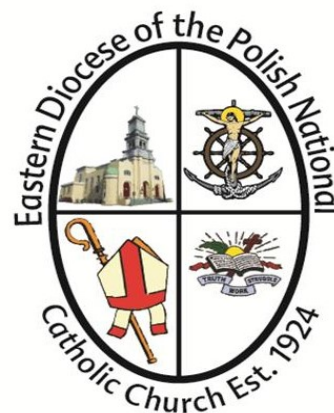


# THE MESSENGER

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



## CHRISTMAS GOŚCINOŚĆ

My Dear Eastern Diocesan Family:

Often, when we approach holidays like Christmas, the question is often asked, "what do we do to make this one special, memorable."

When Karen and I were married on May 28, 1982 we asked ourselves the same question, and

we realized that to make it memorable and enjoyable for our guests that the emphasis would have to be on them and not ourselves. We wanted everyone to have a great time so we adjusted everything, including marriage date, timing of our formal photos, accommodations, the rehearsal dinner, and more. We even got up early the day after our wedding (a late night) so we could join our families in preparing the "*poprawienia*" everyone was invited back to enjoy. Then a number of days later we had a fourth day of our wedding in Chicago, IL for all those who couldn't be in Carnegie, PA (I was serving as assistant in the Chicago cathedral at the time.)

People still talk about the event 36 years later because the most important person there was our guest.

A well known Polish proverb says „*Gość w Dom, Bóg w Dom.*” (A guest in the home is God in the home.) Polish people are known for their *gościność* (hospitality) and what better way to approach Christmas than from one of the strengths of our parish communities.

Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays - 2018, a resource I often turn to in my pastoral duties has a section entitled "Christmas Time: The Meaning" (page 28-29) which addresses this concept of hospitality, but perhaps in ways we haven't considered before. I would like to share the excerpt with you. I've adjusted it a bit to fit our Polish National Catholic Church experience.

"The ancient monastic Rule of St. Benedict includes many memorable lines, but perhaps no instruction points more powerfully to the meaning of the Christian life than, "Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ" (c. 53). On Christmas Day, we receive the Christ-child anew, God's gift of love and transformation taking flesh and dwelling in our midst.

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On that day, we often welcome dozens of people who are not normally in our sanctuaries each Sunday. What a wonderful moment to welcome the guest as Christ.

“For many people, coming to a Christmas service or Mass is important, even if the rest of the year they are away from the Church. Our intent should be to create a wonderful experience for our parish community, but also for the many visitors who will come with friends, family, or by themselves to our sanctuaries.

“Consider helping members of the Church extend active invitations to those with whom they'd like to pray. Facebook postings, particularly memes with pictures and text, can be shared from your parish page onto the pages of individuals.

“Consider extending invitations via e-mail to the entire parish membership list, letting people know Mass times or information about special activities. The data on Mass attendance in the United States makes it clear that only a small percentage of those on our parish rolls are in our pews each week. It's important to keep the information flowing to those who may be only loosely connected.

“Make sure your parish website, social media page, and voicemail messages are current with Mass times and other information. If parking is an issue, consider having a place where active members can park and be shuttled to the church, leaving more parking for newcomers and guests. During Christmas Time, encourage members to have open houses in their homes to which they can invite neighbors and other parishioners. Offer spiritual "conversation starters" or brochures about your community that they can give to those who attend. Or do a simple business card with relevant information that can be available at the back of the church and for individual use.

“First and foremost, our liturgical services should emanate the joy, hope, and love of this beautiful season. People do not need to be reminded, directly or indirectly, that they are visitors. Even good humored ribbing about the pews being fuller than normal can be off-putting and make people feel that rather than cherished guests, they are interlopers. It's a good idea, in advance of Christmas Day, to remind people that their "spot" in the pews may need to be graciously shared.

“Although you may have many beautiful hymns in your repertoire, encourage the music or choir director to include multiple familiar, traditional Christmas carols in the service. This can help people with the active participation we work for in all our Eucharistic liturgies. Be sure to make the tan Mass booklets easily accessible in the pews.

“Be sure to think of ways that your parish can be engaged with the greater community in this season. The encounter is two way, not just about people coming into our church facilities. You might connect with your local food bank, provide workers for an organization feeding the hungry, or do outreach to senior centers and nursing homes. Consider a parish Christmas cookie baking party, and deliver the goodies to those who are homebound or alone.

“The greatest welcome and evangelization we can offer, though, may simply be a loving smile and a warm greeting when we encounter new people. Scooting over and enthusiastically making room for someone can be as strong a message as anything we say.

“Helping people realize that Christmas does not end on December 25 is important. Consider providing means by which members can honor Humble Shepherds, Holy Family, Epiphany, and the Baptism of our Lord in their homes by providing special prayers or rituals, such as the blessing of the doors (*kolędy*).

“Christmas Time can be a remarkable moment to reawaken and reanimate our discipleship, and to discover new ways to welcome the guest as Christ.”

May I wish to all of our Eastern Diocesan parishes, clergy and faithful a deeply spiritual Advent of preparation of churches, hearts and homes for the joy that will be the Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord. And as the Incarnation is celebrated may we “incarnate” and celebrate the tradition of hospitality to all who enter our churches. God is with us and we experience Him in all those we meet and serve. As Jesus told his disciples: “...the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’ (Matthew 25:34-40, NAB)

**Bishop Paul**

# FUTURE DIRECTION SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Action Plan for PNCC Parishes in 2018

### “THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY”



#### I. Growth and Membership

#### II. Increase Spirituality

#### III. Lifelong Learning

#### IV. Sacred Vocations

#### V. Community Involvement

**1. Greater Understanding of Church Solemnities:** In 2018 we will focus on the Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds. Re-distribute the Humble Shepherds pamphlet. Perhaps a video presentation from our Prime Bishop on this Solemnity.

**2. Two Days of Retreat:** Lent and Advent Pick a day during the seasons of Lent and Advent in 2018 to spend in retreat and prayer. Maybe do this as a family activity. 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.

**3. Complete at least five community service projects:** One service project could be in conjunction with the Solemnity of Humble Shepherds and the other, selected by the local parish. It is important that the five projects be done in the local community of the parish so that these efforts will create a greater presence of the parish in the community.

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

**4. Implementing the Year of the Family Component:** Develop and emphasize this theme through 2018. Our purpose is to strengthen all families in living out our Christian faith, virtues and values during this special year. Please see the monthly Future Direction emails regarding this effort with concrete actions.

- **January – The example of the Holy Family** - A blessing of families after Holy Mass on Sunday January 7th and a prayer card for all to take home.
- **February – The importance of unconditional Love in the family.**
- **March – Celebration of Lent as a Family** - Encourage various ways that the family can pray and meditate together during this Sacred season. Have the family prepare an Easter basket together or Easter table together for the blessing of the Church on Holy Saturday.
- **April – Living out our Easter Joy in the family and the parish** – the importance of regular attendance at Holy Mass.
- **May – The love of our Blessed Mother** – her submission to the will of God as an example for all.
- **June – Sacred Vocations Month** – The Guardianship of St. Joseph – his submission to the will of God as an example to all - Family Vocations event and prayer.

- **July – The importance of Family Time/Vacation to the family.** Also remembering to continue the practice of daily prayer and worship during this time.
- **August – Importance of youth in the family** – raising children as an important ministry in the church – an event for the parish youth and prayers for parents and guardians.
- **September – Sharing our gifts and talents in the home and in the parish.** Create a fun exercise/game that lists one's gifts and talents and then challenge them to share them at home as well as in the parish.
- **October – Clergy Appreciation Month** – On the Solemnity of the Christian Family. Have a sharing family event at the parish where troubles and joys are Shared; strengthening the bonds of our parish families.
- **November – Family Gratitude** – stress the importance of giving thanks and doing it as an individual and parish family. Thanksgiving Day prayer placemats. Helping those in need or alone on Thanksgiving.
- **December – Resources for the family to spiritually prepare for Christmas together,** a shared prayer when putting up their Christmas tree – small advent wreath for the home lit during the family meals. Recognizing and living the true meaning of Christmas as a family.

**5. Implement Lay Ministry Program in PNCC:** Our national and diocesan Lay Ministry chaplains begin this implement this program across our PNCC that will enhance, encourage and strengthen the role of the laity within our PNCC.

**6. Move forward with PNCC Office of News & Media Relations:** implement proposal accepted by the 2017 PNCC Supreme Council.

**7. Create a PNCC Future Direction Facebook Page** – by posting the monthly messages to this page and asking our members to share them, we hope more will be reached and encouraged to participate in these efforts.

**8. Constant Prayer in prepare for out October 2018 General Synod** – special intercessions for the month leading up to the synod – encourage a novena for this Holy Gathering.

If you know of parishioners or friends who are not a part of our monthly email updates – please have them email us at [FutureDirection@pncc.org](mailto:FutureDirection@pncc.org) to become a part of this important effort for our Holy Church. Please keep this church-wide undertaking in your daily prayers – asking God to bless this work and allow it to bear fruit for the building of His Kingdom through our Holy Church.

As we begin this Holy season of Advent may we use this time to spiritual prepare ourselves to again celebrate the Incarnation and be ready for His return in glory. May we show our thankfulness to God not just in our words, but more importantly buy our actions. May God bless you and your family during this Advent season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

***PNCC Supreme Council Future Direction Committee***

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich Jr., Chairman

**We continue to implement the five themes the Synod determined for our future direction:**

Growth and Membership  
Increase Spirituality  
Lifelong Learning  
Sacred Vocations  
Community Involvement and Presence



## **RESOLUTIONS OF THE XV EASTERN DIOCESE SYNOD**

**OCTOBER 28-29, 2016**

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

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

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

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

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

## Unlimited Opportunity



I sit at my desk after having returned from a recent dialogue meeting with the ACNA (Anglican Church in North America) and our denomination. We have been meeting with them since 2012 to discuss possibilities between our church and theirs towards intercommunion and closer ties. I referenced their situation a couple of issues ago in the article “Catholic – To Be or Not to Be.” You can reference that issue for more details. Essentially, our coming closer together rests upon whether or not they are truly “catholic” in the sense of ordination. They are composed of a number of denominations and *provinces* that hold shared beliefs in the essential matters of the faith, but allow diversity in others. Therein lies the rub. They recently completed “The Holy Orders Task Force – Final Report” in which they set forth a theological study on the ordination of women to holy orders (deacon, priest and bishop). This is not a binding ruling, but was sent to the house of bishops for review and ultimately to the general assembly. Not wanting to take any more time on this subject, it would suffice to say that they are recommending that a “dual integrity” continue to be allowed. In other words, those dioceses that now ordain women to the priesthood may continue to do so, while those who don’t will retain their practice. It should be noted that about 75% of the dioceses (and their diocesan bishops) comprising ACNA to not ordain women to major orders. The problem is, what do you do/say to women clergy who have been serving for ten or twenty or thirty years? It should be noted that in some circumstances, these women have said they would renounce their orders and serve in other important capacities within the church. It would appear in my opinion, that some will leave the ACNA and reformulate yet another denomination or province.

So where is this unlimited opportunity you may ask? A bit of history, if you please. I’m sure that most of our readers recognize the tremendous amount of work and love and care that our Bishop- Emeritus Thaddeus Peplowski put into bringing the Nordic Catholic Church into existence. He was contacted by a group of clergy in Norway who wished to become validly Catholic, but not Roman Catholic. Enter the P.N.C.C. Although it was an arduous process in the making, it was finally accomplished. Some were academics, teaching in the universities of Scandinavia. Some were protestant ministers who longed to be Catholic (The Lutheran church is the officially recognized church of Sweden) They longed for the real presence of Christ at mass and in the eucharist. Bishop Peplowski, after being assured of the knowledge and desire of these men, ordained deacons and priests to serve this nascent church. As the movement progressed, a new denomination was formed, The Nordic Catholic Church (NCC) and Bp. Roald Flemestad was elected as its first bishop. The PNCC had already established the Union of Scranton to replace the now-defunct Union of Utrecht. This again was due to the *modern innovations* that had contaminated the leaders of the member churches of the Union of Utrecht (women’s ordination and sacramentally celebrating same-sex marriages). We now had a sister denomination in the Union of Scranton!

I remember the consecration of Bishop Flemstad at St. Stanislaus Cathedral in July of 2012 for two reasons. First, it was a terrible hot day in Scranton, temperatures near 90 degrees. At 4 in the afternoon (with no air conditioning) I didn’t even want to look at the wall thermostat to find out “how hot it was” at sanctuary level. As I think back however, perhaps we all “sweated a good bit” to share in the blood, sweat and tears that so many endured to make that day a reality. Maybe we were especially warm because the invisible flames of fire were dancing above our heads in that cathedral, in union with the presence of the Holy Spirit at that first Pentecost. Secondly, and most importantly I’m sure, was the outpouring of thanks and gratitude and love that was shown to our Bishop Peplowski for his tireless work with the NCC. He had given them a chance, an opportunity to again be truly catholic and to have their own denomination. Their admiration was most sincere and heartfelt.

Let us fast forward to today's situation. Bp. Roald Flemestad has been actively pursuing talks and dialogue with the many fragments of the Anglican church throughout Europe on behalf of the NCC. Many areas of the Isles as well as on the European continent are awash with post-modernism. The church on the other side of the pond is faltering as we too are in America. Yet, there remains a remnant of faith, a remnant of believers who wish to be united in a common bond of traditional Catholicism. The church is growing rapidly in non-traditional areas around the world. The *southern cone* is used to describe those areas on the African continent and elsewhere where Christianity is exploding. The bishops of these churches are looking to affiliate with other churches that espouse traditional Catholic values, teachings and beliefs. They are not looking for new inventions.

So, here we stand. The PNCC is the one shining example of Non-Papal Catholicism that exists legitimately as a western-rite church. We have a valid priesthood, valid bishops, valid sacramental orders, received through the hands of the Old Catholic Bishops upon the consecration of Prime Bp. Franciszek Hodur. Our church and its teachings are the embodiment of the first millennial church. We are a church that is truly catholic and believes in all the tenets of the faith without the embellishments that occurred after the great divide of the church in 1054. As oftentimes happens, some of our people take what our church offers for granted. After five or six successive generations, we have forgotten what our great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents sacrificed in order to birth and grow this church. We have what these other churches want! Therein lies the opportunity.

We have before us a unique chance to extend the hand of spiritual care, concern and love to so many around the world. Perhaps our greatest sin is that we have not taken the mandate of "Go ye therefore and teach all nations" to its fullest potential in the PNCC. Perhaps we have an "image problem." It makes me cringe when I hear: "we're just a small denomination" - "we don't really matter." If you think small, you **ARE** small. (in more ways than one!) I enjoy reading many contemporary Christian authors. I remember one passage in particular that asks the readers to remodel their thinking with two simple words: **AS IF**. Why don't we start thinking and acting and believing **AS IF** the PNCC were the greatest thing that God ever created? We don't we start thinking **AS IF** we were God's gift to those seeking the stability and worthiness of a free and democratic Catholic church. Think of the possibilities.

Bishop Roald reminds us that there are so many in Europe that are simply "treading water" at the moment. They are trying to stay afloat and remain viable amidst turbulent spiritual times. We hold in our hands a *lifesaver* to throw out to them. If we wait too long; if we are too timid, it will be of no use to them. A lifesaver cannot help someone who has already drowned. The time is now to act. The time has come to put the **AS IF** into God's realm of possibilities for those seeking Him.

Ask Bishop Peplowski how it was accomplished by God. For with truth, work and struggle we will be victorious!

***Rt. Rev. John E. Mack***

***The above article was reprinted with permission from ACTS ((Fall 2017), the newsletter of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese.***



## From our parishes ...

### Blessed Trinity - Fall River, MA

Our Fall season kept our folks at Blessed Trinity active . The parish continued their outreach to the community serving as two voting precincts for our local elections, hosting kitchen table suicide loss support meeting, neighborhood watch meeting, the Polish American veterans , Fall River Falcons and Kosciusko club meetings.

Several animals were blessed at our parish as we remembered St. Francis of Assisi and even one (Loretta) that enjoyed to talk to all who were gathered.



The annual Polish Food Fest was another great success that provides funding so we can continue the work and ministry that our Lord is calling us to do. We were happy to welcome our mayor and numerous local and state officials for some great food and conversation - wearing their "Be Kind" buttons. WSAR once again broadcasted their afternoon radio program live from the Food Fest and featured not only our food but the many efforts the parish has ongoing within the greater Fall River community.







The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to Jakeb by Bishop Paul on Saturday, October 28th. A

beautiful celebration during Holy Mass and a wonderful luncheon that followed.

Our youth were active as well—in addition to their School of Christian Living classes they were a great help in preparing food for our Food Fest and were honored with certificates from “The Ancient Masters of Polish Cooking”. They enjoyed their Halloween decorating and honored Fr. Sr. Rob for Pastor’s Appreciation month by singing prior to Holy Mass on Sunday, October 22nd.







Operation Christmas Child was another successful drive to help children in extreme poverty. we had a wonderful collection of food to support our Citizens for Citizens food pantry and clothing donations to support the excellent work done by Marie's place.

The parish enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving Brunch and Parcel Post Auction on November 19th and raised funds for our parish Scholarship committee.







Two parish scholarship were awarded to Eric and Cliff Nemkovich on Sunday, November 26th after Holy Mass. Also this day we celebrated Amelia's 90th birthday - another

blessed time in the parish. A Thanksgiving Day Community Turkey dinner provided delicious meals to those in need, those alone and those in prison for Thanksgiving. More than 80 meals were served, our largest turn out yet.



As we look forward we have our Christmas Toy Drive that is ongoing in conjunction with the Fall River Neighborhood Association and the Fall River Police Department. The wrapping party will be hosted by the parish on the Monday before Christmas (and huge special Santa bags have been donated to help our wonderful FRPD officers distribute the gifts to children in need across our city). Our Advent Food Drive is underway and we are preparing for our Living Nativity with our parish youth. Looking to January the parish is sponsoring a SAFE training (Suicide Alertness training for everyone) dealing specifically with PTSD - this will be held on January 20th. We wish all in our diocesan family a very blessed Christmas celebration.

Respectfully submitted, *Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*



*From our parishes....*

*Holy Cross Parish, Central Falls, RI*

This fall was yet another busy time at Holy Cross parish. Our ladies society held their annual Pork Supper on October 21st and nearly filled the hall—a great turnout.



Over the past weeks the parishioners have been spending countless hours in the parish kitchen preparing for our annual Polish Kitchen that was held on Saturday, November 18th. What a turn out we had and the take out lines were amazing. Thanks to all who helped in this endeavor for the parish so we can continue the work our Lord is calling us to do.







Putting the Gospel into action was witnessed during the fall months. Several boxes were collected for our annual Operation Christmas Child Drive. The shoeboxes were blessed after Mass on November 12th and are now on their way to children who live in extreme poverty in our world. We also collected enough food and gift cards to have three Thanksgiving baskets donated to folks in need in the Central Falls area. These baskets were blessed after Mass on Sunday—November 19th. Currently our winter clothing drive is underway. These new winter coats, hats, gloves and scarfs will be given out at the Central Falls holiday fair before Christmas. A big thank you to all who donated items in the Name of Jesus to help those less fortunate than we.

We are also looking forward to hosting our annual Candlelight Service for the Northeast Seniorate on December 17th at 4 pm.

*Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich*





From our parishes...

## Our Saviour's Parish, Woonsocket, RI



### • Meat Raffle

SEPTEMBER means Back-to-School, cooler days and falling leaves. At Our Saviour's Parish it means the gathering of many friends who reacquaint at a favorite event – our MEAT RAFFLE. It was held on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> and approximately 60 people were in attendance. Friends travelled from the parishes of Blessed Trinity in Fall River, Massachusetts and Holy Cross in Central Falls.

The church was filled with the welcoming aroma of chicken, rice and vegetable soup prepared by our resident chef and parishioner, Lonnie Watson. Fresh loaves of bread were donated by Charles and Katherine



Caranci. In addition to the complimentary soup; we had a delicious dessert table of assorted pastries donated by parish members especially Ed Nawrocki and manned by Christine Kozlik.

Father Henryk served as Pastor and roving photographer. Thirteen tables were set-up and each table was decorated in the themes of Back-to-School, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. You could take home any "FREEBIES" that were on the table.

Edmund Fox sold the Meat Raffle passes (\$20.00 each for 10 raffles) and Gail Surowiec encouraged people to purchase tickets for the Penny Social (25 prizes). Ed Surowiec manned another raffle table. He was selling tickets for Split-the-Pot, the Gift Card Raffle (17 prizes – donated by the Parish Committee) and our Special Raffles. The 6 Special Raffles were: a Fall Basket, a Christmas Basket, an Italian Dinner Package donated by Bev Russell, a Yankee Candle Basket donated by Deb Boucher and a Swarovski Fashion Necklace donated by Joe Kozlik and a Halloween Basket. The lucky winner of Split-the-Pot (\$118.00) was our parishioner, Phyllis Dalton. Congratulations!





Philip Kaczorowski manned the microphone for the evening and encouraged the attendees to check their tickets for the winning numbers. Your ticket number, if called, could mean you were a winner for meat, breakfast packages, mystery envelopes and bonus bags. A special "Thank you" to Sally Watson who purchased and donated 20 Rhode Instant Scratch Tickets for our Mystery Envelopes. Also, 6 beautiful spider plants were donated by parishioner, Lenore Hutnak and they were raffled off too. The evening was a big success and everyone went home a "WINNER".

The cleanup crew including, Kathy Sherman, Gerry Ethier and other parishioners left the church hall in tip top shape for future events at Our Saviour's Parish. A good time was had by all.

For me it's ALWAYS a pleasure to organize this parish event. It's a great way to spend a Friday evening with good friends and lots of laughs. Looking forward to seeing you at our next Meat Raffle on January 26, 2018. Be a friend to Our Saviour's Parish and come back and bring a friend or two with you!!

**By Patricia Kaczorowski**

- **" Bless all creatures great and small"**

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, at our parish took place Blessing of Animals. Fr. Henryk Wos, Pastor, commemorating St. Francis of Assisi, blessed the animals and the people who gathered at this occasion at our Saviour's.



- **Our SOCL Group on its annual trip**

On October 22, 2017 the SOCL Group went on its annual Trip. This year we went to Wojcik's Farm in Blackstone, MA. All the Kids and the adults had a lot of fun. We enjoyed hayride, get lost in mysterious corn maze, tried to ride on old tractors, enjoyed delicious ice cream, chocolate, and apple cider from the local apple trees.





- **Cub Scouts of Our Saviour's awarded with "Love of God" medal**

This past fall, Cub Scouts Tyler Dixon, son of Jim and Brenda Dixon, and Webelo Scout Zachary Kaczorowski, son of Peter Kaczorowski and Shannon LaMoore, both of Our Savior's Parish in Woonsocket, RI, were awarded the "Love of God" medal by Father Henryk Wos.

This award is given to Cub and Webelo Scouts in the Polish National Catholic Church upon completing the necessary requirements such as religious studies, community service, and researching the roots of our PNCC heritage.

Zachary and Tyler are appreciative of the help given them by Richard O. Daum, Chairman of the Polish National Catholic Church Scouting Committee.



**Congratulations to our scouts for their hard work and dedication.**

- **Our Saviour's Annual Bazaar**

Our Saviour's held their annual bazaar on November 11th. The weather cooperated and the food sold out. It seemed like a slow start, because for the first hour or so, most people came in and picked up the pierogi and golambki they ordered. Shortly after however, we were bombarded, and the lines did not let up until after lunch. This is what we love to see. All of the months of preparation leading up to that one day of execution. Can't wait until it comes, and then can't wait until I can go home and put my feet up at the end of the day.

How do we get through it all? Teamwork...dedicated parishioners, family members, and friends. From the ordering of the potatoes to the packing of the frozen pierogi, from the stuffing of the thousands of straws to the boiling of countless heads of cabbage. Everyone has their jobs, and they are all equally important. It all happens because we work together.



We had a great day. Our bazaar was extremely rewarding, but not as profitable as prior years. Here comes the analysis of going through every single detail and trying to figure out what was different, what we could have done better, and what was great. I take the task as a planner of our bazaar very seriously. For instance, how do you decide on food quantities to make?



Wouldn't it be nice when placing a cabbage order with your farm to ask for 65 heads with a good yield of leaves that are not winter cabbage or too curly? How about how many pierogi to make? Last year we ran out of potato pierogi, so we made more this year. However we ended up with a ton leftover and ran out of cabbage instead. Now what do we do? I am open to discussion. There is no tried and true method.

This is our biggest fundraiser, and our parish needs to do it. I am sure this is the case for many of you as well. As many of my friends in other parishes can attest, I am always asking them to share what works and what doesn't. I would love to hear your input. E-mail me your ideas ([sallywatson75@gmail.com](mailto:sallywatson75@gmail.com)).

Let's work together. I know what you are all thinking, but no parish is so close to another that we will be stealing each other's recipes. We are all on the same team here folks....PNCC teamwork makes it happen.

**By Sally Watson**



From our parishes...

## St. Valentine Parish, Northampton, MA Pulaski Day Celebration, October 9, 2017



The Polish Heritage Committee of Northampton sponsored its 31st Annual Pulaski Day celebration, October 9th. It began with a memorial Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Roman Catholic Church, followed by the Parade commencing from the Church and ending at Pulaski Park with a special program and ceremonies. This event is held each year to celebrate Polish Heritage and honor the Late General Casimir Pulaski, Father of the American Cavalry who was killed



in the Battle of Savannah on October 11, 1779. This observance was established in 1929 when Congress passed a resolution designating October 11th as General Pulaski Memorial Day. Despite the weather not being the best - cloudy and a spot shower, the Parade included many veterans groups, the Northampton High School



band, drum corps, Polish Societies and Polish School children from Indian Orchard, Massachusetts. St. Valentine's PNC Church participated and its contingent included our Eastern



Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, our Pastor, Fr. Adam Czarnecki, Fr. Robert Koerber (Holy Name of Jesus Parish, South Deerfield), as well as parishioners.

The program at Pulaski Park began with the Invocation by our Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. The Parade Marshal, Peter Kocot, State Representative serving the 1st Hampshire District, Massachusetts State Legislature laid the wreath at the Casimir Pulaski monument. Proclamations were given by the Mayor of Northampton, David Narkewicz, State Senator, Stanley Rosenberg and Representative Peter Kocot. The keynote speaker was Krystyna Slowikowska-Farley, Distinguished Author, Teacher and Community Activist. She also was crowned Ms. Connecticut Senior America, 2016. Taps were played and attendees sang the National Anthems both Polish and American. Miss Polonia, Joanna Kubiak and Jr. Miss Polonia, Analise



Huertas and Jr. Miss United States Polka Association, Holly Scarfone were introduced. At the closing of the program, the benediction was given by Fr. Adam Czarnecki.

Following the parade and program, all participants were invited to a reception. The Joey and Jeff Polka Band provided Polish music for our dancing and listening pleasure. The Pulaski Day Parade celebration was a wonderful event and a great time was had by all. We are looking forward to next year's celebration. If you have not attended as a spectator or marched with us, you are cordially invited to join us at next year's Pulaski Day celebration.

*by Krvsia Newman*



## Coming Events/Classes

- ♦ **POLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES** at St. Valentine's Church — Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm — Parish Hall. Instructor: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ♦ **BIBLE STUDY** at St. Valentine's Parish — Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm — Parish Hall. Discussion Leader: Rev. Adam Czarnecki, Pastor
- ♦ **POLISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS WORKSHOP** — St. Valentine's Church — Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 10:00 am to noon
- ♦ **RORATE HOLY MASS** — every Wednesday of Advent at 6:00 pm
- ♦ **CHRISTMAS EVE - PASTERKA/SHEPHERDS MASS** — Sunday/Monday, December 24/25 at Midnight. Holy Mass will begin with a **CONCERT OF CAROLS IN POLISH AND ENGLISH** by the Parish Choir at 11:30 pm.
- ♦ **POLSKIE KOLEDY SING ALONG** at St. Valentine's — Sunday, January 7, 2018 at 2:00 pm
- ♦ **CHURCH OPEN HOUSE** — Sunday, February 11, 2018
- ♦ **ZAPUSTY AT ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH** — Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm

## POLSKIE KOLEDY

January 7, 2018  
2:00 pm



### POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SING ALONG

Sponsored by the Polish Heritage Committee  
at

St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church  
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.

Please Join Us!

Refreshments will follow the Sing Along  
(in the Parish Hall)



## POLISH CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Workshop  
at St. Valentine's Church  
Parish Hall  
127 King Street,  
Northampton, MA



**Saturday, December 2, 2017  
from 10 a.m. to noon**



Come and see how to make  
Polish Christmas Ornament  
decorations including 3D  
Wycinanki

The workshop is under the  
direction of Susan Urban,  
M.Ed., a Polish Art and  
Culture Specialist

**THE COST IS \$5.00 PER PERSON**

If you would like more information and are interested participating  
in the workshop please contact Chris Newman at 413-584-4531

## 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 14, 2018 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

## ZAPUSTY IN PARISH HALL OF ST. VALENTINE'S CHURCH



You are invited to dance Polka, sing and to eat paczki and chrusciki  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.** Free will donation is appreciated



**From our parishes...**

## **Holy Trinity Parish, Plantsville, CT**

- **Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski received awards and honors**

The Southington Fire Department awarded Fr. Joe a plaque for 40 years of service. Fr. Joe joined the fire department in 1977.



**Fr. Joe served as:**

**2nd LT in 1984**

**1st LT in 1986**

**CAPT. in 1988**

**Continues as Chaplain**

In the picture are: Assistant Chief Russel Wisner, Fr. Sr. Joe, and Chief Eric Heath.



## From Our Parishes...

### St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA

#### • 2017 Polish Food Fest

St. Casimir's Annual Polish Food Festival was held on October 21 at the parish center. It was a perfect autumn day as doors opened at 10 am and patrons were treated to Polish dinners prepared by our parish cooks.



Amelia Tenus in her Polish costume.



Nancy Picanso and Karen Breault are ready to serve patrons.

Guests were also able to purchase frozen pierogi and gołąbki as well as an array of pastries and ready to heat-and-eat meals.

Raffles took place every fifteen minutes for donated gift cards and other articles.

Although parishioners had worked for weeks preparing favorite delicacies and were physically worn out, this event was well worth it.

#### • Annual Youth Group Dinner /Talent Show

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Group Fundraiser, sponsored by St. Casimir's Youth Group, Lowell, MA was held Sunday, November 5 in the parish center. Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and wife Karen were our guests.

Father Tenus welcomed all guests and introduced the youth who sang a blessing song before they served a delicious chicken pot pie dinner with squash, peas, carrots and mashed potatoes with hot apple crisp for dessert.

After dinner, the youth/children took to the stage.

Ian Ford-Hunt, a senior at Lowell High School, gave a power point presentation on his recent trip to Germany and Poland. It was very informative and well done.

Children then sang "Gods Circle of love" followed by Emma Ford-Hunt dancing a traditional Irish hornpipe dance and a Slip jig tap dance. Ian announced the raffle to be held at the end of the event.

Children then sang "Peter, James and John in a rowboat" followed by "Here I Am to Worship" directed by Karina Tenus. Solo parts were sung by Christopher Tenus, Jonasz Tenus and Amelia Tenus.

The last song presented was "Why Dear Maiden" a Polish folk song, sung in Polish.

Emma recited "On the First Thanksgiving Day." Karina thanked all for coming and supporting the youth and wished everyone a safe journey home.



- Karina Tenus, daughter of Father Andrzej and Agnieszka (Wisniewska) Tenus, has recently been inducted into the National Honor Society at Lowell High School, Lowell, MA.

She is a junior and is a member of the Show Choir. She is active in St. Casimir's Parish Youth Group and Youth Choir. She assists with the music program in Sunday School and is an altar server.

Keep up the good work, Karina.

- Rachel Quirbach, daughter of Dr. Robert and Diane (Rajchel) Quirbach, a senior at Arizona State University (Herberger Institute for Design and Arts School of Music) was recently chosen to receive the Undergraduate Presser Foundation Award, an award which carries with it a grant of \$4300.

Rachel was also recently awarded the "2017 Most Outstanding Music Therapy Pre-Clinical Student Award" through the Music Therapy Department at Arizona State University. She was also selected to present her own research project and a lecture about music therapy for substance abusers in correctional settings at the 2017 American National Music Therapy Association Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rachel has been the recipient of several PNCC National United Choir scholarships and has made St. Casimir's Parish, Lowell, MA very proud.



***By Janice Klimczak***



## From Our Parishes...

### Divine Providence Parish, Norwich, CT

#### Fall 2017 – Winter 2018 Calendar of Events and Activities

This was another busy fall season at the Divine Providence Parish!

Our first parish activity of the fall was our popular Bingo Night on the first Friday of September. In addition to the bingo games and prizes, our Polish Kitchen was open serving Polish and American light meals and snacks. Bingo Nights are scheduled every first Friday of the month. The bingo night was followed by Brotherly Love Sunday celebrated on September 10 in our sanctuary. After that service, our annual Brotherly Love Fall Food Drive was kicked-off, collecting canned and dry food goods and personal toiletry items for the local food bank running from September 10 through September 31. Our Semi-Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, September 17.

Our annual Polish Brunch and Bake Sale was held this year on Sunday, September 24 after Mass, 10:00am to 2:00pm, serving a delicious array of Polish and American specialties. The hard work done in the kitchen by our Culinary Society volunteers produced a fine meal to remember and for all to enjoy. Our ladies Adoration Society (ANS) members baked delicious pastry, pies, and cakes for the event.







The Norwich, CT Rotary Club sponsored its annual Cultural Diversity event also in September. Our parish was represented with a booth serving Polish food and with parishioners and friends wearing festive Polish dress. Our parish won First Prize for best restaurant booth and best food last year.



The Christian Family Sunday service took place on October 9 and was followed by the Election of Parish Officers.

Our Annual Harvest Festival & Flea Market was held on Saturday, October 14 from 8:00am to 2:00pm and was a great success. People from the neighborhood and the greater community visited to buy flea market treasures, homemade jams and jellies, baked goods, and to sample Polish food from our Polish Kitchen.

**By George Ververis**





- Making pierogi for Taste of Poland and Bingo, which we have every first Friday of the month.



- On November 12, 2017 Divine Providence Parish and Greenville Revitalization Zone hosted the second Annual Greenville Appreciation Dinner in our church hall, to honor the outstanding commitment of our educators, fire and police departments, veterans, and local businesses



- Our Thanksgiving Dinner was on November 19, 2017. The food was delicious; the music and decoration were outstanding!



**By Elzbieta Chmielewska**



## From Our Parishes...

### St. Joseph's Parish, Westfield, MA

St. Joseph's Church is looking for a new organist. Michael Sittard, who has been the organist for many years now, has graduated from UMASS Amherst.



Members of the St. Joseph's Choir and organist Michael.

He has moved away from the area after getting a new job and we all wish him the best in



whatever the future holds for him.

- Four of the youth from St. Joseph's made their confirmation in October: Scott Malecki, Colin Malecki, Melanie Burek and Peyton Bucko. It was a honor to have Bishop Paul, Father Banas and Father Adam in attendance.



Congratulations to these four young adults!



Peyton Bucko, Scott Malecki, Colin Malecki and Melanie Burek.



The four confirmation students and their sponsors.



**Altar Server Guild: Andrew Soltysiak, Nicholas Soltysiak, Lyman Barnet, Melanie Burek, Peyton Bucko, Scott Malecki and in front is Aiden Soltysiak and Father Joe.**

• Altar Server Recognition Sunday was held in November. The members of the Altar Server Guild in attendance were as follows: Lyman Barnet, Andrew Soltysiak 28 years, Nicholas Soltysiak 21 years, Scott Malecki 9 years, Melanie Burek 7 years, Peyton Bucko 7 years and Aiden Soltysiak 1 year who earned his wooden cross. Also recognized but not in attendance were David Sittard, Ryan Bucko and Colin Malecki.



**Donna Sittard and her sons Michael and David.**



**Aiden Soltysiak receiving his one year wooden cross from his Grandfather Father Joseph Soltysiak.**

**By Dr. Kelly Burek**



## From Our Parishes...

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

#### • Father Smolinski Leads St. John's Team in local CROP Walk

Sunday Oct. 29, despite strong winds and heavy rain, Father Henry led St. John the Baptist's parish team in the town's annual CROP Walk against Hunger. The church team raised \$110 for Church World Service in its efforts to relieve hunger all over our planet.

Pictured in the left photo with Fr. Henry is Rev. Joyce Crutfield, pastor of the Center Congregational Church, who organized the Walk this year. And, due to the danger of falling branches etc. during the rain-and-wind storm, the small contingent of walkers who braved the weather were given the option of "trekking" a route of several miles

the 4 connected buildings and 3 stories of the Center Church complex (as in the right photo), Fr. Henry follows the "arrows" that marked the walk-route thru the buildings.



#### • The Golden Jubilee Mass of Fr. Henry Smolinski

The twenty or so members of our diocese present for the Golden Jubilee Mass were joined by eighty others, who were family members or friends of Father, including an inspiring choir from his previous pastorate of St. Justin's Church in Hartford, CT.



Also present were three Lutheran pastors of the area, one of whom offered Father the hospitality of his much larger church hall for the Anniversary Dinner and reception after the 3 p.m. Mass. And Pastor Douglas Barclay of Concordia Lutheran Church also extended a warm welcome in his hall to our bishop and clergy, as well as all Father's family and guests, with particular thought to the growing ecumenical co-operation of Lutherans and Catholics in this year of 2017, which marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's start-

ing the Protestant Reformation of the Church in western Europe.





Pictured: Bishop Paul Sobiechowski and his wife Karen, one of Fr. Henry daughters "Toni" Slatkavitz and her husband Bob, Father Henry and pastor Douglas.

- **Father Henry Smolinski Joins RC Archbishop & Lutheran bishop at Vespers**

Reformation Sunday October 29 at 4p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester, CT, Fr. Henry, pastor of St. John's PNC church, joined the clergy of the Lutheran, Catholic and Episcopal local parishes to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Pictured behind Fr. Henry are RC archbishop of Hartford Leonard Blair [white cope] and Lutheran bishop of New England James Hazelwood [red cope].



*By Fr. Henry Smolinski*



## National and Diocesan Events and Programs:

### • Eastern Diocese Annual Clergy Retreat

On November 6-7, 2017 the Clergy of the Eastern Diocese met in Mercy Center at Madison, CT for their Annual Clergy Retreat. The retreat was led by Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky. Prime Bishop Mikovsky led the retreat basing on the first Letter of St. John. The retreat theme was “God is Light, Life and Love”.



The second conference focused on the Life. The life we have is Jesus Christ within us. He gives Himself to us during every Eucharist. His Body and Blood we receive during the Holy Eucharist is for each of us a powerful source of energy and our spiritual strength.

In the first of the three conferences led by Prime Bishop the clergy meditated on Jesus Christ as the Light in which we can see the truth—the truth about the world and about ourselves—the truth on which we can build our personal life and the future life of our Church. Jesus—the Light is more powerful than any darkness.



The third conference was a meditation on God's Love. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to save the world. Jesus died for all humankind on the cross. This self-sacrificing love saved all of us from spiritual destruction. We all are called to follow Jesus in our lives, and we all are called to this type of sacrificial love for others.

It was a beautiful spiritual journey for all the clergy. Thank you once again to Prime Bishop Anthony for this deep spiritual experience.

**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



## • National Clergy Conference

The PNCC National Clergy Conference took place on November 13-15, 2017 at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY. Penitential service for all the clergy was led on Monday evening by Bishop Paul Sobiechowski. It was followed by the Holy Sacrifice of Mass in honor of the Priesthood, celebrated by Prime Bishop Mikovsky with all bishops and priests con-celebrating.



The PNCC Clergy gathered on the National Clergy Conference at the Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Lancaster, NY

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky called the meeting of the National Clergy Conference of the Polish National Catholic Church to order at 9:45 am on Tuesday, November 14, 2107. There were 56 clergy present (5 bishops, 47 priests, 3 deacons) from all dioceses in the U.S and Canada. Prior to the beginning of the Conference Bishop Bernard Nowicki offered the opening prayer. On Tuesday morning at 9:00 Bishop Stanley Bilinski led morning prayer in the Cathedral Church.

In the following two days several reports were given to the clergy: The National Liturgical Commission, Future Direction, 2018-General Synod, Sacred Vocation, Scouting, National School of Christian Living, Doctrine Commission, Ecumenical items: PNCC-RC Dialogue, Anglican Dialogue, Union of Scranton, Nordic Catholic Church, Ecumenism, Clergy Salary and Benefits, Social Media, Polish National Union of America, Financial matters of the Church, and Convo 2018.



The Eastern Diocese Clergy at the National Clergy Conference

The conference ended on Wednesday at 3:35 pm and Prime Bishop Mikovsky offered the Benediction and gave his blessing to the clergy gathered. Thanks and appreciation were given to Bishop John Mack and Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral for their warm hospitality and their excellent food.

**By Fr. Henryk Wos**



## PNU District 3 Turkey Raffle - 2017

Thank you to all who supported  
our District Thanksgiving Raffle.

The drawing was held following Holy Mass on Sunday,  
November 12, 2017 at Holy Cross Parish in Central  
Falls, RI. May God bless you all!

## District 3 Polish National Union 2017 Thanksgiving Raffle



### 9 Parishes participated = \$534

Manchester, NH – 147

Central Falls – 112

Fall River - 101

Westfield – 85

Woonsocket – 34

Stratford – 20

Manchester, CT – 15

Webster – 10

S. Deerfield - 10

### Donations = \$150

Michael & Maryann Zarek-\$50

Dorothy Stahelski – 25

Phil Kaczorowski - 25

Fr. Sr. Joe Krusienski – 25

Bishop Paul & Karen

Sobiechowski – 25



### Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$50 – Ray Pieczarka (Manchester, NH)

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$25 – Nancy Dempsey (Fall River, MA)

### Profit for District 3 = \$584.00

A big thank you to all who supported our PNU District 3 Raffle – District 3 will be providing pizza and ice cream sundays to all attending the Eastern Diocese Winter Youth Gathering and Lock in on December 29 & 30, 2017. God bless you all!



## Upcoming Events:

# CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

*For the Parishes of our Northeast Seniorate*

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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  
(Canned good or non-perishable food item  
or an item of winter clothing)

Please join us and RSVP by Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> to

[RobNem21@aol.com](mailto:RobNem21@aol.com)





# 2017 EASTERN DIOCESE PNCC WINTER YOUTH GATHERING & LOCK IN



**When:** Friday - Saturday - Dec. 29 & 30, 2017

*begins at 3 pm Friday and ends Saturday morning*

**Where:** Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA

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



**Our Theme:  
The PNCC Solemnity  
of the  
Humble Shepherds**

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

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

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





## FROM THE CHANCERY OFFICE

### Bishop's Visits to Parishes:

None scheduled

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

- Wednesday, January 10, 2018 - Polish National Union of America District 3 Teleconference - 7:00 PM
- Wednesday, January 17- Eastern Diocese Liturgical Commission Meeting - Our Saviour Parish - Woonsocket, RI - 10:00 AM
- Thursday, January 25 - Eastern Diocese Strategic Planning Sub-Committee Teleconference -7:00 PM
- Monday, January 29 - National School of Christian Living Commission Teleconference - 8:00 PM EST
- Wednesday, February 7 - Anglican Church in North America / Polish National Catholic Church "Go to Meeting" Conference - 2:00 - 4:00 PM

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

- Friday, December 8 - ***Solemnity of the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***
- Saturday, December 9 -  
Advent Day of Reflection - St. Joseph's of Stratford - "Season of Hope" - 9:30 AM—1:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 13 - Advent Penitential Devotion - Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manchester, NH - 5:30 PM
- Sunday, December 17 - Northeast Seniorate Candle-lighting Service - Holy Cross - Central Falls, RI - 3:00 PM
- Thursday, December 21 - ***Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle***
- Sunday, December 24 - ***Christmas Eve***
- Monday, December 25 - ***Christmas Day - Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord***
- Tuesday, December 26 - ***Feast of St. Stephen, - Deacon, Proto-Martyr***



- Wednesday, December 27 - ***Feast of St. John - Evangelist***
- Thursday, December 28 - ***Commemoration of the Holy Innocents***
- Saturday, December 30 - ***Solemnity of the Holy Family***
- Sunday, December 31 - ***Commemoration of St. Sylvester, Bishop*** - New Years Eve
- Monday, January 1, 2018 - ***Solemnity of the Circumcision of our Lord***
- Tuesday, January 2 - ***Solemnity of the Holy Name of Jesus***
- Saturday, January 6 - ***Solemnity of the Epiphany of our Lord***
- Sunday, January 7 - ***Solemnity of the Baptism of our Lord***
- Thursday, January 18 - ***Feast of St. Peter's Chair at Antioch***
- Friday, February 2 - ***Solemnity of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary***
- Wednesday, February 14 - ***Ash Wednesday***
- Friday, February 16 - ***65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Prime Bishop Francis Hodur***
- Sunday February 18 - ***First Sunday of Lent***
- Saturday, February 24 - ***Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle***
- Saturday, March 3 - Northeast Seniorate Lenten Retreat - Holy Cross Parish,  
Central Falls, RI - 09:30 AM 02:30 PM

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

- Monday, January 15 - **Martin Luther King, Jr - National holiday** - U.S.A.
- Thursday, January 18 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins
- Sunday, January 28 - Music Scholarship Sunday
- Monday, February 12 - **Presidents Day - National Holiday** - U.S.A.  
Friday September 29 thru Sunday October 1 - Y.M.S.R. National Convention



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

## Wacław Iwaniuk

Wacław Iwaniuk urodził się 17 grudnia 1915 r. Starym Chojnie k. Chelma, w województwie lubelskim. Przed II wojną światową kształcił się w Szkole Podchorążych w Równem we wschodniej Polsce, a po ukończeniu studiów ekonomicznych na Wolnej Wszechnicy Polskiej w Warszawie został wysłany do Buenos Aires na praktykę konsularną.

We wrześniu 1939 r. powrócił do Europy, wstąpił do armii polskiej we Francji i walczył w Narwiku w szeregach Samodzielnej Brygady Strzelców Podhalańskich. Po internowaniu w Miranda del Ebro uciekł do Wielkiej Brytanii, a w 1944 r. wylądował w Normandii z Pierwszą Dywizją Pancerną Generała Maczka. Za odwagę pod Falaise został odznaczony Krzyżem Walecznych.

Iwaniuk publikował poezję w czasie wojny. Po demobilizacji studiował w Cambridge w Anglii. W 1948 wyemigrował do Kanady i osiadł na dobre w Toronto. Początkowo pracował w rzeźni. Następnie został zatrudniony w Ministerstwie Sprawiedliwości w Ontario, początkowo jako szef wydziału wypadków drogowych, a następnie jako oficjalny tłumacz.

Mając na swoim koncie około 20 wydawanych tomów poezji, Wacław Iwaniuk zalicza się do najbardziej wybitnych polskich poetów emigracyjnych, a także do uznanych pisarzy kanadyjskich. Dla Iwaniuka poezja zawsze była czymś więcej niż życiem. Przez kilka dziesięcioleci pozostawał aktywny w życiu kulturalnym polskiej społeczności będąc wydajnym poetą, twórcą artykułów, recenzji i przekładów współczesnej angielskiej i amerykańskiej poezji dla prasy emigracyjnej na dwóch kontynentach. Był laureatką wielu nagród literackich, choć z powodu cenzury nie został "odkryty" w Polsce aż do lat osiemdziesiątych.

Wacław Iwaniuk zmarł 4 stycznia 2001 roku w Toronto.



Wacław Iwaniuk, Toronto 1988

fol. Andrzej Kobos

Wacław Iwaniuk was born December 17, 1915 in Chojnie Stare, near Chelm, in the province of Lublin. Before the Second World War he trained at Officer Cadet School in Równem, in eastern Poland, and, after taking a degree in Economics at the Polish Free University in Warsaw, he was sent to Buenos Aires for consular practice.

In September 1939, he returned to Europe, enlisted with the Polish army in France, and fought at Narvik in the Autonomous Podhale Rifle Brigade. Later interned at Miranda del Ebro, he escaped to Britain and, in 1944, landed in Normandy with General Maczek's First Armoured Division. For bravery at Falaise he was awarded a Military Cross.

Iwaniuk published poetry throughout the war. After demobilization he studied in Cambridge, England. In 1948 he emigrated to Canada and settled for good in Toronto.

His first job was in a slaughterhouse. Next employment was in Ontario's Ministry of Justice, initially as departmental head of road accidents, then as an official translator.

With some 20 published volumes to his credit, Wacław Iwaniuk ranked among Poland's most distinguished Émigré poets, and was also an acknowledged Canadian writer. For Iwaniuk, poetry was always something more than life. For several decades he remained active in the cultural life of the Polish community, and maintained a regular output of poetry, articles, reviews, and translations of contemporary English and American poetry for the Émigré press of two continents. He was the recipient of many literary prizes, though for reasons of censorship he was not "discovered" in Poland until the 1980s.

Wacław Iwaniuk died January 4, 2001 in Toronto.

### Z Kierkegaarda

Zegary nasze aż do śmierci  
 szukają gruntu pod nogami.  
 gdy nas powoli przysypuje czas,  
 Ślepi, wchodzimy w stygnące godziny —  
 Pod nami krok się ugina i łamie.  
 Czasem w ciemności zawiedzie nas słowo  
 martwe, jak góra obrócona w kamień.  
 Inne jak drzewo, jak skarłały dźwięk  
 w suchym korycie zdania.  
 Ci, którym ogień zagroził horyzont,  
 ci ciągle chodzą, dookoła cieni —  
 A ci, co ocaleni, zdruzgotani wojną,  
 mogliby dużo powiedzieć o sobie,  
 powiązać nici w błyskawice zdań  
 i życie życiem ratować — lecz oni  
 na zawsze w sobie pogrzebani — milczą.



### Out of Kierkegaard

Until death our clocks seek  
 a solid footing on the ground  
 while time slowly covers us,  
 Blind, we enter the chilling hours —  
 Steps bend and crack beneath us.  
 Sometimes in the dark a word thwarts us  
 dead, like a hill turned to rock.  
 Like a tree, a note stunted  
 inside the dry trough of a phrase.  
 Those whose horizon was sealed off by fire  
 continue to circle shadows —  
 While those who were saved and shattered by war  
 have so much to tell  
 who could tie sentences with threads of lightning  
 and rescue life with life — they  
 forever buried in themselves — remain silent.



\* \*

### Oldze poświęcam

Jeżeli ziemi przypisano noc  
Jeżeli trawy mają zejść nam z oczu  
Jeżeli mamy stracić wiarę w zieleń  
Jeżeli drzewa wywiozą do pieców  
I ptakom każą uciekać za morze  
Jeżeli kwiaty umrą bez powodu  
Odcięta gałąź opróżni powietrze  
Słodkie owoce przedziurawi robak  
To co z człowiekiem stanie się? Co z nami  
Po przebudzeniu?  
Powiedz — co?



\* \*

### For Olga

If night was assigned to earth  
If grasses should uncover our eyes  
If we must lose faith in verdure  
If trees will be transported to ovens  
And birds ordered to escape far beyond the sea  
If flowers wilt without reason  
If a snapped-off branch will empty the air  
And sweet fruit be hollowed by a worm  
What then will become of man? Of us  
After the awakening?  
Tell me — what?

### Lustro

Przybliżam twarz do lustra ale lustro nie ma  
Szukam rysów mych dłonią ale nie mam dłoni.  
Pod turkusowym niebem które nie płowieje  
Czysta jak lilia Różia powraca z kościoła.  
Wiem że się w cnotach zanurza, jak paw  
Pilnuje własnej dumy jak prządka kądzieli  
Jeśli mówi, orkiestra instrumentów gra w niej  
Jak w parku na Powiśle w słoneczną niedzielę.  
Wspominam tamte czasy zamienione w wiór  
Z drzewa które się spóźnia nietoperz ulata.  
Pod górę po kamieniach prosto na Krakowskie  
Przedmieście, biegnie Tamka wyboistym krokiem.  
Chciałbym tam być, ktoś słowo ponagla do ucha  
Pragnę istnieć, o lustro, pomóż mi wyjść z siebie.  
Niestety, błądzę, jak król Lear, palce są mi wzrokiem  
I byle wiersz ojczysty przebija mnie wskroś;  
Chwytam, co mam pod ręką. Może sucha gałąź  
Połamana wiatrami, wskaże mi kierunek.  
O, ślepy królu Learze, z niedołężnym ciałem  
Jak długo można być ślepym i nie wiedzieć o tym.

### Mirror

I bring my face closer to the mirror but there is no mirror  
I trace my features with a hand but I have no hand.  
Underneath a colorfast turquoise sky  
The lily - white Rosie returns from Church.  
I know that she basks in her virtues like a peacock  
Guards her pride like a spinner her wool  
If she speaks, an orchestra plays in her  
As in a Powisle park on a sunny Sunday.  
I am filled with memories - time's dry splinters  
Off a tree that releases a bat at twilight.  
Uphill on the cobblestone road straight to the Krakowskie  
Przedmieście, speeds Tamka.  
How I wish to be there, someone bends a reminder to my ear  
I long to be, oh mirror, help me to become myself.  
Alas, like King Lear I wander, my fingers my sight  
And the native verses stab me.  
I clutch at whatever touches the palm of my hand. Maybe a dry branch  
Snapped by the winds will point the way.  
Oh blind King Lear of the awkward body  
How long can one be blind and not know it?

\*Powisle neighborhood, Krakowskie Przedmieście street, Tamka street - all in Warsaw

### Liść

Koniec sezonu: upadłem na ziemię,  
już mnie nie ucałuje promień  
już się, nie pozbieram  
ptak mnie podepcze  
rosa oczy wyje  
wiatry ze mną przestaną się swarzyć —  
tyle długich dni  
wraść — czerpiąc —  
w miękkość tlenu  
w góry powietrza, w upał  
tyle dni  
chłonałem stromą nawałę promieni —  
płaskie moje ciało  
uwieszone za szyję  
śpiewało hymny —  
tyle nocy  
przeszeptanych ze świerszczem  
przegadanych z rosą  
na śliskich wywoskowanych zielonych posadzkach —  
a teraz tylko ludzki dla mnie los  
leżę i cierpię,  
pamięcią  
nie ciałem.



### The Leaf

End of season: I fell to the ground  
no more to be kissed by a sunbeam  
no more to be gathered  
or trampled by a bird  
dew will ravish my eyes  
winds will stop squabbling behind me —  
so many long days  
I thrived — growing —  
into the softness of oxygen  
into billowing air, into scorching heat  
so many days  
I absorbed the steep streams of sunlight —  
my flat body  
strung by the neck  
sang hymns —  
so many nights  
whispered away with the crickets  
talked away with the dew  
on wax-green floors —  
and now only human fate for me  
I lie and I suffer  
the pain of memory  
not of flesh.

## 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	Church of the Transfiguration 8 Concord St., New Britain, CT 06053-2904 Rev. Paul Dudek, Administrator (860)229-2693
Holy Cross Parish 320 High St, Central Falls, RI 02863-3108 Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich, Jr, Administrator (401)722-5130	Divine Providence Parish 11 Silver St., Norwich, CT 06360-4731 Rev. Christopher Rogalski, Pastor (860)887-2812
Our Saviour's Parish 500 Smithfield Rd., Woonsocket, RI 02895-6285 Rev. Henryk Wos, Pastor (401)762-3072	Holy Saviour Parish 118 Prospect St., Naugatuck, CT 06770-3056 Rev. Paul Dudek, Pastor (203)729-4035
Holy Cross Parish 723 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082-2903 Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Administrator (860)745-5066	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 Mother of the Rosary Parish 26 Bell St., Chicopee, MA 01013-3002 Rev. Pawel Lukaszewicz, Pastor (413)592-2032	St. John the Baptist Parish 23 Golway St., Manchester, CT 06042-2016 Rev. Henry Smolinski, Pastor (860)643-5906
Holy Name of Jesus Parish 15 Thayer St., South Deerfield, MA 01373-1136 Rev. Robert Koerber, Administrator (413)665-2129 / (413)530-8575	St. Joseph's Parish 1300 Stratford Rd., Stratford, CT 06615-7639 Rev. Michal Gitner, Pastor (203)923-2424
Holy Trinity Parish 68 Lake St., Webster, MA 01570-2160 Rev. Robert Fredrickson, Pastor (860)833-6296	

## Diocesan Chaplains

<b>Diocesan Newsletter Editor</b> Rev. Henryk Wos	<b>Scouting Commission</b> Rev. Adam Czarnecki
<b>Ladies Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament</b> Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak	<b>United Choirs</b> Rev. Krzysztof Rogalski
<b>Polish National Union of America (Spojnja) District 3</b> Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich	<b>Youth</b> Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
<b>School of Christian Living</b> Very Rev. Joseph Krusienski	<b>Deacon Program</b> Very Rev. Robert Nemkovich
<b>Young Men's Society of the Resurrection</b>	<b>Lay Ministries</b> Rev. Adam Czarnecki

## Other Clergy serving in the Eastern Diocese

Rev. Thomas Walsh-Phone: (860) 417 - 9888



## An Advent Reflection

Advent is a blended season, a mixture of hope, repentance, anticipation and joy. We know that Christ has already come, establishing his Kingdom through his life, death and resurrection. But Christ will come again in glory to establish His Kingdom in its fullness. Meanwhile, Christ comes to all who are willing to make a place for Him in their hearts.

Our Advent models are Isaiah who yearned for the coming of the Lord, John the Baptist who announced the presence of Christ, and Mary who was transformed by grace. Like Isaiah, we look forward to Christ's glorious return. Like John, we recognize Christ's presence among us and our need for repentance. And like Mary, we seek to accept the will of God in order to make a place for Christ in our hearts. And allow His will to be done in us.

As we approach the coming Christmas Season – our Lord through His Holy Church reminds us that we need to be ready as we heard in the Gospel on the First Sunday of Advent. Ready to first, celebrate properly His birth and second, ready to meet our Lord at any moment by living as he taught following His saving Gospel. This is a time when we are reminded by John the Baptist to “prepare the way for the Lord”. It is important that we do this and prepare ourselves spiritually for the coming celebration of Christmas and for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## An Advent Prayer

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, You became one of us that we might have the life of Christ forever. Through this season of Advent, rekindle in us a desire for the coming of Your Kingdom. Knowing how much our world needs Your grace and truth, we ask You to guide us in the way of compassion that we might help your suffering ones. Fill us with every grace and blessing as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior. Amen.

*Both texts are taken from Future Direction Subcommittee materials (Action Plan for PNCC Parishes in 2018).*

### **THE MESSENGER-Quarterly Newsletter**

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2018 THE MESSENGER deadline for articles:

**Spring Issue: February 6**

**Summer Issue: June 8**

**Fall issue: September 10**

**Winter issue: November 23**

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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!